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Reporting Period: 1 - 30 June 2020

Latin America and the Caribbean Region

COVID-19 Situation Report No. 5

United Nations Population Fund



Regional Highlights

- The COVID-19 pandemic has hit 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.
- 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 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.
- Contraceptives are expected to suffer shortages or stock outs by the end of this year. In the Caribbean, preliminary findings of the stock monitoring risk assessment show stock out of family planning methods and several challenges in ensuring life-saving commodities in the coming months.
- The 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

 **2,584,148** Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

 **116,394** COVID-19 Deaths

Source: WHO 2 July 2020

Key Population Groups

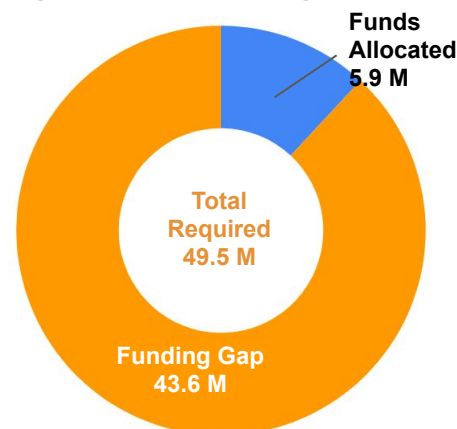
 **8 M** Pregnant Women

 **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 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 LAC, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and the technical coordination of UNDP.

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:

- **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 with emphasis on COVID-19 and vulnerable populations.
- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA is working closely with the Ministry of Public Health and the National Health Service, providing technical assistance on maternal health.
- **Mexico:** Working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Governance, particularly the National Population Council, National Women's Institute and National Youth Institute.
- **Paraguay:** UNFPA has provided technical cooperation to the Emergency Operations Centre (COE-Health) on medical vulnerability criteria for severe forms of COVID-19.
- **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.

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).

- **Belize:** UNFPA is participating on the Risk Communication and Community Engagement sub-committee of the UN Communications Group in response to the COVID-19 outbreak with emphasis on healthcare workers (HCWs) and healthcare facility management.
- **Brazil:** UNFPA leads the health sector of the Platform R4V (Response for Venezuela) with emphasis on reproductive health and maternal health and COVID-19 prevention among migrants.
- **Dominican Republic:** The UN country team has elaborated the country response plan with the participation of all agencies, and in coordination between country offices in Haiti and Dominican Republic with a binational perspective on SRH and GBV.
- **El Salvador:** UNFPA, as part of the Health Cluster, contributed to the development of a CERF proposal to apply to OCHA funds in the context of the humanitarian crisis of Tropical Storm Amanda which was compounding the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Nicaragua:** UNFPA is leading the Interagency Group on Gender, Human Rights and Interculturality, which has prepared *"Recommendations for the incorporation of a gender approach in programming in relation to COVID-19"*.

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:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the Government with 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. The main concerns are related to lack of shelters, the need to strengthen GBV services and the need to guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services.
- **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.
- **Guatemala:** The GBV protection group, led by UNFPA, is promoting the comprehensive approach to identify the needs and actions to support women and adolescent girls throughout different clusters.
- **Chile:** UNFPA is contributing to the interagency work on risk communications 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. UNFPA is intensifying its efforts to secure continuity of maternal health care, training of service providers and proper availability of PPE. Also, securing RH services in remote areas and to the most vulnerable people.

Country examples:

- **Brazil:** UNFPA is taking part in the establishment of the Attention and Protection Area/ Covid-19 Reference Center for the State of Roraima, where almost all antenatal services were discontinued due to the outbreak.
- **Colombia:** 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. Dignity Kits were distributed to women at high-risk in 171 municipalities and PPE supplies were distributed to three Indigenous health facilities.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA is joining efforts with other humanitarian partners and authorities to address the needs of returnees, with emphasis on youth, women, and pregnant women, by providing dignity kits, emergency kits, and contraceptives in shelters at both border communities and community of origin and through the door-to-door strategy led by health authorities.
- **Haiti:** UNFPA is making PPEs available for health personnel in several health facilities, providing EmONC services in the departments of South, Grand Anse, North West, South East, and Nippes. It also continues to monitor the availability of vital drugs at facility level, while reinforcing maternal death surveillance and family planning promotion.
- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA is coordinating the initial phases of the “Champion Mothers Project”, aimed at addressing barriers to access of quality sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services in border areas between Haiti and Dominican Republic, with a special focus on afro descendant, migrant, and youth populations.
- **Peru:** UNFPA, in coordination with PAHO/WHO and UNICEF, is advocating with the Ministry of Health for the development of policies targeted to address the SRH and GBV needs of indigenous populations in COVID19 context.
- **Nicaragua:** UNFPA has contributed to strengthening the country's response to the pandemic through the purchase of medical equipment, medical supplies and drugs, and PPEs.
- **Guatemala:** UNFPA supported the Office of the Human Rights Attorney (PDH) by ensuring the provision of protective supplies for personnel carrying out periodic supervision of temporary hospitals and other health services.
- **Cuba:** 5,000 PPE for health workers in the gyneco-obstetric hospitals and maternal homes have been purchased.
- **Honduras:** UNFPA started the implementation of the project “Saving Lives in the context of COVID-19”, financed by the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund, aimed at guaranteeing the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services, with an emphasis on maternal and newborn health, and family planning.
- **El Salvador:** UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health in the implementation of the remote system for maternal and child care, which brings services by telephone to pregnant women and their children under 5 years old, who are served through the public network.
- **Argentina:** UNFPA, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, has launched a newsletter with recommendations on Oral Emergency Contraception use in the context of COVID-19.
See: https://ov.pemsv07.net/unfpa/unfpa_bulk_90/usccln_757e00

