

TOGETHER,  
BRINGING HEALTH TO  
EVERY CORNER OF  
THE AMERICAS



**PAHO**



**Health is the single most valuable resource for people and countries, and it is fundamental to sustainable development.**

To protect and improve people's lives, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) **is committed to bringing health to every corner of our Region.**

The impact of our work can be seen when vaccines reach remote locations and when a disease is eliminated from the Region. But we do not work alone...

**Our partners' support is essential to guarantee healthy life and promote the well-being of our populations.**

## PAHO is the international health agency for the Americas

PAHO is the main international health agency for the Americas. We work with the countries of the Region to fight diseases, prepare for and respond to health emergencies, strengthen health systems, and achieve the well-being of our populations.

As the Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Americas, we participate in all areas of health at the global, regional, national, and local levels. PAHO has:



 **35** Member States

 **3** specialized centers

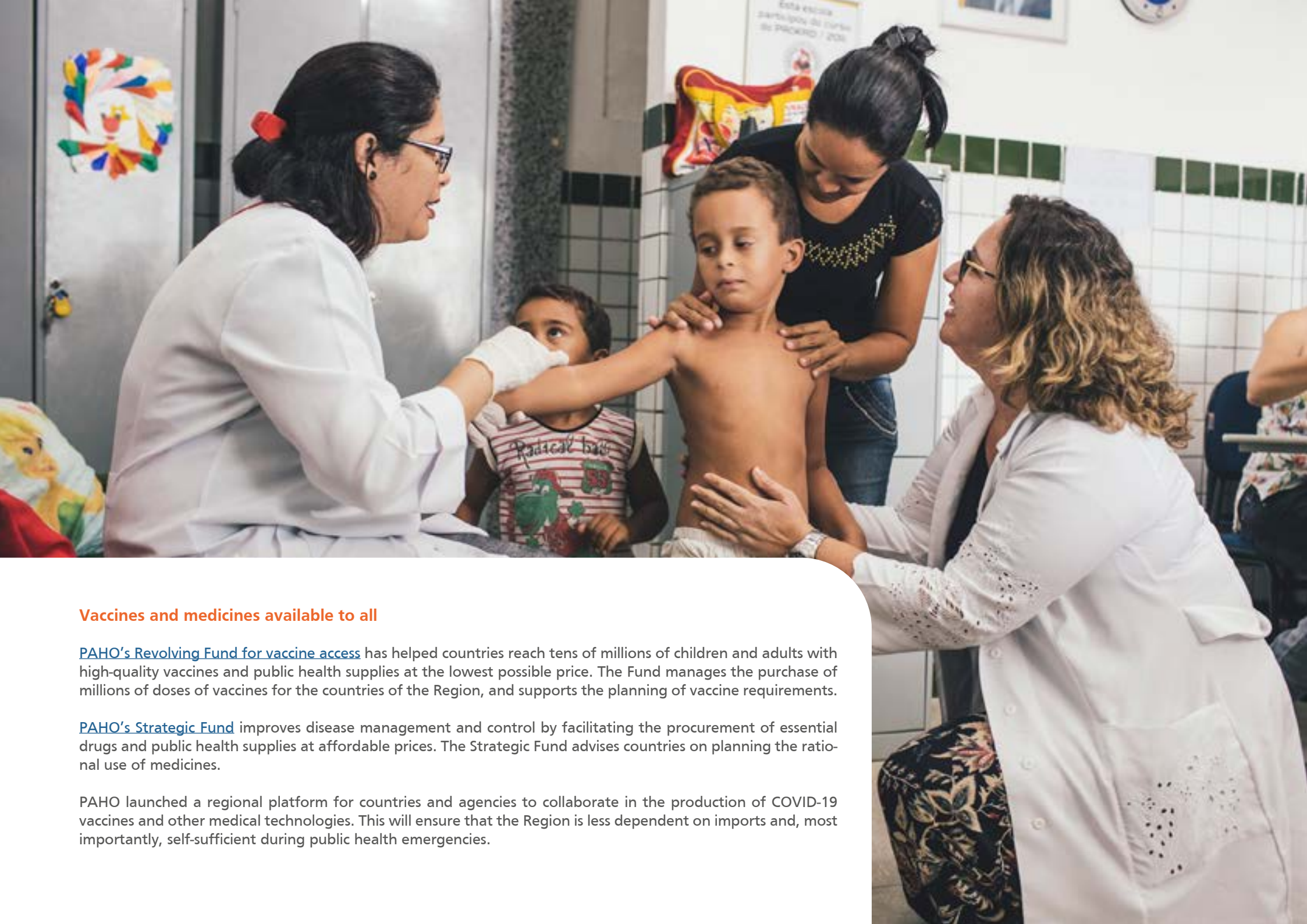
 **27** country offices in the Americas

 **1** headquarters in Washington, DC

 **170** collaborating centers at academic and scientific institutions

### Over a century working for the health of the Americas

At the end of the 19th century, maritime transport was essential for international trade, but it also propagated diseases. To prevent disease and protect the health of the population and the economy, representatives of 11 countries of the Region of the Americas created PAHO in 1902. In 1949, PAHO became the Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Region of the Americas and joined the United Nations system. In 1950 it formally became the specialized health agency of the Inter-American System.



### Vaccines and medicines available to all

[PAHO's Revolving Fund for vaccine access](#) has helped countries reach tens of millions of children and adults with high-quality vaccines and public health supplies at the lowest possible price. The Fund manages the purchase of millions of doses of vaccines for the countries of the Region, and supports the planning of vaccine requirements.

[PAHO's Strategic Fund](#) improves disease management and control by facilitating the procurement of essential drugs and public health supplies at affordable prices. The Strategic Fund advises countries on planning the rational use of medicines.

PAHO launched a regional platform for countries and agencies to collaborate in the production of COVID-19 vaccines and other medical technologies. This will ensure that the Region is less dependent on imports and, most importantly, self-sufficient during public health emergencies.

## PAHO's work involves:

### HEALTH AGENDA



We offer countries **technical cooperation to implement their health agenda**, anticipate challenges for the Region, and implement solutions to prevent, address, and eliminate diseases and achieve universal health.

