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

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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.

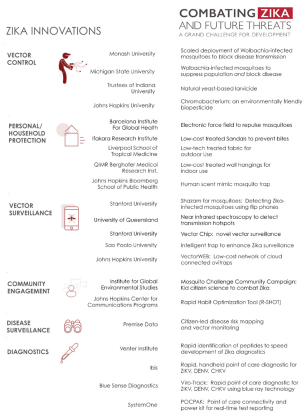
USAID launched the *Combating Zika and Future Threats Grand Challenge* in April 2016 to invest up to $30 million in groundbreaking innovations from around the world to both address the current Zika outbreak and improve our ability to prevent, detect, and respond to future infectious disease outbreaks. 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 - Award Nominees
(PDF - 239K)

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