



Reporting Period: 14 May - 2 June 2020

# Latin America and the Caribbean Region

## COVID-19 Situation Report No. 4

United Nations Population Fund



### Regional Highlights

- The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has arrived in Latin America and the Caribbean in a context of low growth and, above all, of marked inequality and vulnerability, with growing poverty and extreme poverty, weakening of social cohesion and expressions of social discontent.
- Latin America has seen coronavirus infections surge over the last weeks and is now the **new epicenter of the pandemic**, representing about 40 percent of daily deaths globally now.
- Brazil has been hardest-hit in the region, rising to the second-highest number of cases in the world. Peru, Mexico and Chile are also seeing steady increases in infections. The outbreak in the region is expected to accelerate until mid-June.
- Most countries in the region have weak and fragmented health systems, which do not guarantee the universal access needed to address the COVID-19 health crisis.
- The impact on the health of personnel on the frontlines, which often lack sufficient and adequate personal protection equipment (PPE), continues to be high.
- The crisis is also having a considerable impact on women's access to healthcare and, in particular, to sexual and reproductive health services. Lockdown measures enforced in countries have also led to a sharp increase in gender-based violence.
- The COVID-19 pandemic is showing increased incidence among vulnerable populations, particularly indigenous people, afro-descendants, prisoners, migrants, and LGBTI people.
- Urgent funding is needed to meet rising needs.

### Situation in Numbers

 **1,101,702** Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

 **54,894** COVID-19 Deaths

Source: WHO 4 June, 2020

### Key Population Groups

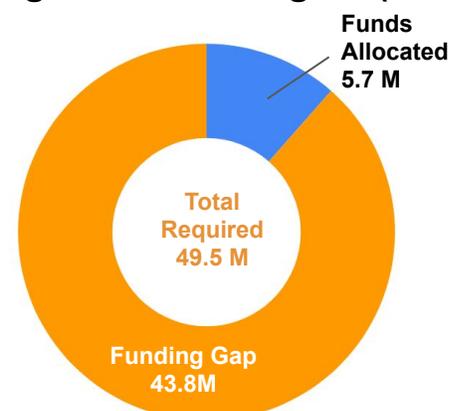
 **8 M** Pregnant Women

 **172 M** Women of Reproductive Age

 **165 M** Young People (age 10-24)

 **58 M** Older Persons (age 65+)

### Funding Status for Region (US\$)



## Regional Response Summary

### Coordination and partnerships

The UNFPA response in the region aligns with the [2030 Agenda](#), [WHO global strategic preparedness and response plan](#), [UN-coordinated global humanitarian response plan](#), the [UN framework for socio-economic response to COVID-19](#), and the [UNFPA COVID-19 global response plan](#).

UNFPA is working in humanitarian and development contexts in the Latin and Caribbean (LAC) region, actively participating in UN system support to national governments' response to COVID-19 as the pandemic spreads rapidly.

The Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) covers multiple LAC countries with humanitarian needs. These are Colombia, Haiti and Venezuela, which have national humanitarian response plans. An additional 17 countries are covered by the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for Venezuela. The RMRP has been revised to adapt to the COVID-19 context. The revision focuses on i) visibility of the needs of refugees and migrants in the response to COVID-19 in the region; ii) ensuring access of humanitarian actors and availability of humanitarian supplies to refugee and migrant populations; and iii) ensuring access to life-saving services for refugees, migrants and host communities with priority on health and protection.

UNFPA country offices are re-prioritizing activities and reprogramming resources to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. UNFPA is collaborating with the development of the UN socio-economic assessments in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and the technical coordination of UNDP.

Under the political leadership of the Resident Coordinator Offices, and the technical leadership of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), World Health Organization (WHO), UN Country Teams are coordinating UN cooperation and support to national governments in the region.

In humanitarian countries, the humanitarian country team is often using the humanitarian structure already in place to support the response to COVID-19. UNFPA actively participates in humanitarian coordination mechanisms (including the health and protection clusters) and leads or co-leads the gender-based violence (GBV) sub-cluster where this has been established.

UNFPA provides advocacy and technical assistance to government counterparts and strategic partners to promote the continuity of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and 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 relevant disaggregated data.

