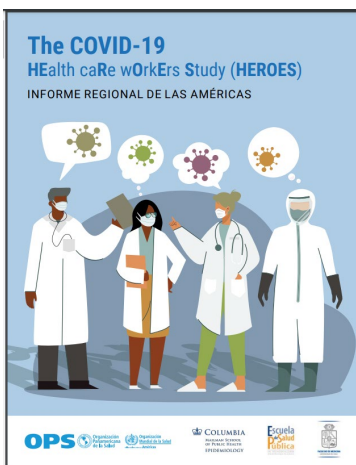


COVID-19

PAHO/WHO Response. 14 January 2022. Report n. 68

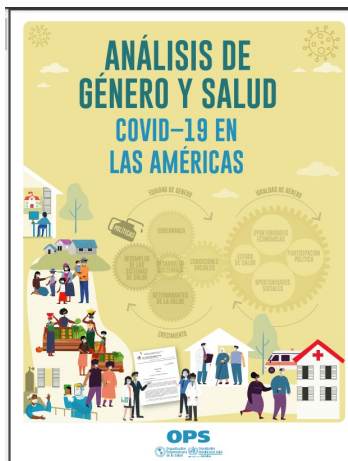
HIGHLIGHTS

On 11 January 2022, PAHO launched the **Regional Report on the COVID-19 Health caRe wOrkErs Study (HEROES)**. HEROES is a collaboration between PAHO, the University of Chile, and the University of Columbia to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of health services professionals in 26 countries from four continents. The Report collected evidence produced from a cohort multicentric survey conducted in 11 countries of the Region of the Americas: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, México, Peru, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and



Uruguay. Results show that in many countries, there are high rates of depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation, and psychological disorders among health care workers. In addition to producing quality scientific evidence about the mental health status of health personnel, this Initiative aims to contribute to the development of policies as well as individual and institutional interventions in response to the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 6 January 2022, PAHO published the report **Gender and Health Analysis: COVID-19 in the Americas**. Gender is an important structural determinant of health; nevertheless, it was observed that the gender perspective is not always present in the analysis of the direct and indirect effects of the pandemic. It is essential to realize the differential effects the pandemic has had on women and men and their interaction with the different determinants of health. This PAHO report characterizes the economic impact of COVID-19 under a gender perspective and focuses on the direct consequences (morbidity and mortality) of COVID-19 on specific populations, on measures adopted to mitigate the dissemination of the virus, and its indirect effect on socioeconomic conditions. The Report aims to generate a set of knowledge to enable the recognition and comprehension of gender and health-related issues, as well as the incorporation of a gender perspective in the context of the pandemic. It includes a series of recommendations on the production of data and evidence, as well as on the formulation of policies, strategies and plans for response to the pandemic.



SITUATION NUMBERS IN THE AMERICAS

as of 14 January 2022 (15:00)

