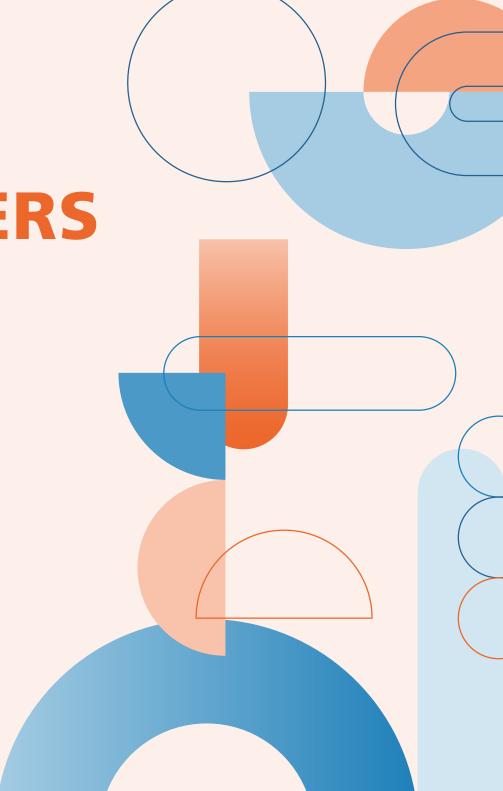
PAHO + PARTNERS

Together, Bringing Health to Every Corner of the Americas



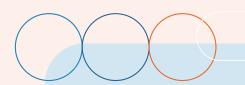






PAHO's work and success largely depends on its ability to build strong, trusted and long term partnerships.

No one organization, actor or sector can tackle the Americas health challenges alone.





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CONTENTS 2/2



AECID – Gender and ethnicity equality

In pursuit of gender and ethnic equality in health

Contemplating all ethnic groups and mainstreaming gender equality and diversity are part of PAHO's efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination and bring health to all.

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) is the main body for Spanish cooperation and works to fight poverty and promote sustainable human development.

AECID's partnership with PAHO has been key to the advancement of ethnic and gender equality in health in the Americas over the past years through funding for the development of policies approved by PAHO's Member States, as well as related technical cooperation.

Recently, AECID has supported initiatives to strengthen Member States' capacities and knowledge to address gender inequalities in health and for the publication of the first report of the region on Masculinity and Health. The association has been fundamental to the development of the Strategy and Plan of Action on Ethnicity and Health 2019-2025, which included an important process of consultation with Ministries of Health, as well as Indigenous, Afro-descendants and Roma peoples of the region.

A LONGSTANDING ALLIANCE

AECID has been substantial to PAHO's work for over 20 years and is one of the major supporters of issues involving ethnicity and gender, acknowledged as a strategic partner in PAHO's annual and multiannual plans over time.

For the last 10 years, AECID's donations to PAHO reached up to €2 million and have been supporting initiatives on interculturality and diversity in health such as consultations, workshops, meetings with the participation of the civil society, and expert meetings to prepare for high-level intergovernmental meetings and decision making bodies. The Regional Conference on Women (from which resulted the Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean), the publication of documents such as the Health Plan for Indigenous Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the development and update of the Virtual Course on Gender and Health are good examples of remarkable projects supported by AECID.

The work developed by PAHO with AECID's assistance has contributed to strengthen awareness on gender equality and increase governmental commitment to address intercultural and multiethnic needs, with the effective inclusion of indigenous and other diverse ethnic groups in health policies in the region.

MORE INFORMATION



<u>Una Alianza por la Salud de los pueblos de las Américas</u> (only available in Spanish)



Masculinities and Health Report



Video on gender equality





AFD – Primary care in the Dominican Republic

Universal health coverage: effective access to quality health services

AFD and PAHO are working to develop an integrated network of health services in San Juan province that will be a model for the country.

The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) an institution of the French government, considers universal health coverage to be one of the most powerful drivers of social equality, and that premise underpins the agency's focus on supporting countries by contributing to their social development.

The Pan American Health Organization and AFD are working to develop an integrated network of health services based on primary health care in the province of San Juan de la Maguana, in the Dominican Republic. The network aims to improve people's access to quality health services.

AFD supports international solidarity and development aid projects, and carries out its mission through loans, donations, knowledge exchanges and technical advice in areas ranging from climate change, biodiversity, education, and urban planning to peace and health, among others. Its more than 4,000 development projects and programs support economic, social, and environmental progress in approximately 115 countries, helping to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

AFD considers universal health coverage to be essential and it seeks to guarantee that good medical care is accessible to everyone. In the health-care sector, it focuses on projects that improve access to quality health care, that reduce maternal and infant mortality, and that can help end the spread of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, among other diseases. It is allied with partners to improve everything from infrastructure to human resources to the governance of health systems and the availability of equipment and medicines, and it supports financing mechanisms to ensure equitable access to healthcare.

A MODEL OF CARE CENTERED ON PEOPLE AND QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES

In 2019, PAHO in the Dominican Republic and AFD began to explore collaborating on a primary health care project. In coordination with the country's Ministry of Public Health and the National Health Service, it was decided that the initiative would be carried out in the province of San Juan de la Maguana, which has a population of just under 250,000. In December 2020, both organizations signed an agreement whereby AFD will contribute USD 250,000 for two and a half years, and PAHO will provide technical advice to the country's National Health Service during the project's implementation.

The initiative will develop a provincial network of services for primary health care to make it more accessible, equitable and efficient, and to improve its technical quality so that it can better meet the needs of the population. To implement the project, an evaluation will be made of the integrated network of health services, specifically its care model, organization and management, using an assessment tool developed by PAHO. The results of the evaluation will make it easier to identify gaps and help with planning improvements, (done in collaboration with local actors) to the province's service network.

The effort could be a model for the entire country, helping to expand equitable access to comprehensive, quality health services centered on individuals, families and communities.

AFD is an essential partner for PAHO in its goal to achieve universal health in the Americas and guarantee that all people have access to quality health services without discrimination and without facing financial difficulties.