### Country examples:

- **Haiti:** UNFPA is contributing to the multi sectoral Presidential COVID Commission working with private sector and civil society organizations. UNFPA is active in three clusters: risk communication and community engagement, infection prevention control, and case management.
- **Honduras:** UNFPA is a member of the MERECE, the Roundtable for External Cooperation on Education, that has presented a proposal for an education response plan to the Ministry of Education.
- **Peru:** Ongoing coordination between UNFPA, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, Ministry of Education, National Youth Secretariat, and National Statistics Institute, as well as the Table for the Fight against Poverty (health working group) to address COVID19.
- **Cuba:** Promoting the Demographic Observatory for COVID19 with the Center of Demographic Studies. UNFPA has provided SRH kits in the country and supports the acquisition of supplies for the emergency and is implementing a GBV pilot project with the Ministry of Public Health.
- **The Caribbean:** UNFPA participates in 6 UN country teams and is thus active in supporting six UN joint COVID-19 response plans. UNFPA leads pillar 4, on quality essential services, in four Spotlight countries in the Caribbean (Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago).

### Coordination and partnerships *continued*

In most countries in the region, UNFPA is actively participating in the UN country and humanitarian country teams, leading or co-leading SRH, GBV and social protection clusters (i.e. Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Peru and Dominican Republic, among others).

- **Colombia:** Positioning the concerns of women and adolescent girls, including pregnant women, as well as the needs of indigenous women and other left behind groups.
- **Honduras:** Due to the increase in complaints of gender-based violence, the HCT activated the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility, coordinated by UNFPA.
- **Bolivia:** UNFPA, PAHO/WHO and UNICEF are leading the Maternity and Safe Birth Taskforce and the Maternal Mortality Observatory aimed at guaranteeing the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services.
- **Paraguay:** Reviewed the analysis of the situation of human rights and COVID-19, prepared by OHCHR, providing content from the perspective of sexual and reproductive rights, gender equality, the rights of adolescents and young people, and more vulnerable groups such as LGBTI people and people of African descent.
- **El Salvador:** In coordination with the Ministry of Health, UNFPA has started the purchase process to supply 15,000 kits for pregnant women, in a joint purchase with other UN agencies.
- **Dominican Republic:** The UN country team has elaborated the country response plan with the participation of all agencies, as well as its participation in the Cooperation Plan for the Government.

UNFPA has made visible the risks of GBV that are heightened by the ongoing pandemic and confinement, and the risks of maternal mortality, and the importance of keeping essential services running. Some examples:

- **Uruguay:** Supporting the development of precautionary measures related to GBV.
- **Colombia:** UNFPA co-leads the sub-cluster of GBV and SRH/GBV for the COVID-19 response.
- **Honduras:** Due to the increase in complaints of sexual and gender-based violence, the humanitarian country team activated the GBV Area of Responsibility, coordinated by UNFPA.
- **Mexico:** Co-chairing the UN Country Team Operations Management Team and has been instrumental in defining the interagency requirements for PPE for personnel.
- **Panama:** Providing guidance for the proper management of the helpline by the National Institute of Women (INAMU) to attend cases of gender-based violence. With the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and Family (SENNIAF), UNFPA is promoting the 'Libro de Ana', a toolkit devised for children and families, to prevent sexual violence, including during quarantine conditions.
- **Paraguay:** UNFPA, UN Women and UNAIDS support the implementation of the COVID-19 contingency plan, focusing on GBV and young people with HIV. Participating in the Regional Strategy of the Latin American and Caribbean Movement of Positive Women (MLCM +)
- **Guatemala:** The GBV Protection Group is promoting comprehensive approach to identify the needs and actions to support women and adolescent girls throughout different clusters with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) promoting youth meeting spaces addressing the challenges they face to continue their studies; with UN Women monitoring the provision of essential services for survivors of VAW.
- **Chile:** The Agencies, Funds and Programs have been very active in their communication platforms highlighting the main impacts and challenges of COVID-19 for women and girls, including GBV, and providing guidance that should accompany both immediate response and longer-term recovery efforts.

