



Reporting Period: 1 - 31 August 2020

Latin America and the Caribbean Region

COVID-19 Situation Report No. 7

United Nations Population Fund



Regional Highlights

- The COVID-19 pandemic has hit Latin America and the Caribbean in a context of low growth, marked inequality and vulnerability, growing poverty and extreme poverty, weakening of social cohesion and increasing expressions of social discontent.
- COVID-19 cases continue to increase in Latin America and are currently at or near the highest levels observed since the start of the pandemic in all countries.
- Most countries in the region have weak and fragmented health systems, which do not guarantee the universal access needed to address the COVID-19 crisis.
- The impact on the health of personnel on the frontlines, which often lack adequate personal protection equipment (PPE), remains high.
- The crisis is having a considerable impact on women and their access to healthcare, particularly to sexual and reproductive health services. Lockdown measures enforced in countries have also led to a sharp increase in gender-based violence.
- Contraceptives are expected to suffer shortages or stock-outs by the end of this year.
- The pandemic is showing increased incidence among vulnerable populations, particularly indigenous people, afro-descendants, prisoners, migrants, and members of the LGBTI community.
- Urgent funding is needed to meet rising needs.

Situation in Numbers

 **7,881,682** Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

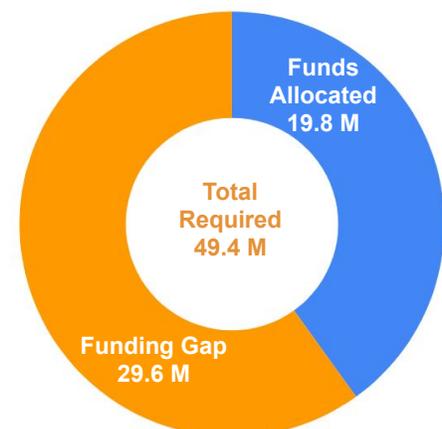
 **299,860** COVID-19 Deaths

Source: WHO 10 September 2020

Key Population Groups

-  **8 M** Pregnant Women
-  **172 M** Women of Reproductive Age
-  **165 M** Young People (age 10-24)
-  **58 M** Older Persons (age 65+)

Funding Status for Region (US\$)



Coordination and Partnerships

Regional level

- Regional level coordination supports country offices to respond to COVID-19 in line with the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) and UNFPA's Global Response Plan. The GHRP covers multiple countries in the region with humanitarian needs. These are Colombia, Haiti and Venezuela, which have national humanitarian response plans and an additional 17 countries which are covered by the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for a coordinated response to the needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela. The RMRP has been revised to address the needs of refugees, migrants and host communities in the context of COVID 19 particularly as related to health and protection.
- UNFPA participates in the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela and co-leads the GBV sub-sector. UNFPA also participates in the Regional Group on Risks, Emergencies and Disasters for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) including the health, protection, logistics and shelter sectors.

Sub regional level

- In the Caribbean, UNFPA is working with sister agencies for the drafting of the UN Socio-Economic Framework to mitigate the social and economic impact of COVID-19. In Trinidad and Tobago, the Framework was completed and there is ongoing monitoring and updates of the referral pathway. Additionally, the UN COVID-19 Multi-Sectoral Response Plan for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean was reviewed in collaboration with government partners on July 21, 2020, and will be extended to 2021.

Country level

- UNFPA country offices are re-prioritizing activities and reprogramming resources to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak in support of government response plans. UNFPA provides advocacy and technical assistance to government counterparts and strategic partners to promote the continuity of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) services. This includes prenatal and postnatal care, safe births, access to contraceptives, GBV prevention and response, protection of frontline health personnel, including midwives, and generation and analysis of data.
- UNFPA's activities are conducted in partnership with the UN country team and/or humanitarian country team. UNFPA actively participates in humanitarian coordination mechanisms (including the health and protection clusters) and leads or co-leads the GBV sub-cluster where this has been activated. UNFPA is also engaged in the drafting of the UN's framework for the socio-economic response to COVID-19.



[Diálogos virtuales: Impactos del COVID-19 desde la perspectiva de población y desarrollo](#)

[Instan a abordar los derechos humanos de las personas migrantes como asunto prioritario para la reconstrucción post pandemia](#)

Alicia Bárcena, Secretaria Ejecutiva de la CEPAL, Antonina Sasieta, Ministra de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables del Perú, y Harold Robinson, Director Regional del UNFPA para América Latina y el Caribe, inauguraron hoy un diálogo virtual sobre los efectos del COVID-19 en las personas migrantes.

Continuity of Sexual Reproductive Health Services and interventions, including protection of health workforce

- UNFPA offices in Latin America and the Caribbean are supporting national and local planning, coordination and monitoring to ensure access to SRH services. This includes advocacy, technical, programmatic and information management. UNFPA coordinates efforts with regional partners including PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, UNAIDS and professional associations, such as La Federación Latinoamericana de Sociedades de Obstetricia y Ginecología and the International Confederation of Midwives.
- The objective is to support continuity of SRH interventions and access to quality lifesaving SRH information and services for women, adolescents and youth through joint advocacy with health authorities. UNFPA is intensifying its efforts to ensure continuity of maternal health care, training of service providers, and proper availability of PPE, including in remote areas.