56

Countries/territories affected

118,072,047

Confirmed cases

2,442,862

Deaths

1,511,238,284

Vaccine doses administered

RESPONSE PILLARS



1. Coordination, Planning, Financing, and Monitoring



2. Risk Communication, Community Engagement & Infodemic Management



3. Surveillance, Epidemiological Investigation, Contact Tracing; Adjustment of Public Health/Social Measures



4. Points of Entry, International Travel & Transport; Mass Gatherings



5. Laboratories & Diagnostics



6. Infection Prevention & Control; Protection of the Health Care Workforce



7. Case Management, Clinical Operations, & Therapeutics



8. Operational Support & Logistics; Supply Chain



9. Strengthening Essential Health Services & Systems



10. Vaccination

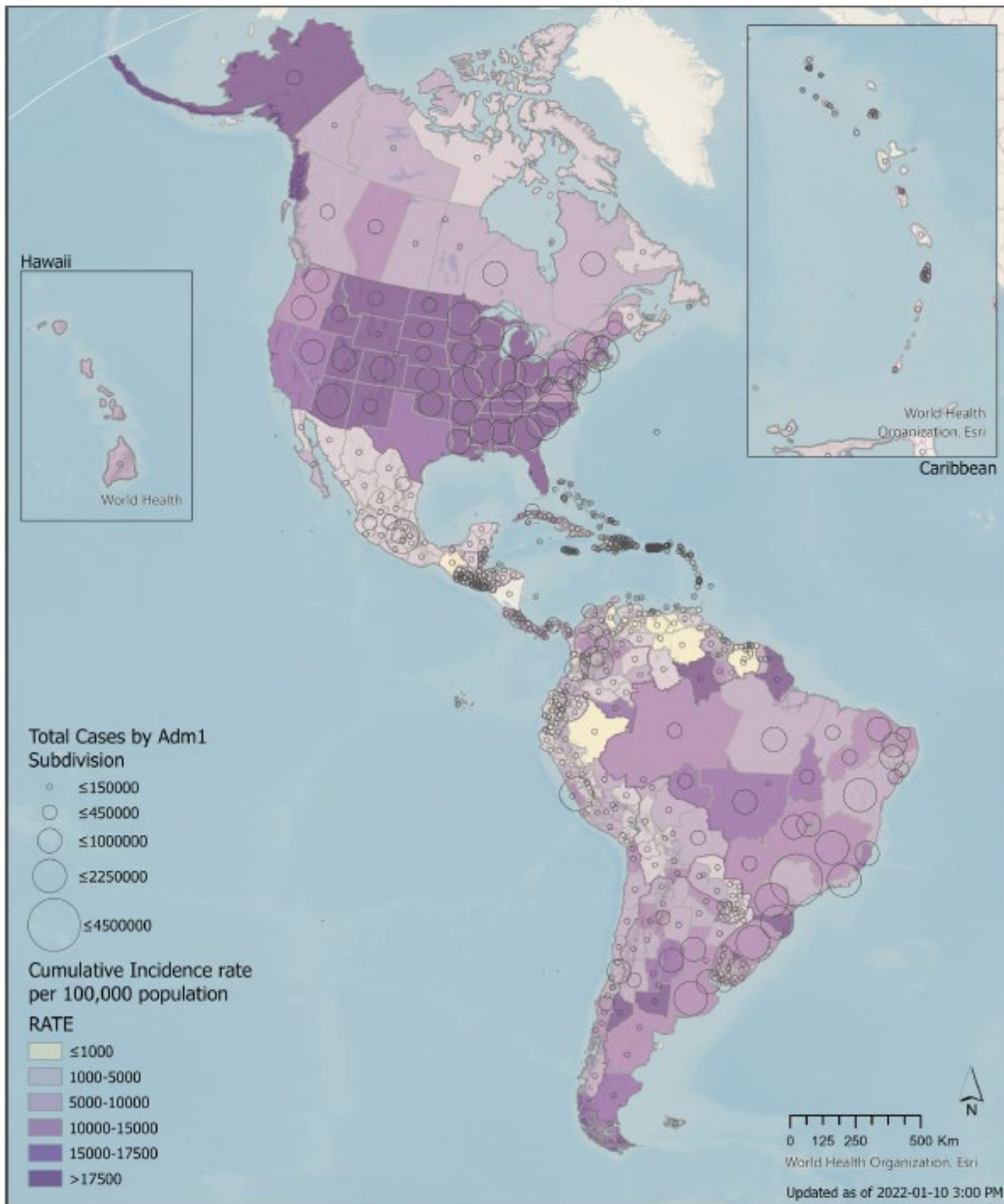
[Link to PAHO's technical and epidemiological reports, guidance, and recommendations](#)

[Link to global operational situation reports](#)

