**Private-Public Partnership to Raise Awareness About Gestational Diabetes (GDM) in Central and South America**

**Partnership with Stakeholders:** Roche Diagnostics has taken the lead to build a public-private partnership with:

* Health Professionals and Opinion Leaders in Latin America, beginning in Lima, Peru
* United States (US) and host government agencies including the US Agency for International Development (USAID), US National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Peru’s Ministry of Health
* Diabetes diagnostics companies and their teams in Latin America, beginning in Lima

**Focus Group:** Roche has sponsored a focus group drawing on the stakeholders mentioned above in October 2010 to discuss the need for and feasibility of a project to raise awareness of GDM in Central and South America. As outlined in the report on the discussion, “Improving Maternal Health in Peru: Assessment of Diabetes-Related Needs Among Women of Reproductive Age,” the focus group concluded that there is a need for a project, consistent with the USAID focus area of maternal and child health, with the following goals:

* Determine the prevalence of GDM among pregnant women in Central and South America, through screening and diagnosis of a group of pregnant women in Lima. This will be conducted as a component of an existing NIH research project scheduled to begin June, 2011
* Provide follow-up care to the pregnant women with GDM
* Provide training to health professionals and distribute the tools to accomplish the screening and follow-up care. These efforts will partner with Peru’s Ministry of Health and the maternal health hospitals that are the sites of the NIH study
* Provide outreach and education, in collaboration with
  + USAID and their partners in Peru, to bring the lessons learned to community clinics and maternal hospitals outside of Lima
* Replicate the project in other Central and South American countries including Guatemala as another target country. Also replicate the project in other regions including Africa.

Roche has also met with key professional staff and physician researchers responsible for international, extra-mural GDM research at the NIH institute that oversees maternal health, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), early in 2011. The consensus at this meeting was to approve the addition of the supplementary GDM screening, diagnosis and education component in Lima, Peru. Additionally, there was a subsequent meeting with the principal investigator for the project in Lima.