



Pan American Health Organization



*Regional Office of the
World Health Organization*

**Regional and National Priorities for
Malaria Research
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Contexts, Topics, and On-going Malaria Research-related Efforts

Strategy and Plan of Action for Malaria in the Americas 2011-2015. CD 51/R9

(a) Malaria Prevention, Surveillance, and Early Detection and Containment of Outbreaks

- National Institutions
- AMI / RAVREDA; GHG/MEG; ICEMR/CLAIM; MalEra; NIAID; WHO (Surveillance, Monitoring, and Elimination); etc.

(b) Integrated Vector Management

- National Institutions
- AMI / RAVREDA; ICEMR/CLAIM; MalEra; NIAID; PMI; WHO (GPIRM and IVM); etc.

(c) Malaria Diagnosis and Treatment

- National Institutions
- AMI / RAVREDA; ICEMR/CLAIM; MalEra; NIAID; WHO (GPARC); etc.

(d) Advocacy, Communication, and Partnerships, and Collaboration

- National Institutions
- PAHO/AMRO; RBM; etc.

(e) Health Systems Strengthening; Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; Operations Research; and Country-Level Capacity-Building

- National Institutions
- MalEra; WHO; etc.



Failure to control or eliminate diseases/ different needs (Carlos Morel)

- **Science:** Lack or insufficient knowledge make tools or mechanisms to address health problems.
- **Market:** Lack of investment due to high cost and low return
- **Public Health:** lack of good governance or sound priorities



Why develop a malaria research agenda?

- PAHO/WHO Infectious diseases elimination plan
- Strategy and Plan of Action for Malaria, 2015
- Limited resources available at global, regional and national level for research (10/90 gap)
- Optimize health benefits, and impact from scarce research resources.
- To convince donors of priority areas for allocation of resources



Why develop a malaria research agenda?

- Different epidemiological settings in different endemic areas can need different approaches for control
- Identify the gap between what we know and what we do (Know do gap)
- Identify the need of Research, Development and innovation
- Allow the development of a capacity building plan based on the established priorities. Local empowerment



Coordination among players



Malaria Research Agenda for the Americas

Methodology

Consultations with various stakeholders **about the 5 components of the Strategy and Plan of Action for Malaria in the Americas 2011-2015 : completed**

The inputs / suggestions noted during the consultation meetings were already synthesized in the strategic plan.

- Review other malaria research agenda developed by other stakeholders, institutions, and initiatives (e.g. National Institutions; TDR; MalERA; ICEMR; NIAID; GHG/MEG; AMI/RAVREDA; PMI; IDRC; GPIRM; IVM; etc.) – **on-going**



Malaria Research Agenda for the Americas

Methodology

- Systematic review of the state of the art addressing the questions such us:
 - What is the nature and distribution of the disease burden, surveillance system and strength and weakness?
 - What is the current disease control /elimination strategy?
 - Why do some foci/areas of transmission persist in spite of control efforts?

Malaria Research Agenda for the Americas

- What are the major problems and challenges
 - Diagnosis
 - Treatment
 - Vector control
 - Health systems vis a vis malaria
- What are the advocacy , communication and policy development needs?

2. What research is needed to address these problems and challenges?

3. What is currently being done in research and development?



What research opportunities exist?

Malaria Research Agenda for the Americas

- Proposed Terms of Reference are being developed (for Advisory Committee, experts that will carry out the working papers, and STAG)
- Elaboration of working papers will be commissioned
- Process will be monitored / supervised by a PAHO Advisory Committee who will nominate and invite participants to join a STAG



Consensus Meeting and Periodic Review of Priorities

- Participants: PAHO/AG, STAG, authors of WP; clinicians, entomologists, epidemiologists, public health and laboratory specialists, representatives of national malaria programs; PAHO / WHO staff; etc.
- Objectives:
 - To discuss the results of the inputs of meetings and reviews identify gaps and research needs to improve the current strategies;
 - To develop a research agenda
 - Promote research networking in the region
 - To identify ways to advocate for increased funding from donors.