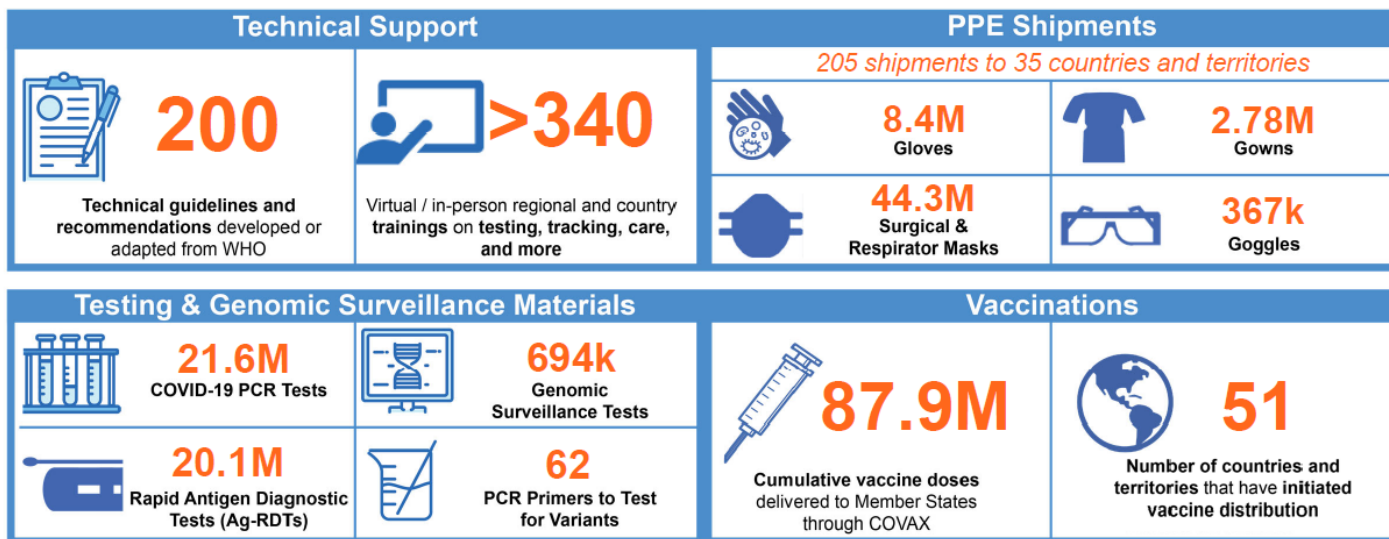


World Health Organization

Map 1. Reported number of cumulative COVID-19 cases in the Region of the Americas and corresponding incidence rate (per 100,000 population) by country/territory. As of 10 January 2022

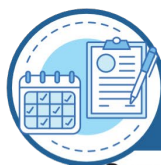


PAHO Regional Response Summary



PAHO/WHO Response (1 to 14 January 2022)

Following an outbreak of a novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China, rapid community, regional and international spread occurred with exponential growth in cases and deaths. On 30 January 2020, the Director-General (DG) of the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005). The first case in the Americas was confirmed in the USA on 20 January 2020, followed by Brazil on 26 February 2020. Since then, COVID-19 has spread to **all 56 countries and territories in the Americas**. On 17 January 2020, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau activated an organization-wide Incident Management Support Team (IMST) to provide its countries and territories with technical cooperation to address and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts align with the ten pillars of the 2021 WHO Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19, PAHO's Response Strategy and Donor Appeal, and PAHO Resolution CD58.R9 approved by its Member States. Since then, the Organization has developed, published, and disseminated evidence-based technical documents to help guide countries' strategies and policies to manage this pandemic.



PILLAR 1: Coordination, Planning, Financing, and Monitoring

Support activation and operation of national public health emergency management mechanisms, as well as COVID-19 planning and response, based on a whole-of-government and inclusive whole-of-society approach

Regional

PAHO continued to collaborate with its partners within the Region and across the globe to deliver technical cooperation, evidence-based guidance and recommendations, and to advocate for the Americas on the global stage. PAHO's regional IMST also provided support and strategic guidance to country-level IMSTs as they coordinated and monitored their national response activities.

Since the beginning of January 2021 through 14 January 2022, a total of **2,291 bilateral communications** (under Article 44 of the International Health Regulations), between National Focal Points (NFPs) with information concerning cases/contacts and travel were received.

PAHO continued to review new and emerging information to build the evidence base to combat the virus. The public has access to PAHO's **COVID-19 Technical Database** for technical guidelines, scientific publications, and ongoing research protocols from the Region. This is the result of partnerships with WHO, Cochrane, McMaster University, Epistemonikos, and others.



PILLAR 2: Risk Communication, Community Engagement (RCCE)

Support participatory development and implementation of RCCE plans and dissemination of risk communication information to all populations and to travelers

COVID-19 Courses Available on PAHO's Virtual Campus for Public Health (SPA-POR)

[Introduction to the COVID-19 Vaccine: Guidance for Identifying Priority Groups and Developing Microplanning \(SPA\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination Training for Healthcare Personnel – 2021 \(SPA, POR\)](#)

[Vaccination for COVID-19: technical protocols and procedures – Brazil 2021 \(POR\)](#)

[Occupational Health and Safety for Healthcare Professionals in the Context of COVID-19 – 2020 \(SPA, POR\)](#)

The full list of courses is available on the [PAHO website](#).