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

UNFPA continues its coordination 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 joint advocacy with health authorities, particularly those related to SRH continuity of care, and preparation of a series of SRH webinars for the Ministry of Health managers and providers of SRH and COVID-19 services. Over the last weeks, UNFPA has increased support to countries to strengthen the epidemiological surveillance systems and ensure the correct classification of deaths.

A declaration on the relevance of reproductive rights and the role of midwives in the context of COVID-19 was recently signed by the Network of Professional Midwives in Latin America. In the Caribbean, UNFPA is partnering with seven International Planned Parenthood Federation affiliates and providing support in reorganizing their service delivery model, including through telemedicine/counselling services (in 13 countries) and community-based contraceptive mobile services (Belize).

#### Country examples:

- **English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean:** Through the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN COVID-19 MPTF), UNFPA is procuring Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) targeting SRH health providers in Jamaica in order to ensure that reproductive health services, including family planning, prenatal care, assisted delivery, and emergency obstetrics, are available and maintained during the pandemic.
- **Bolivia:** Contributed to the elaboration of the National Contingency Plan in Sexual and Reproductive Health in the context of the emergency COVID-19.
- **Brazil:** UNFPA supported the procurement of dignity kits for vulnerable groups in the states of Roraima and Amazonas (focusing on migrants and refugees), the Federal District (homeless people), and Bahia (homeless people and GBV survivors).
- **Colombia:** UNFPA, PAHO and UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, are supporting the development of a remote care model to provide comprehensive services for pregnant women in the context of the pandemic to COVID19, based on telemedicine and home care.
- **Costa Rica:** UNFPA is providing technical and financial support to the campaign “Let's raise our voices” on prevention of adolescent pregnancy, recently launched by the Ministry of Education.
- **Ecuador:** UNFPA provided technical recommendations to the MoH for maternal health care, (pregnancy, delivery, postpartum), contraception, and breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19.
- **El Salvador:** Supported the MoH with the delivery of 1,000 mental health kits for confinement centers that serve children, adolescents, young people and women during their quarantine period.
- **Haiti:** UNFPA is providing support in the operationalization of the COVID-19 epidemiological surveillance plan.
- **Honduras:** Securing the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services, especially maternal and newborn health and family planning, in municipalities highly affected by the pandemic,
- **Mexico:** UNFPA is providing support to the MoH for strengthening networks of primary health care services, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive, maternal and neonatal health.
- **Panama:** UNFPA continues assessing the needs of sexual and reproductive health services.
- **Paraguay:** Provided technical assistance for the design of a two-year plan for the reactivation of health services ensuring the prioritization of sexual and reproductive health as essential services.

### Addressing Gender-Based Violence

UNFPA has engaged in advocacy and technical assistance to Women, Health and Social Development authorities to strengthen social protection systems, particularly by guaranteeing 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 countries, UNFPA is providing GBV sub-cluster coordination, establishing or revising referral pathways, distributing dignity kits, providing life-saving GBV services including case management, psychosocial support and clinical management of rape through modalities adapted to COVID-19.

#### Country examples:

- **English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean:** Providing technical support to implementing partners and governments, and ensuring that frontline health workers are trained to safely identify and refer GBV survivors. The SROC developed an Advocacy Brief on the criticality of GBV service provision during COVID-19 and the elaboration of guidelines for the provision of remote services for GBV survivors.
- **Argentina:** Providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Women for the inclusion of gender equality in the ongoing “Programme for attention to boys and men perpetrators of violence”.
- **Bolivia:** Organizing virtual trainings, information-sharing and reflections with different actors about GBV, care and attention to survivors.
- **Colombia:** Maintaining GBV prevention activities in municipalities on the border with Venezuela, focusing on addressing the specific needs of migrants, specifically GBV.
- **El Salvador:** Supporting the Programme “Ciudad Mujer” through various actions, including: purchase of hygiene kits, provision of humanitarian assistance and financial incentives to approximately 200 women survivors of GBV, and psycho-social support.
- **Guatemala:** Supporting the comprehensive shelters for GBV survivors (CAIMUS), providing dignity kits as well as access to economic aid (food basic baskets) to sheltered women, through an alliance with the World Food Programme (WFP).
- **Mexico:** within the framework of the Spotlight initiative, UNFPA is supporting national and local capacities to provide psychosocial attention to women and girls victims of violence through remote services (hotlines), as well as for personnel providing the services.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA delivered thousands of dignity kits to the most vulnerable women and girls among the returnees relocated in shelters. Also, providing training on GBV to key management personnel.



