In September 2015, a Consortium of Institutions received a grant from the World Health Organization, Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Disease (TDR), to organise two (2) workshops to develop a Regional Network on Surveillance, Diagnosis, Research and Control of Vector-Borne Emerging Diseases in the Caribbean.

The Consortium Partners consist of the following institutions:

- Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Trinidad and Tobago
- Instituto de Medicina Tropical “Pedro Kouri” (IPK), Cuba
- Pasteur Institute of Guadeloupe
- Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, St. Kitts and Nevis

The first workshop is being held in Trinidad and Tobago from December 8-11, 2015 at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre.

**Aim of the Workshop**

To bring together Caribbean and International stakeholders, representing different fields of activity related to surveillance and diagnosis of emerging vector-borne diseases with special emphasis on dengue and chikungunya in order to develop an integrated regional network to support the Caribbean in responding to vector-borne diseases and their growing challenge to health, social and economic systems.

**Objectives of the Workshop**

1. To facilitate the implementation of a network between Caribbean member states to exchange surveillance information on the circulating vector borne diseases.
2. To promote collaboration and information sharing including standardization of technologies
3. To discuss available knowledge, capabilities and the experience of individuals, national authorities, agencies and academic institutions in the area of integrated surveillance (clinic, laboratory, entomological, environmental and epidemiological surveillance) and diagnosis of vector-borne diseases.
4. To discuss national surveillance systems and to determine gaps and challenges for improvement
5. To discuss how surveillance information is collected, analyzed and shared with the relevant agencies and determine gaps and challenges for improvement.
6. To discuss national laboratory capacity and within-country collaborative networks for diagnosis.
7. To review existing regional and global networks which can be adapted and used as a model for the Regional Network.
8. To identify regional research priorities, capacities and opportunities as well as promote collaborative programs both within the region and with relevant global partners.
9. To develop a multi-sector collaborative network to address the challenges posed by vector-control diseases in the Caribbean.
10. To identify, recommend and communicate actions based on the above.

This workshop will build upon the CARPHA Consultation and Partners Forum Chikungunya in the Caribbean: Meeting Today’s Challenges and Preparing for the Future which was held on March 3-5, 2015 using an interactive forum utilizing presentations and plenary sessions. This will provide a unique opportunity to renew efforts to position vector-borne diseases as a high priority on the public health agenda.

Outcomes from this workshop will be shared with regional CMO’s and Ministries of Health at the regional meeting which will be held in June and September, 2016, respectively.