



Secure Environments

Environmental security is influenced by a host of factors including water and sanitation services, housing quality, pollution, and vulnerability to natural and manmade disasters. During 2009–2010, PAHO promoted safe environments through efforts ranging from risk reduction and disaster preparedness to primary environmental care, the promotion of “healthy spaces,” and strategies to protect children and workers from exposure to environmental risks.



“Human security is reflected in a child who doesn’t die, a disease that doesn’t spread, a job that isn’t eliminated, ethnic tension that doesn’t explode into violence, a dissenter who isn’t silenced. Human security doesn’t involve concern about guns but concern about human life and dignity.”

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago
Director, Pan American Health Organization



“Human security”—unlike military or national security—is concerned with people’s daily lives, meeting their basic needs and protecting them from major and harmful disruptions. Health, both individual and collective, is an integral part of this picture.

This year’s Annual Report of the Director highlights PAHO’s technical cooperation and its Member States’ progress in seven areas of human security: economic, food, environmental, personal, community, political, and health. We hope these experiences will inspire and guide new efforts by PAHO Member States to guarantee their populations the basic security that all human beings deserve.

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago
Director, Pan American Health Organization



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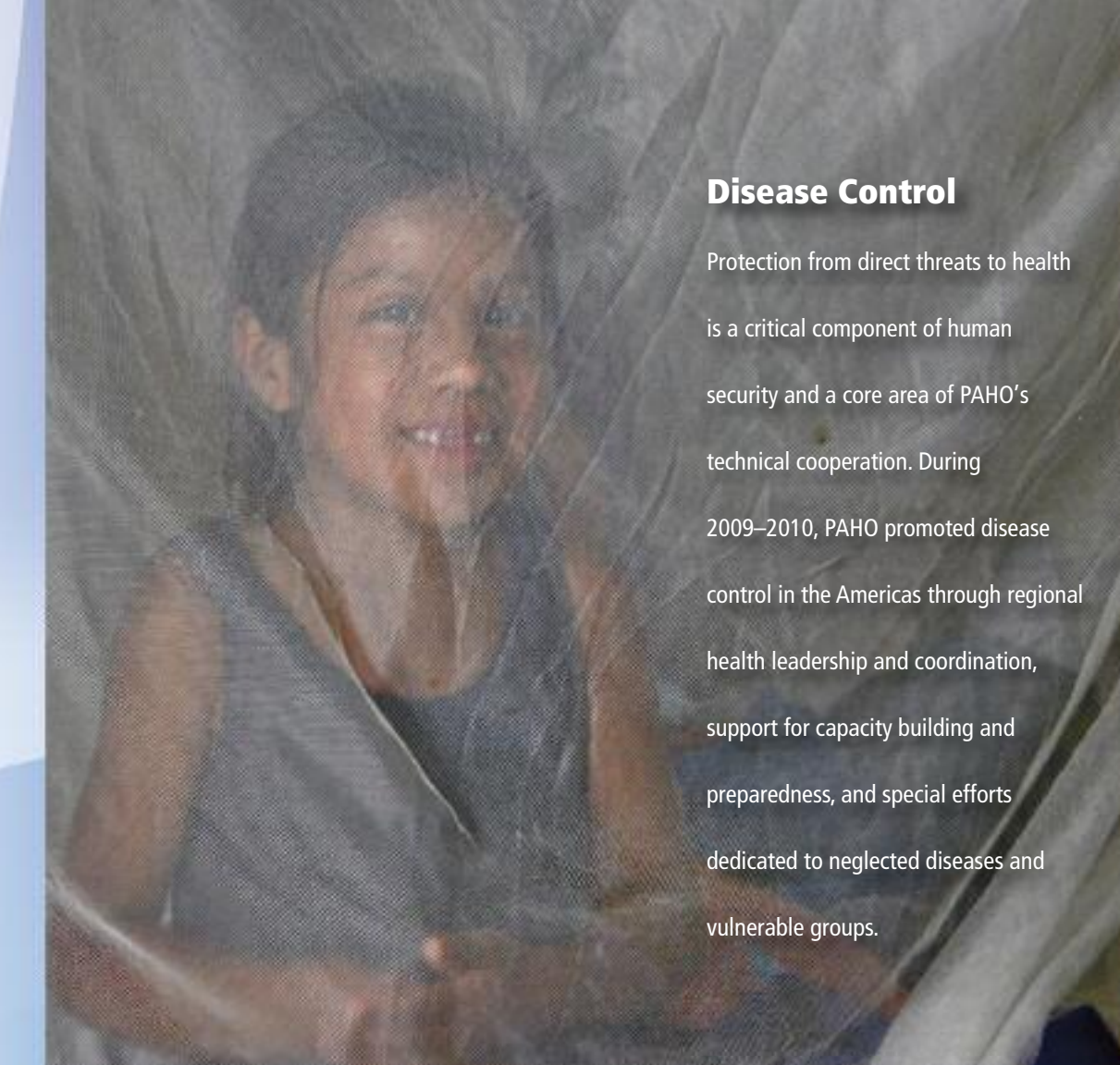
Promoting Health, Well-being and Human Security