MORE INFORMATION



AFD and health



AFD and PAHO Dominican Republic (in French)



PAHO Dominican Republic





AIRBNB – Promotion of PAHO guidelines on food safety

Innovative public-private approach for the benefit of public health

Thanks to the partnership between PAHO and Airbnb, information on food safety is available to Airbnb hosts and guests and more broadly to the general public.

Working toward adding more resources to provide greater safety to its hosts and guests, <u>Airbnb</u> partnered with the Pan American Health Organization to offer useful and scientifically sound information on food safety and how to prevent food-borne illnesses.

Airbnb was born in 2007 when two hosts welcomed three guests to their San Francisco home and has since grown to 4 million hosts who have welcomed more than 1 billion guest arrivals in almost every country across the globe. Every day, hosts offer experiences that make it possible for guests to experience the world. Airbnb Experiences are hosted by local hosts and include things like food tours and classes, wellness experiences, outdoor activities and more.

As food supply chains become increasingly more complex, a food safety incident can have serious effects on public health and tourism. Airbnb approached PAHO in 2019 looking to forge a collaboration that would allow the company to provide reliable information about food safety to hosts and guests.

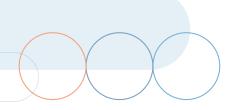
INNOVATION TO DISSEMINATE THE 5 KEYS TO SAFE FOOD

This alliance between Airbnb and PAHO, through its Pan American Center for Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Veterinary Public Health (PANAFTOSA/-SPV), led to Airbnb adopting the Five Keys to Food Safety of PAHO/WHO and requiring all hosts who are hosting Experiences that include food preparation to follow the guidelines.

In addition, the partnership enabled the development of educational information about food safety, food allergies and dietary restrictions now available to the Airbnb community.

With the financial support of this partner, PAHO developed a series of informative materials on how to prevent food diseases and how to ensure food safety for consumption. PAHO also translated these materials into Spanish and Portuguese and made them available through the PAHO virtual training for food handlers to promote a better understanding of the subject and for preventing foodborne diseases.

The materials have been distributed to Airbnb hosts and are available to the general public through PAHO web pages and its Virtual Campus of Public Health. In its innovation and commitment to safety, Airbnb adopted PAHO guidelines on food safety and for handling food for consumption and for cooking and presented them to its Experience Hosts as an indispensable requirement for a successful experience, making it possible to improve the health of all.



MORE INFORMATION



PAHO and Airbnb announce collaboration



PANAFTOSA and Airbnb promote food safety



Airbnb: How is Airbnb partnering with PAHO?





CANADA – Integrated health systems in Latin America and the Caribbean

> Promoting and integrating gender, equity, human rights and ethnicity

A comprehensive approach to cross-cutting themes towards the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Integrated Health Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean (IHSLAC) Project is a cooperation agreement between PAHO and the <u>Department of Global Affairs of the Government of Canada (GAC)</u>. The project runs from 2016 to 2019, focusing on improving the health of children, young girls and women, including mothers, in situations of vulnerability in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The initiative aims mainly at strengthening health systems, reducing the burden of communicable diseases and improving nutritional practices in the targeted populations. GAC has invested \$18.5M CAD (approx. 14 M USD) in the project, with activities implemented in 11 countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Suriname.

IHSLAC Project is PAHO's largest initiative to move forward with the agenda of the health of women, children and adolescents, sexual and reproductive health, and human rights and equity. It is aligned with and responds to Canada's international development priorities in maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and contributes to the achievement of PAHO's Strategic Plans.

THE FEMINIST AGENDA: TRANSLATING TARGETS INTO ACTION

Canada's commitment to a comprehensive approach to health and efforts to address cross-cutting themes and generate innovation have framed a **unique multisectoral and interdepartmental strategy** that is finely aligned with PAHO's work. Collaboration between PAHO and GAC is key to achieving gender equality towards the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goal 5, which is also integral to all dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development.

The actions implemented in this project illustrate that it is possible to effectively include and mainstream cultural diversity, equity and the social determinants in the program and translate a theoretical agenda into real actions that promote empowerment and impact the health of women and adolescents.

The project's many successful investments include the development and application of a methodology for intercultural dialogues and engagement to generate culturally appropriate solutions to health challenges affecting women and adolescent, and training and capacity building activities to address and operationalize the feminist agenda (such as training and advocacy methodology to increase access to long-acting contraceptives for adolescents). In the city of El Alto, Bolivia, IHSLAC has implemented a model to train hospital staff in highly impacted areas and provided emergency equipment to prevent maternal death, which has already saved the lives of more than 100 women between 2016 and 2018.



MORE INFORMATION



Summary of the IHSLAC project



Accelerating progress toward the reduction of adolescent pregnancy in Latin America and the Caribbean



One more life saved - The story of Carla





EU – Strong health systems in Belize

Safer, greener and more resilient health facilities with a stronger and more inclusive health system

The European Union, Belize's Ministry of Health and PAHO working together towards Universal Health.

The European Union (EU) is a lead contributor to global health and has been partnering with PAHO Belize for almost 20 years now in projects that advance the goal of providing a more efficient and higher quality health care for the people of Belize. The EU invests in projects like these in more than 80 countries to support the World Health Organization (WHO) and its Regional Offices in achieving Universal Health Coverage worldwide by 2030.

Beginning September 2018, a 4-year project, the "Health Sector Support Programme Belize" is being implemented in close relation with the Ministry of Health, to support the development of efficient, effective, disasterresilient and environmentally friendly health facilities and to improve the structure, organization, and management of the country's health services.

The project's first goal is to achieve a balance between safety and an environmentally friendly setting in health care facilities, which are evaluated in terms of green, structural, functional and non-functional elements to become "smarter" (safer and greener). Due to Belize's exposure to weather-related and seismic hazards, this component also supports preparedness and response, with first responders and health teams strengthening their capacity and training for both emergency and disaster situations.

The second component aims to strengthen Belize's health care system and promote a healthier lifestyle, as chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is one of the greatest health challenges in the country. Evaluations to generate recommendations to build a stronger, more accessible and equitable health system and collaborative and educational efforts to tackle NCDs are ongoing.

SCALING-UP CONFIDENCE AND GOOD RESULTS

The Health Sector Support Programme Belize builds upon a previous successful smart hospital project and its partners' commitment to universal health. The <u>Smart Hospitals Project</u> funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) set the ground for the EU to engage with PAHO and the Ministry of Health as reliable partners.

