



Malaria Champions of the Americas 2011 Finalists



BRAZIL: Programa Estadual de Controle da Malaria do Acre

In response to a major malaria epidemic in 2006, the state of Acre sought assistance from the National Malaria Control to integrate programs to include malaria in order to improve standard health care. This was accomplished by developing a local strategy of social mobilization and health education in various municipalities, increasing the usage of rapid tests in areas that are difficult to access, ensuring systematic supervision of diagnosis and surveillance services, carrying out vector control strategies through the rational use of insecticides, and others.

Inter-sectoral collaboration was central to the design of the program, prompting the Secretary of Health to establish partnerships with those in the departments of environment, education, communication, and planning—each with their own responsibilities to inform and empower community members about the control of malaria.

As a result, the state of Acre reported only 27,596 cases in 2010, a significant reduction from the 93,863 cases that were reported during the epidemic in 2006.



HONDURAS: Wampusirpi en lucha contra la malaria - Manejo integral de la malaria en un municipio de alto riesgo en el Departamento de Gracias a Dios

Wampusirpi is located in the department of Gracias a Dios, which is in the department with the highest incidence of malaria in the country as well as Central America. It is reported that almost 88% of *Plasmodium falciparum* cases reported in Central America in 2008 were from this department. There are many indigenous people in the municipality and even though Spanish is the dominant language, Miskito is also widely-spoken. The municipality is difficult to access, has virtually no infrastructure, experiences frequent flooding, and is surrounded by tropical forest on all sides,

all of which contributes to the difficulties of controlling malaria. Proyecto Wampusirpi was developed and conducted through the coordination of various entities including municipal committees, local NGOs, the ministry of health, and technical support from PAHO in Honduras.

The project included an initial intervention including the installation of bed nets, radical and massive treatment, diagnosis and treatment of the municipal population, identification of breeding sites, and promotion of knowledge of malaria in the municipality. Community mobilization was key to carrying out the health promotion component, in collaboration with the health authorities at local, departmental, and national levels. The incidence of malaria has dropped significantly from 337 cases by week 24 of 2010, to 69 reported cases in 2011. Evaluation of the intervention is currently in process.



NICARAGUA: Programa vigilancia comunitaria de la malaria mediante sitios centinela

At selected sentinel sites where malaria has been reported during the previous three years, systematic surveys are developed by the Network of Community Volunteers and Partners and health teams to assess local disease transmission with emphasis placed on the attitudes and behaviors of the community as it relates to malaria control. Data was obtained which examined the use of bed nets and measured pre-existing knowledge about malaria with a focus on pregnant women, mothers, and children under the age of five. Trainings, including the implementation of the family community care model, are conducted for early detection; referrals are made to the health units, and efforts are evaluated and monitored to assess the achievement of desired impact. Community surveillance counted on support from health organizations, a regional university, the Army Medical Corps of Nicaragua, municipal governments, and the Ministry of Education. The strengthened capacity of the community results in their increased ability to detect the risk factors, results in better tracking and monitoring of vector-borne diseases, and enables the community to carry out comprehensive prevention and control initiatives supported by health organizations also working to eliminate the transmission of malaria.