Annual Report of the Director – 2010



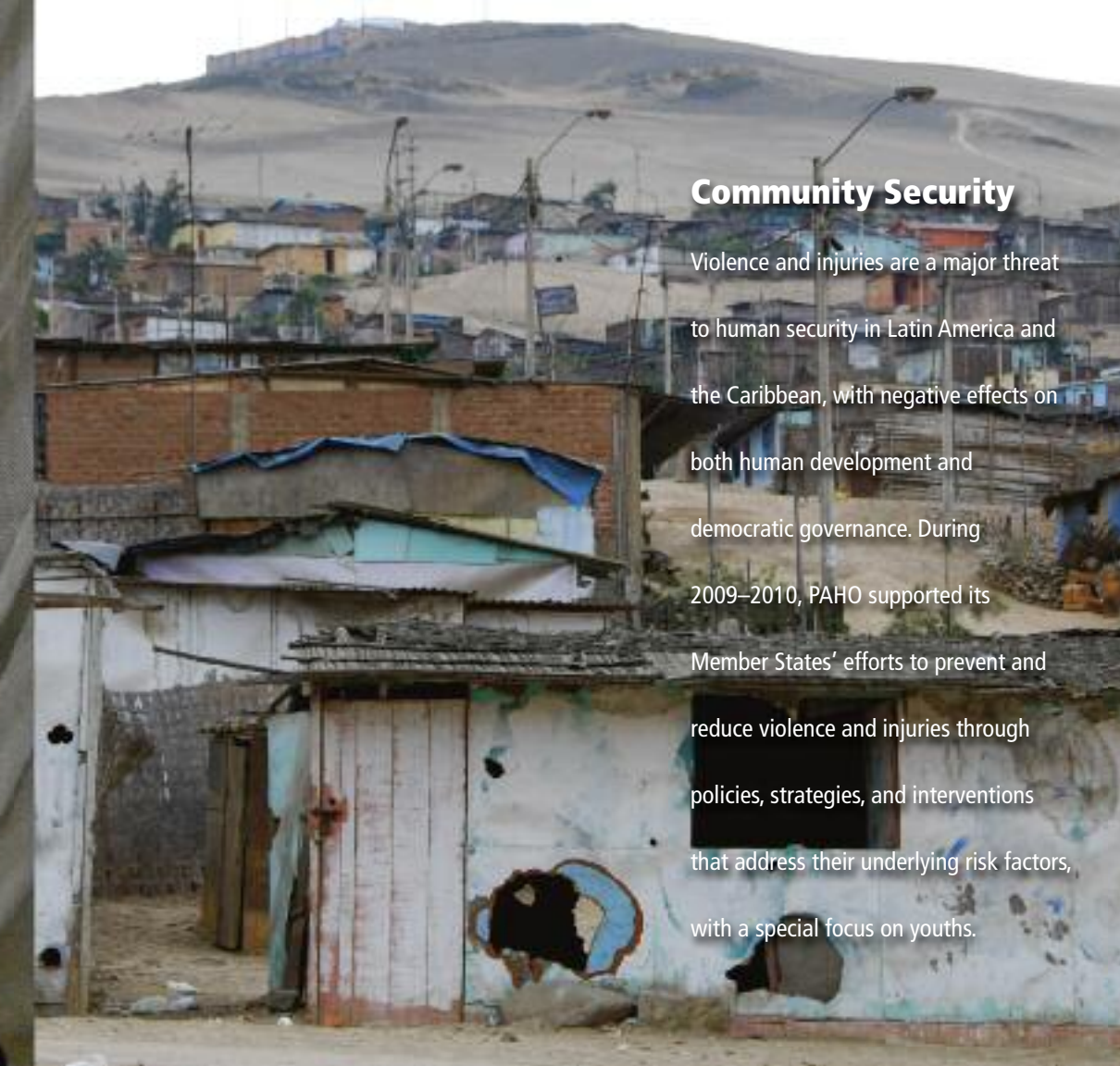


For most people, security means having a steady job or income, enough to eat, decent housing and basic services, a safe environment, and good health. During 2009–2010, PAHO worked with its member countries in the Americas to promote human security by reducing threats to health and by addressing its social, political, cultural, and economic determinants.



Disease Control

Protection from direct threats to health is a critical component of human security and a core area of PAHO's technical cooperation. During 2009–2010, PAHO promoted disease control in the Americas through regional health leadership and coordination, support for capacity building and preparedness, and special efforts dedicated to neglected diseases and vulnerable groups.



Community Security

Violence and injuries are a major threat to human security in Latin America and the Caribbean, with negative effects on both human development and democratic governance. During 2009–2010, PAHO supported its Member States' efforts to prevent and reduce violence and injuries through policies, strategies, and interventions that address their underlying risk factors, with a special focus on youths.



Social Protection

In the Americas, social protection systems are well-established mechanisms for ensuring human security, and health protection is an integral part of these systems. PAHO supported its Member States' efforts during 2009–2010 to strengthen social protection through policies, laws, and programs that establish health as a universal human right and work to ensure equitable access to health goods, services, and technologies.



Food Security

People need a minimum amount of calories to survive, but real food security also requires good nutrition and protection from foodborne pathogens. In 2009–2010, PAHO promoted food security in its member countries by supporting planning and policymaking, legislation and advocacy, food regulatory agencies, human resources training, research on foodborne illness, and the detection and treatment of malnutrition.



Personal Security

Freedom from physical and psychological aggression—and fear of such aggression—is basic to people's sense of security. PAHO's technical cooperation in 2009–2010 supported member countries' efforts to reduce intra-family and gender-based violence, stigma and homophobia, and mental health problems through effective public health policies, interventions, and reforms.