In addition to the significant funds provided, the EU is deeply involved in the implementation and oversight of this initiative, one of the largest health projects currently in implementation in Belize. The EU is relying and trusting PAHO's technical expertise, shared principles and transparency, combined with the country's demonstrated ability to execute important partnership projects and implement quality standards.

This association is a remarkable illustration of the importance of project implementation and shared values among partners, as it can create new opportunities to work with current or new partners in the public health arena.



MORE INFORMATION



The EU-PAHO/WHO-MOH partnership



ECAT Training for Emergency Response Personnel in Belize



The Smart Hospital Initiative in Belize



Stories from the field: Belize





FDA – Strengthening medical products regulatory systems in the Americas

> Improving regulatory systems for medical products and technologies

The FDA and PAHO work together to strengthen national regulatory authorities by sharing information, standards, and guidelines.

Access to safe, effective, and quality-assured medical products constitutes one of the pillars of healthcare systems. The <u>Food and Drug Administration</u> (<u>FDA</u>), a U.S. governmental agency, and the Pan American Health Organization are partners that help countries across the Region of the Americas achieve that goal.

In the United States, the FDA is responsible for protecting the public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, and medical devices. And because many products are manufactured abroad, the FDA enters into arrangements that make it easier for countries' regulatory agencies to share information with their regulatory counterparts around the world, and to coordinate standards with other countries.

The FDA uses varied approaches as part of its strategy to address issues related to medical products and foods – developing new enforcement and regulatory tools, increasing collaboration with foreign regulators and other stakeholders, helping develop internationally compatible standards, and

increasing transparency and accountability in the supply chain. One of those approaches has been partnering with multilateral organizations like PAHO to facilitate the sharing of information with other national regulatory agencies.

ACCESS TO SAFE, EFFICACIOUS, AND QUALITY-ASSURED MEDICAL PRODUCTS

Since 2010, the FDA's Office of International Programs has collaborated with PAHO on strengthening regulatory systems in Latin American and the Caribbean by providing financial support and technical cooperation. The collaboration has helped countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to better understand how others regulatory system work and to coordinate their standards and guidelines to make them more compatible. This project has also made it possible for countries to respond more quickly if there is a problem with a medical product or the supply chain.

Initially, the collaboration between PAHO and the FDA focused on assessing regulatory functions – evaluating countries' strengths and as well as ways they could improve their systems for regulating medical products in the Americas by employing a standardized methodology that contributes to better access to safe, effective, and high-quality medical technologies. This partnership has also included creating communities of practice and an electronic platform for knowledge-sharing. Results of the evaluation in the region have been shared using the Regional Platform for Access and Innovation of Health Technologies (PRAIS), an electronic platform with virtual tools designed to improve transparency, information flow, and collaboration among different sectors involved in developing, using and regulating essential medicines, biological products and public health diagnostics.

More recently, with the FDA's support, PAHO released a new report that reviewed lessons learned from National Regulatory Authorities of Regional Reference, which are ANMAT (Argentina), ANVISA (Brazil), ISP (Chile), INVIMA (Colombia), CECMED (Cuba), and COFEPRIS (Mexico). The report highlighted that COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the urgent need for strengthening national regulatory authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure the safety and effectiveness of new medicines and medical products, and it showed that national regulatory authorities vary

dramatically in their capacity to evaluate medicines and medical products, among other points.

The FDA is a key partner for PAHO, as both organizations are working together with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen the countries' national regulatory systems that oversee the use of medicines, medical products and health technologies.

MORE INFORMATION



FDA - Office of Global Policy and Strategy



Regulatory System Strengthening in the Americas. Lessons Learned from the National Regulatory Authorities of Regional Reference



PAHO launches Regional Platform on Access and Innovation for Health Technologies





HOPKINS + ACS+ INSP – Research for tobacco control in Mexico

> Evidence for policy making

Top national and international research institutions provide evidence to advance tobacco control policy making.

Since 2007, PAHO has been actively working together with the Government of Mexico, where tobacco control has been facing persistent opposition from the tobacco industry and allies. In 2016, the Ministry of Finance of Mexico requested PAHO's support to measure the size of the illicit trade of tobacco products in order to inform the decision making on tobacco tax policy.

PAHO was able to identify gaps and link the Mexican government with top international researchers from John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the American Cancer Society (ACS) to develop a study using a transparent and reliable research methodology to measure the size of the illicit trade of cigarettes. This study received funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies through Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and additional technical and financial support from ACS and PAHO. In addition, the study benefited from the exchange of experiences with similar research conducted in Colombia and Brazil.

The study revealed that the size of the illicit trade of cigarettes in the country was actually half the one claimed by the tobacco industry, which used to dominate discussions in the public agenda around tobacco taxes.

Presented to national authorities, results generated an evidence-based narrative to support policy coherence between the Ministries of Health and Finance, and helped providing a clear response and counter argue the industry on the impact of a tobacco tax increase on illicit trade, enabling the Congress in 2019 to pass a tax reform to adjust specific excise tax rates applied to tobacco products to account for the inflation since 2011.

ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE TO COUNTERACT TOBACCO INDUSTRY ARGUMENTS

Since 1998, the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has housed the <u>Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC)</u>, whose mission is to prevent death and disease from tobacco use by generating evidence to support effective tobacco control interventions. The institute has received recognition for its work and achievements by being designated as a Collaborating Centre of the World Health Organization since 2004 and a partner in the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use since 2006.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) has been investing in cancer research since 1946, with special attention directed at tobacco control worldwide. Actions in priority areas such as tobacco taxes and regulations have led to enormous success passing local, state and federal laws in the US and worldwide to prevent and reduce tobacco use and to ensure governments use their authority to regulate tobacco industry practices.

The National Institute of Public Health of Mexico (INSP) is an academic institution, whose mission is to contribute to social equity and the full realization of the right to health protection through the generation and dissemination of knowledge, the training of human resources and innovation in multidisciplinary research for the development of evidence-based public policies. The prevention and control of cancer, including tobacco control, is one of INSP's lines of research.