### 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:

- **English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean:** UNFPA is procuring contraceptives (injectables) and collaborating with “Reprolatina” to provide high-quality counselling and care to family planning users, with a focus on adolescents and young women, during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Panama:** UNFPA is purchasing biosecurity equipment for an estimated 397 health providers of 18 health services that provide sexual and reproductive health services for indigenous and afro-descendant women and adolescent girls, starting their distribution in the Darien province and in the Ngabe-Buglé indigenous Comarca. UNFPA is also purchasing biosecurity equipment for an estimated 100 providers of shelters that offer GBV services for women and girls victims of violence.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA supported the purchase and distribution of contraceptives to more than 3,000 people over the last week. The door-to-door strategy continues alongside medical authorities to raise awareness about SRH and GBV, with especial emphasis on the prevention of unwanted pregnancy, sexual violence, HIV/STIs, and preventive measures for COVID-19.

### 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 provided technical support to the elaboration of the guidance on political incidence for the attention to vulnerable populations within the framework of COVID-19.
- **Brazil:** In partnership with the Brazilian Association of Population Studies, UNFPA designed and started a popular online series of Dialogues on Population and Development in the context of COVID-19.
- **Cuba:** UNFPA is supporting national activities against homophobia and transphobia aligned to COVID-19 response, under the coordination of the National Center of Sex Education (CENESEX).
- **Mexico:** UNFPA is working with the Mexican Youth Institute (IMJUVE) through its Youth Squad project, implemented at national and State level, to train adolescents and youth on COVID-19.
- **Paraguay:** UNFPA and UN Women have technically supported strategic communication to make visible the situation of people living with HIV and the challenges they face due the pandemic.
- **Peru:** Launched risk communication campaign with Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) on GBV prevention. Also contributed in the elaboration of communication materials for pregnant women and health service providers on safe pregnancies in context of COVID19.
- **Ecuador:** UNFPA has advocated for the inclusion of GBV and gender standards in activated clusters and published a data analysis compendium of affected people disaggregated by gender and age groups.

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](#)
- **Regional:** [COVID-19 must be addressed through international solidarity and cooperation](#)
- **Regional:** [Organización de las Naciones Unidas Lanza Encuesta Dirigida a Jóvenes en América Latina y el Caribe en el Contexto de la Pandemia de COVID-19](#)
- **Panama:** [Inquietante espera: Temor y falta de transporte alejan a las embarazadas Ngäbe](#)
- **Brazil - Venezuela:** [Pandemic complicates humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and surrounding countries](#)
- **El Salvador:** [UNFPA entrega 940 kits de higiene durante pandemia de COVID - conocemos sobre el trabajo social de Alejandra Osorio](#)
- **Nicaragua:** [UNFPA en alianza con Global Links entrega insumos al Ministerio de Salud para fortalecer la respuesta ante la pandemia de COVID-19](#)
- **Guatemala:** [Adaptando la campaña #YouthAgainstCOVID19 para llegar a las personas más vulnerables en Guatemala](#)
- **Honduras:** [La planificación comunitaria en tiempos de COVID](#)
- **Brazil:** [Fundo de População da ONU apoia pesquisadores para discutir impactos da covid-19 na população negra](#)
- **Peru:** Material utilized for social media related to GBV prevention and gender campaign Spots for radio: Vivamos El Aislamiento Con Igualdad: <https://youtu.be/YMA7InhNbrM>
- **Venezuela:** [UNFPA pone a disposición Kits de Dignidad para la atención de mujeres retornadas en medio de la pandemia COVID-19](#)



### [Pandemic complicates humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and surrounding countries](#)

CARACAS, Venezuela/PACARAIMA, Brazil—Venezuela's economic crisis has triggered a mass exodus of migrants and refugees, with significant humanitarian needs both inside and outside of the country. Within Venezuela, health facilities lack sufficient medical supplies, a situation that has had severe repercussions for women and girls.

