



## AMAZON MALARIA INITIATIVE

APRIL 2012



AMI: Patient at the Moronacocho-IQUITOS health center.

The purpose of AMI is to ensure that national malaria control programs in the region incorporate selected best practices; to improve malaria control at the sub-regional level; and to contribute to decrease malaria morbidity and mortality.

In the Americas, malaria continues to affect more poor, rural, migrant, indigenous and other vulnerable populations. After a 50% decline in the total number of cases of malaria reported in the Americas along the past decade, there is a need to consolidate progress achieved, to further strengthen national malaria control programs (NMCPs), and to ensure the sustainability of national and regional malaria control activities. Only after sustained quality implementation of malaria prevention and control exists it will be possible to seriously consider eliminating malaria from the Americas.

The Amazon Malaria Initiative is one of two Presidential Malaria Initiative programs outside of the African region. It focuses on seven Amazon countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname) and some countries in Central America (Honduras, Nicaragua, etc). AMI provides technical assistance in the areas of antimalarial resistance, malaria diagnosis, antimalarial medicines access and use, vector surveillance and control, epidemiological surveillance, health system strengthening, and communications and information dissemination. AMI also promotes and facilitates South-South collaboration among participant countries and the operation of the Amazon Network for the Surveillance of Resistance to Antimalarials (RAVREDA). Activities are implemented by institutions within the target countries with assistance from USAID, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Management Sciences for Health (MSH), the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) and the Research Triangle Institute (RTI).

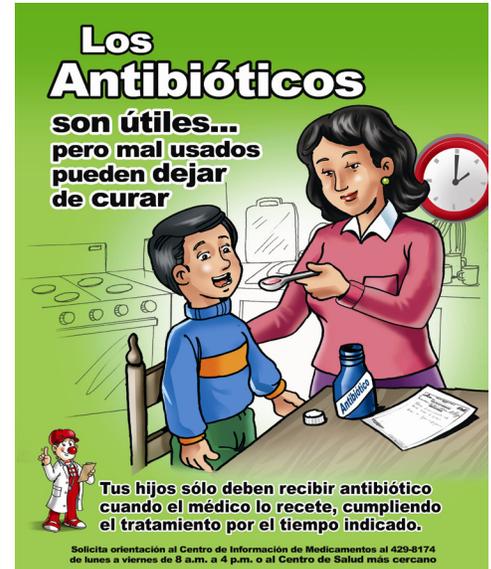
AMI was essential to make the Amazon Region the first in the world with all countries to adopt combination therapy based on artemisinin derivatives (ACT) for falciparum malaria selected according to results of research implemented for that purpose; and to have an active network of countries for malaria prevention and control (RAVREDA). Other results include improved capacities to manage antimalarial drugs and supplies, to do quality assurance and control of antimalarials, and to share information and antimalarial drugs among countries; the adaptation and dissemination of tools for

**Partners:** XXX.

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monitoring antimalarial resistance, for monitoring vector susceptibility to insecticides, and for monitoring interventions based on impregnated bed nets; the introduction of rapid diagnostic tests and of systems to ensure quality microscopy diagnosis; and the adoption of vector control strategies based on integrated vector management.

As the epidemiology of malaria in the region and the health systems of participating countries changed, AMI evolved to ensure that it continues to add value to the efforts to prevent and control malaria, aiming to ensure that countries implement interventions against malaria in an effective and efficient manner while responding adequately to the different malaria epidemiological contexts, through programs well inserted in decentralized public health systems.



SAIDI: Parade to build awareness against the inappropriate use of antibiotics.