PARAGUAY PAHO/WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGY 2024-2028

Pan American Health Organization
World Health Organization
Americas Region



INTRODUCTION

The PAHO/WHO Country Cooperation Strategy with Paraguay for 2024-2028 (CCS 2024-2028) outlines key priorities for technical cooperation in health, aligning with national policies, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, WHO's General Programme of Work (GPW), PAHO/WHO Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas, and PAHO/WHO Strategic Plan.

Priorities were established through consultations and dialogues with key stakeholders from multiple sectors. This collective commitment aims to strengthen Paraguay's National Health System, making it universal, equitable, resilient, and sustainable, based on Primary Health Care and a life-course approach. Over the next five years, PAHO/WHO will work closely with Paraguay to implement five strategic priorities, fostering a more accessible, equitable, and effective health system, leaving no one behind.

ABOUT US

The PAHO/WHO Office in Paraguay is located in Asunción, with a satellite office in Filadelfia that focuses on the three departments of the Chaco region. Paraguay is one of PAHO/WHO's eight key countries. As of 2024, the office employs 35 people, including seven international and five national staff members. PAHO/WHO works closely with a broad network of humanitarian and development partners, and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT).

In the past biennium, the indicative budget approved for the country office was USD 9.8 million with a utilization rate of 99%

PARTNERSHIP ENVIRONMENT

The PAHO/WHO maintains an active and strategic collaboration with approximately 120 entities, including humanitarian and development partners, strengthening synergies with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and other key stakeholders.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Paraguay, a middle-income land-locked country in the heart of South America, is divided into a capital district, 17 departments, and 263 municipalities, with a population of 6.1 million, approximately 25% of whom are under 14. Its economy relies heavily on agriculture, livestock, and hydroelectric energy. Between 2021 and 2023, the GDP grew significantly, reaching USD 42.96 billion in 2023, with a 4.7% increase. Public health expenditure fluctuated, totaling USD 1.269 billion in 2021, USD 1.400 billion in 2022, and dropping to USD 1.300 billion in 2023. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare serves about 73% of the population, while social protection services cover about 20%. Paraguay is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advancing the objectives of WHO's General Programme of Work (GPW) and the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas.

PROGRESS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES

Paraguay has made significant strides in public health, achieving several key milestones. In June 2018, the country was certified by WHO for malaria elimination and was subsequently recertified as free from Chagas disease transmission. Paraguay was also certified for measles and congenital rubella elimination in 2015, and efforts are ongoing toward eliminating canine rabies. The country's Integrated Health Services Networks have been strengthened by establishing 865 first level of care family health units. Furthermore, eHealth technologies have been implemented, alongside a new community care model for chronic diseases and a national plan to enhance mental health services.

KEY CHALLENGES

Paraguay faces several key health challenges, including system fragmentation and a shortage of human resources, which leads to inequalities in access to quality services, particularly in rural areas. High rates of maternal, neonatal, and infant mortality, along with the rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases and the impacts of climate change, are critical concerns. Strengthening the Integrated Health Services Networks based on Primary Health Care and improving coordination between the public and private sectors is essential to ensure equitable access to medical care and address the limited interinstitutional collaboration.

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

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & DELIVERABLES



01 Ensure accessible services based on Primary Health Care and a life-course approach

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthen the leadership and stewardship of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare by promoting evidence-based governance and management and enhancing intersectoral coordination and effective social participation.
- Improve the resolutive capacity and quality of health services within the Integrated Health Services Networks, prioritizing populations in situations of vulnerability.
- Enhance institutional capacities to regulate and ensure equitable access to essential, safe, and high-quality medicines and health technologies.

02 Address non-communicable diseases, mental health and addiction, injuries, and disability based on Primary Health Care and a life-course approach

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Develop and integrate programs for the prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care of non-communicable diseases, mental health and addictions, and injuries at the first level of care within the Integrated Health Services Networks, prioritizing populations in situations of vulnerability.
- Strengthen health surveillance systems, including national and cross-border interoperability, safety and quality of information systems, and ethical use of health data.
- Enhance institutional capacities to promote inclusive health care and supportive health technologies that address the needs of individuals with disabilities.

03 Advance toward the elimination of communicable diseases and maintain achievements, based on Primary Health Care and a life-course approach

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Develop and integrate programs to eliminate, prevent, and control communicable diseases within the Integrated Health Services Networks, prioritizing the first level of care.
- Strengthen health surveillance systems, ensuring national and cross-border interoperability, safety and quality of information systems, and ethical use of health data.
- Enhance institutional capacities and health personnel skills for rapid response to outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance, utilizing the One Health approach.

04 Strengthen the prevention, preparedness, and response to health emergencies, with community participation and intersectoral coordination

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Develop capacities in the health sector for information management, surveillance, and early warning systems, emphasizing community participation and intersectoral coordination.
- Enhance coordination within and across sectors for prevention, preparedness, and response to health emergencies, ensuring continuity of priority services and adherence to the International Health Regulations and the Sendai Framework.
- Establish and develop rapid response teams at the national level, utilizing a multidisciplinary, multi-threat approach, including pre-hospital emergency medical teams.

05 Address social and environmental determinants, reducing inequities and promoting public health

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Develop public health promotion policies prioritizing populations in situations of vulnerability to improve their individual and collective well-being.
- Promote healthy environments by coordinating intersectoral strategies that align national and sub-national levels, incorporating social participation and accountability.
- Enhance the health sector's capacity for culturally relevant strategic communication to drive changes toward healthier lifestyles.
- Develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate the health component of national climate change plans.
- Strengthen the health sector's ability to address social and environmental determinants and assess their impact on health.

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