Country examples:

- **Argentina:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance at national and regional level to the Ministry of Women, Gender, and Diversity and the Ministry of Health on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and GBV. UNFPA partnered with the MoH to launch a newsletter with recommendations on [Oral Emergency Contraception](#) in the context of COVID-19.
- **Bolivia:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the MoH on sexual and reproductive health in the context of COVID-19 and its impact in vulnerable populations. The technical recommendations for the continuity of essential SRH services have been updated. UNFPA has delivered PPE to 51 reproductive health facilities across 9 departments. Community outreach and virtual training activities are ongoing focused on COVID-19 prevention, maternal health, adolescent responsive health care, and gender-based violence.
- **Brazil:** UNFPA and PAHO co-lead the health sector of the R4V Platform (Response for Venezuelans) with UNFPA focusing on SRH and COVID-19. UNFPA is distributing PPE/SRH supplies to health service providers in Amazonas, Roraima, Bahia and Pará and is supporting the authorities to provide information and referrals for services for refugee and migrant women, many of them indigenous. In Roraima, UNFPA is also supporting care for pregnant women with COVID-19.
- **Colombia:** UNFPA is providing SRH services to women and girls in prioritized communities, particularly where quarantine measures restrict access to care. 317 migrant women were provided with contraceptives in Arauca and Norte de Santander and 55 pregnant women received essential services. UNFPA is also integrating SRH and GBV services in La Guajira targeting indigenous and migrant women. UNFPA supports care for pregnant women, including those with suspected COVID-19 infection. This includes triage at community level, providing education on warning signs, and organizing referral routes for safe management of childbirth and obstetric emergencies.
- **Costa Rica:** UNFPA supported the MoH to develop and implement a campaign that encourages *not to abandon controls on sexual and reproductive health during COVID*. UNFPA is also supporting an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on access to contraception and prevention and care of GBV.
- **Cuba:** UNFPA has distributed 5,000 PPE for health workers for gynecological and obstetric hospitals and maternal homes. UNFPA is providing 60 SRH kits with reusable equipment for all provinces of the country and will procure additional supplies of PPE.
- **Chile:** UNFPA supported the MoH with a Training of Trainers on the Minimum Initial Service Package for SRH in emergencies (MISP).

Country examples:

- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA, MoH, PAHO and COE published a guide for shelter operations in hurricane season in the COVID-19 context, with special emphasis on attention to pregnant women and prevention of GBV. UNFPA also delivered supplies of PPE to obstetric healthcare workers.
- **Ecuador:** UNFPA supported inclusion of indicators related to discontinuation of sexual and reproductive health services in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). From March-May, there was a reduction of more than 45% in almost all SRH services, compared to the same period last year. The reduction in access to contraceptives was even more severe, showing a 60% decrease in women of childbearing age and 62% in adolescents aged 15 to 18 years. This evidence informed the inclusion of continuity of SRH services as a life-saving strategy in the COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan.
- **El Salvador:** UNFPA supported the launch of a remote medical advice service in August focused on pregnant women and women who recently gave birth, boys and girls under the age of five, and people with mental health needs. The phone lines are staffed by physicians of the MoH. This initiative is led by the MoH and the office of the First Lady with the support of the Government of Canada and UNFPA.
- **English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean:** UNFPA recently delivered a session on “Infection prevention for maternity settings in the times of COVID-19” to members of the regional midwifery community in the framework of its ongoing capacity building webinar series with the Caribbean Midwives Association. UNFPA has been supporting the continuity of SRH services through the provision of PPE in the region, including in Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago, with procurement underway for Jamaica. In addition, telemedicine services have been operationalized across the region, including in Suriname, where advertisements for these services are broadcast through television, radio and social media. In Belize, mobile family planning services for priority areas of the Belize and Cayo districts have been scaled up as have remote antenatal and prenatal care through mobile telephone and internet data service for 91 rural and public health nurses. UNFPA is partnering with the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association to provide life-saving Sexual and Reproductive Health information and services, and referrals for GBV services, to address the needs of Venezuelan migrants and refugees. UNFPA also continues its support to the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago for telemedicine services and the delivery of contraceptives.
- **Guatemala:** In coordination with the SRH sub-group, UNFPA provided technical support to the Ministry of Health for protocols for continuity of obstetric care, adolescent health care and family planning services in the context of COVID 19. UNFPA has also delivered PPE to the MOH for essential workers providing life-saving SRH services and to the Office of the Human Rights Attorney for personnel carrying supervision of temporary hospitals and other health services.
- **Haiti:** UNFPA is supporting EmONC services in the departments of South, Grand Anse, North West, South East, and Nippes. UNFPA is delivering PPE for health personnel, monitoring the availability of vital medicines and supporting national partners to strengthen maternal death surveillance and improve access to family planning. UNFPA is also supporting an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the health sector.
- **Honduras:** UNFPA has provided PPE and technical assistance to the MoH for the continuity of SRH services at the primary and secondary levels in three of the municipalities most affected by the pandemic. Training in pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium care (six weeks after birth) in the context of COVID-19 was provided for personnel from eight health regions.

