

CHAGAS DISEASE



+ Impact goal

Elimination as a public health problem

+ Elimination target

Interruption of transmission of Chagas disease to humans **in the entire territory and by all vectors** sustained for at least 5 years or partial interruption of transmission of Chagas disease **either by territory or by vector**:

– Intradomiciliary vector infestation of *Trypanosoma cruzi*: 0% (both alloctonous and autochthonous vectors)

– Peridomiciliary vector infestation of *Trypanosoma cruzi*: 0% alloctonous and ≤1% autochthonous vectors

+ Programmatic targets

100% of blood donors screened in endemic and at-risk nonendemic areas

≥95% of positive children 0 to 14 years for *T. cruzi* with timely etiological treatment

≥95% of positive women of reproductive age for *T. cruzi* with timely etiological treatment

100% of pregnant women screened for *T. cruzi* in endemic and at-risk areas

≥95% of newborns born to positive mothers for *T. cruzi* with diagnosis and timely etiological treatment

Action steps to achieve elimination

① Prevent transmission through blood, organ, and tissue donations:

– Screen all donors and refer at-risk individuals to health services; and establish strong regulatory systems to ensure transfusion and transplant safety

② Ensure timely diagnosis and treatment:

– Build diagnostic and treatment capacity at all care levels; expand access to benznidazole and nifurtimox; and ensure early diagnosis and treatment of pregnant women and newborns under the EMTCT Plus strategy

Best buys

③ Control vectors and improve housing:

– Implement effective vector control with trained personnel; strengthen entomological surveillance with community engagement; and improve housing to reduce vector habitats (e.g., sealing cracks, plastering walls)

④ Strengthen surveillance and monitoring:

– Ensure an efficient surveillance system with active case detection and response; monitor transmission using entomological and serological data; and promote community participation in surveillance efforts

More information

• Pan American Health Organization. Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of Chagas disease. Washington, D.C.: PAHO; 2019. Available from: <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/49653>.

• Pan American Health Organization. Guía metodológica para evaluaciones externas de la interrupción de la transmisión y la eliminación de la enfermedad de Chagas como problema de salud pública. Washington, D.C.: PAHO; 2023. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.37774/9789275327494>.



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