

## Malaria Champions of the Americas Award

### Background, Concept, and Objective

As countries of the Americas work to decrease the burden of malaria in the Region, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Foundation, the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (MISPH), and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs (CCP), seek to identify, celebrate, and provide avenues to emulate best practices and success stories in malaria prevention and control. Conceived and launched on 6 November 2008 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual commemoration of Malaria Day in the Americas, the Malaria Champions of the Americas Award honors innovative efforts that have significantly contributed towards overcoming the challenges of malaria in communities, countries, the Region, or the globe. The recognition is conferred to implementers and provides them and their respective projects and institutions opportunities for capacity building, an expanded network for technical collaboration, and the distinction of being role models and inspirations for the global battle against malaria. Since 2009, eighteen Malaria Champions of the Americas have been recognized. They have come from Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Suriname.

### Criteria for Nomination

The Malaria Champions of the Americas recognizes organizations or collaborations that have used innovative approaches to overcome the challenges of malaria in the Americas. In solidarity with the culmination of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), **the focus of the 2015 search is on malaria programs / efforts which contributed to achievement of MDGs, including but not limited to malaria reduction (MDG 6C).** Ideal candidates for this year's search should be able to demonstrate accomplishments not only in terms of achieving key malaria targets but, in the spirit of the MDGs, also achievements in terms of **equity** (i.e. the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically). Activities should be ongoing or completed within one year from Monday, June 22, 2015.

In addition to this year's focus, nominations will be evaluated based on demonstrated achievements in the following areas:

#### Capacity Building

Exhibits use of the PAHO-WHO best practice in malaria prevention and control, elimination, and prevention of reintroduction, including T3 – Testing (Diagnosis), Treating (Treatment), and Tracking (Surveillance). Contributes to the development of trained health workers and infrastructure.

#### Innovation

Demonstrates the use of approaches to foster equity and increase the quality and uptake of services. This could include use of integrated service delivery; community-based strategies, behavior change communication efforts, efforts to combine treatment with prevention, integration of gender, ethnicity, human rights, health promotion, primary health care, and social protection frameworks; etc., to promote malaria control, elimination, prevention of reintroduction of local malaria transmission, and other health outcomes.

#### Collaboration

Fosters partnerships with stakeholders within and across sectors that fortify and broaden the scope and reach of activities.

#### Impact

Demonstrates measurable contribution to decreasing malaria-related morbidity and mortality in the community, country, region or globe; and in achieving other UN MDGs.

The organization carrying out project activities must be a legally established, registered bona fide entity. The nominated activities must not be projects carried out directly by PAHO, the UN Foundation, the George Washington University MISPH, or the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health CCP.

### **Selection Process and Calendar of Events**

Nominations for the Malaria Champions of the Americas will be accepted from 25 April 2015 to 22 June 2015 (11:59 p.m. EST). To download forms, visit [www.paho.org/malaria2015](http://www.paho.org/malaria2015). A select panel of judges representing various sectors and stakeholders will review the top qualifying submissions and select the three top nominees. A documentary will be produced about each of these three finalists that will profile their achievements and efforts in overcoming the challenges of malaria. The panel of judges will use these three documentaries to assist in the final selection of a winning candidate. The top nominees will be announced in July 2015 and will be invited to participate in a regional event that commemorates Malaria Day in the Americas on 6 November 2015 where the Malaria Champion of the Americas will be honored.

### **Award**

The 2015 Malaria Champion of the Americas will receive:

- Opportunity to participate in three PAHO capacity-building trainings for malaria prevention and control;
- US\$2,500 funding support for malaria-related capacity-building efforts (e.g., staff training / education; research; project proposal development; or other activities that enhance skills and abilities to achieve goals and targets)
- Commemorative plaque; and,
- Opportunity to be featured in various communications platforms of PAHO, UN Foundation, GWU-MISPH, and JHUCCP as a best practice story on malaria.

The top three nominees will be invited and hosted to participate in a regional event for the commemoration of Malaria Day in the Americas on 6 November 2015 where the Malaria Champion of the Americas will be honored.

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For any further questions or concerns you may contact us at [champion@paho.org](mailto:champion@paho.org) or [malaria@paho.org](mailto:malaria@paho.org)