PAHO Pan American Health Organization · World Health Organization Americas Region

HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Anticipatory action in health for drought

Once the drought activation threshold was reached, PAHO/WHO and MSPAS prepared health facilities in Chiquimula and Jalapa ahead of the most severe impacts.



27
health facilities with repaired water systems

36
health facilities equipped with kits for care, surveillance and infection prevention

59,005
direct beneficiaries (2025–2026)

01 WHY ACT EARLY

Drought reduces water sources, worsens food insecurity and increases the risk of malnutrition and outbreaks.

Acting when the activation threshold is reached ensures that health facilities have water, supplies and trained staff before demand increases.

VIDEO
Access to safe water transforms health care · Jalapa

02 TWO ACTIVATIONS, ONE PLAN

Chiquimula 2025
Camotán and Jocotán · 18 health facilities equipped and 12 water systems rehabilitated.

Jalapa 2026
San Luis Jilotepeque and San Pedro Pinula · 18 health facilities equipped and 15 water systems repaired. Kits and infrastructure works were adjusted based on the 2025 experience.

Funding
With US$800,000 in CERF funding, PAHO/WHO and MSPAS implemented activities through a joint activation with FAO, UNICEF and WFP under the anticipatory action framework.

CERF, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund · MSPAS, Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance · FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations · UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund · WFP, World Food Programme.

Anticipatory action in health for drought

03 ACTIONS TAKEN

- **Water and sanitation:** repair of water collection, storage and distribution systems in 27 health facilities to maintain hygiene and health care.
- **Health care and medical equipment:** equipment and supply kits for 36 health facilities to support clinical care and epidemiological surveillance.
- **Risk communication:** community activities on early care-seeking, safe water storage and vector control, involving local leaders and authorities.
- **Surveillance and training:** 248 health workers were trained in clinical management, infection prevention and control, outbreak detection and vector-borne disease surveillance. Weekly analysis of epidemiological data was strengthened for early warning.
- **Community engagement and protection:** protection, gender and inclusion were integrated into training and community meetings, and informational materials were distributed to 7,511 people.

248
health workers trained

452,282
people benefiting in health facility catchment areas

101
people trained in water quality surveillance



KEY MESSAGE

> *Acting early means protecting health before the most severe impacts of an emergency occur.*

04 LESSONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVATIONS

1. Kits and infrastructure works adapted based on previous experience.
2. Administrative processes ready for the activation window.
3. Health facility baseline assessments adapted to the time available.
4. Standardized training for rapid delivery.