### STANDARDS



We promote **health standards** and we bring together experts to formulate **evidence-based recommendations** that countries can apply.

### COOPERATION



We create **spaces for cooperation** to address health problems with the collaboration of ministries of health, national and local authorities, representatives of academia, non-governmental organizations, international agencies, community groups, and a wide array of partners.

### TRAINING



We facilitate the **exchange of technical knowledge and training**, including in-person and virtual training through the PAHO [Virtual Campus for Public Health](#), so that health workers have the training they need to do their job, when they need it.

### EMERGENCIES



We support countries facing **natural disasters and health emergencies**: in their preparation for an emergency, in their immediate response to it, and in subsequent stages of recovery.

### PAHO Governance

PAHO is composed of Member States that represent 51 countries and territories in the Americas. Ministers of Health meet annually at PAHO headquarters to agree on health priorities for the Region, and every five years the ministers elect the Director of the Organization. PAHO provides technical cooperation for Member States to implement the strategies and plans of action approved by consensus at the annual meetings.



### Health is key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals


Health is a fundamental human right and a **driver of sustainable development**. This is why, among the [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), SDG 3 proposes “to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” But health is also related to the other SDGs, from reducing hunger to achieving economic development. **Investing in healthy people is a way of working to achieve the SDGs by 2030.**


## Advances in health in the Americas

Over the past century, PAHO has supported the significant advances made in the health of the Region's population:

 Average life expectancy has increased **36 years** over the past century.

 Since 1990, deaths of children under 5 have been reduced by **67%**.

 The Region of the Americas was the first in the world to eliminate smallpox and polio, as well as rubella, congenital rubella syndrome, and measles.

 **10 countries in the Region** eliminated malaria and **eight** eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis.



The Region is a global leader in these areas, with innovative initiatives to eliminate diseases, improve health, and share and replicate successful experiences among countries. All this has helped foster and sustain more stable societies and economies.

Each success is a testament to the hard work of the countries, PAHO's technical expertise and strategic vision, and the value of alliances with external partners to improve health in the Americas.

