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The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is an international public health agency with over 100 years of experience.

PAHO is based in Washington, D.C., and has scientific and technical experts at its headquarters, in its 27 Member Countries, and in its 10 Regional Offices.

The Organization's essential mission is to strengthen national and local health systems and improve the health of the people of the Americas.

PAHO promotes primary health care strategies, which reach people in their communities, to extend health care to the most vulnerable.

In its efforts to improve health, PAHO targets the most vulnerable groups including mothers and children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

PAHO and its Member Countries are committed to improving the safety of blood in the Americas, launching a campaign to reduce the use of tobacco.

A major priority for the Americas is cutting infant mortality, and PAHO is mobilizing new political, institutional, and financial resources.

Its Governing Bodies have mandated PAHO to move aggressively in the fight to reduce the use of tobacco, alcohol, and firearms.

Improvement of drinking water supplies, adequate sanitation, and increased access to health care for the most vulnerable are also priorities.

The Pan American approach is a part of PAHO history and the spirit of Panamericanism continues to stimulate cooperation and solidarity.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean joined together over 20 years ago to buy vaccines through the PAHO Procurement System.

A major effort committing the Americas to embark on polio eradication in 1985 succeeded in September 2000.

What is PAHO

Last Updated Saturday, 22 March 2008 10:32

PAHO disseminates scientific and technical information through its publications program, its Internet site

The Organization provides technical collaboration in a variety of specialized public health fields, and org

It expedites health promotion to help countries deal with health problems typical of development and urb

The Organization also executes projects for other United Nations agencies, for international organization

PAHO strengthens the health sector capacity in the countries to advance their priority programs through

PAHO trains health workers at all levels, through fellowships, courses and seminars, and the strengthen

The Organization recognizes the role of the private sector in the delivery of services, and fosters dialogu

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago of Argentina became the new Director of the Pan American Health Organization

PAHO's Deputy Director is Dr. Cristina Beato, formerly of the U.S. Department of Health and Human