PAHO/WHO MULTICOUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGY 2026-2031



INTRODUCTION

The PAHO/WHO Multi-Country Cooperation Strategy for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Countries is the medium-term vision of the work that PAHO/WHO will undertake with seven countries under the jurisdiction of the PWR-ECC during the period 2018-2024. These countries are namely – Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This is the second such multi-country cooperation framework with these small island developing states. This strategy was developed on the basis of a health situation analysis together with consultations with senior technical officers from the Ministries of Health and other key stakeholders.
The five strategic priorities are based on PAHO/WHO's comparative advantage and are aligned with National Health Plans and National Development Plans, as well as PAHO and WHO's Strategic Plan and Program of Work respectively.

ABOUT US

The PAHO/WHO Country Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean (ECC) is in Barbados. In addition, there are 6 satellite offices in each OECS country, staffed with a country program specialist and an administrative assistant. As of 2024, the office has 31 staff. Of these, 1 is CPCP staff.
In the past biennium the total funding received by the country office for these countries was USD $12,470,922.80, and the utilization rate was 98.95%.

PARTNERSHIP ENVIRONMENT

PAHO/WHO collaborates actively with a range of humanitarian and development partners, the United Nations Subregional Team (UNST), and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

MULTI-COUNTRY CONTEXT

The countries, classified as high or middle income, have a combined population of approximately 867,000 (range 47,000-277,000)persons and the islands spread from, the most northerly islands St. Kitts and Nevis (near Puerto Rico) to Grenada in the south (near to Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela). These countries, are categorized as Small Island Developing States, and are highly vulnerable due to their geographical remoteness, smallness in population size, increasing exposure to natural disasters related to climate change and environmental challenges, global economic shock, and unstable domestic revenues, with limited capacity for borrowing opportunities.

PROGRESS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES

The countries had made some measured progress in health outcomes. Life expectancy has increased through improved health care access, particularly in maternal and child health services leading to increased immunization coverage, better maternal and child health services and better management of communicable diseases. Several countries have been certified for the elimination of MTCT of HIV and Syphilis. The burden of non-communicable diseases, along with the threat of climate impacts on human health are of major concern. The COVID-19 Pandemic impacted health outcomes, however, many countries have been able to recuperate essential health services.

KEY CHALLENGES

Some key health challenges in the country include inequitable access to quality, integrated health services. Out-of-pocket expenditure remains high. Weak governance and accountability mechanisms undermine effective implementation of health policies and programs. Limited intra- and inter-sectoral collaboration for health, at all levels, has impeded accelerated progress towards the health-related SDGs.

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

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & DELIVERABLES

Strengthening Health System with universal access and coverage through improved governance and sustainable financing

01

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Develop and implement an improved and sustainable governance and health financing mechanism (National Health Insurance Development).
- Strengthen universal health coverage/access to essential health services and products.
- Improve Primary Health Care (PHC) with definition of service package, aligning human resources accordingly

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Reduced out-of-pocket spending (OOPS) as % of current Health Expenditure
- Increased national capacities for achieving universal access to health and universal health coverage.

Reducing morbidity and mortality due to communicable diseases

02

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Implement strategies to advance the elimination of HIV/STIs, tuberculosis, hepatitis B and maintain elimination of poliomyelitis, measles, and rubella.
- Develop and or Strengthen antimicrobial resistance surveillance.
- Strengthen capacity for integrated management of vector borne diseases including source reduction.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increase countries capacity to develop and implement plans for elimination of priority diseases.
- Increased national capacities to decrease the risk and prevent the spread of multidrug-resistance infections.

Reducing the burden of Chronic NCDs including the area of mental health and substance abuse

03

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Integrate mental health and substance abuse in PHC including focus on the child and adolescent and reducing risk factors and reinforcing protective factors.
- Improve management and risk factors reduction for NCDs
- Promote nutrition and link to NCDs, Baby Friendly Hospital initiative (BFHI) and food security.
- Prevent disability and strengthen program for rehabilitation

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased access to interventions to prevent and manage NCDs and their risk factors.
- Increased service coverage for mental health and Psychoactive use disorders

Achieving optimum Family Health throughout the Life Course

04

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Reduce preventable maternal, and child morbidity and mortality
- Improve access to comprehensive quality centred intervention for adolescent health and health of older persons
- Develop and or strengthen approaches to and programs for men

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased access to interventions to improve the health of women, newborns, children, adolescents, and older adults.
- Increased country capacity to integrate gender, equity, human rights, and ethnicity in health.

Strengthening health emergencies and disaster management and reducing environment threats and risks

05

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthen capacity to address Climate Change and health impacts.
- Strengthen capacity to address health emergencies and environmental threats and risks
- Strengthen capacity to address disaster management and risks

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Countries have an all hazards health emergency and disaster risk reduction program for a disaster-resilient health sector.
- Reduced environmental and occupational threats to health.

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