

Executive Summary

The First Technical Coordination Meeting of the Surveillance Network for Monitoring Antimalarial Drug Resistance in the Amazon (PAHO/WHO) and the Amazon Malaria Initiative (AMI) funded by USAID took place in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, from 19 to 20 March 2002. The meeting was attended by representatives from PAHO, WHO, USAID and CDC and the eight Amazon countries that integrate the surveillance network and participate in the AMI project.

During the two-day meeting participants shared and discussed general project related issues (objectives, priorities, expected results and partners role, among others). Other subjects discussed included activities of the regional work-plans of PAHO and CDC, country work-plans for the first year; policy reform regarding antimalarial drug treatment schemes as well as research priorities.

The following is a list of the most relevant agreements and recommendations arising from the meeting:

- To establish a virtual committee with the participation of USAID, PAHO and CDC to guide and coordinate the regional project.
- To finance the Amazon Malaria Initiative project with USAID funds in the amount of US\$ 2 million average per year, for five years.
- To identify and design a project technical coordinator.
- To take into account ethical and legal issues in research studies. National ethics committees should approve the research protocols. CDC requirements should also be followed when said Institution participates in the research.
- To use criteria for sentinel sites selection agreed upon at the meeting.
- To continue discussions initiated at the meeting to agree on technical assistance and training activities offered by centers of excellence represented at the meeting.
- To review, comment and make suggestions regarding the generic draft protocols (distributed at the meeting) for the evaluation of the therapeutic efficacy of the antimalarial drugs.
- To review suggested modifications to the WHO/PAHO protocols for the evaluation of the therapeutic efficacy of antimalarial drugs, made at a meeting in Geneva, December 2001.
- To define the information to be collected in a data base ideal for the Amazon area, taking into consideration one currently being used in Africa. .
- To develop a protocol for the future that makes it possible to evaluate the therapeutic use of quinine against malaria.
- To circulate the draft newsletter presented by National Institute of Health (INS) of Peru among the participants soliciting observations and suggestions.
- To create an editorial committee that will review country project documents. The committee should be constituted by volunteers and national coordinators.
- National coordinators will disseminate information generated by the studies at country level.
 - To use PAHO's web site for dissemination of project information and results, within and outside the Region, generated by all participating countries.