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:

- **Argentina:** In the context of the Spotlight initiative, UNFPA, UNDP and UN Women launched two visible campaigns: #LaOtraPandemia and the #BastadeFemicidios.
- **Brazil:** UNFPA joined efforts with international donors and civil society organizations for the development of the Platform Safe Women (Plataforma Mulher Segura), which will focus on three components: reception, information/education content, professional support.
- **Colombia:** UNFPA continues to provide remote case management services in Norte de Santander and Arauca departments. A total of 26 gender-based violence survivors in Cucuta have been supported with remote case management.
- **Costa Rica:** UNFPA, in partnership with the Ministry of Public Security and UNDP, joined forces to create the campaign #QuedateEnCasa, which seeks to offer tools to men of all ages for managing behaviour without violence.
- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Education in the elaboration of a protocol to address GBV amongst teachers in the pandemic setting.
- **El Salvador:** In the context of the combined humanitarian crisis, caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and tropical storm Amanda, UNFPA delivered to the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women 500 hygiene and biosafety kits, and 500 shelter kits to meet the needs of women and girls transferred to shelters other than those for COVID-19.
- **English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean:** UNFPA is developing maps of available services by country, based on the previously conducted sub-regional GBV Service Mappings, which will inform an assessment and analysis of the geographical coverage of services available for women and girls at risk of and survivors of GBV. UNFPA is also in the process of developing/updating GBV referral pathways in the sub-region, in collaboration with respective national authorities and key stakeholders.
- **Guatemala:** UNFPA, in coordination with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UN Women, is working to strengthen the national networks on gender and health, sexual violence and midwives.
- **Haiti:** UNFPA is providing medical and dignity kits to the most vulnerable pregnant women and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in the most remote institutions in the Country.
- **Nicaragua:** in coordination with the Ministry of Family and the Ministry of Education, UNFPA has reviewed needs and gaps in the protection of children and adolescents in schools. It has also ensured the provision of hygiene kits for Afro descendant women of the Caribbean Coast.
- **Paraguay:** UNFPA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Children and Adolescents, ensured the purchase and delivery of thermometers for the surveillance and care of virus transmission of girls and adolescents in situations of greater vulnerability.
- **Peru:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Population (MIMP) for the design of a learning programme on masculinities as part of the gender-based violence prevention interventions.

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:

- **Colombia:** UNFPA provided long-term contraceptives to rural hospitals in different municipalities where services have been disrupted to ensure access and prevent unwanted pregnancies during COVID-19.
- **Cuba:** UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health by contributing to ensure the supply of modern contraceptives (subdermal implant and emergency contraception) and medicines for the National Maternal-Child programme.
- **English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean:** UNFPA is coordinating a series of capacity-building webinars to guide health providers in ensuring the continuity and availability of quality SRH services including availability of modern contraceptives.
- **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.
- **Peru:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Health for the design of community-based strategies for distribution of contraceptives, including specific strategies targeted to adolescents and in coordination with civil society organizations.

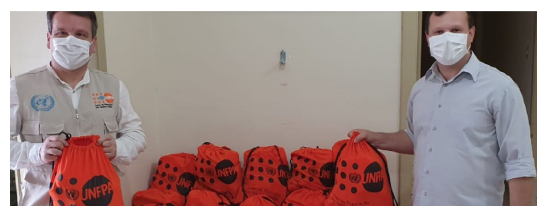
Risk communication and community engagement, including youth engagement

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 in coordination with Municipal Governments is conducting a series of workshops for adolescents and young people on topics from protection and self-care of young people with disabilities in times of COVID-19, to comprehensive sexual education.
- **Peru:** UNFPA conducted a rapid assessment of the SRH needs of Venezuelan migrants and refugee seekers in selected regions across the Country.
- **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.
- **Ecuador:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to civil society organizations to collect information on the LGBTI population, with a view to identify their level of vulnerability to COVID-19 and generate technical tools for the management of humanitarian assistance.

