THE HEALTH CRISIS: FUTURE SCENARIOS AND STRATEGIES FROM THE HEALTH SECTOR TO CONTROL THE PANDEMIC

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Background

• The pandemic has reaffirmed the link between health, the economy, social development and the environment.

• The pandemic has worsened existing inequities in health and compromised public health gains.

• The when and the how to finally overcome the pandemic remains highly uncertain.

• The role of the State is crucial: in the comprehensive response and in leading the necessary health system transformation retaking the path to SDGs, including universal health.
COVID-19 cases and deaths by sex and age-group

Source: PAHO/WHO
Excess deaths and sustainable development
## Interruption of essential health services

### Average disruption (n = 25)
- Slight disruption: 16%
- Moderate disruption: 11%
- Severe disruption: 7%
- Total: 35%

### Primary care (n = 20)
- Slight disruption: 23%
- Moderate disruption: 23%
- Severe disruption: 10%
- Total: 55%

### Rehabilitative, palliative and long-term care (n = 15)
- Slight disruption: 10%
- Moderate disruption: 16%
- Severe disruption: 14%
- Total: 40%

### Auxiliary services (n = 21)
- Slight disruption: 26%
- Moderate disruption: 7%
- Severe disruption: 5%
- Total: 38%

### Emergency, critical and operative care (n = 18)
- Slight disruption: 12%
- Moderate disruption: 4%
- Severe disruption: 4%
- Total: 20%

### Porcentaje de países (Percentage of countries)
- Slight disruption
- Moderate disruption
- Severe disruption

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#UniversalHealth
VACCINES DEPLOYMENT
Inequities in vaccine coverage in LAC

Coverage with complete vaccine courses per 100 population

Source: PAHO/WHO COVID-19 vaccination dashboard. Updated 10/09/2021
PROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS: PANDEMIC CONTROL
**Actionable factors, outcomes/impact**

**Short/medium term recommendations**

Actions that need to be taken in order to positively influence the actionable determinants of the control of the pandemic

**Actionable factors**

1. Public health and social measures
2. Vaccination coverage dynamics

**Outcome:**

Pandemic control

**Hospitalizations and deaths**

**Contextual conditions**

1. Virological/epidemiological
2. Equitable, timely and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines and related supplies
3. Programmatic aspects and strengthening national immunization programs
4. Structural conditions (socio-economic, political)
5. Socio-cultural and behavioral

**Scenarios:**

A, B₁, B₂, C
Short-term pandemic control scenarios

Transitioning from A to B to C will be highly dependent of the contextual conditions affecting PHSM implementation and the vaccination coverage dynamics.
Contextual conditions as determinants

1. Virological/Epidemiological

2. Equitable, timely and affordable access vaccines and supplies

3. Capacity for effective implementation of immunization programs

4. Structural conditions (socio-economic, political)

5. Socio-cultural and behavioral aspects
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE WAY FORWARD
Accelerate vaccination and strengthen technology capacity

• Ensure effective and homogenous coverage of vaccines
  • HR training
  • Communication strategy/ Vaccine hesitancy
  • Cold chain / delivery capacity
  • Vulnerable population / barriers

• Increase Regional technological capacities
  • Regulatory capacities
  • Training programs for innovation in health
  • Creation or strengthening of health research institutes
PHC-centered health systems transformation

• PHC strategy, financial sustainability and the role of the State
  • Increase public expenditure in health, and Invest in public health interventions
  • Strengthen the resolution capacity of the first level of care (aim at 30% of PEH)
  • Increase investments to develop capacities to implement the EPHF, including those related to IHR compliance and disaster risk reduction and management.

• Intersectoral focus toward health policy
  • Preparedness to implement emergency social protection and income security programs
  • Strengthen social, environmental, and economic protections related to health
  • Reduce inequities and accelerate recuperation of health gains
  • Intersectoral pandemic preparedness and response planning
Regional and global collaboration in health

• Promote solidarity between countries with regards to vaccine procurement and other health technologies
• At the national level: stimulate dialogue between health, finance, international relations, industry
• Articulate and harmonize technical cooperation:
  • Between international, regional and national actors (PAHO/WHO, WB, IDB, ECLAC, Health Authorities, Financing Authorities, etc.)
• Strengthen regional and subregional governance mechanisms in health