In collaboration with the National Commission against Addictions (CO-NADIC) and the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur, this top-notch team of institutions managed to design and implement a robust methodological approach, including two methods: a survey to smokers and an analysis of littered packs collected. The use of these two academic

methods allowed for the triangulation of results to produce **industry-independent estimates** of the illicit trade of cigarettes in Mexico.

In this significant conjoint initiative, PAHO was able to associate local knowledge with international experience and expertise, bringing leading research organizations to the region and empowering research capacity at the local level, also encouraging different governmental sectors to act together on a public health issue. These efforts are still bearing fruit: the information produced remain as a concrete and transparent input for future discussions in Mexico, while the group of partners created remains active and envisioning opportunities to support other countries in the region.

MORE INFORMATION



Bloomberg initiative: tobacco grants



Illicit tobacco trade in Mexico



Report on Tobacco Control in the Region of the Americas, 2018



PAHO Tobacco prevention and control





KOICA – Access to health services in Bolivia

> Health as a pillar for economic and social development

KOICA and PAHO are working together to ensure that everyone in Bolivia has access to health services.

The <u>Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)</u> is strongly committed to the <u>health sector as essential for social and economic development in Bolivia</u> and has contributed significantly to reducing gaps and inequities in people's access to health services.

KOICA, a government agency of Korea, is currently the most important bilateral partner of the Pan American Health Organization in Bolivia and is responsible for implementing and managing the non-reimbursable financial cooperation of the Korean government for partner countries. KOICA's partnership with PAHO began in 2013, was consolidated through different projects, and today is one of the most stable of PAHO's partners in Bolivia.

Its main mission is to contribute to social and economic development in Bolivia through different cooperative programs. It works mainly in transport, agriculture, and energy, with a very strong emphasis in health.

COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, QUALITY AND GOVERNANCE OF HEALTH SYSTEMS

Since 2018, KOICA and PAHO, together with Bolivian authorities, have been working to improve stewardship and governance of health systems. The project addresses health service networks as a whole with the aim of eliminating segmentation. In addition, it focuses on comprehensive health care for individuals, with a focus on rights, gender issues, ethnicity, and health throughout a person's life span.

The project benefits almost half a million people in the communities of Urbana and Cuenca Poopó in the department of Oruro. KOICA contributes almost US\$ 3 million, used to strengthen implementation of departmental policies and plans to establish health networks in the area to achieve a more effective health system focused on offering equity and quality services to people.

Through this initiative with PAHO, KOICA supports solutions for the whole health system, and has broken with the more traditional approach of contributing to separate plans and program activities.

KOICA's ability to adapt its collaboration to the needs of the moment became clear in 2020 when the original project was adjusted to allocate part of its funds to Bolivia's health system for responding to COVID-19. Repurposing the funds made it possible to train health personnel and support the Ministry of Health in managing the pandemic.

With its strong commitment to the health sector, its flexibility and its clear focus in reducing inequities, KOICA continues to be a key partner for PAHO in improving the health of the Bolivian people.





KOICA Bolivia Salud



Proyecto cooperación KOICA



Belén de Andamarca y el Corque, dos municipios bolivianos en lucha contra la COVID-19



La Red de Salud Urbana de Oruro en Bolivia combate a la COVID-19



Fortalecimiento del diagnóstico de COVID-19 en el departamento de Oruro, Bolivia







MARCH OF DIMES – Neonatal health in the Americas

Care of newborns born prematurely or with congenital defects

March of Dimes and PAHO promote research, capacity-building, and advocacy to address prematurity and birth defects.

With a long history and technical expertise in addressing the health of newborns and their mothers, <u>March of Dimes</u> works to give all children the best possible start to their lives. Part of its work focuses on the care of premature babies, on the prevention and care of children with birth defects, and on the prevention of mortality in newborns.

March of Dimes and PAHO collaborate on research and training health personnel on the care of premature babies and those with congenital defects, as well as on advocacy activities, so that the countries of the Americas can develop effective interventions to save the lives of newborns.

The non-profit organization was founded in 1938 by then-president of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, under the name of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and with the aim of fighting polio. It funded research and the development of the polio vaccine, and its support was key to eliminating polio in the United States. The March of Dimes reoriented its mission to research on birth defects and to establishing treatment centers across the country. It later expanded its work into genetics and perinatology.

Today's prenatal and newborn care – including nutrition, labor and delivery, postpartum care, baby care, pregnancy complications, preterm labor, birth defects, and other conditions – are the main working topics of March of Dimes. The organization supports the development of research, the education of health workers, and the promotion of these issues through massive campaigns directed at the public.

PREMATURE BABY

March of Dimes has collaborated with PAHO's Latin American Center for Perinatology, Women's Health, and Reproductive Health (CLAP/SMR) as a Non-State Agent in Official Relations since 2001. This is a privileged status granted by PAHO's governing bodies to certain organizations, and it includes a three-year collaboration agreement and the possibility of participating in PAHO governance sessions.

Since 2013, this alliance has focused on research and on training in-country health personnel to collect information on premature newborns, the burden of disease, infections, and birth defects. They have worked on materials on infections transmitted from mother to child, and they have evaluated legislation and the availability of support programs in the care of these babies, as well as the economic costs of premature birth in the region; all of this has helped to guide effective public health interventions.

A key topic for this alliance was the joint promotion to establish a World Birth Defects Day, which since 2015 has been celebrated on March 3 to give greater visibility to this issue. March of Dimes also played a central role in launching World Prematurity Day, commemorated every November 17, which provides information on the health consequences to children of premature birth.

The joint work between PAHO/CLAP and March of Dimes has allowed countries of the Region to strengthen interventions to reduce the disease and disability associated with premature births and birth defects. Based on the work of this alliance, more and more countries now have surveillance systems for birth defects, which allows them to develop more effective actions when addressing the care of children.

March of Dimes is an exceptional partner for PAHO and for this reason, PAHO's governing bodies granted this ally the privilege of being in official relations. The institution brings its knowledge of the subject, its prestige and its network of experts around the world, as well as a key communication and mobilization capacity, to give greater visibility to premature births and congenital defects.

