THE BAHAMAS PAHO/WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGY 2026-2031



INTRODUCTION

The PAHO/WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) is the medium-term strategic framework for PAHO/WHO's collaboration with a Member State, in support of the country's National Health Development Policy, Strategy, and Plan. The PAHO/WHO-Bahamas Country Cooperation Strategy (2026-2031), was developed through extensive consultations with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, national authorities and government organizations, academia, civil society organizations, bilateral and multilateral organizations, and PAHO/WHO's other nonstate partners to objectively identify opportunities to improve health service delivery and recommend opportunities.

The four strategic priorities of the PAHO/WHO-Bahamas CCS (2026-2031) are based on PAHO/WHO's comparative advantage and are aligned with National Health Strategy (2026–2030), the Bahamas National Development Plan (Vision 2040, 2015-2040), the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022-2026), WHO's 14th General Programme of Work (GPW, 2025-2028) and PAHO's Strategic Plan (2026–2031)

ABOUT US

The PAHO/WHO Country Office in Nassau, on the island of New Providence. Belonging to Core Predictable Country Presence typology B. As of 2026, the office has 5 staff. In the past biennium the total funding allocated for the country reached US$2.9 M and the utilization rate was 100%.

PARTNERSHIP ENVIRONMENT

PAHO/WHO collaborates actively with a range of development partners, the United Nations Country Team, and several health sector organizations.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is an archipelago of more than 700 islands of which 29 are inhabited islands, a total population of approximately 398,000, with about 23% of its population aged 14 years or younger. The Bahamas is an upper-income country with an economy largely based primarily on tourism and financial services.. As of 2024, its GDP per capita was US$39,455. The annual health budget has increased from 2.33% in 2018/19 to 3.46% in 2020/21. The Ministry of Health & Wellness has national responsibility for the health system, and the National Health Insurance Authority is advancing a National Universal Health Coverage System, alongside an important private sector.

PROGRESS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES

The Bahamas has made progress in several areas. Life expectancy at birth was estimated at 74.71 years in 2024 and has been increasing. The country has achieved elimination of 7 of the 25 diseases and conditions targeted for elimination in the Americas by 2030: neonatal tetanus, poliomyelitis, rubella, congenital rubella syndrome, measles, cholera, and malaria. Tuberculosis incidence fell from 23 per 100 000 population in 2016 to 6.8 per 100 000 in 2023. Newly reported HIV cases decreased from 217 per 100 000 population in 1995 to 32.8 in 2023. In 2022, 99% of births were attended by qualified personnel.

KEY CHALLENGES

Noncommunicable diseases are the leading causes of death accounting for 59.8% of total deaths in 2021. Data reveals high rates of diabetes (11.5%), hypertension (38.3%), overweight (71.6%), and obesity (43.6%). Immunization coverage rates have been falling in the past decade; in 2023, coverage was 87% for Polio3 and DPT3, 86% for MMR, and 81% for PCV3. The maternal mortality ratio was 212.10 per 100 000 live births in 2022, and the infant mortality rate was 22.7 per 1000 live births. The Bahamas is also vulnerable to natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

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

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & DELIVERABLES



Strengthened, integrated, evidence-based, people-centered health system focused on achieving health equity and universal health coverage and access. 01

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthened capacity of health authorities for governance, stewardship, health financing, and their respective responsibilities in support of universal health coverage and access.
- Improved access to quality and equitable people-centered care across the continuum of services
- Strengthened capacity of human resources for health.
- Established national framework for access to, and oversight and regulation for, medicines, health technologies, and safe blood and transfusion services

Improved health and well-being through the life course, with a focus on primary health care. 02

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthened national programs, health system, and services for reduction of maternal and infant deaths; with appropriate monitoring and evaluation to track changes.
- Evidence-based policies, programs, and services to meet the evolving health and social needs of the aging population developed.

Improved surveillance, detection, prevention, and control of communicable and noncommunicable diseases and their risk factors, violence and injuries, using appropriate information systems and evidence for health 03

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthened capacity to address morbidity and mortality due to main noncommunicable diseases, including mental health and their risk factors.
- Improved capacity to reduce the burden of communicable diseases and conditions, including those targeted for elimination
- Strengthened surveillance and Information Systems for Health including the use of artificial intelligence, digital health, and addressing cybersecurity vulnerability.
- Strengthened capacity and multisectoral collaboration to prevent and respond to violence and injuries

Strengthened capacity to prevent, protect against, control, and respond to emergencies and public health threats, including those due to climate vulnerabilities, guided by the Disaster Risk Management Act 04

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthened national capacity for improved resilience in the health system through strengthening International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacities.
- Strengthened and aligned environmental policies and programs with a focus on the One Health approach
- Strengthened capacity to anticipate, prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impact of climatic events, including building and adapting climate-resilient health facilities

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