Country examples:

- **Mexico:** UNFPA is implementing initiatives with the Ministry of Health on SRH care at home for pregnant women to avoid the risk of infection. UNFPA is strengthening networks of primary health care services, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and the provision of PPE for health personnel working at the first level of neonatal and maternal health care.
- **Nicaragua:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the MOH and other partners based on the guidelines for pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium care and family planning services in the context of COVID-19. UNFPA is procuring additional PPE for health personnel providing essential SRH services.
- **Panama:** UNFPA has delivered medical supplies including PPE to improve availability of SRH services in the most remote health facilities in the Indigenous Comarca areas and in the Darién region.
- **Paraguay:** UNFPA is providing technical support to the MOH to: i) develop a model for information and advice by telephone-based for pregnant women, postpartum women, and caregivers of newborns; ii) strengthen vital statistics and surveillance of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality; iii) calculate PPE needs of SRH personnel; and iv) monitor service reorganization plans, especially in the health regions with the highest incidence of COVID-19.
- **Peru:** UNFPA is supporting the MOH to i) strengthen data management for SRH services and maternal mortality at subnational level; ii) adapt maternal health and family planning services to the COVID-19 context, including models of telephone and community-based monitoring and care; and iii) procure hygiene / SRH kits for refugee and migrant women of reproductive age and their host communities. UNFPA is also procuring PPE for SRH personnel in areas with high concentrations of migrant and refugee women of reproductive age.
- **Uruguay:** UNFPA is distributing guidelines on COVID-19 and pregnancy, HIV, and other topics and has partnered with the State Health Services (ASSE) to organize webinars about HIV and COVID-19. UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the National Statistical Office in the design of a telephone survey to collect information on compliance with social isolation measures.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA is working in close collaboration with other humanitarian partners and authorities to address the needs in prioritized medical centers and temporary shelters for returnees, with emphasis on the needs of women and youth, including pregnant women. UNFPA provides emergency reproductive health kits, PPE, and cleaning supplies among others. UNFPA is improving access to essential SRH services and contraceptive supplies as well as providing menstrual supplies and other hygiene items for women and girls in quarantine.



Global Movement for Children (MMI) in Nicaragua promotes campaign to protect children, adolescents and pregnant women from the COVID-19 pandemic

The communication campaign "[Children protected against COVID-19](#)" is implemented in 67 municipalities of the country, including the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua.

Continuity of Sexual Reproductive Health Services and interventions, including protection of health workforce

- **Ecuador:** In coordination with UNICEF, UNFPA prepared a proposal for the continuity of sexual and reproductive health, maternal-neonatal health, and child health essential services for inclusion in the Humanitarian Response Plan.
- **El Salvador:** UNFPA contributed to the continuity of SRH services through the procurement of medical equipment and supplies, including PPE. UNFPA is supporting the MoH in implementing a remote health assistance service for maternal and child care. UNFPA is supporting an opinion poll on SRH.
- **Guatemala:** UNFPA supported the Office of the Human Rights Attorney (PDH) by providing protective supplies for personnel carrying out periodic supervision of temporary hospitals and other health services.
- **Haiti:** UNFPA is making PPE available for health personnel in several health facilities, providing EmONC services in departments of South, Grand Anse, North West, South East, and Nippes; and continues to monitor availability of vital drugs, reinforcing maternal death surveillance and family planning promotion.
- **Honduras:** UNFPA is implementing with the Ministry of Health the “Saving Lives in Times of COVID-19” programme, aimed at ensuring continuity of SRH services. With the support of the Canadian Government, 4,000 dignity and biosafety kits were provided to adolescents and youth. Some 350 first-level health personnel and justice operators were trained on SRHR and GBV in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Mexico:** UNFPA is implementing initiatives with the Ministry of Health on SRH care at home for pregnant women to avoid the risk of infection. UNFPA is strengthening networks of primary health care services, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive, maternal and neonatal health and ensuring the provision of PPE for health personnel working at the first level of neonatal and maternal health care.
- **Nicaragua:** UNFPA has contributed to secure the availability of SRH services through the purchase of medical equipment and supplies, including PPE. UNFPA has been sharing evidence-based recommendations and good practices for the continuity of Pregnancy Care, Childbirth, Puerperium and Family Planning services in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- **Paraguay:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the General Directorate of Health Programs for the development of norms and guidelines.
- **Peru:** UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health (MOH) to update and process data on SRH services, including antenatal and postnatal care, and family planning. UNFPA is partnering with PAHO/WHO to support MOH on estimation of maternal mortality at subnational level in COVID-19 context. UNFPA is also supporting the design and implementation of a pilot for continuity of SRH services at subnational level.
- **Uruguay:** UNFPA is distributing guidelines on COVID 19 and pregnancy, HIV, and other topics and partnered with the State Health Services (ASSE) to organize webinars about HIV and COVID-19. UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the National Statistical Office in the design of a telephone survey to collect information on compliance with social isolation measures.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA is working in close collaboration with other humanitarian partners and authorities to address the needs in prioritized medical centers and temporary shelters for returnees, with emphasis on the needs of women and youth, including pregnant women. UNFPA provides emergency reproductive health kits, PPE, and cleaning supplies among others.