MORE INFORMATION



PAHO/CLAP Newborn health



Material for health care workers



Webinar on Birth Defects brings more than 100 participants of the Region





MEDICAL MISSION PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SURINAME – Access to health in remote areas

> Providing quality medical care to those in hard-to-reach areas in Suriname

The Medical Mission Primary Health Care Suriname and PAHO work together ensuring the well-being of vulnerable communities.

Driven by Christian Principles, the <u>Medical Mission Primary Health Care Suriname</u> has been providing quality health care to the hard-to-reach communities in the interior of Suriname for almost 300 years. The Pan American Health Organization has collaborated with the Medical Mission in many ways over the years, ensuring that vulnerable groups, especially in remote areas, have access to quality health care and are not left behind.

The Medical Mission provides health care through 51 clinics – many accessible only by boat - over an area of 130,000 square kilometers in the districts of Brokopondo and Sipaliwini with about 54,000 persons, mainly indigenous (Amerindian), tribal (Maroon) and migrant populations (gold miners and forestry workers). The Government of Suriname does not have an infrastructure in place for healthcare services or clinics in these areas, and the Medical Mission has proven to be an invaluable partner in providing healthcare services within these remote communities.

As part of an Integrated Primary Health Care model, the Medical Mission has trained healthcare assistants from the communities to engage in health promotion activities, provide treatment for common ailments, and to provide rehabilitation services under the supervision of doctors. This Christian

non-governmental health organization began its service as a medical mission of the Moravian Church from as early as 3 October 1740, with the first missionary and also a doctor, J. Franz Reynier. In the early to mid-1970s they were merged under one umbrella with other Foundations from Baptist and Roman Catholic Churches which were also providing medical care to the Amerindian population. Currently, it operates with direct financial support from the government as well as donor contributions from local and international partners.

COLLABORATING TO STRENGTHEN EQUITY IN THE ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

PAHO's collaboration with the Medical Mission has covered many programmatic areas but focusing mainly on maternal and child health services. From the introduction of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) to the improvement of quality vaccination in the interior and the implementation of a web-based patient management information system, all those are examples of the collaboration between the organizations.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the partnership grew stronger working together to respond to the communities at risk that were affected by COVID-19. Donation of equipment to support infection, prevention and control, and risk communication including the development of information materials in the local languages, were some of the key interventions during this period.

The collaboration between PAHO and the Medical Mission has always been mutually beneficial: PAHO has been able to advance its goals and strategic objectives of its priority programs to those who are most vulnerable, contributing with technical cooperation, while the Medical Mission has strengthened its capacity for provision of healthcare to the communities in the interior of Suriname and advanced the health and well-being of those whom they serve.

With a dedicated and committed team of health care workers and a strong sense of purpose, the Medical Mission is a key partner for PAHO, as it serves a wide group of indigenous and tribal populations in remote areas using innovative approaches and recognizing and respecting the customs and values of the local communities to ensure that equity is at the heart of health.

MORE INFORMATION



It takes a village to save a woman's life from cervical cancer



<u>PAHO donates Personal Protective Equipment to First Level</u> of Care in Suriname



Cervical and breast cancer projects in Suriname show promise



Suriname Medical Mission seeks to secure data quality





ROTARY – Polio elimination

Deep-rooted collaboration in the fight against polio

Joint efforts between Rotary and PAHO have helped make the Americas the first region in the world to be certified polio-free and maintain the achievement over the years.

The Pan American Health Organization and <u>Rotary</u> have been working together for more than 25 years for the elimination of polio in the Region of the Americas. As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary has led a global initiative focused on ridding the world of the disease for 30 years now, which has already resulted in the reduction

of polio cases by 99.9% since its first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million people across the globe whose members believe they have a shared responsibility to take action together to promote peace, fight disease, save mothers and children, support education, provide clean water, promote sanitation and hygiene, and grow local economies. Through their 35,000+ clubs, the organization provides service to others through their fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Both at regional and country level, Rotary has been a key partner for PAHO in the elimination of poliomyelitis since the beginning of the 1980s. Through

the provision of funds used to implement vaccination campaigns – including in the most remote areas – participation in regional meetings, and active work in countries of the Region, Rotarians have supported PAHO in being the first region in the world certified free of the disease, in 1994, and maintaining this status now.

PERSISTENT AND PASSIONATE DEDICATION FOR AMBITIOUS RESULTS

Rotary has inaugurated and influenced global and regional initiatives in support of polio eradication. In 1989, donations reached up to USD 27 million and supported 27 countries in the Americas. Rotary has also headed the initiative to mobilize several other organizations and institutions that are now part of this movement, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's matching fund contribution since 2007.

Rotary was a pioneer in the fight against polio and started efforts in 1978 with a very ambitious goal to reach a polio-free world. Rotarians have upheld the region over the most challenging times, including financial and political crises. Rotary members have been permanently present in all countries of the region since 1981 and have played a fundamental role in this long-lasting collaboration with PAHO.

Cooperation between PAHO and Rotary is a solid partnership that goes far beyond traditional financial support, involving the personal enthusiasm and commitment of Rotarians. The organization uses its networks and coordination to participate in local and regional meetings, exchange knowledge, and organize different sorts of events to mobilize funds and efforts, with a day-to-day presence and passionate dedication to this mission in each and every Rotarian district and club.

Rotary has been a true partner to PAHO in keeping the Region free of polio for almost 30 years. The organization constantly demonstrates its will to further strengthen the relationship so as to tackle upcoming challenges, thus maintaining focus to fight together until global eradication is achieved.

MORE INFORMATION



Rotary and the fight against Polio



Polio-free Americas



25 years of being polio-free in the Americas





ST JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL – Childhood cancer in the Americas

Improving the quality of care services for children with cancer

St Jude Children's Research Hospital and PAHO work together to advance the care of children with cancer in Latin America and the Caribbean.

With a long history in the fight against childhood cancer and the accumulated experience of more than half a century in this area, <u>St. Jude Children's Research Hospital</u> is one of the world's leading institutions in the care of children suffering from this disease. It collaborates with the Pan American Health Organization to transform pediatric cancer care in Latin America and the Caribbean.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a comprehensive cancer center in the United States dedicated exclusively to children and is the **first and only WHO Collaborating Centre for Childhood Cancer**. Since its founding in 1962, St. Jude has focused on transformative discoveries that would enable more children with life-threatening diseases to have access to quality care, and sharing these with the scientific community at a global level. In particular, St. Jude has collaborated with partners to develop protocols for pediatric cancer care that take into account the context and available means in countries with fewer resources, aiming to save thousands of children.

