

PAHO, Canada 4-year Agreement Advances International Health Programs

A four-year agreement signed between the Pan American Health Organization and the Government of Canada is currently under implementation. Canada, through its Canadian International Development Agency, is providing up to (CAN) \$18 million to support PAHO country programs on pandemic influenza preparedness, improving programs to combat HIV and sexually-transmitted diseases, bettering human resources in the health sector, and addressing inequalities that affect vulnerable populations, especially indigenous peoples.

PAHO Director Dr. Mirta Roses said “We have a long history of cooperation with Canada, and this agreement is a landmark because of the nature of the programs it covers. We are happy to have these partnerships to advance our development work, and this agreement includes a critical component to strengthen health systems, reflecting our values and principles, especially with regard to vulnerable groups and indigenous populations.”

Canadian Ambassador to the Organization of American States Graeme C. Clark said the items covered in the agreement are fundamentally important to Canada, which is not only a significant donor to PAHO, but also provides human resources and technical and operational expertise to the Organization.

The agreement, signed in 2007, also supports institutional strengthening of PAHO, including the implementation of results-based management and an enhanced policy dialogue with external partners on programmatic approaches, alignment and harmonization of health programs.

Beyond the funding aspects, the agreement is designed to help build a strategic partnership between the Canadian agency and PAHO with predictable, flexible funding and a longer time frame for cooperation, with mechanisms for ongoing consultation and reporting and a regular policy dialogue.

PAHO also has a long standing collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). In the area of HIV this collaboration has recently involved joint work to improve HIV surveillance, through a workshop in Lima, Peru, and the preparation of a regional meeting HIV Drug Resistance early warning indicators and monitoring protocols. PHAC is an agency of Health Canada, a department of the Government of Canada that is responsible for public health, emergency preparedness, and response and infectious and chronic disease control and prevention.

Another Canadian institution that works collaborative with PAHO is the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH). The Society continues to support PAHO through regular assignment of interns in several health areas.

The Pan American Health Organization, founded in 1902, works with all the countries of the Americas to improve the health and quality of life of their peoples. It serves as the Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is Canada's lead agency for development assistance. It has a mandate to support sustainable development in developing countries in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable, and prosperous world.



Ambassador Graeme C. Clark and Dr. Mirta Roses sign the strategic cooperation framework. *(Photo Harold Ruiz/PAHO)*