Addressing Gender-Based Violence

Recognizing the increased vulnerabilities to GBV in the context of COVID-19, UNFPA engages in advocacy and technical assistance to guarantee the continuity of essential services to prevent and respond to GBV. UNFPA mobilizes efforts to provide integrated GBV services through the Spotlight and Essential Service initiatives.

In humanitarian settings, UNFPA invests in life-saving GBV case management, psychosocial support (PSS) services and clinical management of rape using remote modalities where possible in the context of COVID-19. GBV referral pathways are regularly updated to reflect the rapidly changing availability of services for GBV survivors. UNFPA also provides GBV sub-cluster coordination and distributes dignity kits including information about GBV prevention and services.

At regional level UNFPA has developed guidance on providing remote psychosocial support services and is providing training and technical support to country offices and partners for implementation in different settings.

Country examples:

- **Argentina:** In the context of the Spotlight initiative, UNFPA signed an agreement with the Province of Buenos Aires judicial power to implement the online course "Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Survivors of Violence." UNFPA also collaborated with UNAIDS and UNDP to strengthen the program El Teje Solidario, which gives social and economic support to trans people in situations of vulnerability.
- **Bolivia:** UNFPA leads the GBV sub-cluster and provides technical support and training to different authorities for a multi-sector GBV response. UNFPA has launched an online training in sign language targeting staff of the Prosecutor General's office to build capacities to support women with auditory disabilities who are survivors of violence. UNFPA is also coordinating with the Ministry of Health to develop a mobile application to support survivors of sexual violence.
- **Brazil:** UNFPA co-leads the Protection Sector of the R4V Platform (Response for Venezuelans) with UN Women with emphasis on GBV prevention and services. Training on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) was provided to 328 military personnel working with refugees and migrants from Venezuela as part of Operação Acolhida in Roraima and Amazonas.
- **Colombia:** UNFPA co-leads the GBV sub-working group which supported incorporation of GBV strategies in the Multisector Response Plan for COVID-19. A national mapping of providers of GBV services was completed by 37 UN agencies, NGOs and INGOs. UNFPA continues to provide remote GBV case management and psychosocial support in Arauca and Norte de Santander where caseworkers opened 68 new cases. UNFPA also supports the "Tienditas" migrant care center in Norte de Santander, to provide health services to people waiting to return to Venezuela. A safe space for women and girls is being set up in this location.
- **Costa Rica:** UNFPA joined forces with the Ministry of Public Security and UNDP to create the campaign #QuedateEnCasa, which seeks to offer tools to men of all ages for managing behaviour without violence. At the request of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), UNFPA is preparing the CCSS Care Manual for survivors of gender-based violence.
- **Cuba:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the Cuban Federation of Women in the formulation of the [Guideline for GBV remote services](#). UNFPA supported the mapping of GBV services available in the context of COVID 19 and is positioning GBV and gender equality in the UN socioeconomic response plan.

Addressing

Gender-Based

Violence

(continued)