The relationship between PAHO and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was strengthened in 2018 with the creation of St. Jude Global, with a

mission to improve the survival rates of children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases worldwide. This partnership further intensified that year, when WHO launched the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC). In addition to providing technical support for the conceptualization of the initiative, St Jude Children's Research Hospital has supported the GICC with a global investment of millions of dollars for five years; in the Americas, it collaborates with PAHO in the implementation of the GICC.

STRENGTHENING THE RESPONSE OF HEALTH SYSTEMS TO CHILDHOOD CANCER IN THE REGION

In an effort to strengthen the health systems response to childhood cancer, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and PAHO support national authorities and organizations working in the pediatric area in the development of National Childhood Cancer Plans. Within the framework of the GICC, it seeks to achieve a survival rate of at least 60% by the year 2030 for the six most frequent types of cancer in children. This initiative began in Peru and in Central American countries with the support from the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America (COMISCA) and other key collaborators.

The collaboration between both organizations focuses on the design, implementation and monitoring of quality improvement projects in hospital services for children with cancer, and on the exchange of knowledge with experts in pediatric cancer. A technical package, called CUREAII, is guiding the development of these national childhood cancer plans and interventions. Activities include supporting clinical care for the most vulnerable children, ensuring that all children with cancer have access to high-quality medicines and technologies, strengthening training programs through the development of centers of excellence, and supporting the development of care coverage regulations and treatment and monitoring tools.

In its joint work with PAHO and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital makes available its extensive technical resources and its networks of knowledge and experts throughout the world to support countries in designing their interventions and improve care in this area.

Collaboration from the beginning of each project, openness to dialogue and the exchange of ideas and a willingness to share knowledge and resources are the characteristics that make St. Jude Children's Research Hospital stand out as a key partner in saving the lives of thousands of children with cancer in Latin America and the Caribbean.

MORE INFORMATION



St Jude Global



PAHO - Childhood and adolescence cancer



Pediatric Cancer Initiative in Central America





THE END FUND – Elimination of lymphatic filariasis in Guyana

Support for eliminating neglected infectious diseases

The END Fund and PAHO are partners in strengthening Guyana's actions to eliminate lymphatic filariasis by 2026.

The END Fund, a private philanthropic initiative, works to eliminate the most common neglected infectious diseases in the world by 2030. To achieve that goal, it not only offers treatment to those who need it but also collaborates with other organizations working to eliminate those diseases. The alliance between The END Fund and the Pan American Health Organization is focused on supporting Guyana in eliminating lymphatic filariasis.

Founded in 2012, the END Fund has raised over \$118 million to treat more than 140 million people around the world who are affected by neglected infectious diseases. The fund has also trained more than 900,000 healthcare workers and provided 10,000 surgeries to people with trachoma and lymphatic filariasis.

In 2006, the Legatum Foundation, a founding investor in The END Fund, helped finance programs to eliminate neglected infectious diseases in Rwanda and Burundi. In four years, the programs treated more than 8 million people for diseases such as soil-transmitted helminths (roundworms), schistosomiasis and lymphatic filariasis. The low-cost interventions demonstrated the feasibility of rapidly expanding programs nationwide to treat these diseases and prompted the creation of The END Fund as a philanthropic platform to engage other partners in eliminating this type of disease.

The END Fund works with governments, non-governmental organizations, pharmaceutical partners, and academics to manage high-impact strategic investments that seek to improve health systems and services that serve affected communities and help to eliminate these diseases.

STRENGTHENING GUYANA'S PROGRAM TO ELIMINATE LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS BY 2026

In 2018, The END Fund and the <u>USAID</u> partnered with <u>PAHO's Regional Program for Neglected Infectious Diseases</u> to strengthen programs aimed at eliminating lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem in Guyana. The <u>alliance seeks to generate capacity and formulate a national plan to eliminate the disease</u>, survey the epidemiological situation in high-risk areas of the country, implement a strategy for the massive administration of drugs with triple therapy (called IDA – Ivermectin, Diethylcarbamazine and Albendazole), and verify and document the impact of these strategies.

Since 2019, The END Fund has contributed USD 1.2 million to PAHO to implement this plan and to cover additional costs generated by limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic for the massive administration of treatment.

Lymphatic filariasis is a mosquito-borne parasitic disease that puts the health of around 500,000 people in Guyana at risk. Although not fatal, the disease affects the lymphatic system and leads to permanent and debilitating symptoms that can cause physical disability and mental health disorders.

Guyana, with technical assistance from PAHO and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and financing from USAID and The END Fund, has committed to eliminate lymphatic filariasis.

Because of its determination to achieve effective solutions, as well as its ability to convene and work with different stakeholders to achieve this goal, The ENF Fund is a key partner for PAHO in its work to eliminate neglected infectious diseases in the Americas.

MORE INFORMATION



<u>PAHO - Dancing shoes and the path towards the elimination of lymphatic filariasis in Guyana</u>



PAHO: Guyana overcomes pandemic challenges to advance in the elimination of lymphatic filariasis



PAHO - Lymphatic filariasis





THE LANCET MIGRATION – Migration and health in the Americas

> Evidence to improve the design of health policies for migrants

PAHO supports strengthening academic networks for research on migration and health and increased cooperation between academia and decisionmakers.

With its considerable academic prestige, <u>The Lancet Migration</u> offers the best available evidence-based information on the health of migrants, making it possible for authorities to design public policies in their countries on that issue. The Pan American Health Organization promotes the exchange between the network of academics of The Lancet Migration and

authorities in the Americas, ensuring that policies on migration and health in the Region are supported by evidence.

The Lancet Migration global collaboration to advance migration health was the result of collaboration among the scientific research journal The Lancet and researchers and other partners in the field of migration and health. The initiative generates relevant and reliable research that can help decision-makers and managers in addressing the health of migrants and promoting changes in relevant public policies.

