

SOUTH AMERICAN INFECTIOUS DISEASE INITIATIVE - SAIDI

Improvements in health achieved through priority programs including tuberculosis, malaria, acute respiratory infections, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, are increasingly threatened by antimicrobial resistance (AMR). AMR develops over time and is exacerbated by an increased exposure of the microorganisms associated with infectious diseases to antimicrobial medicines, and the subsequent development of survival mechanisms within these microorganisms. There are many factors that contribute to the development of AMR, but one of the major contributors from a public health perspective is the unnecessary use of antimicrobials for common conditions and/or, the use of inappropriate doses of the drugs in cases when they are required. Health systems contribute to this situation by lacking the proper legal frameworks, regulations and guidelines to insure the quality and appropriate use of antimicrobials, and by implementing poor managerial mechanisms for proper selection, procurement, distribution and use of these valuable medicines. Physicians, pharmacists and drug vendors contribute to the unnecessary use of these drugs by prescribing and selling inappropriate treatments. Likewise, patients experienced with the benefits of antimicrobials tend to self-medicate, even when they may have access to formal health care services. The implication is that new strategies and more resources for second line drugs may be needed in the near future for these highly prevalent diseases as conventional treatments fail.

In response to this growing challenge, the USAID Bureau for the Latin America and Caribbean Region (USAID/LAC/SD) has proposed a sub regional strategy for three countries in the Region (Bolivia, Peru and Paraguay) called the *South American Infectious Disease Initiative* or SAIDI. The general objective of this initiative is to contain the emergence and spread of AMR by improving the availability and the use of good quality antimicrobials. Thus, the central focus of SAIDI is rational use of antimicrobials and AMR control.

Without undermining existing efforts in AMR surveillance and control, SAIDI involves creating a new set of activities that focus on the community through a multisectorial, multifaceted, and multilevel approach. Under this approach, the work is expected to be inter-disciplinary, holistic, approaching problems as systems and not in isolation, seeking balance and long-term maintenance of structures and functions and recognizing and taking advantage of the interaction among stakeholders.

In the context of this holistic and interdisciplinary approach, USAID has gathered partner organizations already working on rational drug use and AMR-related activities with the expectation that their cumulative technical expertise in identifying the major determinants of inappropriate antimicrobial use, exploring underlying causes for these determinants, and documenting what is already known in each country, will help national stakeholders to find local approaches to contain AMR, tailored to meet each country's specific needs.

The international partners contributing to SAIDI activities are the Rational Pharmaceutical Management Program (RPM Plus) of Management Sciences for Health, the Alliance for Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA), from the US Pharmacopeia Drug Quality and Information Program (DQI/USP), Links Media, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Infectious Disease Division of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). This initiative is managed through the USAID mission in Lima, Peru.

The objectives of the initiative as defined by the SAIDI partners are to:

1. gather evidence regarding management and use of AM in humans for improved decision making;
2. collaborate with countries in the development of effective approaches to address AMR focusing on antimicrobial use; and
3. enhance information sharing and dissemination of lessons learned.

The achievement of these objectives will contribute to the following overall Intermediate Results for USAID/LAC:

IR1: Evidence base for LAC PHN priorities increased.

IR2: Evidence base for LAC PHN priorities communicated and used

IR3: More inclusive and better informed policy process promoted

SAIDI Partners' List

Name		Organization
Edgar	Barillas	RPM Plus
Beth	Yeager	RPM Plus
Douglas	Keene	RPM Plus
Maria	Miralles	RPM Plus
Anibal	Sosa	APUA
Kathy	Young	APUA
Marisabel	Sanchez	Links Media
Gabriel	Schmunis	PAHO
Maria de la Paz	Adé	PAHO
Abdelkrim	Smine	USP
Adrian	Barojas	USP
Peter	Cegielski	CDC
Stephen	Benoit	CDC
William	Mac Kenzie	CDC
Peg	Marshall	USAID DC
Anthony	Boni	USAID DC
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