- **Chile:** UNFPA disseminated the online course Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Survivors of Violence to many national partners such as: University of Chile Medical School; the Chilean Association of Women Judges; and the Chilean chapter of Global Women Health.
- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Women for the design and update of three protocols: i) Protocol for Attention and Prevention of violence, ii) Protocol for the Emergency Women's Line (Línea Mujer) in coordination with the Directorate of Education, and iii) Prevention Protocol through the Local Networks for the Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence led by the Directorate of Prevention.
- **Ecuador:** UNFPA is partnering with NGOs to provide remote GBV case management and psychosocial support on the northern and southern borders, strengthening capacities of key actors and updating referral pathways. UNFPA has also supported development of an inclusive communication strategy in Quichua and sign language. UNFPA leads the GBV subsector and is coordinating with UN partners and the Secretariat for Human Rights to launch the online course in GBV in emergencies endorsed by the Universidad Tecnológica Indoamérica. UNFPA also delivered 1500 dignity kits to sex workers in coordination with UNHCR.
- **El Salvador:** UNFPA is supporting Ciudad Mujer for the provision of psychosocial support and entrepreneurship activities to GBV survivors in the context of COVID-19.
- **English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean:** UNFPA has, in collaboration with national authorities and key stakeholders, finalized the GBV Referral Pathways for Suriname, Belize, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Anguilla. UNFPA has also finalized a consultation process with national governments for the development of guidelines for the management of shelters for GBV survivors for the sub-region. Surveys have been disseminated to shelter managers in the sub-region to inform the development of these guidelines. In Jamaica, arrangements are being made with the Bureau of Gender Affairs to establish and operationalize three (3) State-run shelters that could accommodate a total of 244 survivors of violence and their children, per annum. Capacity building exercises for case workers to address GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic were also held, with training exercises conducted for volunteers who answer GBV hotlines.
- **Guatemala:** UNFPA leads the GBV sub group of the protection cluster, facilitating the integration of actions for GBV prevention, mitigation and response. In coordination with the National Migration Institute and civil society women organizations, UNFPA provided more than 3,000 dignity kits and biosafety materials to women and girls in situations of vulnerability. UNFPA also provided technical assistance to the National Prosecutor's Office to strengthen phone lines and radio messages in 5 national languages for women survivors of violence. UNFPA supported the MOH Gender Unit with training on the Essential Services Package with emphasis on sexual violence.
- **Guyana:** Plans are advanced to support the expansion of GBV psychosocial support services and the implementation of a bi-lingual (Spanish/English) GBV hotline, in order to ensure the provision of life-saving information and services to prevent and respond to GBV in the context of COVID-19 and the needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela.
- **Haiti:** Through the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund as well as the Safe Birth Even Here initiative, UNFPA is working with partners in the South East department to strengthen maternal and reproductive health and GBV services along the border with Dominican Republic. UNFPA is also working with partners on a new proposal for the CERF UF to provide integrated SRH and GBV services in the Western Departments targeting people living with disabilities, women suffering from obstetric fistula, sex workers and LGBTI, among others.

Addressing Gender-Based Violence *(continued)*

- **Honduras:** UNFPA leads the GBV sub-cluster and is supporting development of referral pathways for life-saving services for GBV survivors. UNFPA provides guidance and training for multi-sector coordination for an integrated response and is specifically supporting the MoH and National Women Institute to strengthen remote psychosocial support services for GBV survivors in the context of COVID 19.
- **Mexico:** UNFPA is training public officials on the Essential Service Package and training health care providers on the national protocols for response to sexual violence, including the availability of emergency contraception and post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for HIV.
- **Nicaragua:** UNFPA is working with partners to strengthen capacity to respond to GBV in the northern Caribbean Coast region. UNFPA is also supporting the Ministry of Family, Adolescents and Childhood to strengthen the capacity of the telephone hotline for receiving complaints on gender-based violence and providing support and referrals to survivors.
- **Panamá:** As part of interagency efforts, UNFPA supported virtual training for government personal including border patrol, migration officers and health workers on GBV prevention and response in temporary migrant camps in Darien and Chiriqui.
- **Paraguay:** UNFPA supported the Ministry of Children and Adolescents (MINNA) through delivery of approximately 1,700 kits and PPE.
- **Peru:** UNFPA supported the MoH in design of norms on GBV and mental health and clinical management of sexual violence, both of which were published in August. UNFPA also supported the Ministry of Women to produce MISIP remote training modules as part of the course catalogue of the Observatory of Violence. UNFPA is also working on the revision of the GBV referral pathway and the adaptation of GBV case management services for migrant and refugee women and host communities in the COVID-19 context.
- **Trinidad and Tobago:** UNFPA appointed a sub-regional GBV sub-sector coordinator under the Response for Venezuelans (R4V) coordination platform, who will also be supporting the GBV working group in Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Uruguay:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the Government for GBV prevention and mitigation measures. With the Montevideo Secretary of Diversity and Secretary for Gender Equality, UNFPA is adapting key GBV messages for transgender women. UNFPA is also working with UN Women to distribute hygiene kits for incarcerated women.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA leads the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) and is also coordinating actions with the authorities to address the needs of returnees and people in temporary shelters. A center for health care and GBV prevention and response has been established in a border community through joint action between UNFPA and UNICEF. Hotlines providing remote services have been launched in coordination with partners and a safe space for women and girls has been recently inaugurated.

Ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities

As part of the effort to secure a supply of contraceptives, UNFPA is providing technical support to governments in analyzing the availability of reproductive health supplies, forecasting needs and anticipating shortages and/or possible stock-outs.

Country examples:

