

From Alma-Ata to Universal Health

40 Years in the Americas Region



70s

LIFE EXPECTANCY 67.3 YEARS

1977

The World Health Assembly decides that the main social goal of governments should be "to achieve health for all the citizens of the world by the year 2000."

At the 4th Special Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Americas, governments commit to expanding coverage of health services for the entire population, rooted in primary health care and community participation.



The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) is established in order to reduce mortality caused by vaccine-preventable diseases and their component Revolving Fund to purchase vaccines and supplies high quality at lower prices.



1978

The Pan American Sanitary Conference approves a set of resolutions for the achievement of universal coverage and the incorporation of primary care in general health services.



Declaration of Alma-Ata:

The International Conference on Primary Health Care, held in Alma-Ata, then USSR, draws representatives from 134 countries and 67 international organizations to recognize primary health care as key to attaining "Health for All."



1979

The PAHO Textbook Program is expanded to include other health disciplines through an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank. In this way, the new Expanded Program of Textbooks and Instructional Materials (PALTEX) is established.



80s

LIFE EXPECTANCY 70.2 YEARS

1981

The first cases of AIDS are detected in the Region, alerting the rest of the world to the spread of this epidemic to the Western Hemisphere.



Within the context of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, PAHO stresses the need to improve the quality of water supplies in the Americas.

1984

PAHO launches the "Health: A bridge for peace" initiative to vaccinate mothers and children during a ceasefire between guerrilla and government forces in El Salvador's conflict, with the participation of both sides.



1986

The 22nd Pan American Sanitary Conference emphasizes technical cooperation in priority areas: infrastructure development for primary health care (PHC) and population groups in situations of vulnerability.

1988

The PAHO Directing Council recommends developing and strengthening local health systems (SILOS) to address health needs more efficiently.



Spanning this decade and the next one, significant progress is made on improving human resources for health: PAHO leads concentrated efforts to train and prepare leaders in the health sector to address new challenges and to foster greater integration of health in regional development plans.



90s

LIFE EXPECTANCY 73.2 YEARS

1990

The "Health and Peace for Development and Democracy" plan is initiated in Central America.



The Region begins to reduce the spread of HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Declaration of Caracas is approved; it calls for community and society-wide networks to restructure psychiatric care in Latin America within the local health systems.

1991

A major cholera epidemic strikes the Region; PAHO leads the regional response with support for countries using comprehensive actions based on PHC.



PAHO launches SUMA (Humanitarian Supplies Management system), an information management tool that helps national authorities coordinate humanitarian assistance.



The Region's last case of polio in Peru is registered in 1994.



1994

Poliomyelitis eradication in the Region of the Americas is certified.

1995

The Healthy Municipalities initiative is launched with the goal of improving health in urban settings. It empowers and mobilizes local stakeholders to improve health in their communities.



Blindness from onchocerciasis is confirmed as eliminated in the Americas.

1999

The Pan American Network for Drug Regulatory Harmonization (PANDRH) is launched as an initiative of the National Regulatory Authorities of the Region and PAHO, with the aim to harmonize pharmaceutical regulation in the Americas.



2000s

LIFE EXPECTANCY 75.6 YEARS

2000

"Healthy Children: Goal 2002" is launched in 2000 to prevent 100,000 deaths in children using integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI).



PAHO Member States express their commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goals.

PAHO, World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States, and UNESCO form the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence to create an environment of solidarity, tolerance, and respect for the rights of others.



The PAHO Strategic Fund is established as a regional technical cooperation mechanism for pooled procurement of essential medicines and strategic health supplies.



The "Shared Agenda for Health in the Americas" is signed by PAHO, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank.

The global polio eradication initiative sets a new target deadline: 2005.



2002

Public Health in the Americas is published and promotes regional consensus by defining 11 Essential Public Health Functions (EPHF) and identifies the gaps that must be reduced to improve its performance.

2003

The 44th PAHO Directing Council makes a series of recommendations to strengthen PHC in Resolution CD44.R6.

2005

The "3 by 5" initiative is implemented, scaling up treatment and care for HIV.

PAHO officially adopts the Gender Equality Policy to eliminate inequalities in health between women and men, and advance towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of women.



PAHO proposes the "Renewal of Primary Health Care" plan, recognizing and facilitating the essential role of PHC in the promotion of equity in health and human development.



PAHO promotes the Brasilia Principles as a commitment to the Caracas Declaration and its call to restructure psychiatric care within public health systems.

The "Toronto Call to Action 2006-2015: Towards a Decade of Human Resources in Health for the Americas" highlights the need for a strong national health workforce to support all peoples of the Americas.