PAHO's Director Dr. Carissa F. Etienne delivered one press briefing during this period. On 12 January 2021, the Director called on countries to ensure that health workers have access to protective equipment and additional COVID-19 vaccine doses where available, with COVID-19 infections accelerating in the Americas and the detection of the Omicron variant in at least 42 countries and territories in the Region. As cases jump three-fold in some countries, the Region's ability to respond to the current wave depends on the personnel that keep primary health care centers, clinics and hospitals up and running. "We must make sure they are protected from the worst consequences of this virus," said the Director during a media briefing on 12 January 2022. Over the previous week, countries in the Americas reported 6.1 million new cases of COVID-19, which corresponds to an increase of 250% from the same period last year. Thanks to increased vaccination rates in the Region, the COVID-19 death rate remains stable – however, the increase in emergency room visits and hospitalizations has left many health systems struggling to cope. Dr. Etienne highlighted that an additional vaccination dose will "help reinforce health workers' ability to withstand exposure to the virus," particularly in light of the rising infections currently being experienced in the Americas.

Regional

As the communication needs of the Region evolve, PAHO continues to disseminate key messages across multiple platforms and respond to numerous media inquiries. Communications support is provided to country offices on a variety of issues, particularly regarding COVID-19 vaccines and COVAX. **Infographics** cover a range of issues related to COVID-19, from steps on how to prevent infection to tips on staying healthy and protecting one's mental health during the pandemic.

Country

In **Mexico**, on 10 January 2022, PAHO provided support to and facilitated the first annual meeting on risk communication held by the General Direction of Health Promotion. The virtual meeting was attended by more than 170 participants responsible for health promotion and risk communication in the federal units throughout the country. Meeting topics included the role of risk communication in emergencies and public health, the fourth COVID-19 wave in the country, the Omicron Variant of Concern (VOC), and the need to strengthen communication strategies.



PILLAR 3. Surveillance, Epidemiological Investigation, Contact Tracing, and Adjustment of Public Health & Social Measures

Strengthen the capacity of surveillance systems to detect COVID-19 cases, while ensuring continued surveillance of other diseases epidemic and pandemic potential

Regional

PAHO developed a **Geo-Hub** for the Region which includes a series of dashboards and epidemiological data updated daily. It has four sub-regional and 56 country/territory geo-hubs for the Americas. In addition, PAHO's **interactive dashboard** provides information for the public on cumulative cases, deaths, cumulative incidence rate, new cases and deaths, as well as several other epidemiological indicators reported by countries and territories.

PAHO also publishes weekly reports detailing trends in influenza and other respiratory viruses, as well as SARS-CoV-2 surveillance indicators. PAHO continues to analyze trends in the Region, particularly through the collection of COVID-19 nominal data.

Seroprevalence studies have provided the Region with invaluable data on how the virus has spread since the onset of the pandemic. PAHO maintains a **dashboard that shows seroprevalence studies in Latin America and the Caribbean**, including information on the study design, sampling method, sample sizes, and other factors.



PAHO's Contact Tracing Knowledge Hub publishes multidisciplinary information on contact tracing for a variety of audiences, including policymakers, responders, researchers, educators, affected communities, and the public. Go.Data is one of the tools available through this platform. It is used to support case investigation and management, display transmission chains, and for contact tracing. In collaboration with GOARN, to date, PAHO/WHO has trained more than 35 countries and territories in the Go.Data app.

On 3 January 2022, PAHO published the French, Portuguese and Spanish versions of **Considerations for the Implementation and Management of Contact Tracing for COVID-19 in the Region of the Americas**. Published in English in August 2021, this document is an updated version of a June 2020 publication, intended to complement the interim guidance by the World Health Organization (WHO) on contact tracing in the context of COVID-19. The document includes guidance for contact tracing among vaccinated contacts and international travelers, and in settings with community transmission. It also includes the updated definitions for cases, contacts, and community transmission published by WHO.

The publication is mainly aimed at national health authorities, public health professionals, and other officials involved in developing and implementing policies and standard operating procedures on contact tracing operations in the Americas.



PILLAR 4. Points of Entry, International Travel, and Mass Gatherings

Support surveillance and risk communication activities at points of entry as well as implementation of appropriate public health measures

Regional

It is important that risk mitigation measures are always in place, including advice for travelers, particularly regarding the self-monitoring of signs and symptoms; surveillance and case management at the point of entry and across borders; capacities and procedures for international contact tracing; and environmental controls and public health and social measures at points of entry and onboard conveyances.

