00002-2023

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) describes the collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States of America ("CDC") and the Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Ecuador ("MSP"), referred to hereinafter each as a "Participant" or collectively as "the Participants;"

Guided by the willingness to develop fruitful technical cooperation in the field of public health;

Considering the importance of international cooperation to ensure and enhance focus on emerging infectious diseases, as well as other priority diseases and health conditions;

Affirming the intent of both countries to build capacity to prepare for and respond to epidemic and pandemic infectious disease threats, as well as other significant causes of morbidity and mortality among the Ecuadorian population;

Have reached the following understanding:

Section I

The purpose of this MOU is to identify broad areas of collaboration, stemming from various projects and a relationship between CDC and MSP, as well as opportunities that have yet to be identified. The Participants intend to enhance public health capacity in the Republic of Ecuador and elsewhere in South America, as attainable.

Section II

The Participants share the understanding that the topics set forth below represent the leading priorities for collaboration across several areas of engagement in public health cooperation.

1. Surveillance: Strengthening Ecuador's national surveillance system's capacity to monitor health issues, including through guidance on strategic planning and the use of data to inform reports, findings, and public policy.
2. Laboratory Systems: Strengthening Ecuador's national laboratory system and diagnostic capacity, including through guidance on strategic planning, which intends to be analyzed by the Participants; laboratory practice and information systems; and expanded diagnostic capacity.
3. Emergency Preparedness and Response: Enhancing Ecuador's capacity to rapidly identify and respond to public health threats though improved implementation of the International Health Regulations and other relevant frameworks.
4. Workforce Development: Supporting public health workforce training and development.

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5. Public Health Research: Continuing to enhance the ability of MSP to collaborate, conduct and lead investigations to generate vital public health reports and insights that contribute to standards, best practices, evidence-based decision making, and public policies, with the exception of clinical trials.
6. Other Areas of Interest: Additional areas of mutual interest, as jointly decided in writing.

Section III
Forms of cooperation may include, but are not limited to, the following: Institution strengthening, technical assistance, in-country consultations, trainings, and strategic guidance to MSP as mutually decided by the respective Participants. Any other methods of cooperation are expected to have the advance written consent of both Participants.

Section IV
All CDC and MSP activities to be conducted are subject to the availability of personnel, resources, and appropriated funds. This MOU does not create legally binding obligations under international law, the laws of the United States, or the laws of the Republic of Ecuador. All activities contemplated by this MOU are intended to be performed and conducted pursuant to the applicable laws and regulations of both countries.

The Ministry of Public Health does not intend to allocate any new funds for the implementation of this MOU.

Section V
The Participants intend to resolve disagreements regarding the interpretation or implementation of this MOU through mutual consultation.

If the Participants cannot reach a consensus, the activities under this MOU terminate.

Section VI
Activities under this MOU may begin following the signature of this MOU by both Participants.

This MOU may continue for five (5) years from the date of signature. It may be extended for one year upon the written consent of the Participants, following submission, three (3) months prior to the expiration of the MOU, of the relevant technical reports stating why it should be extended the benefit to the social and institutional good.

Expiration of this MOU does not release the Participants from their responsibilities undertaken in implementation of this MOU.

This MOU may be modified by mutual written consent of the Participants.

Either Participant may discontinue this MOU by giving written advance notification to the other Participant, preferably with three (3) months' advance notice to the other Participant.

The Participants do not intend the discontinuation of the MOU to affect the validity of any ongoing program or project until the completion (as defined at the outset of such program or project) of such program or project.

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Each Participant may appoint an administrator for the supervision, coordination, and implementation of this MOU. The administrators intend to provide oversight and supervision and make the observations and recommendations necessary to meet the objectives of the MOU.

On behalf of the MSP the National Director of Epidemiological Surveillance or his/her representative is appointed as the administrator of this MOU; and, on behalf of the CDC the Director of the South America Regional Office or his/her representative is appointed as the administrator of this MOU.

Signed in duplicate, in the Spanish and English languages.

For the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Howard Zucker MD

Dr. Howard Zucker

Deputy Director of Global Health of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Signed in the city of NEW YORK, NY

Date SEPTEMBER 20th, 2023

For the Ministry of Public Health

Dr. Jose Leonardo Ruales Estupiñan

Minister of Public Health of the Republic of Ecuador

Signed in the city of NEW YORK, NY

Date SEPTEMBER 20th, 2023

REPUBLICA DEL ECUADOR MINISTERIO DE SALUD PUBLICA

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