

**Call for expression of interest for proposals to systematize the initiatives that participated in the PAHO 2021 Call for the implementation of the " Guidance for implementing non pharmacological public health measures in populations in situations of vulnerability in the context of COVID-19 in the area of ADAPTATION/VALIDATION/SYSTEMATIZATION/EVALUATION**

- Deadline to receive applications (Closing Date): August 15th, 2022.

E-mail to submit a proposal: [callaction@paho.org](mailto:callaction@paho.org)

Contact e-mail for inquiries: [callaction@paho.org](mailto:callaction@paho.org)

### **Background**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, non-pharmacological public health measures such as home confinement, schools and business closures, among others, were applied in the Region. However, the successful and sustained application of these measures has been directly related to the social, economic and cultural conditions of the different population groups and territories. The pandemic has demonstrated that vulnerability goes beyond individual and biological characteristics and is largely determined by the social, economic, and political context. Therefore, effective implementation of the public health measures must overcome multiple barriers and, at the same time, mitigate the undesirable or adverse effects of many of these measures.

In this context, the Health Promotion and Social Determinants Unit of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) issued a call for proposals for the implementation of the "Guidance for implementing non pharmacological public health measures in populations in situations of vulnerability in the context of COVID-19 ". The objective was to promote and strengthen the implementation of the guide, to ensure that the preventive measures were effectively implemented without exclusion and with special emphasis on the participation and incorporation of groups in vulnerable situation.

The call included four areas:

1. Communication and dissemination of the guide;
2. Training or capacity building for the application of the guide;
3. Adaptation and validation of the guide;
4. Implementation and evaluation of the guide.

A total of 116 proposals were received from 22 countries in the Region, in Spanish, Portuguese, English and French. Of the proposals received 43 were for Training; 27 for Communication; 24 for Evaluation/Systematization and 22 for Validation/Adaptation. The selection process was carried out by a panel of experts from different PAHO technical departments and programs using a set of evaluation domains. In addition, proposals were sought to be geographically representative in order to guarantee, as far as possible, the diversity of the Region and PAHO's priority countries. At the end, a total of 40 proposals were selected: 14 on training; 11 on communication, and 15 on Adaptation/validation/systematization/evaluation proposals. The proposals selected were implemented in 19 countries of the Region: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba,

Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, and Venezuela.

A highlight of the proposals received was the originality and quality as well as the richness of the experiences developed. The participatory approach by placing the communities at the center and/or in dialogue with them to address the barriers that were hindering the adoption of preventive measures against COVID-19 were highlighted as well as the opportunities that raise for innovation in the methodology and participatory action areas.

This work experience encouraged the development of a community network to further deepen the adaptation to implement the public health measures in groups and territories in vulnerable situation. The network will leverage on the learnings and resources generated by the 40 initiatives selected along with PAHO/WHO.

The aim of this call is:

***To systematize the initiatives and the lessons learned from the call for the implementation of the guide PAHO 2021 " Guidance for implementing non pharmacological public health measures in populations in situations of vulnerability in the context of COVID-19" in the areas of Adaptation/validation/systematization/evaluation***

The knowledge co-created from the previous call is an extremely useful resource for future experiences with groups and territories in vulnerable situations in the Region. For this reason, it is essential to have an instrument that gathers the information systematized, that is understandable and user friendly.

### **Proposals that can be submitted**

In the previous call, 15 initiatives were selected that addressed the adaptation, validation, systematization or evaluation of the Guide. Based on the above, the proposals in this call must include the methodology for:

- Gathering, systematizing, ordering and prioritizing all the lessons learned from each of the 15 experiences in this area (e.g. identification and definition of the groups or territories in situations of vulnerability in which they worked with, criteria used to prioritize the dimensions to be adapted, methodologies used to carry out the systematizations, etc.);
- Identifying, sorting, classifying and making available the materials and instruments created, whether written, digital, video, or other, that have been developed and/or applied by each of the 15 initiatives in this area;
- and preparing summary sheets with the description and key elements of each of the 15 initiatives.

The purpose of the systematization is, not only to organize and summarize the materials developed and the experiences of the 15 initiatives, but also to carry out a more thorough analysis of the methodologies used, the results and products of each of them, in order to integrate the lessons learned and to make the information available. For example, which were the most successful initiatives and why they were defined as successful; what aspects should not be repeated or, on the contrary, what good practices are identified that should be highlighted; what methodological innovations are identified; what emerging issues appeared in this area of work and how the ICTS were included or not in the initiatives. It is

important to differentiate between the adaptation experiences and validation methodologies used from those that refer to the evaluation and systematization of application experiences.

In order to do so, the main sources of information will be the reports and materials prepared by each of the initiatives, the audiovisual and written material obtained from the closing meeting of the previous call on May 12 and 13, and the interviews to the different teams of the 15 initiatives, if necessary.

Maximum amount for proposals: 20,000 USD.

### **Requirements to apply**

Proposals may be submitted by academic institutions, NGOs, community or civil society organizations with legal status, Ministries of Health, Health Services or Primary Health Care services, as well as local governments (municipalities, counties, etc.) and other governmental sectors. At the same time, these can be submitted jointly by more than one institution, as in the previous call.

The proposals will be evaluated by a team of experts from the Pan American Health Organization, both from the Regional Office and from the PAHO Country Offices. The selection process includes compliance with the legal requirements associated with the Framework for Engagement of Non-State Actors (FENSA)<sup>1</sup>.

### **Duration of the proposal**

The methodological proposal should consider that the deadline for delivery of the final products in case of being selected will be November 18th, 2022.

### **Contents to be included in the proposal**

The proposal must contain the guidelines and contents already indicated and use the format that is specified in the following link:

[https://www.paho.org/sites/default/files/formulario\\_call\\_sistematizaciones\\_english\\_0.docx](https://www.paho.org/sites/default/files/formulario_call_sistematizaciones_english_0.docx)

### **Criteria considered in the selection of proposals**

PAHO/WHO will select the most suitable proposals that meet the technical and administrative requirements of the solicitation and the appropriate technical quality. A PAHO/WHO panel of experts will be formed to carry out the technical evaluation of the proposals and will consider some criteria such as methodological rigor, innovation, applicability, among others.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.paho.org/es/documentos/marco-compromiso-con-actores-no-estatales-fensa-ingles-oms>