

# The *Roll Back Malaria* Initiative in the Rainforest Region of South America

(Cartagena, Colombia, August 2000)

## 1. Introduction

In October 1999, in Lima, Peru, the *Roll Back Malaria* (RBM) Initiative was presented and discussed by nine countries of the Amazonian Region. The main focus of the initiative in this region is the health of the indigenous population in the forested areas where the prevention and control of malaria is seen as a pathfinder towards the development of strategies for the strengthening of the healthcare systems.

Almost one year after the inception, RBM in the Amazonian Region was discussed and evaluated in a meeting in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

The Cartagena meeting had the following objectives:

- To evaluate and to discuss the implementation of RBM action plans.
- To discuss the establishment of national technical support groups through linkage between national researchers and malaria control staff.
- To establish and reinforce RBM inter-country co-operative programs.