[Visit UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean website for more information](#)



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](#)
- **Argentina:** [¿Qué pueden hacer los varones durante la #cuarentena? Estar en casa es un buen momento para reflexionar sobre prácticas machistas](#) 🧑
- **Bolivia:** [Impacto de la COVID-19 en la Salud Sexual y Reproductiva de Bolivia y América Latina.](#)
- **Brazil:** [UNFPA faz recomendações para a pandemia da COVID-19](#)
- **Chile:** [Observatorio COVID-19 en América Latina y el Caribe by ECLAC](#)
- **Colombia:** [UNFPA Colombia dona 10.000 anticonceptivos de larga duración para prevenir embarazos no deseados en el país durante la pandemia](#)
- **EL Salvador:** [“Toda la siembra se perdió con la lluvia”](#)
- **Honduras:** [Salvando vidas en tiempos de Covid-19](#)
- **Honduras:** [Alianza entre UNFPA y ODECO favorecerá a 2000 mujeres, adolescentes y jóvenes en 64 comunidades Afro-hondureñas en el marco de la respuesta a la pandemia por COVID19](#)
- **Guatemala:** [Adaptando la campaña #YouthAgainstCOVID19 para llegar a las personas más vulnerables](#)
- **Nicaragua:** [UNFPA, UNICEF, OIM y OPS/OMS en Nicaragua entregan equipos médicos al Ministerio de Salud para atender la emergencia de la pandemia de COVID-19](#)
- **México:** [UNFPA realiza el curso telepresencial para la atención a la salud materna en el contexto de COVID-19](#)
- **México:** [Servicios de Salud de Morelos y el UNFPA suman esfuerzos para mejorar la atención a la salud materna durante el COVID-19](#)
- **Paraguay:** [Jóvenes de Paraguay, protagonistas en la protección de los derechos sexuales en medio de la crisis de la COVID-19](#)
- **Perú:** [Fortaleciendo la respuesta sanitaria para la atención de la violencia basada en género durante la emergencia nacional](#)
- **Uruguay:** [Conocé al Covid 19 en este vídeo accesible con pictogramas](#)
- **Venezuela:** [Jornadas “casa por casa” a mujeres embarazadas y madres lactantes sobre COVID-19 y dispensación de métodos anticonceptivos](#)
- **Venezuela:** [Tercer cargamento de ayuda humanitaria con insumos médicos para atender la crisis del COVID-19 llega a Venezuela](#)

FEATURED STORY

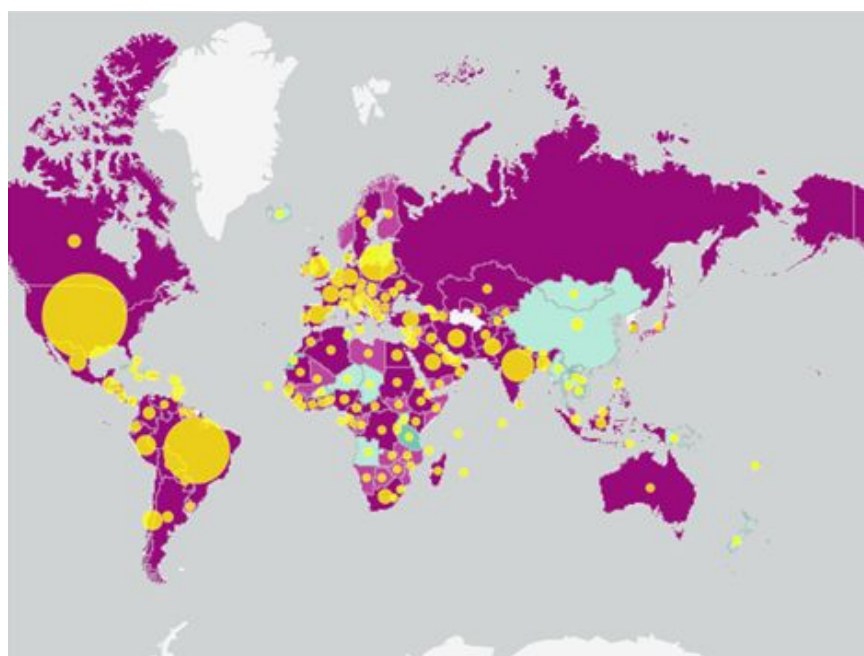
[Pregnant indigenous women in Panama face COVID-19 fears, lack of transport](#)

GNÄBE BUGLÉ REGION, Panama – Carmen was two days into an excruciating labour when she was carried to the nearest health clinic – three hours away – in a hammock held aloft by community members. Her situation was life-threatening, but she had been unable to seek care earlier because transportation had been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and rains had delayed travel by foot.



Confirmed Cases and Deaths (UNFPA programme countries) WHO, 2 July 2020

Country	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Argentina	64,530	1,310
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	33,219	1,123
Brazil	1,402,041	59,594
Caribbean*	2,506	83
Chile	282,043	5,753
Colombia	97,846	3,334
Costa Rica	3,459	16
Cuba	2,348	86
Dominican Republic	33,387	754
Ecuador	56,342	4,527
El Salvador	6,736	182
Guatemala	18,096	773
Haiti	5,975	105
Honduras	19,558	497
Mexico	226,089	27,769
Nicaragua	2,182	83
Panama	33,550	631
Paraguay	2,260	19
Peru	285,213	9,677
Uruguay	936	27
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	5,832	51
TOTAL	2,584,148	116,394



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