The Lancet Migration's work is based on the recommendations of the UCL-Lancet Commission on Migration and Health, published in 2018. The commission worked for two years with 20 experts from 13 countries,

conducted a comprehensive review of all available evidence on migration and health and presented recommendations on how to maximize the health of people moving across borders. Two years later, The Lancet Migration was launched and used its convening power to bring together renowned researchers and universities from around the world to address the evidence gaps on the issue.

In December 2018, PAHO's Subregional Program for South America organized the launch of the Commission's recommendations for the Americas, which marked the beginning of its relationship with the academic initiative.

EMPHASIS ON EXPERIENCES OF MIGRANTS AND HEALTH IN LATIN AMERICA

The Lancet Migration Latin American Regional Hub was recently created. The initiative, in which PAHO participates, brings together a network of academic researchers looking to gather more evidence on migration and health in Latin America. Most research on the subject comes from Europe and North America, but with recent migratory movements in South America and from Central American countries to the north, the Region of the Americas has generated its own experiences that researchers are now trying to systematize and add to the global evidence.

Currently, The Lancet Migration is working on a special publication in collaboration with PAHO and academic networks. The publication will compile experiences in the Region on how the health of migrants has been protected. It also promotes the creation of national and subregional research networks on migration and health.

Based on this technical partnership with The Lancet Migration, PAHO has organized virtual seminars and prepared special reports for the ministries of health that they can use as inputs for their health response to migration. PAHO also shares this information with other subregional organizations, such as the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and its MERCOSUR Social Institute (ISM), the Secretariat of the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Governments (SEGIB), Forum for the Progress and Development of South America (PROSUR) and Andean Regional Health Agency (ORAS CONHU), so they can add this subject in their work agenda.

The Lancet Migration provides credibility on academic research and is able to assemble research teams to get more robust evidence to sustain public health and migration policies in the Americas.

MORE INFORMATION



PAHO: Subregional Program for South America



Lancet Migration Latin American Regional Hub





UK FCDO – Smart hospitals in the Caribbean

Safe and green: smart health facilities

Smart hospitals are strategically built to resist disaster events and provide services under emergency conditions, using resources more efficiently and reducing environmental footprint.

The Smart Hospitals project is one of PAHO's largest partnership initiative, together with the <u>United Kingdom's Foreign</u>, <u>Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)</u>, which leads the country's work to tackle global challenges including poverty and disease.

Piloted in 2012 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Kitts and Nevis, the project was then extended to 7 English-speaking Caribbean countries. Running from 2015 to 2022, the project will be instrumental in retrofitting at least 50 smart health facilities in Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia and Saint Vincent and The Grenadines

With more than 67% of hospitals in the Caribbean and Latin America located in areas of high-risk disaster areas, this partnership between PAHO and FCDO is providing safer, greener health facilities to deliver care in disasters, generate operational savings and reduce disaster losses in the Caribbean.

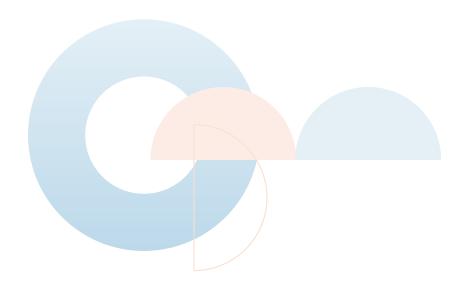
A GENUINE PARTNERSHIP

On top of the £43 million invested through UK Aid, FCDO takes collaboration to the next level by helping mobilize additional donors, visiting countries regularly and taking part in relevant decisions and discussions.

PAHO and FCDO joint work, in coordination with the Ministries of Health in the selected countries, resulted in a thriving partnership that has echoed around the globe. The concept developed into a general gold standard, recognized by external auditors and key global institutions.

The Smart Hospitals model is also being replicated to different types of facilities, such as emergency shelters, to different sectors, such as education, and to other regions, such as the Fiji Islands and other Small Island States.

With this project, the FCDO contributes to substantial inputs to the region, being acknowledged for holding hands with PAHO in the direction of a high-impact initiative that is already improving the lives of many in the Caribbean.



MORE INFORMATION



Video: Smart Hospital in Saint Kitts and Nevis



FCDO project summary



Smart Hospitals Toolkit





UNITED NATIONS MULTI-DONOR FUND – Health for peace in Colombia

Strengthening communities for access to health after the peace agreement in Colombia

The United Nations Multi-Donor Fund finances the Health for Peace, Strengthening Communities Project and supports the response to COVID-19.

The <u>United Nations Multi-Donor Fund for Sustaining Peace in Colombia</u> is a tripartite mechanism composed of the government of Colombia, the United Nations (UN) and international cooperation; its objective is to mobilize and coordinate financial interventions to support peace in Colombia.

This includes the Health for Peace, Strengthening Communities Project, in which the Pan American Health Organization and the International Organization for Migration (OIM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Ministry of Health of Colombia are participants.

In 2017 PAHO, together with the other UN agencies in Colombia, signed the framework agreement with the government of Colombia for establishing the Multi-Donor Fund.

The Multi-Donor Fund makes crucial interventions and investments when no other resources are available; to enable essential peacebuilding processes; and to support innovative or high-risk approaches. Almost 20 bilateral or multilateral organizations contribute to its financing. Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom are among its largest contributors.

Support of the Multi-Donor Fund has also been key in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in working to improve access to quality health services in priority areas for the stabilization plans.

JOINT WORK OF UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES IN HEALTH FOR PEACE

The Health for Peace, Strengthening Communities Project seeks to develop local institutional capacities to promote and guarantee the right to health and to improve primary health care in prioritized territories in the peace agreements. The project emphasizes areas such as sexual and reproductive health, mental health, attention to childhood and nutritional health, and preventing the use of psychoactive substances.

Through the Multi-Donor Fund, the project has received some USD 8.5 million since November 2017. In the first phase, actions related to health were implemented in 26 municipalities identified as a priority due to the impact that armed conflict had had on the communities. In the second phase, which began in September 2019, these interventions continued, but the Fund's contributions increased to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. These additional resources allowed to extend the geographical scope of the interventions and add a total of 170 municipalities. These municipalities require support for their stabilization and transformation as they were the territories most affected by the armed conflict, with the highest rates of poverty, the presence of illicit economies, and institutional weakness.

