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PROPOSED STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION 2020-2025

EQUITY AT THE HEART OF HEALTH

Outcome 23. Health emergencies preparedness and risk reduction		
Strengthened country capacity for all-hazards health emergency and disaster risk management for a disaster-resilient health sector		
Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019)	Target (2025)
23.a Number of countries and territories that meet or exceed minimum capacities to manage public health risks associated with emergencies	26 (2019)	40
23.b Number of States Parties ³² meeting and sustaining International Health Regulations (IHR) requirements for core capacities	TBD	35

36. **Scope:** Work toward this outcome seeks to ensure that all countries and territories in the Region are prepared and ready to manage the health impact of emergencies and disasters caused by any type of hazard. PASB will work with countries, territories, and partners to increase their capacities in all phases of emergency management through implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).

37. PASB will work collaboratively to progressively strengthen the capacity of national and subnational levels and local communities to reduce and manage health emergencies using an all-hazards approach and by building strong people-centered and public health-oriented health systems, institutions, and networks. Support will focus on increasing the sustainability of the essential public health functions, the corresponding IHR core capacities, and the SFDRR priorities for action. Interventions will target institutional planning, organization, financing, and coordination mechanisms to enhance the development and streamlining of a national suite of legal instruments, policies, plans, and standard operating procedures encompassing all hazards in an interoperable manner. They will also target development of action-oriented frameworks that governments and relevant stakeholders can implement in a supportive and complementary manner and that facilitate identification of risks to be managed, with corresponding investments to build resilience. PASB will promote compliance with IHR provisions related to reporting to the World Health Assembly, and the adoption and monitoring of benchmarks for health emergencies and disaster preparedness. Emphasis will also be placed on increasing the operational readiness of countries and territories in high-risk conditions; increasing PASB's preparedness; implementing new and existing initiatives and plans of action, including Safe and Smart Hospitals initiatives; identifying and implementing inclusive strategies, particularly for groups in conditions of vulnerability; and ensuring the fundamental role and participation of both women and men.

38. PASB's work to build country preparedness relies on inter-programmatic work within the Bureau, involving the areas of universal health, health systems strengthening, antimicrobial resistance, maternal and child health, nutrition, and noncommunicable

³² Thirty-five Member States of PAHO are States Parties to the International Health Regulations.

diseases, as well as disease-specific programs (such as those dealing with polio and arbovirus diseases), among others.

39. Achievement of this outcome will result in the protection and promotion of the physical, mental, and social well-being of populations, including the most vulnerable ones. It will also increase the resilience of the health systems, allowing for continuous operation and rapid recovery from health emergencies and disasters. The establishment of strategic alliances with political and administrative authorities, public and private entities, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, and all other sectors is key to achieving this outcome. Also important is the development of a regional culture of prevention, preparedness, and mitigation of health emergencies and disasters that incorporates the rights and contributions of individuals, families, and communities.

Outcome 24. Epidemic and pandemic prevention and control		
Countries' capacities strengthened to prevent and control epidemics and pandemics caused by high-impact and/or high-consequence pathogens		
Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019)	Target (2025)
24.a Number of countries and territories with capacity to effectively respond to major epidemics and pandemics	N/A (2019)	35
24.b Number of endemic countries and territories with $\geq 80\%$ coverage for yellow fever vaccine	0 (2019)	5

40. **Scope:** This area of work supports countries in surveillance, prevention, preparedness, and control of pandemic and epidemic-prone diseases (including influenza, Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), dengue, Zika virus, chikungunya, hemorrhagic fevers, hantavirus, yellow fever, emerging arboviruses, plague, cholera, epidemic-prone diarrheal diseases, leptospirosis, and meningococcal disease, among others). Capacity building will focus on forecasting, characterization of diseases and infectious risks, and development of evidence-based strategies to predict, prevent, detect, and respond to infectious hazards in the context of universal access to health. This includes developing and supporting prevention and control strategies, tools, and capacities for high-impact, high-consequence pathogens (including extremely resistant pathogens), and establishing and maintaining expert networks to leverage international expertise to detect, understand, and manage new and emerging pathogens. In the context of epidemics, people and communities should, without any kind of discrimination, have access to comprehensive, appropriate, timely, quality health services and technologies determined at the national level according to needs, as well as access to safe, effective, and affordable quality medicines, vaccines, and health supplies.

41. Work related to this outcome targets improved sharing of available knowledge and information on emerging and reemerging high-impact and/or high-consequence pathogens, enhancing surveillance and response to epidemic diseases with a strong focus on addressing groups in conditions of vulnerability, and working through networks to contribute to global mechanisms and processes. It also includes management of regional

mechanisms to tackle the international dimension of epidemic diseases, with special emphasis on the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework.

Outcome 25. Health emergencies detection and response		
Rapid detection, assessment, and response to health emergencies		
Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019)	Target (2025)
25.a Percentage of acute public health events for which a risk assessment is completed within 72 hours	75% (2019)	100%
25.b Percentage of countries and territories providing an essential package of life-saving health services in all graded emergencies	75% (2019)	85%

42. **Scope:** To achieve this outcome, PASB will work with countries, territories, and partners to ensure early detection of potential emergencies and the provision of essential life-saving health services to emergency- and disaster-affected populations. Early detection, risk assessment, information sharing, and rapid response are essential to reduce illness, injury, death, and large-scale economic loss. To achieve this outcome, it is essential that PASB provide authoritative information for public health decision making in emergencies and disasters, including through actions such as identifying acute public health events, assessing risks to public health, conducting epidemiological surveillance and field investigations, monitoring public health interventions and operational capacities of health care services and facilities, and communicating public health information to technical partners.

43. A major focus in this area is working with countries, territories, and partners to implement response and early recovery operations. This includes providing essential health services and technologies to address new health issues associated with emergencies and disasters, as well as with preexisting health needs, focusing on groups in conditions of vulnerability. Key actions include coordination of the PAHO response team, emergency medical teams, the regional Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) network, and other partners; development of strategic response plans and joint operational planning; operational support and logistics; emergency crisis and risk communication; and activation of emergency response mechanisms in accordance with the PAHO/WHO Policy and Key Procedures on the Institutional Response to Emergencies and Disasters, underpinned by full support to the Incident Management System, consistent with the International Health Regulations (2005).

Outcome 26. Cross-cutting themes		
Strengthened country leadership and capacity to advance health equity and gender and ethnic equality in health, within a human rights framework		
Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019)	Target (2025)
26.a Number of countries and territories with institutional responses and accountability mechanisms that are advancing	N/A (2019)	18