## Pending challenges

Continued investment in health is needed in order to maintain our achievements and tackle the remaining challenges. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the most serious health crises in the last 100 years and the Region has been hit hard. Countries are now facing even more serious health challenges, including:



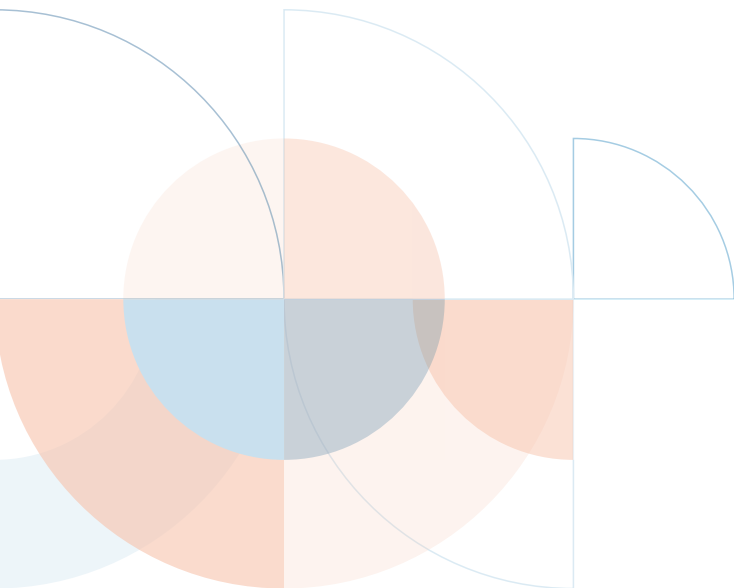
- » Improve access to comprehensive quality health services that are based on primary health care, equitable, and centered on people, families, and communities, in order to advance toward universal health
- » Support equitable access to essential medicines and vaccines
- » Strengthen training of human resources for health
- » Strengthen information systems for health and strengthen digital health



- » Help countries rebuild and strengthen their health systems in the post-pandemic period
- » Help countries prevent and respond to future pandemics, epidemics, natural disasters, and health emergencies



PAHO's [work plan](#) focuses on these issues and is based on the [Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas](#). In this agenda, the countries of the Region agreed that, by 2030, the Region must achieve the highest possible standard of health with equity and well-being for all people throughout the life course, and achieve universal access to health and universal health coverage.



- » Reduce the **number of deaths from preventable causes**
- » Reduce **maternal, child, and adolescent mortality**, with greater access to sexual and reproductive health
- » Keep **routine vaccination levels high** to prevent diseases
- » Increase **health life expectancy**
- » Improve **care for older persons**
- » Emphasize **health promotion and health throughout life course** in the health services
- » Ensure that **the most vulnerable populations have access to health** wherever they are
- » Address the **determinants of health**



- » Reduce the **burden of communicable diseases** such as HIV infection and malaria
- » Eliminate **neglected diseases**
- » Address the **effects of climate change on health**, and manage the impact of environmental determinants of health
- » Reduce risk factors for **noncommunicable diseases**
- » Increase access to services for prevention, surveillance, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care of **noncommunicable diseases and mental health disorders**
- » Strengthen the health system's response to **violence and injuries**



**Lesson from the pandemic:  
Invest in resilient health systems**

COVID-19 has had a high human, social, and economic cost for the Region of the Americas, making it clear that health is at the heart of a prosperous society. Countries must invest in resilient health systems, guarantee access to essential health services, and in particular, strengthen primary health care services.

Along with public investment in health, it is necessary to preserve previous achievements, in particular in maternal and child health, communicable diseases, routine vaccination, and prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, areas especially affected by the pandemic. Work must also be done so that the Region has access to technologies, medicines, and treatments, and increases its own capacity for vaccine research, production, and distribution.

PAHO has led a multisectoral response to COVID-19 aimed at saving lives. This includes everything from access to vaccines and medical supplies to strengthening health services, epidemiological surveillance, and training of human resources for health.

## Investing in health: a commitment to development and equality in the Americas

The Region of the Americas has the greatest inequalities in the world, both between and within countries, with enormous differences in income, education, housing, and access to health care among social groups based on age, gender, ethnicity, and location. Investing in health in the Americas helps close the gaps to achieve sustainable development and eliminate inequities in all areas of society.

