



ZIKA PROGRAM PARAGUAY

UPDATED MARCH 2020

In February 2016, the World Health Organization declared that clusters of Zika-associated microcephaly and other neurological disorders detected in Brazil constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. USAID has been responding to the Zika virus epidemic and its devastating effects in at-risk countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean since June 2016. The overall USAID Zika program is expected to end by June 2020.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

By investing in Zika prevention, control and innovation USAID has helped strengthen Paraguay's capacity to respond to the recent epidemic and future disease threats. USAID's focus has been to protect individuals, particularly pregnant women, from Zika by:

- Controlling mosquitoes that spread the virus;
- Increasing awareness of how the virus is transmitted and how to prevent infection;
- Supporting health services for potentially affected women and children; and
- Working with USG counterparts to support disease detection and surveillance.

VECTOR MANAGEMENT

Through the Zika AIRS Project (ZAP), USAID strengthened the capacity of partner governments to implement vector control programs and to monitor and eliminate mosquito populations, particularly the *Aedes Aegypti* species that transmits Zika. Technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Health in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating vector control activities in conjunction with Servicio Nacional de Erradicación del Paludismo (SENEPA). ZAP conducted training on entomological monitoring and insecticide effectiveness for mosquito control, supplying specific equipment needed for



entomological activities, and developed national guidelines for integrated vector control management. This work was complemented by USAID's partnerships with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) that supported the Ministry of Health in adapting regional guidelines for integrated vector management, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which provided entomological surveillance tools and training.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AND SERVICE DELIVERY

USAID integrated high quality, evidence-based Zika services and guidelines into existing family planning, antenatal, obstetric and newborn care systems. The Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) project worked with the Ministry of Health and 64 health care facilities to help providers integrate Zika prevention, diagnosis, and care for affected families into routine health services. The ASSIST project supported the development of quality improvement teams, provided virtual training on Zika to healthcare providers, and worked with the Ministry of Health to update norms and guidelines on neonatal care and psycho-emotional support. As a result, the percentage of newborns properly screened for microcephaly in ASSIST-supported facilities increased from 19% to 89% from 2018-2019. Meanwhile, UNICEF supported national systems to ensure access to quality care and support resources for families affected by Zika. Service delivery efforts in Paraguay received additional support from the procurement and delivery of personal mosquito repellent and condoms to prevent sexual transmission of Zika to pregnant women through the Global Health Supply Chain Program

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION

As new evidence on Zika emerged, USAID worked at the national, regional and local levels to inform people of how it spreads and how they could protect themselves. In 2016, UNICEF launched a multichannel mass media campaign in Asuncion and disseminated educational materials aimed at reaching pregnant women and women of reproductive age and their partners with information about Zika and its risks.

 <p>USAID's support helped the development of 5 guidelines, updates to 4 existing national norms, and the production of over 30 job aids for clinical staff</p>	 <p>577 health professionals trained to integrate Zika information into counseling for pregnant women</p>
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