

EL SALVADOR



1.9M
PEOPLE
IN NEED



900K
PEOPLE
TARGETED



5.3M
REQUIREMENTS
(US\$)

The recurrence of severe climate events combined with economic, social, and institutional fragilities leave El Salvador in an utterly critical humanitarian situation and highly vulnerable. Located in a disaster-prone subregion, El Salvador is among the 20 countries at the highest risk of disasters worldwide.

The successive hydrometeorological hazards that impacted El Salvador over the past two years include tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal and hurricanes Eta, Iota, and, more recently, Julia. These storms profoundly affected the lives and livelihoods of almost 900 000 people and significantly disrupted health services, especially at the first level of care. In addition, the country's exposure to earthquakes, floods, and droughts is also constant. Infrastructural and institutional limitations to deal with emergencies and low capacity to respond to adverse events are an additional challenge, which leaves the population—particularly the most vulnerable—at even higher risk.

According to the Humanitarian Response Plan 2021-2022, vulnerable economic conditions and income inequality were amplified by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in an 8% reduction in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and a 4.6% increase in poverty in 2022. The number of people facing food insecurity rose from 620 000 before the pandemic to about 1 043 661 due to the profound economic crisis caused by COVID-19 and the repeated impact of extreme climate events and structural challenges.

These recurrent shocks disproportionately affected individuals in vulnerable situations, particularly those faced with extreme poverty and limited safety nets. Increasing homicide rates and rampant violence in recent years have also hampered social development and economic growth and are one of the leading causes of forced internal displacement.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

» Increase access to and quality of primary care services for vulnerable populations affected by emergencies and humanitarian crises

Maintain operational capacity of and improve access to essential health services for populations in vulnerable situations, including people in shelters, victims of violence, migrants, older people, mothers and children, and persons with disabilities.

» Increase the resilience of primary health care services in areas of high migratory flows

Strengthen the Ministry of Health's governance and primary health care capacity to provide integrated care services for populations in areas affected by emergencies, mass migration routes, and exposed to multiple threats with adequate equipment, infrastructure, and logistics.

» Improve risk communication and knowledge management in preparedness, response, and recovery from public health emergencies

Develop a risk communication strategy and support community response capacities and health services resiliency with management practices that enable adopting best practices and sustainable standards over time.



RESPONSE STRATEGY

Through a multisectoral response approach, the health sector's strategy in El Salvador aims to provide coordinated and targeted assistance to address critical health needs in high-priority areas prone to the impact of disasters and violence. While focusing on immediate and short-term interventions to restore and scale up the capacities of local health institutions attending to the acute and neglected health needs of community members, actions will also seek to support and strengthen sustainable solutions through humanitarian-development collaboration to restore essential health services and systems, and to strengthen community and institutional resilience.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

PAHO's emergency response actions in El Salvador will continue to foster the coordination of health networks to ensure a comprehensive and multi-hazard response to adverse events. Response efforts will be evidence-based and guided by first-hand field evaluation of health facilities' needs and response capacity to adequately tackle the multiple challenges faced in different territories, including increased migratory flow, environmental or epidemic threats, or social conflict.

PAHO's efforts will focus on the implementation of corrective measures to increase local capacities for quality health service delivery, including infrastructure repairs and rehabilitations, as well as procurement of life-saving and essential health supplies and equipment, training, and capacity building of health professionals and the strengthening of water and sanitation systems to support infection prevention and control in healthcare settings.

Other vital activities will focus on institutional and operational strengthening of primary care health services and response programs for vulnerable populations, prevention and early diagnosis of communicable and noncommunicable diseases and conditions according to a life-course approach and worsened by the effects of existing emergencies and disasters, and the implementation of mobile clinics and field activities for enhanced coverage of priority public health programs.

IMPACT STORIES

Teams of vaccinators visit cantons to expand COVID-19 vaccination coverage in El Salvador

“We start our journey from San Salvador towards Santa Ana to the municipality of the majestic Lake Coatepeque. Six teams made up of doctors, nurses and health promoters were waiting for us there, with the vaccines and supplies necessary to visit the families of the Solimán canton house to house. From the Coatepeque Health Unit to the Solimán canton we travel by carriage trail for one hour and fifteen minutes on an ascending slope.”

