International Partner Highlights

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) in collaboration with the UN Foundation, the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University, and the Center for Communication Programs at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health hosted the annual Malaria Day in the Americas event at its headquarters in Washington, DC on November 5. The 2015 “Forum of Malaria Networks and Advocates” included the regional launch of the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership’s Action and Investment to Defeat Malaria (AIM) 2016–2030 document. The event also recognized Malaria Champions of the Americas; finalists were Brazil’s National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), Paraguay’s National Malaria Eradication Service (SENEPA), and the Health Surveillance Unit within Honduras’ Health Secretariat. The Brazilian NMCP won the overall prize as the 2015 Malaria Champion of the Americas.

PAHO compiled and analyzed data from national counterparts for the Quarterly Bulletin on the Availability and Consumption of Antimalarials with support from the Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) Program. Eight countries reported data, showing that antimalarial stock levels at central warehouses remained the same as in the previous quarter (85% availability).

Countries of the Americas with order volumes too low to convene the interest of suppliers continue to face difficulties in the local procurement of antimalarials. As a temporary measure, PAHO has procured first-line treatments of chloroquine and primaquine to meet the needs of countries that are at risk of stock outs during 2016. It is expected that the regional joint procurement of antimalarials facilitated by PAHO/WHO will circumvent the problems of local procurement and ensure stocks for 2017. PAHO/WHO continues to stock Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies (ACTs) at its Panama regional warehouse, for provision to countries requiring treatment of imported cases resistant to chloroquine, as well as cases of severe malaria.
In November 2015, PAHO provided basic entomological training to Vector Control Services staff in Guyana. Topics included basic epidemiology of malaria, taxonomy, morphology of the vector lifecycle (adult, larva, and pupa), and integrated vector management. PAHO is currently developing additional vector control training modules for Guyana to build on these efforts and create the capacity for the country to undertake basic entomological surveillance in the field.


The **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** is collaborating with the Brazilian ministry of health, the Evandro Chagas Institute, and health researchers in implementing an *in vivo* efficacy study of artemether-lumefantrine in the treatment of uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria in Acre state. Patient enrollment began in early December 2015 and will continue to enroll a total of 81 patients. Also in December 2015, an article was published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* highlighting AMI-funded research, titled “Independent Emergence of the *Plasmodium falciparum* Kelch Propeller Domain Mutant Allele C580Y in Guyana” that was co-authored by CDC, PAHO/WHO, the Guyana ministry of health, Atlanta Research and Education Foundation, Institut Pasteur de la Guyane, and the President’s Malaria Initiative. The authors emphasized the importance of continuously monitoring the therapeutic efficacy of drugs and parasite populations, including the use of molecular surveillance tools.

The CDC continues to provide regional technical assistance on vector surveillance and control in collaboration with PAHO/WHO. CDC staff traveled to Guatemala to support an evaluation of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs), mosquito behavior, and deployment of assays to the field. A field visit was conducted in Nicaragua with assistance from PAHO’s Nicaragua office to support an LLIN durability evaluation and molecular monitoring of antimalarial resistance being carried out by the Medical Entomology Department of the ministry of health’s National Center for Diagnostics and Reference as part of the activities included under Nicaragua’s AMI/RAVREDA work plan. In order to foster greater
collaboration for vector control in the region, the CDC also trained Honduran and Brazilian entomologists on the detection of insecticide resistance mechanisms in malaria vectors, including molecular and other determinations, and potential resistance management strategies. Both CDC and PAHO/WHO provided technical assistance to NMCPs on the development of national insecticide resistance management plans.

Final sample collection was undertaken for the RealAmp field evaluation in Brazil, conducted together with the Brazilian Ministry of Health and the Evandro Chagas Institute. Laboratory processing in Brazil was planned for January 2016, to be followed by quality control testing and data analysis at CDC headquarters.


SIAPS supported the Guatemalan NMCP to estimate antimalarial requirements for 2016 and 2017, based on morbidity and logistics data from the last four years. The resulting forecast and supply plan will serve as a basis for procurement for 2016. The NMCP will be able to use this process for future procurement cycles, which may help to prevent stock outs. Additional TA for the procurement of antimalarials in Guatemala included tailoring a quantification and procurement manual based on ministry of health norms for essential medicines to malaria, and finalizing a guide for monitoring the flow of information across all levels of the supply chain.

From September–October 2015, SIAPS visited Ecuador to assess the malaria pharmaceutical management system, and to discuss alternative interventions with national counterparts for the transition of the malaria supply management from the NMCP to the national pharmaceutical system. SIAPS provided recommendations including a situational analysis and proposed interventions to national counterparts and AMI partners following this site visit.