- **Brasil:** UNFPA is promoting cooperation between states for the continuity of services during the COVID-19 outbreak in Marajó Island (State of Pará) and supporting development of an innovative digital delivery system for SRH supplies.
- **Bolivia:** UNFPA is supporting the MOH through the provision of contraceptive supplies, life-saving drugs and HIV rapid test kits to be delivered to prioritized health facilities that do not have guaranteed availability due to COVID-19. A rapid intervention strategy is being developed at the municipal level to promote the continuity of services and availability of contraceptive supplies.
- **Colombia:** UNFPA provided long-acting contraceptives to rural hospitals in different municipalities to prevent unwanted pregnancies. In addition, UNFPA ensured the procurement and distribution of PPE/SRH supplies both through the Health for Peace Project and the Interagency Strategy for Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Indigenous Communities.
- **Costa Rica:** UNFPA has donated 1,300 female condoms, acquired in the context of the INAMU-UNFPA project for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy and gender-based violence. These are being distributed among women with difficulties in accessing health services due to the pandemic.
- **Cuba:** UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health by contributing to ensure the supply of modern contraceptives. UNFPA is buying subdermal implants and emergency contraception for adolescents and women in reproductive risk. In addition, UNFPA is acquiring medicines for pregnant women according to priorities of the National Maternal-Child Programme.
- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance and support to the MoH in monitoring the availability of contraceptives and their timely delivery.
- **Ecuador:** To guarantee access to long-term contraceptive methods in the context of the pandemic, UNFPA and the MOH will sign a Co-financing Agreement for the acquisition of contraceptive methods.
- **El Salvador:** UNFPA has delivered contraceptive supplies to the MOH including 6,235,200 male and female condoms.
- **English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean:** UNFPA has been supporting governments in the Caribbean sub-region with the assessment and management of the risks of stock-outs of contraceptives. The SROC has also engaged the Ministries of Health in a reproductive health commodity assessment which will facilitate the identification of strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities, with the goal of enhancing RHCS in each country, during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, in Trinidad and Tobago, UNFPA is strategically assisting with the installation of a logistics management information system for all pharmaceuticals, called SALMI.
- **Guatemala:** UNFPA provided technical support to the MOH to analyze the availability of reproductive health supplies and is procuring contraceptives under the co-financing agreement signed in 2019.
- **Haiti:** UNFPA provided technical support to the MOH to analyze the availability of reproductive health supplies and is procuring contraceptives under the co-financing agreement signed in 2019.

Country examples:

- **Honduras:** UNFPA is assisting MoH on monitoring the provision of modern contraceptive methods in the context of COVID 19 and continues to support with third-party procurement. UNFPA is also providing technical support to the MOH to strengthen the SRH supply logistics system and distribute contraceptives to prioritized health regions.
- **Mexico:** A mass media campaign was launched to increase awareness on resource allocation for procurement of modern contraceptives. Capacities of healthcare managers and service providers were strengthened to improve the logistics management of contraceptive commodities through a virtual course.
- **Panama:** UNFPA has purchased biosecurity equipment to protect maternal health workers in the Guna Yala area as well as RH supplies for migrant women in the shelters of Darien region and Chiriqui region. UNFPA provided condoms for the temporary migrant facilities (ERM) in the Darien area.
- **Peru:** UNFPA continues supporting the MoH for the design of community-based strategies for delivery of contraceptives at local level and verification of stocks of contraceptives at central and subnational levels.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA is joining efforts with authorities to address the needs for reproductive health commodities, by providing contraceptives in prioritized medical centers, temporary shelters and through the door-to-door strategy at community level led by the Ministry of Health.

Risk communication and community engagement, including youth engagement

UNFPA is supporting risk communication and community engagement with national health authorities and other partners to develop, implement and monitor an action plan for communicating effectively with the public. UNFPA is engaging with communities and other stakeholders in the public health response to COVID-19.

Country examples:

- **Bolivia:** UNFPA is participating in the Risk Communication sub-committee of the UN Communications Group and is reaching groups of adolescents and health personnel through digital media and webinars. An online psychological service was launched for adolescents in partnership with the NGO Centro de Promoción de la Mujer Gregoria Apaza.
- **Brazil:** UNFPA continues to conduct weekly webinars about the multi-sectoral impacts of the pandemic targeting the general public, adolescents and youth, and health professionals. To date these webinars have had a cumulative total of approximately 20,000 views.
- **Colombia:** UNFPA continues to provide technical support for the 192 phone line for information and advice on maternal health. UNFPA is also supporting the adaptation of the Interagency Strategy for Reduction of maternal mortality in Indigenous Communities for the COVID-19 context.
- **Chile:** In the framework of the Joint Project on HIV in Chile, UNFPA has worked with adolescents and youth living with HIV, young women and transgender adolescents to develop key messages on how COVID-19 is impacting them and their sexual and reproductive rights. These will be disseminated through social networks.
- **Costa Rica:** For International Youth Day, UNFPA presented the UNFPA-Prezzi regional campaign, "Youth Against COVID" covering different aspects of how young people cope with the pandemic.
- **Cuba:** UNFPA contributed to the UNCT's crisis communication plan for COVID19.
- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA is carrying out radio advertising on COVID, GBV prevention, contraceptive use and pregnancy prevention and continues to conduct live events on social media aimed at adolescents and young people with the collaboration of the Ministry of Women's Education Department.

