



ZIKA PROGRAM

PERU

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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 Peru's capacity to respond to the recent epidemic and future disease threats. USAID's focus is 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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

USAID leveraged community partners and leadership to disseminate key Zika information and battle *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes through the Juntos Ante el Zika project that worked in the coastal border regions of Peru and Ecuador. Implemented by CARE, this project increased community, local and national capacities to respond to the Zika Virus outbreak and other infectious diseases through disaster risk reduction and community centric human rights approaches. A total of 389 volunteers worked on the community-level Zika response in Peru.

VECTOR MANAGEMENT

Through the Zika AIRS Project (ZAP), USAID supported the country's response to Zika and future arbovirus outbreaks through a retrospective study on the shift in insecticide use from temephos to pyriproxyfen in Peru. This work was complemented by a partnership 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 Peru’s 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 at the regional level and 32 health facilities to help providers integrate Zika prevention, diagnosis, and care for affected families into routine health services. The percentage of newborns properly screened for microcephaly in ASSIST-supported facilities increased from 10% to 95% in 2019. Service delivery efforts in Peru received additional support from guidelines and reference materials developed by the Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP). Additionally, UNICEF developed strategies and updated guidelines for the care and support of Zika-affected babies and their families, and a USAID-funded study conducted by the CDC contributed to knowledge about how Zika is related to Guillain-Barre and other neurological syndromes.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION

As new evidence on Zika emerged, USAID worked to inform people of how it spreads and how they could protect themselves. With USAID funding, UNICEF implemented behavioral change communication programs with the government of Peru as well as national and sub-national campaigns through schools and other institutions.

INNOVATIONS

With funding from USAID, CDC investigated Zika in non-human primates and other small mammals and identified areas with higher risk for Zika virus introduction. In addition, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, an awardee of USAID’s Combating Zika and Future Threats Grand Challenge for Development, worked with schools to recruit “citizen scientists” to collect and share mosquito surveillance data that could be used to develop local mitigation strategies.



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