ARGENTINA PAHO/WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGY 2024-2028



INTRODUCTION

The WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) is the medium-term strategic framework for WHO's collaboration with a Member State, in support of the country's National Health Development Policy, Strategy, and Plan. The PAHO/WHO-Argentina Country Cooperation Strategy (2024-2028), was developed through extensive consultations with the Ministry of Health, other health-related line ministries, the UNCT, the private sector, legislators, development partners, civil society etc., to objectively identify factors hindering effective health service delivery and recommend solutions.

The four strategic priorities with an integrative cross-cutting axis of the PAHO/WHO-Argentina CCS (2024-2028) are based on the prioritization process with national authorities and are aligned with the PAHO Strategic Plan (2020-2025), the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025) and WHO's General Programme of Work (GPW).

ABOUT US

The PAHO/WHO Country Office in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
As of 2024, the office has ten staff.
During the 2022-2023 biennium, financing exceeded 12 million dollars, including special programs and the mirror category. Budget execution reached 99% with 100% of the funds for base programs fully utilized.

PARTNERSHIP ENVIRONMENT

WHO collaborates actively with a range of humanitarian and development partners, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), and the 58 operational partners convened by the WHO-led Health Cluster.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Argentina comprises 23 provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. The country has a population of 46.23 million, with a noticeable trend toward an aging demographic. As an upper-middle-income nation, Argentina benefits from abundant natural, mineral, and human resources. In 2023, its GDP per capita stood at USD 13,731.

Between 2017 and 2021, Argentina allocated an average of 10% of its GDP to the health sector, peaking at 10.9% in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The health system is divided into three subsectors: public, social insurance, and private. It operates under a federal model, which contributes to significant fragmentation.

PROGRESS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES

In 2020, life expectancy at birth in Argentina reached 79 years, with females living an average of 82.6 years and males 76.4 years. This represents an average increase of 4.1 years in life expectancy and a 2.3% rise in the proportion of older adults compared to 2000.

Argentina has made significant progress in key health indicators over the past decades. Between 2000 and 2022, infant mortality was reduced by 50.6%, while maternal mortality declined to 34.3 per 100,000 live births in 2022. Premature mortality decreased by 27.1% between 2000 and 2019, and overall mortality dropped by 15.1% in the same period. Additionally, Argentina was declared malaria-free in 2019, positioning the country as a leader in eliminating communicable diseases.

KEY CHALLENGES

Argentina faces economic challenges that have deepened social inequalities, with rising poverty and unemployment disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable populations. Amid shifting demographics and an increasing disease burden, progress in health outcomes is at risk of reversal. Health disparities across provinces within the federal structure are stark, with maternal mortality ratios up to seven times higher in the poorest provinces compared to the wealthiest.
Persistent barriers hinder the effective management of non-communicable diseases, particularly in achieving adequate coverage for chronic kidney disease and certain cancers. Vaccination coverage and adherence to schedules also remain significant challenges.

For more information visit the link: https://www.paho.org/arg

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & DELIVERABLES



01 Integrative Cross-Cutting Axis: Leadership and Governance for Health, Information Systems and Communication

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthening governance and leadership capacities for the efficient and equitable management of the health system.
- Contribute to the development of integrated, accessible, and transparent health information systems.
- Promote innovation based on knowledge management, the use of evidence for decision-making, and social communication for health.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Strengthen the capacity of the national health authority to lead, regulate, and coordinate the health system in Argentina within the framework of its state organization.

02 Access to Comprehensive and Quality Health Services

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Contribute to the improvement of equitable access and the development of comprehensive and quality health services.
- Strengthen the Primary Health Care strategy throughout the life course.
- Contribute to the availability of Human Resources for Health in line with current health challenges across the territory.
- Strengthen national capacities to ensure timely and equitable access to health technologies.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Improve the quality of health services through the development of Integrated Health Service Networks (IHSN) that ensure effectiveness, equity, and efficiency.

03 Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Contribute to the comprehensive approach to communicable diseases with special emphasis on vulnerable populations.
- Equitable strengthening of immunization strategies throughout the life course.
- Contribute to the effective and sustainable elimination of priority diseases.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Strengthen the prevention, response, and elimination of communicable diseases and ensure equitable immunization strategies throughout the life course, with a focus on vulnerable populations and priority diseases, through enhanced surveillance, health services, and intersectoral policies.

04 Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Contribute to the comprehensive approach to risk factors and the improvement of prevention and care for NCDs in communities.
- Support the promotion of mental health, suicide prevention, and access to community-based, integrated, and person-centered services.
- Contribute to the prevention of malnutrition in all its forms and address its determinants, considering an intersectoral action perspective.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Develop comprehensive strategies to address risk factors, improve prevention and care for non-communicable diseases, promote mental health and suicide prevention, and prevent malnutrition through intersectoral actions, enhancing community-based services and integrating these efforts into Primary Health Care to ensure quality and equitable health outcomes across all communities.

05 Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Contribute to risk reduction, preparedness for health emergencies, and multi-hazard response in the health sector.
- Contribute to the development of integrated capacities for the prevention and control of epidemics and pandemics.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Strengthen risk reduction, preparedness, and multi-hazard response capacities in the health sector, enhancing integrated capabilities for the prevention and control of epidemics and pandemics through improved epidemiological surveillance, innovative technologies, continuous training, and effective intersectoral coordination to minimize health impacts and promote community resilience.

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