**DIFFERENT AGENCIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE LAC NETWORK FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF HIS (RELACSIS)**

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### Introduction

Contributing to the implementation of the UN mandates on coordinating activities between international and funding agencies to promote and give technical cooperation to countries for the socio-economic and demographic development of the population, PAHO works with USAID, MSH and ECLAC in the field of strengthening HIS.

### Key Efforts in the Region

**USAID** [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) has been the major donor in health in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region for many decades and has made enormous contributions across the region to helping countries improve maternal and child health, voluntary family planning programs, and infectious disease control and health information systems.

The Leadership, Management and Governance (LMG) Project is a five-year USAID-funded consortium project led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) [www.msh.org](http://www.msh.org). LMG currently works in over 35 countries around the world to strengthen health systems by improving the leadership, management, and governance capacity of health workers. The LMG Project supports senior leaders and managers by providing access to reliable and high quality health information systems so they are able to make timely, well-informed decisions.

The LMG Project has contributed to RELACSIS by actively managing and contributing technical expertise and working with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) on issues relating to HIS strengthening.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) [www.eclac.org](http://www.eclac.org) is a member of the RELACSIS Secretariat. ECLAC contributes to the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean by coordinating actions directed towards this end, and reinforcing economic relationships among the countries and with the other nations of the world. Established by the Economic and Social Council in 1948, ECLAC is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations, and is headquartered in Santiago, Chile.

ECLAC cooperates with RELACSIS through both the Statistical Division and the Population Division (CELADE) in the field of improving quality and coverage of MDG indicators and in population estimations, as well as in vital statistics coverage.

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### Results

Officially launched in Lima, Peru in April 2010, RELACSIS is now implementing its 4th annual workplan. Supported by PAHO, USAID, the Leadership, Management and Governance (LMG) Project of Management Sciences for Health (MSH), ECLAC, FIC-CC and NRCs, RELACSIS promotes horizontal cooperation between countries of the Americas.

The main practices developed by RELACSIS in the 2014-2015 workplan are: online courses on ICD-10 Coding; implementation of an electronic system to codify mortality (MMDS); online course for awareness of medical doctors in the adequate registration of the causes of death; four meetings of the AMRO and Spanish Network of the WHO-FIC Collaborating Centers and National Reference Centers for mortality and morbidity; forum on Electronic Health Record (EHR); forum on Inequities; a workshop to disseminate a software and training in deliberate search of maternal deaths.

Four new working groups were defined for 2015: deliberate search of maternal deaths; VS coverage and adjustments at the local level; harmonization of sources of data and indicators and inequities; and English-speaking Caribbean Countries.

### Conclusions

In conjunction with country-led efforts, the collaboration between agencies with other donors has contributed to promoting exchange and collaboration among relevant professionals and organizations, as well as among key networks and alliances in the Latin America and Caribbean region. It is expected that this interagency collaboration will improve information and analysis, and will accelerate the reduction of health inequalities in the region.

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### Further information

- **Websites**
  - [www.relacsis.org](http://www.relacsis.org)
  - [www.lmgforhealth.org](http://www.lmgforhealth.org)

- **Contacts**
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