



Charting a Future for Health in the Americas  
Quadrennial Report of the Director




---

Assessing the Population's Health	12
Enhancing Health and Human Development	32
Preventing and Controlling Diseases	46
Promoting and Protecting Health	80
Protecting and Developing the Environment	102
Supporting Health Systems and Services Development	120
Partnering for Health	140
Administering Resources	158

# The Pan American Health Organization

When the American republics founded the Pan American Health Organization in 1902, they reified a collective hemispheric vision that, together, they could improve health throughout the Region. Over the century—across an arc of time and space punctuated by world wars, economic crises, and political upheavals—a Pan American commitment to enhance the well-being of individuals, families, communities, and nations has sustained the Organization.

In celebrating its 100th anniversary, the Pan American Health Organization—already the oldest international public health entity in the world—joins a select group of institutions that have stood the test of time. With its centenarian counterparts, PAHO shares two strengths: a bedrock foundation and an uncommon ability to negotiate dramatic environmental changes. Those strengths, in turn, have enabled the Organization to pursue its primary purpose: service to the countries of the Americas to better the health of their peoples.

*Charting a Future for Health in the Americas* describes the work of the Pan American Health Organization in recent years. The report opens with a disquisition on the significance of its title—how PAHO has had, and will continue to need, to chart and steer a steady course, dealing with and even capitalizing on changes along the way, in order to reach its goal: health in the Americas. With pointillistic highlights of the Organization's century-long work in its major fields of responsibility, the report brings the accounting of its actions to the present. It describes the resources PAHO has employed and the impact its cooperation with member countries has had on assessing the regional health situation, enhancing health and human development, preventing and controlling diseases, promoting health, protecting the environment, and strengthening health systems and services. Moreover, because of the stature it has attained, the Organization has been able to strike alliances with other international agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector—and the story of their shared agenda is recounted here.

This, then, is the latest in a series of reports of progress in public health throughout the Americas and, at the same time, of the work of an organization built to last.



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
*Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the*  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

[www.paho.org](http://www.paho.org)

# The Pan American Health Organization

The Pan American Health Organization comprises its governing bodies—the **Pan American Sanitary Conference**, the **Directing Council**, and the **Executive Committee**—and the **Pan American Sanitary Bureau** and serves the countries of the Americas.

## Member Governments

Antigua and Barbuda	Guyana
Argentina	Haiti
Bahamas	Honduras
Barbados	Jamaica
Belize	Mexico
Bolivia	Nicaragua
Brazil	Panama
Canada	Paraguay
Chile	Peru
Colombia	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Costa Rica	Saint Lucia
Cuba	Saint Vincent
Dominica	and the Grenadines
Dominican Republic	Suriname
Ecuador	Trinidad and Tobago
El Salvador	United States of America
Grenada	Uruguay
Guatemala	Venezuela

## Associate Member

Puerto Rico

## Participating Governments

France  
The Kingdom of the Netherlands  
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



## Our Values

- EQUITY** Striving for fairness and justice by eliminating differences that are unnecessary and avoidable.
- EXCELLENCE** Achieving the highest quality in what we do.
- SOLIDARITY** Promoting shared interests and responsibilities and enabling collective efforts to achieve common goals.
- RESPECT** Embracing the dignity and diversity of individuals, groups, and countries.
- INTEGRITY** Assuring transparent, ethical, and accountable performance.

## Our Vision

To be the major catalyst for ensuring that all the peoples of the Americas enjoy optimal health and contribute to the well-being of their families and communities.

## Our Mission

To lead strategic collaborative efforts among member countries and other partners to promote equity in health, to combat disease, and to improve the quality of, and lengthen, the lives of the peoples of the Americas.

## Our Responsibility

To present an accounting of the program of health activities authorized by the Organization and carried out by the Bureau. Therefore, in accordance with the Constitution of the Pan American Health Organization, the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau/Pan American Health Organization presents the report in hand, which covers the four-year period from 1998 to 2001.



**Charting a Future for  
Health in the Americas**

Official Document N.º 306  
ISBN 92 75 17306 0  
© Pan American Health  
Organization, 2002

Also available in Spanish as:

**Nuevos rumbos para  
la salud en las Américas**

Documento Oficial N.º 306  
ISBN 92 75 37306 X  
© Organización Panamericana  
de la Salud, 2002

A full-text electronic version  
of this publication  
is available at [www.paho.org](http://www.paho.org)

Writing and editorial production  
**PAHO Publications Program**

Design and typographic  
production  
**Ultra Designs**

Cover map  
**Library of Congress of the  
United States of America,  
Geography and Map Division**

Photography  
**C. Gaggero**, 34, 38, 43, 44, 49,  
56, 57, 58, 78, 86, 91, 97, 99,  
102, 106, 108, 111, 112, 122,  
126, 127, 130, 158  
**J. Jenkins**, 83  
**A. Waak/PAHO**, 1, 31, 60, 68,  
73, 74, 82, 122  
**PAHO/WHO COUNTRY OFFICES**  
50, 70, 74, 83, 88, 89, 90, 92,  
98, 99, 106, 108, 114, 115,  
116, 117, 119, 139, 157  
**DIARIO EL COMERCIO (LIMA)**, 104