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**HEALTH POLICY
INITIATIVE**

Virtual Communication Network Promotes Contraceptive Security in Latin America and the Caribbean

New network enables CS committees to exchange information, share advocacy experiences, and access publications



“This forum will be a place where we—LAC CS Committee members—can share experiences, document lessons learned, and access relevant publications that will help achieve contraceptive security.”

—CS Committee Member,
LAC Region

USAID | Health Policy Initiative, Task Order I
<http://www.healthpolicyinitiative.com>

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The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has promoted contraceptive security (CS) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) for several decades by donating contraceptives to the region’s governments and NGOs. In the 1990s, countries in the region began taking greater responsibility for contraceptive procurement.

Since 2003, the USAID | Health Policy Initiative, Task Order I, and the USAID | DELIVER Project have jointly implemented the Regional Initiative on Contraceptive Security for Latin America and the Caribbean. The initiative aims to ensure CS in light of the donor phaseout of contraceptive supply donations. The initiative targets eight focus countries: Bolivia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru. A key strategy of the initiative has been to establish multisectoral CS committees to help address CS issues, including forecasting contraceptive needs and advocating for policy reform to better reach the underserved.

In 2008, during the Regional CS Conference on Poverty and Equity, key stakeholders identified the need for a virtual communication network to facilitate information exchange on best practices and lessons learned in contraceptive security. Responding to this expressed need, the Health Policy Initiative collaborated with CS committees and partners to develop a network to promote south-to-south dialogue between CS committees and with governments, civil society groups, and international organizations.

The virtual communication network for CS committees in Latin America is hosted by the USAID Allnet Alliance Network. The communication network promotes the exchange of information sharing for CS committee members in three ways:

- As a central place to share and seek information on best practices about logistics, procurement, financing, and resource mobilization;
- As a forum to share advocacy experiences and civil society efforts around reducing inequities; and
- As a central resource to access documents recently published by key organizations (UNFPA, the Health Policy Initiative, DELIVER, the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition) and distributed by RSS feeds.

To further support ongoing efforts to promote equitable access to FP programs and services, the communication network facilitates collaborative dialogue toward achieving contraceptive security—ensuring that all persons have the ability to choose, obtain, and use contraceptives whenever they need them. To access the forum, please visit: www.lacdaia.org.