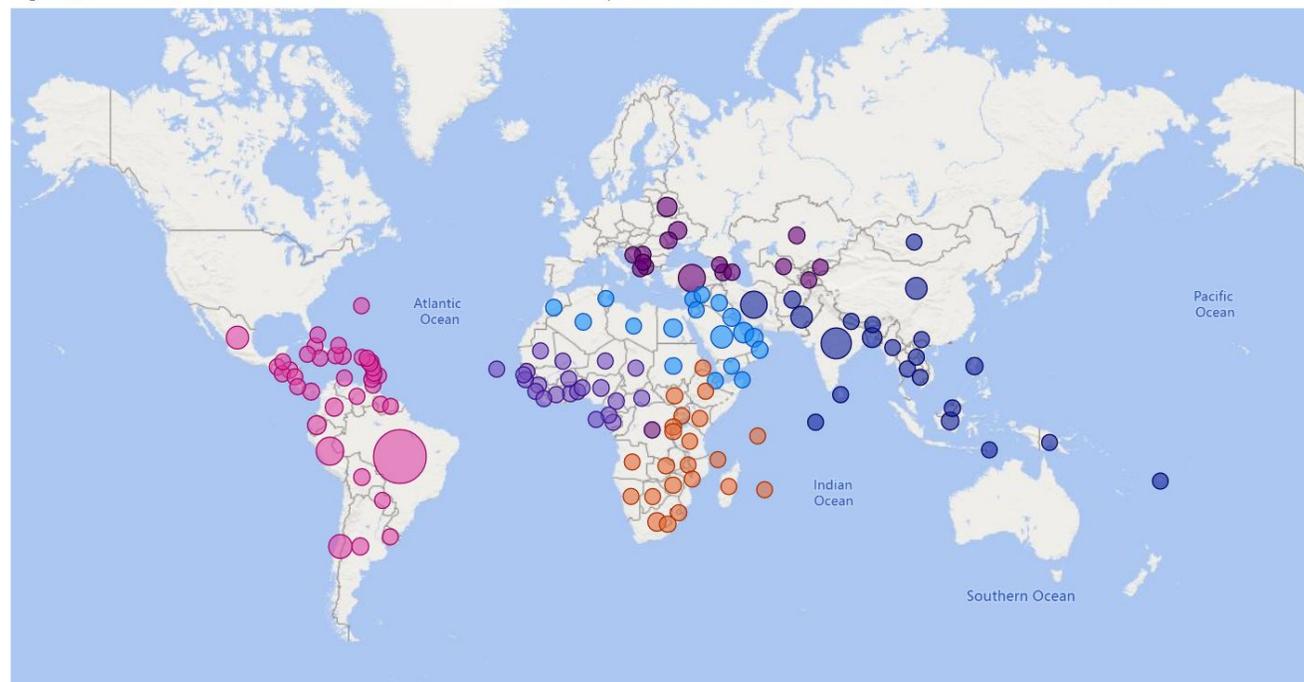


## Confirmed Cases and Deaths (UNFPA programme countries) WHO, 4 June 2020

Country	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Argentina	18,319	570
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	10,991	376
Brazil	555,383	31,199
Caribbean*	1,676	69
Chile	113,628	1,275
Colombia	31,833	1,009
Costa Rica	1,105	10
Cuba	2,107	83
Dominican Republic	18,040	516
Ecuador	40,966	3,486
El Salvador	2,705	51
Guatemala	5,586	123
Haiti	2,507	48
Honduras	5,527	225
Mexico	97,326	10,637
Nicaragua	1,309	46
Panama	14,095	352
Paraguay	1,070	11
Peru	174,884	4,767
Uruguay	826	23
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1,819	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,101,702</b>	<b>54,894</b>

### Confirmed Cases by Country and Region

Region ● Arab States ● Asia and the Pacific ● East and Southern Africa ● Eastern Europe and Central Asia ● Latin America and the Caribbean ● West and Central Africa



\* 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