



# WHAT IS THE STRATEGIC FUND?

The **PAHO Strategic Fund** (Regional Revolving Fund for Strategic Public Health Supplies) is a pooled procurement mechanism for essential medicines and supplies in the Americas. The Strategic Fund leverages cross-sector technical expertise, multilateral cooperation, and established partnerships across Latin America and the Caribbean to improve access to quality, safe, and cost-effective health products. Since its creation in 2000, the Strategic Fund has worked with all institutions who have signed a participating agreement to offer a wide range of comprehensive support and capacity-strengthening services for priority health programs across several infectious and chronic diseases.

## Key benefits

### Quality assurance

Through alignment with regional/international guidelines, pre-qualified suppliers, and multilateral partners.

### Technical expertise

Through coordination with disease specialists on recommended medicines.

### Financing support

Through interest-free credit lines.

### Cost savings

Through lower product prices and reduced operational expenses.

### Regional collaboration

Through robust partnerships and multicountry loans and donations.

### Supply chain strengthening

Through improved inventory assessments, demand forecasting, procurement planning, regional manufacturing, and capacity-building.

## Key statistics

(2018-2021)

**51**

participating  
entities

**17**

health  
agencies

**34**

countries and  
territories

Over  
**US\$695  
million**

products  
procured

Over  
**95  
million**

people  
supported

Up to

**99%**

decrease in cost  
of medicines

**4x**

increase in utilization  
since 2019

# How it works

1

## Quantifies demand

Helps countries to quantify their requirements for health products based on disease burden and existing stock levels.

2

## Consolidates orders

Consolidates orders across the region so medicines and supplies can be procured in bulk at the lowest price

3

## Procures and delivers

Initiates procurement purchase orders, and coordinates and monitors shipments.

## Affordability and accessibility for medicines

By securing competitive prices with qualified manufacturers for high-cost medicines (e.g., cancer, hypertension, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis), the Strategic Fund has helped **lower the cost of medicines by up to 99%**. This helps to overcome barriers related to price, quality assurance, and access.

## COVID-19 response

The Strategic Fund played a critical role in the COVID-19 response across Latin America and the Caribbean. This included:

- **Mitigating COVID-19 related supply chain disruptions** for essential medicines (e.g., tuberculosis, malaria)
- **Averting stockouts** of critical health products
- **Improving planning and availability** of affordable COVID-19 health supplies

**US\$298 million worth of COVID-19 tests, PPE, and critical care medicines supporting more than 39 million people.**

## Looking ahead

The COVID-19 pandemic was a stark reminder for countries to control diseases while maintaining health services. The PAHO Strategic Fund offers an effective solution to achieve this. Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean should leverage the Strategic Fund as a key tool to support COVID-19 pandemic recovery, move toward universal health, and build resilient health systems for people-centered care.

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