



UNITED STATES
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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

In collaboration with host country governments and local institutions, the United States Government (USG), through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), provides assistance to countries in the South American region under two assistance objectives, Economic Growth and Investing in People (Health). Poverty reduction, through trade-led growth that complies with international norms, is a key U.S. foreign policy objective in the Andean region. Increased trade contributes to investment and job creation and thus to the reduction of poverty. On the other hand, addressing major infectious diseases is a U.S. foreign policy priority because of the negative impacts these diseases have on health and development in the region, as well as the ramifications for public health in the United States.

The program supports regional economic reforms that include enforcement of labor standards and intellectual property rights, and strengthening the capacity of South American governments to address threats posed by major infectious diseases. The program also manages the Andean Center for Excellence in Teacher Training, reported separately under the Latin America and Caribbean Bureau's Performance Plan and Report.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

USAID's Andean Regional Trade Capacity Building program (ATCB) complements bilateral Mission efforts in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. The program focuses on building the capacity of the public and private sectors to facilitate trade and increase competitiveness by implementing legal, regulatory, and institutional reforms. USAID provided assistance in the areas of labor, intellectual property rights, and technical barriers to trade. This assistance addresses the region's most pressing challenges in meeting treaty obligations with the World Trade Organization and the International Labor Organization.

Programs discussed in this publication are funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development. The Department of State does not provide assistance to the South American Regional.

- In Ecuador, USAID designed a web-based information system containing Ecuadorian labor regulations, information about labor benefits and practices, and a national indicator system that allows the Ministry of Labor Relations to gather data for effective policymaking. As a result, the Ministry improved the labor environment by making information more accessible to the public.
- In Colombia and Bolivia, USAID assistance helped private sector entities gain more information about labor rights. In Colombia, 374 individuals were trained on Social Accountability 8000, which establishes the minimum standards for compliance with labor legislation, work safety, diversity, and non-discrimination.
- In Bolivia, ATCB promoted a methodology to disseminate Corporate Social Responsibility (CRS) information for micro, small, and medium enterprises. As a result, the Chamber of Exporters in Cochabamba established a new service unit that will operate on a fee-for-service basis and continue to provide CRS information beyond USAID's assistance.
- In Peru, the Ministry of Labor adopted a USAID-developed training methodology that included collective bargaining, labor relations, child labor, and occupational safety and health
- To protect investments and intellectual property, USAID helped Colombia's Superintendent of Industry and Commerce to review files on trademarks, reducing backlog by 10 percent. ATCB also worked with the Ecuadorian Intellectual Property Institute to streamline its services through a searchable and reliable electronic archive system.

Investing in People

Health: USAID's South America Regional Infectious Diseases Program (SARI) includes the Amazon Malaria Initiative (AMI) and the South America Infectious Disease Initiative (SAIDI). The purpose of SARI is to improve infectious disease prevention and control at a sub-regional level and help decrease national morbidity and mortality. In FY 2009, USAID continued targeted interventions, incorporating promising practices, innovations, and lessons learned into prevention and control programs in participating countries. Achievements include strengthened infection control practices (which also supported national responses to the pandemic H1N1 influenza), and improved drug management and quality control.

- Through AMI, the USG helped address malaria and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Mesoamerica (Mexico to Panama). USAID assistance helped countries improve approaches, strategies, and tools to ensure that quality malaria medicines were available, especially for seasonal malaria.
- AMI continued to strengthen national quality control laboratories (NQCL). As a result, the Peruvian NQCL became the first in the region to achieve the International Organization for Standard's ISO 17025 accreditation for lab testing.
- In Bolivia, Paraguay, and Peru, the SAIDI program combated AMR and tuberculosis (TB), especially multi-drug resistant TB. SAIDI activities also facilitated the response to

the pandemic H1N1 influenza by improving infection control practices and implementing guidelines for treating respiratory infections. SAIDI training in infection control supported the development of the national plan to contain AMR in Paraguay and decentralized infection prevention and control activities in Bolivia.

- SAIDI also helped standardize procedures for managing drugs used for treating TB, and performing quality control for these drugs. Bolivia and Peru conducted quality surveillance on private sector pharmacies, resulting in corrective actions including seizure and destruction of medicines.