



**Pan American
Health
Organization**



**World Health
Organization**

Americas Region

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PAHO, JARBAS BARBOSA, ONE MONTH AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES IN VENEZUELA

July 24, 2026

One month after the devastating earthquakes that struck Venezuela, our thoughts remain with the families mourning the loss of their loved ones, with those still recovering from their injuries, and with the thousands of people whose lives changed in a matter of seconds.

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to the healthcare workers, first responders, and humanitarian personnel who have worked tirelessly during these weeks, including our colleagues in PAHO's office in Venezuela

From the initial rescue efforts to the ongoing care provided in hospitals, health centers, and temporary shelters, your commitment has helped save lives and ease the suffering of thousands of people.

PAHO also continues to support health workers, including through psychosocial assistance and actions to promote their well-being, that of their families, and their safety at work.

Please know that you can always count on us. While the most acute phase is beginning to pass, the health emergency is far from over.

We are now entering a critical stage in which we must restore and sustain essential health services, including mental health care.

In addition to treating physical injuries, we must address the deep psychological impact of this tragedy and ensure the continuity of care for people living with chronic diseases, as well as maternal and child health services.

Although public attention wanes as the weeks go by, the needs of affected communities continue. That is why PAHO will continue to stand with Venezuela.

Together, with the Ministry of Popular Power for Health, we are working to restore essential health services, strengthen referral networks and ensure access to care for the communities most affected. At the same time, reconstruction offers an opportunity to build safer, more resilient hospitals and health services that are better prepared for future emergencies.

We also continue working to protect those who lost their homes and remain in temporary shelters.

Earthquakes do not cause epidemics by themselves, but the conditions that follow a disaster can increase health risks. That is why we continue to support access to safe water and food, strengthen disease surveillance, and promote vaccination.

Since the beginning of the emergency, PAHO has worked alongside the Ministry of Popular Power for Health and humanitarian partners, supporting the deployment of international Emergency Medical Teams and the delivery of essential medicines, medical equipment, and supplies to strengthen the health response.

Health recovery begins long before reconstruction is complete. It begins when a person regains access to treatment, when a mother can give birth safely, when a hospital is fully operational again and when a family regains hope.

That is PAHO's commitment.

We will continue to stand with Venezuela for as long as it takes because a truly resilient recovery is measured not only by the infrastructure that is rebuilt, but by our ability to protect people's health, dignity, and future.