The **Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM) Program** implemented by the US Pharmacopoeial Convention (USP) coordinated with country stakeholders to plan for 2016 activities building on previous PQM work plans. During this quarter, PQM in collaboration with PAHO/WHO and SIAPS developed a survey that was sent to 11 NMCPs to collect information on quality control measures for antimalarials since 2014.
Working with Links Media, PQM has drafted a success story on its assistance with Peru’s expansion of the Three-Level Approach (3LA) to medicine quality control. As a result of AMI-supported interventions related to medicine quality control, Peru’s ministry of health has invested in long-term, sustainable solutions to facilitate the identification and removal of poor-quality medicines from its territory by expanding the rapid testing of medicines from two regional health directorates to a total of 8 in 2015. The AMI success story is expected to be released in Quarter 2 of FY 2016.

As part of knowledge dissemination activities, Links Media released new products for Malaria Day in the Americas 2015, including a Malaria Elimination Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) fact sheet (available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese), Selected References on Malaria Elimination (available in Spanish, with English and Portuguese versions forthcoming), and the previous AMI quarterly bulletin in coordination with other partners.

From September–December 2015, Links Media advanced the conceptualization of a behavior change communication guide for clinicians and community health workers to use with malaria patients in Guyana. Additionally, Links Media provided technical assistance to Guyana’s Vector Control Services for the development of messages and materials about malaria for the general public in two of the country’s endemic regions, 7 and 9.

Links Media and SIAPS delivered technical input on the final revision of malaria job aids for administrative and clinical staff in Guatemala that had originally been developed and validated as a pilot exercise. Links Media revised these information, education, and communication products, which included guides and job aids for malaria supervisors at the district level, the district pharmacy, health centers and posts, a poster on case management, and a laminated sheet on medicines management for malaria volunteer collaborators. Materials were printed for national dissemination through upcoming workshops. SIAPS will complement the guides with an orientation curriculum for staff.

Links Media also began preparations for a webinar on “Good Practices for Collaborating with Indigenous Peoples on Malaria Prevention and Control,” to be held in early 2016.

As part of knowledge dissemination activities, Links Media disseminated information from new publications via various channels including the AMI website and AMI Facebook Group Page, to keep stakeholders abreast of the evolving evidence base related to malaria in the Americas. The following is a selection of articles shared during this quarter:

Countries in the Americas including AMI-supported countries and technical partners USAID, CDC, MSH/SIAPS, USP/PQM, and Links Media participated in an October 2015 consultation in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, after which convener PAHO/WHO began incorporating feedback into the draft Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Malaria 2016–2020 aligned with the WHO Global Technical Strategy (GTS) for Malaria 2016–2030. PAHO’s Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for malaria had its first meeting at the same venue and will work to update the draft, which will be shared at the XV AMI/RAVREDA Annual Evaluation Meeting in Colombia in May 2016.

Global Malaria News


Country Spotlight

Belize completed a new manual on integrated vector management (IVM) for community health workers and voluntary collaborators.

In the presence of Roll Back Malaria’s Executive Director, Dr. Fatoumata Nafo-Traoré and PAHO/WHO Senior Advisor, Dr. Keith Carter, in November 2015 Brazil’s NMCP launched a national malaria elimination plan together with Roll Back Malaria’s *Action and Investment to Defeat Malaria (AIM 2015–2030)* document. The elimination plan provides important technical guidance for Brazilian municipalities, and defines differentiated strategies for diagnosis, treatment, vector control, health education, and social mobilization. Brazil aims to reduce malaria cases by 90% by 2030, in support of the new UN Sustainable Development Goals. In 2014, Brazil had its lowest number of malaria cases in 35 years.

Peru continues to address an ongoing malaria emergency in the region of Loreto. The national program has organized trainings to strengthen the capacity of health workers at local health facilities in remote areas of the Amazon such as Yurimaguas, in order to improve the national malaria surveillance system. In addition, the NMCP has coordinated efforts with the regional laboratory in Iquitos, Loreto to confirm suspected cases. After a prolonged absence, Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) will be deployed to the Loreto region after having been procured centrally by the ministry of public health (MINSA, by its acronym in Spanish).
Calendar of Events

February
American Mosquito Control Association 82nd Annual Meeting
Savannah, USA, February 7–11, 2016.

Deadline to submit nominations for the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board
February 12, 2016.

April
World Malaria Day
Worldwide, April 25, 2016.

May
AMI/RAVREDA Annual Evaluation Meeting and Semi-Annual Steering Committee Meeting
Colombia, May 2–6, 2016.

AMI/RAVREDA Workshop to Evaluate Antimalarial Drug Supply Management, organized by SIAPS and PAHO
Lima, Peru, May 10–12, 2016.

June
IV International Research Meeting on Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine

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August
International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples
August 9, 2016.

September
AMI/RAVREDA Semi-Annual Steering Committee Meeting
Washington, DC, USA, TBD.

International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria
Brisbane, Australia, September 18–22, 2016.

November
Malaria Day in the Americas
November 6, 2016.

65th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)
Atlanta, USA, November 13–17, 2016.

December
World Malaria Report 2016 release.

International Migrants Day
Worldwide, December 18, 2016.

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