PAHO will continue to support countries to ensure that these capacities are in place. PAHO will also support countries' efforts to define a risk-based policy while resuming international traffic in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, considering the provisions of the International Health Regulations (IHR), available scientific evidence, and the most cost-effective use of available resources.

Country

In **Jamaica**, on 4 January 2022, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) PAHO convened a meeting of the International Health Regulations (IHR) Stakeholders Advisory Group to provide an update on the situation of COVID-19 and on the new proposed revised tool for the IHR State Party Self-Assessment Annual Report.



PILLAR 5: Laboratories and Diagnostics

Enhance laboratory capacity to detect COVID-19 cases as well as to manage large-scale testing for COVID-19 domestically or through arrangements with international reference laboratories

Regional

Since the beginning of PAHO's response to the date of this report, the Organization has provided primers, probes and/or PCR kits for over 21.6 million reactions/tests. To date, PAHO has provided over 706,700 swabs and 365 sampling kits, among other critical materials.

During the reporting period, PAHO continued to provide technical cooperation, including data review, troubleshooting sessions, and follow-up calls on laboratory diagnostics with Barbados, Dominica, Haiti, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

On 10 January 2022, PAHO published the [Epidemiological Alert: Rational use of COVID-19 diagnostic tests](#). In the context of a sudden increase in the use of COVID-19 diagnostic tests in several countries within and outside of the Region of the Americas Region, the document includes recommendations to Member States regarding the appropriate measures for the rational use of diagnostic testing to ensure their provision for both surveillance and medical care.

5.1 SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern

A number of SARS-CoV-2 variants have been identified through global genomic sequencing. Since the initial identification of SARS-CoV-2, until 14 January 2022, more than **7,111,251** complete genomic sequences have been shared globally through publicly accessible databases.

Given the significant resource requirements needed to sequence all samples in the Region to identify variants, PAHO continues to work closely with the laboratories of the countries of the Americas to help identify samples which should be prioritized for genomic sequencing. To date, PAHO has distributed **62 unique primers** to detect genetic variants using PCR.

To date, **twenty-seven countries** are participating in the **COVID-19 Genomic Surveillance Network**, with reference sequencing laboratories in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, the United States of America and Trinidad and Tobago visible on this **dashboard**. This mechanism will be critical to tracking the spread or appearance of new Variants of Concern (VOCs).



PILLAR 6: Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), and Protection of the Health Workforce

Support efforts to reduce human-to-human transmission within health facilities and the community, including through development and implementation of national IPC plans

Regional

Implementation of national IPC plans are key to reducing COVID-19 transmission at both community and health facility levels. PAHO supports countries by procuring PPE through donations, the Revolving Fund, and training healthcare personnel.



PILLAR 7: Case Management, Clinical Operations, and Therapeutics

Improve local health system capacity and protect healthcare workers to safely deliver equitable healthcare services

7.1 Therapeutics and Clinical Management

Considering the breadth of knowledge and evidence related to COVID-19, PAHO maintains an **interactive infographic** to help external partners navigate PAHO and WHO's technical material and compilations of evidence from the Americas and around the globe.

The Organization worked with countries in the Region to promote the **WHO Global COVID-19 Clinical Data Platform** for the clinical characterization and management of hospitalized patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. This is part of a global strategy to gain a clearer understanding of the severity, clinical features, and prognostic factors of COVID-19. The Platform has more than 400,000 cases with contributions from the following countries: **Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and the United States of America.**

PAHO last updated evidence for the [Ongoing Living Update of Potential COVID-19 Therapeutics: Summary of rapid systematic reviews on 11 January 2022](#). The study synthesizes evidence on 171 therapeutics from 516 randomized controlled trials and observational studies.

7.2 Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs)

Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) are invaluable when demands on a country's health system exceed regular capacity. Updated information on deployed EMTs and alternative medical care sites (AMCS) throughout the Americas remained available at [PAHO's COVID-19 EMT Response information hub](#). As of 14 January 2022, there were at least 100 EMTs deployed throughout the Region, and 129 Alternative Medical Care Sites, such as military bases, sports stadiums, and fairgrounds managed by PAHO. These EMTs have added 6,899 inpatient hospital beds and 1,078 critical care beds throughout the Region.