Country examples:

- **Ecuador:** The Organic Health Code, which includes articles to guarantee sexual and reproductive rights, was approved by the National Assembly and is under revision by the President. UNFPA carries out advocacy, political dialogue, and communication actions in support of the Code.
- **El Salvador:** UNFPA conducts e-forums called “population dialogues”, which have brought national and international speakers to reflect on issues related to UNFPA’s mandate in the context of the pandemic.
- **English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean:** The Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean has ensured consistent COVID-19 risk-communication and engagement with the public through its suite of communication products, deployed not only through its social media platforms, but also those of strategic partners, resulting in a possible extended reach of 150,000 people. Additionally, UNFPA participates in the UN Suriname RCCE meetings to coordinate communication material and messages.
- **Guatemala:** UNFPA provided technical assistance to the transgender organization (OTRANS) for the development of the report on the situation of trans people in the context of COVID – 19. UNFPA has developed, with support of its Youth Advisory Group, a national communication campaign “Youth against COVID-19” and diverse virtual communication activities to support youth engagement.
- **Haiti:** As classes in Haiti resumed in August, UNFPA and other members of the communication cluster are supporting the MoH with communication strategies targeting students returning to school. UNFPA is also supporting Surveillance Plans for the Departments of Grand Anse, South East, North West, North East.
- **Honduras:** UNFPA is supporting the Ethnic Community Development Organization (ODECO) through the implementation of the project “Prevention of adolescent pregnancy and GBV and promotion of youth empowerment in Afro-Honduran communities.”
- **Mexico:** UNFPA carried out several online youth dialogues in collaboration with the Office of the Resident Coordinator, UNESCO and other members of the Inter-agency Group on Youth, to analyze the role of adolescents and youth during and post-COVID-19. UNFPA is also preparing jointly with its Youth Advisory Panel, a guide for youth participation in emergency situations.
- **Nicaragua:** UNFPA Nicaragua is a member of the Global Movement for Children and as such, the office has contributed to the data collection instrument for the second rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on children, adolescents and women in Nicaragua.
- **Panamá:** UNFPA launched “Los jóvenes lideran el camino en las soluciones a la COVID-19” and “Festejamos el Día Internacional de la Juventud 2020” for International Youth Day. Enlace: [Festejamos el Día Internacional de la Juventud 2020](#) .
- **Paraguay:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to a group of adolescents and young people in its [peer-to-peer #CSE telephone service](#), to provide orientation about SRH. It includes a [social media campaign Let's talk about #CSE! "We DO talk about this"](#). UNFPA is also working with trans networks to support trans people to cope with the impact of the pandemic.
- **Peru:** UNFPA and partners supported a campaign on the roles of public servants in promoting gender equality and non-discrimination in the COVID-19 context. UNFPA also supported the joint campaign to reduce stigma and discrimination in access to work for people with disabilities.
- **Uruguay:** As part of the project “The Right to Equality and Non-Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities”, UNFPA has produced an accessible video on COVID-19, with the aim of sharing inclusive information. [Coronavirus - Derecho a la igualdad y no discriminación de las personas con discapacidad](#).
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA in close partnership with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women, PAHO/WHO and UNAIDS has developed nationwide awareness campaigns about the use of the PPE by medical personnel, SRH, maternal health and GBV prevention and mitigation.

Media and Communications

UNFPA is reaching out to populations about the COVID-19 pandemic, especially with regard to the plight of women, girls and young people, and the need for SRH and GBV prevention and response services.

- **Regional:** [UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean: COVID-19 website](#) and [Preliminary results presentation of the Youth and COVID-19 survey](#)
- **ONU:** [Para reconstruir mejor, es necesario transformar el modelo de desarrollo de América Latina y el Caribe](#)
- **Argentina:** [Una iniciativa para acompañar a personas con VIH en la crisis por COVID-19](#)
- **Bolivia:** [Recommendations to prevent digital violence against women. Video series on Facebook #DerechosEnPandemiaDesdeCasa](#)
- **Brasil:** [Equipo de salud del UNFA inicia atención en Pacaraima](#)
- **Colombia:** [Publication on social media of information on the work of UNFPA on SRH with 1.500 women in the field \(Norte de Santander\), aiming at providing them with long-term contraceptive methods](#)
- **Costa Rica:** Campaign ¡[Sequimos pendientes de vos!](#) aimed at women at risk of violence. Campaign encourages not to abandon sexual and reproductive health controls during COVID-19
- **Cuba:** [Demographic Bulletin on COVID-19](#)
- **Ecuador:** [UNFPA partnered with IPPF's Women in Times of Pandemic to discuss sexual and reproductive rights and a life free of gender-based violence for women with disabilities](#)
- **English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean:** [The SROC has directly reached 177,000 people with its COVID-19 communication and risk engagement products. The dissemination of the second round of 63 products, which features messaging on COVID-19 and pregnancy, and COVID-19 and HIV, as well as information for the LGBTQI community, is presently underway](#)
- **Guatemala:** [Kits que protegen ante la COVID-19 y refuerzan la dignidad](#)
- **Haiti:** [Covid-19 in Haiti: Services are back in healthcare institutions after the distribution of personal protective equipment by UNFPA](#)
- **Honduras:** [UNFPA y Proyecto DEREJUV entregan Equipo de Protección y Bioseguridad a 8 Regiones de Salud beneficiando a 1500 prestadores de Salud de Honduras](#)
- **México:** [ONU impulsa con el Gobierno de México y aliados alojamientos en hoteles para mujeres, niñas y niños víctimas de violencia](#)
- **Nicaragua:** [Campaign "Niñas y niños protegidos antes el COVID-19](#)
- **Paraguay:** [Ñañangareko communication campaign](#) and [CUIDÁnos campaign](#)
- **Uruguay:** Campaign [Coronavirus en pictogramas](#)
- **Venezuela:** [Dissemination of resource mobilization and strategic positioning](#) through social media