PAHO implements the DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short course) program for the treatment of tuberculosis.

2007

The Declaration of Montevideo calls for the principles of primary health care to be integrated within national health systems, to improve coordination with other sectors and thereby more effectively contribute to efforts towards more equitable human development.

2008

WHO's World Health Report focuses on primary health care and concludes that PHC-based reforms are necessary "now more than ever."



2009

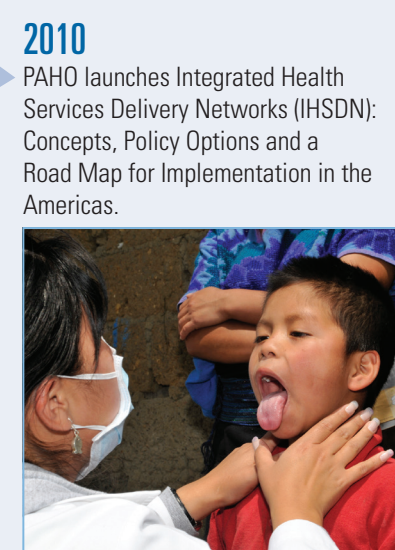
The Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan is approved by PAHO Member States.

2010s

LIFE EXPECTANCY 77.4 YEARS

2010

PAHO launches Integrated Health Services Delivery Networks (IHSND): Concepts, Policy Options and a Road Map for Implementation in the Americas.



PAHO Member States adopt a research policy for health which is aimed at incorporating their health, equity and development benefits.



Member States approve a new strategy for health personnel competency development in PHC-based health systems.



The Directing Council approves the Health and Human Rights Resolution (CD50.R8), committing themselves to supporting and strengthening mechanisms to ensure the right to health for groups in vulnerable situations, including people with mental disorders or disabilities, older people, women and adolescents, people with HIV, and indigenous people.



2011

PAHO's Latin American Center for Perinatology - Women and Reproductive Health (CLAP) proposes "Strategies for the Approach to Maternal and Perinatal Health in the Next Decade."

2012

WHO launches its global initiative on Universal Health Coverage.

2013

Resolution CD52/18 is approved by the ministers of health of the Americas, declaring their commitment to reducing disparities in access and use of health services by the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) population.



PAHO approves the Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2014-2019, recognizing that noncommunicable diseases are the leading cause of premature death and illness in the Region.

The Strategic Plan of the Pan American Health Organization 2014-2019 is established under the theme "Championing Health: Sustainable Development and Equity," based on the collective priorities of Member States.



The Mais Médicos program was launched as a South-South collaboration to expand access to health care through primary care professionals to serve communities throughout Brazil.



2014

A United Nations report shows that 11 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have made significant progress since 1990 in reducing deaths related to complications of pregnancy and childbirth.



WHO proposes the Global Strategy for the Health of Women, Children and Adolescents (2016-2030), which focuses on protection of women, children, and adolescents living in situation of vulnerability.

PAHO approves the Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage, marking an important evolution from thinking solely of health coverage to adding the concept of access to health.

PAHO approves the Plan of Action on Health in All Policies as a strategic approach for all decision-makers to take health into account when deciding public policy and to seek synergies across sectors to improve population health and health equity.

2015

Cuba becomes the first country in the world to receive WHO certification for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.

PAHO issues the first epidemiological alert for Zika virus in the Americas, providing information on infection, laboratory tests, case management, and prevention and control measures.



2016

The Region of the Americas is declared free of measles.

Ministers of health of the Americas agree on a set of actions to improve access and use of medicines and other high-cost technologies.

PAHO approves Resolution CD55.R13 on the Health of Migrants, which focuses on the health of people in situations of vulnerability due to their migrant status.

2017

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Saint Kitts and Nevis receive WHO certification for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.

During the 29th Pan American Sanitary Conference, PAHO launches the "Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018-2030: A Call to Action for Health and Well-being in the Americas."



Member States approve the Policy on Ethnicity and Health, which recognizes the need for health systems to refocus health services by considering the intercultural perspectives of indigenous persons, Afro-descendants, Romani, and other ethnic groups.



The Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Tobacco Control 2018-2022 is adopted to help reduce the burden of disease, death, and economic consequences of tobacco use.

In Ecuador, PAHO launches the Regional Forum on Universal Health in the 21st Century: 40 Years after Alma-Ata.



The 29th Pan American Sanitary Conference approves the Strategy on Human Resources for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage, dedicating crucial resources to fortify human resources in health.

2018

Paraguay is certified as malaria-free.

World Health Day is celebrated with the theme: "Health for Everyone, Everywhere."

LIFE EXPECTANCY 77.4 YEARS