PILLAR 8: Operational Support and Logistics (OSL), and Supply Chain

Establish and implement expedited procedures to facilitate the Organization's support to countries and territories response to COVID-19 healthcare services

Regional

The regional team continued to collaborate with regional, national, and international partners (including other UN agencies) on all matters related to procurement, shipping, freight, logistics and technical specifications for PPE, oxygen concentrators, in vitro diagnostic products (IVDs), and other goods, supplies, and equipment critical to the COVID-19 response in the Americas.

Considering the multitude of suppliers and concerns about the quality of procured goods, PAHO has made quality assurance a critical component of its technical support in the procurement of goods, supplies and equipment for COVID-19 response. This involves reviewing technical specifications, ensuring correct shipping documentation for customs clearance, and supporting countries with quality assurance issues. WHO issued adapted interim guidance on the rational use of PPE for COVID-19 as well as considerations during severe shortages.

Country

In **Belize**, on 11 and 12 January, PAHO donated 462,500 surgical masks that will be distributed to 22 organizations and ministries, including the Ministry of Health and Wellness, in support of infection prevention and control measures in the country.



Figures 1 and 2: PAHO delivers donation of surgical masks to the MOHW in Belize. Source: PAHO.

In **Suriname**, on 14 January 2022, PAHO donated, 462,500 pieces of non-sterile surgical masks to the Ministry of Health in support of case management activities and to strengthen COVID-19 response.



Figure 3: Ministry of Health of Suriname receives donation of 462,500 surgical masks. Source: PAHO.

8.1 PAHO Revolving Fund for Essential Medicines and Strategic Public Health Supplies

Established in 2000, the PAHO Strategic Fund (SF) supports Member States by ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines and other health products; improving demand planning and capacity-strengthening for supply chain systems; sustainably reducing prices of critical medications and supplies through transparent international sourcing; and a line of credit option to facilitate Member State procurement.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the SF was rapidly mobilized to assess inventories across the Region and evaluate which medications had adequate safety stock and which needed to be prioritized, avoiding unnecessary expenses or late fees. The platform leveraged existing long-term agreements and relationships with suppliers to mitigate price inflation and better plan shipments/deliveries. The SF also coordinated alternative modes of transport (e.g., air freight versus ocean freight) to adapt to the most cost-effective and timely methods amidst continuously evolving COVID-19-related disruptions. This required direct negotiations with suppliers to absorb increases in freight costs on medicines. Finally, the

SF worked with partners to support effective alternative treatment protocols to help adapt to limited supplies during COVID-19.

Since the start of the pandemic to 14 January 2022, the SF has procured more than **\$290 million** worth of COVID-19 diagnostic tests (PCR and rapid tests), PPE and medicines for critical care, supporting more than **38 million people** throughout the Region of the Americas.¹ The Fund continues to support the procurement of medicines and public health supplies for individuals affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, diabetes, neglected tropical diseases, cardiovascular diseases, and hepatitis C. Learn more about the PAHO Strategic Fund's essential work on the PAHO website.



PILLAR 9: Strengthening Essential Health Services and Systems

Support continued operation of equitable health systems based on Primary Health Care, to protect and sustain public health gains, investing in improved response capacity in the first level of care and the health service delivery networks, including the implementation of gender and culturally sensitive actions using human rights-based approaches, to overcome barriers to access, especially in populations in conditions of vulnerability.

Regional

PAHO provides continuous assistance to its Member States on **regulatory preparedness** to expedite processes for vaccine deployment. As part of the COVAX Facility's allocation mechanism, support includes presenting information on technical documents required by Member States during bilateral and regional meetings.

Health technology assessments (HTAs) are invaluable guidance for health authorities in the use of technologies relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of 14 January 2022, there were **336 COVID-19 related reports available** in the [Regional Database of HTA Reports of the Americas \(BRISA\)](#).

The Organization collaborates with national regulatory authorities from across the Americas to share recommendations, considerations, and evaluations on products used to support COVID-19 patients and prevent transmission during the pandemic. Additionally, PAHO maintains a repository of websites and relevant information, including regulatory response on COVID-19, at the [Regional Platform on Access and Innovation for Health Technologies \(PRAIS\)](#).