The project benefits about 20,000 young people and adolescents, another 20,000 children under the age of five, and about 7,500 children under the age of two who are at risk of malnutrition. It also works with rural hospitals and 19 departmental health secretariats.

With its innovative mechanism that integrates the contributions of dozens of organizations and coordinates support according to national priorities, and with its flexibility to support urgent actions needed to respond to COVID-19, the United Nations Multi-Donor Fund in Colombia is a key partner that helps PAHO fulfill its objective of guaranteeing access to quality health services in the most complex areas of the country.

MORE INFORMATION



PAHO: Health for Peace and Peace for Health



Health for Peace





USAID – The malaria initiative

> 20 Years of collaboration in combating malaria

In collaboration with the Region's Ministries of Health and PAHO, USAID is helping communities and families in the fight against malaria.

Through direct support to PAHO's Regional Malaria Program and the formulation and implementation of three Regional Malaria Plans (2006-2010, 2011-2015, and 2016-2020), the <u>United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s malaria investments have served as a catalyst for change and exhibited a multiplier effect on other malaria projects and initiatives across the region.</u>

USAID's work in over 100 countries leads international development and humanitarian efforts to save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help people progress beyond assistance. Since 2000, USAID and PAHO's interventions have contributed to a 68% reduction in malaria cases and an estimated 3,000 deaths have been averted in the region of the Americas.

Joint efforts include changes in malaria treatment, the prioritization of high-burden areas with most of the cases in the region, sustained drugresistance monitoring in 15 countries, improving capacities in microscopy and access to diagnosis with microscopy and rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), provision of emergency treatments and prevention of antimalarial stockouts in 17 malaria-endemic countries, improvements in malaria surveillance

and vector control strategies as well as the implementation of WHO framework towards malaria elimination and prevention of re-establishment.

PARTNERSHIP LEADS TO ADVANCEMENTS IN COMBATING MALARIA

The PAHO-USAID partnership against malaria has been ongoing for almost 20 years and USAID's malaria funding investments in the region of the Americas have increased significantly since the beginning of the collaboration.

Together, USAID and PAHO have collaborated to develop and help countries to adopt the most efficient approaches to respond to evolving challenges in malaria control and elimination. Two key factors that have led to a successful partnership are (1) working together to understand the complexities and on-the-ground realities in the region, and (2) being open to new, innovative approaches.

When this partnership originally launched, it focused on creating measures to guide antimalarial drug policies as well as pioneering malaria elimination strategies and building and strengthening health networks across the region. Since then, USAID and PAHO's interventions continue to achieve results, despite ever-changing scenarios. Through this partnership, both USAID and PAHO remain committed to helping malaria-endemic countries in the Americas reach their goal of eliminating the disease by 2030.

This USAID collaboration with PAHO has also had catalytic effects with Global Fund projects in many of the endemic countries and more recently with the generation of approaches and instruments incorporated by the Regional Malaria Elimination Initiative in Central America (RMEI).

MORE INFORMATION



Malaria Champions of the Americas (Best Practices)

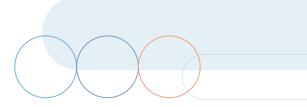


WHO Global Malaria Programme



PAHO Elimination Initiative







YAMUNI TABUSH FOUNDATION – Health of the elderly in Costa Rica

> Promoting inclusive societies for the better development of people

The Yamuni Tabush Foundation and PAHO have joined forces to improve health services for the elderly.

The <u>Yamuni Tabush Foundation</u> works to improve the health and wellbeing of the elderly in Costa Rica, an essential step in achieving an inclusive society. The Foundation's broad experience in the field and its extensive network of partners allows the Organization to optimize the scope of initiatives for this segment of society. For those reasons, the Foundation has become a key partner to PAHO in Costa Rica for promoting healthy aging, developing inclusive environments and improving health services for the elderly.

Created in 2013 by Costa Rican diplomat Miguel Yamuni and his wife, Daisy Tabush, this nonprofit organization was designed to work on education for the youngest and to look after the elderly, both areas regarded as priorities by its creators. The Foundation provides financial and non-financial support to various institutions that offer services to ensure healthy and active aging, among other things.

PROTECTING THE ELDERLY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In 2019, the Foundation and PAHO signed an agreement to work cooperatively for common goals for healthy aging in Costa Rica, such as creating physical environments adapted to the needs of the elderly, developing inclusive social environments, integrating health services for the elderly with services in the larger community, and providing health services training to address specific needs among the older population.

And because older people are at greater risk from COVID-19, the Foundation and PAHO agreed to develop specific tools to protect this population. They developed training for community health workers in areas where the risk of COVID-19 was higher, such as in settlements, long-stay homes and other places where aging adults were particularly vulnerable.

In addition, the Foundation made a financial contribution to help fund training to address COVID-19 and donated protective medical supplies for older adults at the community level and at care centers around the country. The support allowed PAHO in Costa Rica to develop a virtual course for staff working in elderly residences on COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures. For municipal and community staff, PAHO developed a virtual course on self-care and risk estimation; and for personnel who work with vulnerable communities, it developed training on prevention and control of COVID-19 transmission.

With its specific knowledge of the topic and its willingness to invest financial resources to respond to the needs of the moment, the Yamuni Tabush Foundation makes a substantial difference in enhancing the well-being of the elderly in Costa Rica.

MORE INFORMATION



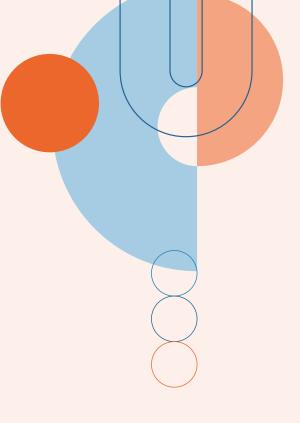
PAHO Costa Rica (in Spanish)



<u>Protection of vulnerable people against the pandemic (in Spanish)</u>







If you are interested in learning more about PAHO's work with partners, please visit www.paho.org/en/partnerships

Contact us at partnerships@paho.org