La protección del personal de salud, en particular el personal de enfermería, obstetricia y anestesiología, debe priorizarse como un elemento crítico que salva vidas, y es por ello que se les proporciona equipo de protección personal. *Photo/UNFPA Honduras*

[UNFPA y Proyecto DEREJUV entregan Equipo de Protección y Bioseguridad a 8 Regiones de Salud beneficiando a 1500 prestadores de Salud de Honduras](#)

Como parte de la respuesta a la pandemia de COVID 19, el Proyecto DEREJUV/Derechos Reproductivos para Adolescentes y Jóvenes financiado por el Gobierno de Canadá e implementado por el UNFPA, realizan las entregas del Equipo de Protección y Bioseguridad a ocho Regiones de Salud de Honduras que beneficiarán a 1500 prestadores de Servicios de Salud.

UNFPA PERU IN THE FACE OF THE PANDEMIC



English Español

Resilience and commitment: our response to COVID-19

Read more

UNFPA in the face of the pandemic

The coronavirus arrived to our territory, affecting citizens in many ways. Because of this, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Peru developed a series of actions to mitigate its impact, especially the one that affects the most vulnerable. From early April until the end of June, the agency carried out six campaigns focused on protecting rights and guaranteeing access to opportunities for the most vulnerable populations.

"Placing population problems at the center of development is the main mission of UNFPA. The pandemic has brought many challenges, but it also represents a unique opportunity to rethink our path as a society and to work together in the exercise of rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, without leaving anyone behind."

Markus Behrend
UNFPA Representative in Peru.



These are the stories of each of these efforts.

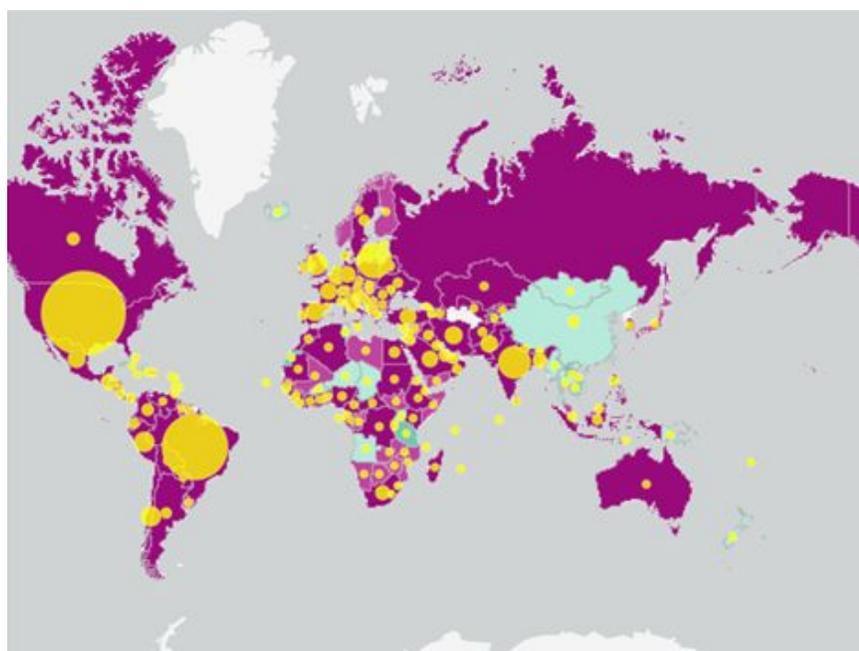
Read more



[COVID19 response](#)

Confirmed Cases and Deaths (UNFPA programme countries) WHO, 10 September 2020

Country	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Argentina	500,034	10,457
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	122,308	7,097
Brazil	4,162,073	127,464
Caribbean*	20,627	348
Chile	427,027	11,702
Colombia	679,513	21,817
Costa Rica	49,897	531
Cuba	4,459	104
Dominican Republic	100,937	1,914
Ecuador	112,166	10,701
El Salvador	26,602	770
Guatemala	79,622	2,897
Haiti	8,376	214
Honduras	65,218	2,034
Mexico	642,860	68,484
Nicaragua	3,877	144
Panama	98,407	2,107
Paraguay	24,214	463
Peru	696,190	30,123
Uruguay	1,712	45
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	55,563	444
TOTAL	7,881,682	299,860



See UNFPA's [COVID-19 Population Vulnerability Dashboard](#) for real-time updates

* Belize, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands