

South America Regional

Program Overview

United States assistance is focused on economic reform, including 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 South American Regional program will increase the competitiveness of the private sector in the Andean countries by strengthening their capacity to trade and attract investment. Infectious diseases not only have a major detrimental impact on health and development in the region, but also have ramifications for public health in the United States.

Resources to Advance Transformational Diplomacy

Request by Account by Fiscal Year

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Es timate	FY 2009 Request
TOTAL	2,000	1,984	4,200
Child Survival and Health	-	-	2,700
Development Assistance	2,000	1,984	1,500

Request by Program Area by Fiscal Year

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Estimate	FY 2009 Request
TOTAL	2,000	1,984	4,200
Investing in People	-	-	2,700
Health	-	-	2,700
	-	-	1,500
Trade and Investment	2,000	1,984	1,500

Request by Objective by Account, FY 2009

(\$ in thousands)	Total	P&S	GJD	IIP	EG	HA
TOTAL	4,200	-	-	2,700	1,500	-
Child Survival and Health	2,700	-	-	2,700	-	-
Development Assistance	1,500	-	-	-	1,500	-

Investing in People: The South American region is characterized by uneven public health care.

For most countries in the region, dealing effectively with major diseases remains a challenge. Additionally, weak regulation of pharmaceutical industry contributes to the growing problem of microbial resistance to the antibiotics traditionally used in treatment. Assistance from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will support the health ministries ability to control anti-microbial resistance to curing tuberculosis (TB) by promoting the World Health Organization's strategy of working at the local level.

USAID will also work to reduce the impact of malaria in the Amazon Basin, which accounts for approximately 90% of malaria deaths region-wide. Specific foci may include: 1) ensuring appropriate drug treatment in the various parts of the region; 2) harmonizing national drug policies among various countries; 3) building technical capacity in the region regarding malaria; 4) building decentralized laboratory capacity; 5) testing new rapid diagnostic methods; and, 6) integrated vector control. These activities will be undertaken through technical assistance, support for communications, and sharing of evidence-based interventions and lessons learned.

Economic Growth: USAID will help reform trade and investment policies to increase the region's competitiveness in international markets. This complements the U.S.'s effort to promote economic alternatives to producing and trafficking illegal drugs and directly contributes to the commitment of the region's countries to build stable and prosperous democracies. USAID's program addresses challenges which prevent countries from taking full advantage of market access provisions under the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act and any future bilateral free trade agreements with the United States. The program will improve the Andean countries' ability to comply with international trade rules, including labor and environment, and to compete with businesses from other Latin American and Asian countries for access to large markets such as the United States.

Overview of Major Changes

The FY 2009 funding level is substantially increased from the FY 2008 estimate to fund activities that will reduce the impact of malaria and control the spread of TB.