



# ZIKA PROGRAM VECTOR CONTROL

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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 is responding to the Zika virus epidemic and its devastating effects in at-risk countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Vector Control is a primary pillar within USAID's response strategy. Program implementation began in June 2016 and is expected to end by September 2019.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

By investing in control and surveillance of the mosquito that spreads Zika, USAID is strengthening capacity in Latin America and the Caribbean to respond to the current epidemic and future disease threats. USAID is building on existing vector control systems, networks and programs in Zika-affected or at-risk countries to reduce *Aedes* mosquito populations by:

- Strengthening surveillance and vector control systems;
- Supporting an integrated approach to vector management; and
- Researching, piloting, and scaling new ways to reduce mosquito populations.

## PARTNERS

Through the Zika AIRS Project (ZAP), USAID is reducing populations of the mosquito that carries Zika by applying larvicide in targeted locations and building national and sub-national capacity to conduct vector control and surveillance for Zika and future mosquito-borne outbreaks. ZAP has field offices in

seven countries throughout Central America and the Caribbean and provides short-term technical assistance in three additional countries in South America.

USAID's partnership with the Pan American Health Organization supports regional networks for monitoring insecticide resistance and arboviruses in mosquitoes; as well as the implementation of integrated vector management at regional, national, and local levels. The partnership also contributes to the evaluation of new tools for vector control, provides tailored technical assistance to individual countries, and supports operational research.

USAID also supports the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve entomological surveillance tools and training throughout the region.

**33,965** people  
trained in vector control  
and/or entomology



**20** countries  
strengthened  
in vector control



## INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

Three Combating Zika innovators are joining forces to transform mosquito control and surveillance in Cali, Colombia. Monash University will partner with WeRobotics to release *Aedes ae.* mosquitoes infected with Wolbachia, a naturally occurring bacterium that reduces the mosquitoes' ability to transmit Zika to humans, through unmanned aerial systems, or "drones". Once the Wolbachia mosquitoes have been released, Cali's vector control workers will extend their current use of Premise Data's mobile-phone based surveillance platform to monitor the concentration of Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes in an area. If successful, this innovative approach could be adopted worldwide.

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