The residents of the Solimán canton waited, ready to receive the COVID-19 vaccines. Around 200 families had not received any doses of the vaccine due to the transportation problems that the inhabitants have to leave the area.

The teams of vaccinators were divided into three to reach the maximum number of people. They began their walking tour with coolers, going house to house and offering the vaccine against COVID-19. The Minister of Health led the vaccination service accompanied by the PAHO/WHO Representative in El Salvador.

At that time, the backyard of a house became a vaccination center, and people from the community placed chairs so they could wait in an orderly manner for their turn. The impromptu seating space also served as an observation area for any symptoms people might present.

People’s smiles were noticeable below the masks, and some clenched their hands, indicating a little nervousness, while others talked to each other, trying to pass the waiting time. Soon, the health minister approached them to tell them that he would start the vaccination.



So, they began to pass individually, and the minister and the PAHO Representative verified all day. To highlight their professionalism and warmth, the staff complied with the necessary technical procedures that accompanied the campaign’s realization. The PAHO Representative explained what they could do if they had some symptoms and congratulated the staff who do an excellent job bringing health to difficult places like Suleiman.

PAHO has supported El Salvador since the pandemic began with supplies, equipment, and diagnostic tests.

In addition, as part of the COVAX mechanism, it has helped donate COVID-19 vaccines to the government of El Salvador.

It has been fundamental to sign two letters of agreement between PAHO and the National Health Council for hiring vaccinators so that more doses of vaccines reach more Salvadorans.

The vaccination day ended, and the inhabitants of Suleiman began their journey on foot to their homes. Still, before departing, they thanked the Ministry of Health and PAHO’s effort to bring the vaccines to the last corner of El Salvador.

Read the full story [here](#).

HOW TO SUPPORT THIS APPEAL

Generous donations from the international community allow PAHO to deliver its technical cooperation and deploy its operational and logistics support to address existing and emerging public health challenges impacting the countries and territories of the Americas.

The financial requirements outlined in this appeal are pivotal to providing lifesaving health assistance and protective services to communities affected by emergencies without leaving anyone behind. PAHO ensures it will distribute funding most efficiently and where needed, in coordination with public health authorities, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, and other humanitarian partners.

Here are some ways private or public organizations and individuals can contribute to this donor appeal.



DONATING DIRECTLY TO THIS APPEAL

Financial contributions from governmental aid agencies, multilateral institutions, foundations and philanthropic organizations, and other public and private sector partners are among the most valuable and effective forms of support for health emergency response. The main characteristic of a financial donation is its flexibility to support an agile response. The resources obtained can be used quickly and efficiently, responding to the most acute needs and ensuring that the funded actions fully align with the local priority public health actions.

Donating organizations are invited to contribute cash to support one, several, or all priority actions highlighted in this appeal. To donate to PAHO, please contact Julie Mauvernay (mauvernj@paho.org).

Individual donations can also make a difference and help save lives by supporting the delivery of essential supplies and critical assistance to people in need. Individuals can contribute to PAHO's Health Emergency Appeal by mailing checks to PAHO, 525 23rd St NW, Washington, D.C., 20037.



DONATING IN-KIND RESOURCES AND SERVICES

PAHO encourages the private and public sectors to align response efforts to this Appeal's priority lines of action. Donations from corporations must comply with PAHO's guidelines and roadmap for engagement with the private sector.

To make an in-kind donation of goods and services, please contact Julie Mauvernay (mauvernj@paho.org) or donate@paho.org to guarantee coherent priorities, minimize gaps and duplication in the health response, and ensure quality assurance of the goods offered.

PAHO appreciates and thanks in advance its donors for their generous contributions to support the delivery of its humanitarian health assistance throughout the Region. PAHO will report contributions to this Appeal on its webpage to acknowledge and give visibility to donors' generosity, report on funding received, and identify remaining financial gaps.

Help us provide lifesaving health assistance and protective services to communities affected by emergencies, without leaving anyone behind.