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USAID ANNOUNCES INITIAL RESULTS OF GRAND CHALLENGE TO COMBAT ZIKA

USAID Invests Over \$15 Million to Accelerate Development and Deployment of 21 Innovations to Combat the Spread of Zika

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

USAID Press Office

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced today 21 potentially game changing solutions to mitigate the spread and impact of the Zika virus. These award nominees underwent a rigorous review process, and have been selected for accelerated development, testing and deployment.

The award nominees range from deployment of mosquitoes infected with Wolbachia, a naturally-occurring bacteria that prevents the spread of disease to humans; to low-cost, insecticide-treated sandals; to a cell phone app that measures wing-beat frequency to not only distinguish different types of mosquitoes but potentially identify whether they are carrying disease. These innovations will complement USAID's broader Zika response efforts, which are focused on mosquito control, educational campaigns about prevention, and maternal and child health interventions.

USAID launched the *Combating Zika and Future Threats Grand Challenge* in April 2016 to invest up to \$30 million in groundbreaking innovations from around the world to both address the current Zika outbreak and improve our ability to prevent, detect, and respond to future infectious disease outbreaks. In just nine weeks, USAID received nearly 900 submissions from across the globe in response to the Challenge.

Since early 2016, the Obama Administration has been working to combat Zika, a virus primarily spread by mosquitoes that has been linked to birth defects and other concerning health outcomes. The United States has been engaged in a whole-of-government strategy that also includes efforts to support laboratory capacity, the development of diagnostics and vaccines, and mapping the spread of the infection.

The U.S Agency for International Development's Grand Challenge for Development initiative crowd-sources solutions to solve clearly-defined problem sets, engaging the world in a quest to discover, incubate, test, and accelerate innovative solutions that have the potential to solve the world's greatest development challenges.

For a full list of award nominees please visit:

www.usaid.gov/grandchallenges/zika/nominees

Additional award nominees under this Challenge will be announced in the coming month. For more information on the Combating Zika and Future Threats Grand Challenge, visit

www.usaid.gov/grandchallenges/zika

COMBATING ZIKA AND FUTURE THREATS A GRAND CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPMENT

- VECTOR CONTROL**
 - Monash University: Scaled deployment of Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes to block disease transmission
 - Michigan State University: Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes to reduce transmission and block disease
 - Yale University: Novel sandal sole technique
 - Johns Hopkins University: Chromosomes on environmentally friendly biopesticide
- PERSONAL/INDIVIDUAL PROTECTION**
 - Harvard University: Electronic force field to repel mosquitoes
 - Harvard University: Low-cost treated sandals to prevent bites
 - Harvard University: Low-cost treated fabric for outdoor use
 - Johns Hopkins University: Low-cost treated wall hangings for indoor use
 - Johns Hopkins University: Human scent mimic mosquito trap
- VECTOR SURVEILLANCE**
 - Harvard University: System for mosquito (Bios) - Detecting Zika-infected mosquitoes using fly phones
 - University of Queensland: Next-Gen sensors to detect transmission hotspots
 - Harvard University: VectorClear - novel vector surveillance
 - San Francisco State University: Intelligent trap to enhance Zika surveillance
 - Johns Hopkins University: VectorWEB - low-cost network of cloud-connected sensors
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
 - Institute for Global Environmental Studies: Mosquito Challenge Community Companion Kit: citizen science to combat Zika
 - Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs: Rapid Habit Companion Tool (RHACT)
- DISEASE SURVEILLANCE**
 - Remedy Data: Citizen-led disease risk mapping and vector monitoring
- DIAGNOSTICS**
 - Vector Institute: Rapid identification of pathogens to speed development of Zika diagnostics
 - IRI: Rapid identification of cases diagnostic for ZIKV, Dengue, Chik
 - Blue Sense Diagnostics: Virus-trace: Rapid point of care diagnostic for ZIKV, Dengue, Chik using lab-free technology
 - SystemOne: POCm: Point of care connectivity and power for real-time reporting

Combating Zika - Award Nominees

(PDF - 239K)

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