On 13 January 2022, PAHO organized a [webinar on mental health care for health professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). The event marked the launch of a self-learning course on [self-care for frontline workers in the response to emergencies](#) (available in Spanish), and the end of the ["Share your story" campaign](#), which invited health workers from the Region of the Americas to share their experiences caring for COVID-19 patients and coping with the pandemic. During the webinar, PAHO presented the [Regional Report on the COVID-19 HEalth caRe wOrkErS \(HEROES\) Study](#) and information about the impact of the pandemic on the mental health and well-being of health care workers as well as key recommendations based on the results of the Study.

¹ Sum of all Strategic Fund purchase orders placed to date. Occasionally, countries will withdraw or cancel orders, causing the figure to fluctuate from one report to the next.



PILLAR 10: Vaccination

Support the introduction, deployment, and evaluation of COVID-19 vaccines, ensuring their timely and equitable access, and strengthening vaccine safety surveillance.

Regional

As of 14 January 2022, more than **1,511,238,284 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines** had been administered in the Americas, with more than **637 million people having completed their full vaccination schedule**. All **51 countries and territories in the Region have begun vaccination**, 33 of these having received vaccine doses through COVAX. Overall, PAHO has **distributed more than 87,954,210 million doses** to the Americas through COVAX. Additionally, PAHO continued to provide strategic direction to countries in the Region that are pending arrival of vaccines. More details are available on [PAHO's COVID-19 Vaccination in the Americas database](#), which reports on doses administered by country.

Successfully deploying vaccines for COVID-19 requires that countries have detailed plans which factor in considerations ranging from regulatory and logistical issues to staff needs, to ensuring equitable distribution, while targeting those most at risk of infection (e.g., frontline health workers, older persons, and those with underlying conditions).

PAHO is supporting countries throughout this process. **33 countries** have completed their **national deployment and vaccination plans (NDVPs)**. **35 countries** have completed the Vaccine Introduction Readiness tool (VIRAT), which includes a dashboard that provides an overview of regional readiness. Regional support also includes work with countries interested in gaining access to vaccines through the COVAX Facility.

PAHO provides technical cooperation to countries seeking to access the COVID-19 vaccine through the COVAX Facility, including those selected for Advance Market Commitment (AMC) funding to cover their doses. This includes sharing recommendations with national authorities on steps to ensure that their NDVPs meet the necessary criteria to roll out vaccines to priority populations.

In addition to written guidance, PAHO also provides training webinars to its Member States. PAHO worked with Member States to develop workshops aimed at strengthening the Events Supposedly Attributable to Vaccination or Immunization (ESAVI) surveillance in the Region of the Americas. Access the full list of past and future training sessions for all member states on PAHO's website.

PAHO maintains a [public dashboard](#) that tracks the safety of various COVID-19 vaccines during and after clinical trials.

Country

In **Costa Rica**, on 10 January 2022, PAHO participated in the [launch of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign for children 5 to 11 years old](#), together with national authorities. Twenty (20) children with underlying medical conditions were vaccinated at the National Children's Hospital, and the vaccination for this age range will continue in the country, with priority being given to children with other risk factors for COVID-19 infection.



Figures 4 and 5: Children from 5 to 11 years old start to get vaccinated in Costa Rica. Source: PAHO.

On 4 December 2021, **Venezuela received 3,100,800 additional COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Mechanism**. The country has already received 8,976,000 of the total 12,068,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccines they purchased through PAHO’s Revolving Fund. PAHO has been working closely with the country since the beginning of the pandemic to respond to COVID-19 and ensure timely diagnosis, proper clinical management of cases, capacity building, and the provision of supplies and equipment. In 2021, PAHO also provided support to coordinate donations of 1.5 million USD dollars to fund vaccination activities in 2021.



Figures 6 and 7: Sinopharm vaccines against COVID-19 purchased through PAHO Revolving Fund arrive in Venezuela. Source: PAHO.

