

PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centres: Celebrating the Achievement of Our Common Goals

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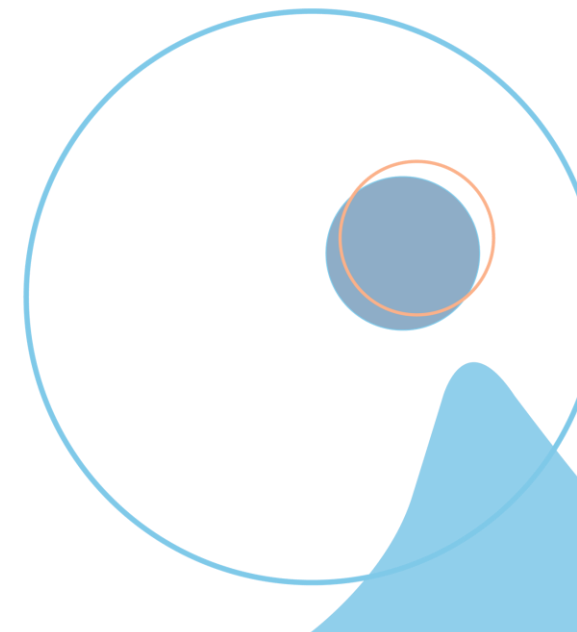




COVID-19 in the Americas: the role of collaborating centers in understanding lessons and best practices in pandemic preparedness and response

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Overview of Article

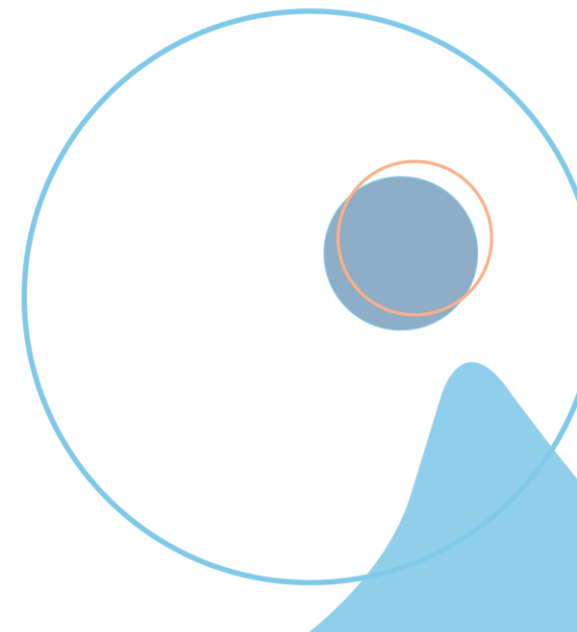
Regional bodies can and should play critical roles in supporting outbreak preparedness and response

- O’Neill Institute – Center for Transformational Health Law – Hosted (global and regional) convenings to discuss the weaknesses and persisting gaps in global pandemic preparedness and inform the creating of a new international pandemic instrument
- Based on the findings of these convenings, this paper discussed Gaps in Current Response and Preparedness Mechanisms, and Role of PAHO in Addressing these Gaps
- Paper examines both the solutions provided by PAHO during the pandemic, and the important role for the Organization in building sustainable and resilient global health systems in the future



Conclusions/results?

- **Gaps in Current Response and Preparedness Mechanisms**
 - Gaps in Technical Capacity at the Country Level
 - Challenges in **training experts** at the local levels
 - **Testing capacity**
 - Gap in **communications** capacity
 - Gaps in **Information technology** Infrastructure
 - Gaps in **Coordination**
- **Role of PAHO in Addressing these Gaps**
 - **Standard-Setting**
 - Developing and changing national-level policies
 - Promoting evidence-based best practices, and
 - Providing direct technical support to governments
 - Regional Efforts **to Increase Vaccine Access**



How does this activity support the Organization's goals and mandates?

- Collaborating Centers, like the Institute, can assist in fulfilling the essential surveillance and evaluation functions
- Uses O’Neill’s access to academic resources and expertise in law & policy surveillance
- Recent publications/projects:
 - First comprehensive analysis of vaccine development agreements entered into by CEPI
 - Legal Tools for Pandemic Preparedness [Nov. 2021]; Advancing a World Together Equitably [Feb 2023]; National Sovereignty Implications of a Pandemic Instrument [July 2022]
- During COVID-19, the Institute supported PAHO by:
 - Developing resource materials on strengthening health systems
 - Providing technical advice on Pandemic Legal Preparedness
 - Developing a framework for health governance in the Americas