Gaps and Challenges

GAPS	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance systems: additional capacity-building and equipment for analysis. • Information systems: Data management systems are essential for case monitoring and contact tracing while protecting confidentiality. • Strategic planning and response: Countries need enough resources to implement national COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan and Risk Communication Plans. • Laboratory test kits and equipment: National laboratories need more extraction kits and other supplies to keep testing. • IPC supplies: PPEs and supplies (including for WASH) are urgently needed for isolation and quarantine wards. Healthcare workers are hesitant to work without PPE. • Health facility evaluations: Countries must undertake additional assessments to guide measures for infection prevention and control. • Resources for and access to populations in situations of vulnerability: PPE and other supplies are needed in these communities. Logistical challenges must be overcome to deliver these critical goods. • Risk communications: Key messages must be tailored to each country's context to resonate with intended audiences. • Subnational-level health workers: A surge in medical personnel is needed to ensure countries can serve their whole populations and obtain more epidemiological data as it becomes available. • Intensive care units: More ICUs will be needed to manage severe cases. • Migrant access to health services: Countries are assessing how to serve these populations and better manage outbreaks. • Private sector coordination: This is essential to ensure national protocols are followed. • Nutritional Guidance: This is vital to ensure families maintain nutritional health during and after the COVID-19 emergency. • Health Disaster Management Programs: Health Disaster Management Programs and surveillance were noted as priorities to enhance the COVID-19 and any other health emergency responses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable Vaccine Distribution: The shortage of available vaccines limits the ability of the countries to protect their populations. • Competitive marketplace: Countries and organizations are competing for limited supplies due to global shortages of PPE and other items. • Border closures: This has seriously hampered the deployment of experts, shipment of samples for testing, and procurement of supplies and equipment for testing, case management, and infection prevention and control. It has also added additional pressure to countries undergoing complex political and socio-economic transitions. • Managing infections in healthcare settings: Healthcare workers rely on PPE and other supplies to avoid infection. Global shortages are contributing to increasing cases and frontline workers losing their lives. • Infected healthcare workers: Infected health workers who are sick or quarantined will strain health systems. • Test availability: Epidemiological monitoring requires more testing. Counterfeit tests are creating risks in resources lost and incorrect analyses. • Health workforce limitations: Insufficient human resources hamper countries' efforts to conduct contact tracing and manage patients in quarantine. • Risk Communication: The perception of risk is still low in some countries/territories and many people ignore government public health measures. • Telephone referral systems: Some countries are reporting overwhelming call volumes. • Logistics systems: Many countries are still unprepared to manage the distribution of supplies and equipment. • Continuity in other health services: The pandemic has diverted resources from other critical services for programs such as HIV, TB, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). • Stigma: Countries must take steps to reduce stigma towards persons returning from abroad and others associated with a higher likelihood of infection. • Public Compliance of Public Health Protocols: Public reluctance to follow public health protocols has led to increased infection rates in many countries in the Americas. • Variants: New COVID-19 strains present a challenge to the control of the disease.

PAHO/WHO's COVID-19 response was made possible in part due to generous contributions and in-kind donations from the following sponsors:

- Alma Jean Henry Charitable Trust
- Government of Belize
- Government of Canada
- Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
- U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC)
- Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)
- Government of Colombia
- Confederation of Caribbean Credit Unions (CCCU)
- Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF)
- European Commission
- Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)
- Foundation MAPFRE
- Fundación Yamuni Tabush
- GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance
- Global Fund
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Government of Japan
- Government of Korea
- Mixed Fund for Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mexico-Spain
- Government of New Zealand
- PAHO COVID-19 Response Fund
- Other donors
- Rockefeller Foundation
- Sony Latin Music
- Government of Spain
- Government of Sweden
- Government of Switzerland
- UN Agencies consortium
- UNICEF
- Government of the United Kingdom
- UN Development Coordination Office (UNCDO)
- UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund
- UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)
- UN Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO)
- USAID
- WHO Foundation
- World Bank
- World Food Programme
- Donations channeled through WHO
- Member States National Voluntary Contributions

PAHO also thanks the following donors who have contributed to the response efforts in the Americas through WHO: Azerbaijan, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, Germany, France, the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), Spain, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the World Bank.

In addition, the following donors have pledged further support to PAHO: the Caribbean Development Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Wellcome Trust.

PAHO would like to also acknowledge and thank Direct Relief, Facebook, Mary Kay Cosmetics and Twitter for their generous in-kind contribution as well as Allison Becker, Salomon Beda, Sony Latin Music and Global Citizens for their strategic partnership to help fight the pandemic.

Support PAHO's efforts to fight COVID-19 in the Americas

The Region of the Americas has the highest cumulative number of COVID-19 cases and deaths.

PAHO is working with health professionals on the frontlines of this fight.

Vaccines will help save lives and eventually halt the pandemic.

Support PAHO's Response at:
www.paho.org/donate