Although countries of the Region have registered some degree of economic growth in the last decade, inequalities persist. Health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic have hit the Region hard and recovery will take time.

Investing in health helps protect both the Region and the world from future challenges, such as diseases that spread quickly across countries and continents.

The Region offers a unique scenario for investment in health, with countries that share languages, similar cultural backgrounds, and common health challenges.



# PAHO's areas of work and collaboration

Our areas of work and potential collaboration with partners are:



## HEALTH EMERGENCIES

- » Infectious hazard management
- » Country health emergency preparedness and International Health Regulations
- » Health emergency information and risk assessment
- » Emergency operations
- » Emergency core services
- » Disaster risk reduction and special projects



## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CONTROL AND ELIMINATION

- » HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and tuberculosis
- » Neglected, tropical, and vector-borne diseases
- » Antimicrobial resistance
- » Veterinary public health
- » Communicable disease research and partnership program



## NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND MENTAL HEALTH

- » Noncommunicable diseases, violence and injury prevention
- » Risk factors and nutrition
- » Mental health and substance abuse



## SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINANTS FOR HEALTH EQUITY

- » Immunization
- » Maternal, child, and adolescent health
- » Healthy life course
- » Health promotion and social determinants



## INNOVATION, ACCESS TO MEDICINES AND HEALTH

- » Access to medicines and health Technologies
- » Quality and regulation
- » Innovation and Regional Production Platform



## COMPREHENSIVE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM



## HEALTH SYSTEMS AND SERVICES

- » Primary health care
- » Integrated services delivery
- » Healthy life course
- » Human Resources for Health



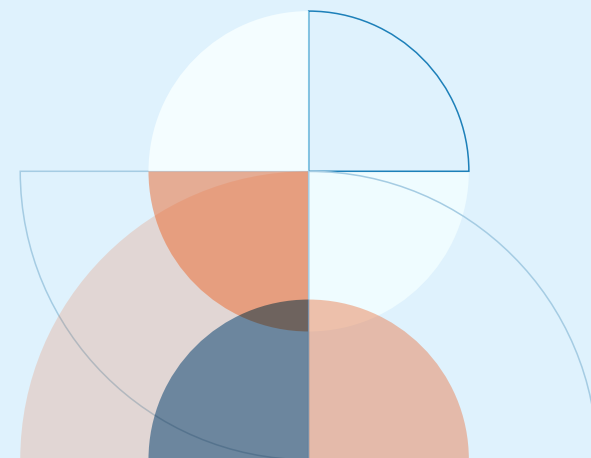
## EVIDENCE AND INTELLIGENCE FOR ACTION IN HEALTH

- » Health analysis, metrics, and evidence
- » Information systems and digital health
- » Knowledge management



## REGIONAL REVOLVING FUNDS

- » Revolving Fund for access to vaccines
- » Strategic Fund for Public Health Supplies



## PAHO is a key partner

PAHO is in a unique position to address complex health challenges in the Region of the Americas, facilitate policy negotiations, and help find effective and sustainable solutions over time. **We have:**

- » the **capacity to manage projects** at both the local and regional level; and thanks to our permanent presence in the countries, **the ability to monitor the progress of those projects in the short, medium, and long term;**
- » **coverage of all countries in the Region** through our country offices, which have qualified technical bodies to manage projects;
- » solid experience in **helping countries prepare for and respond to health emergencies;**
- » the **ability to convene** all actors to respond to health problems;
- » **in-depth knowledge of health and its actors in each country, as well as technical knowledge** to guide and manage projects and policies based on international evidence-based standards;

» **networks of technical knowledge in all health areas** throughout the Region to facilitate **cooperation** among countries and the search for quick solutions in emergencies;

» **mechanisms to audit and report on our projects** and to ensure **transparent and efficient** management.



## Building successful partnerships to improve health

Partnerships have been key in improving health in the Americas. But challenges persist and **working with partners is essential to achieving continued advances.**

At PAHO, [we continually look for partners and creative ways to cooperate.](#)

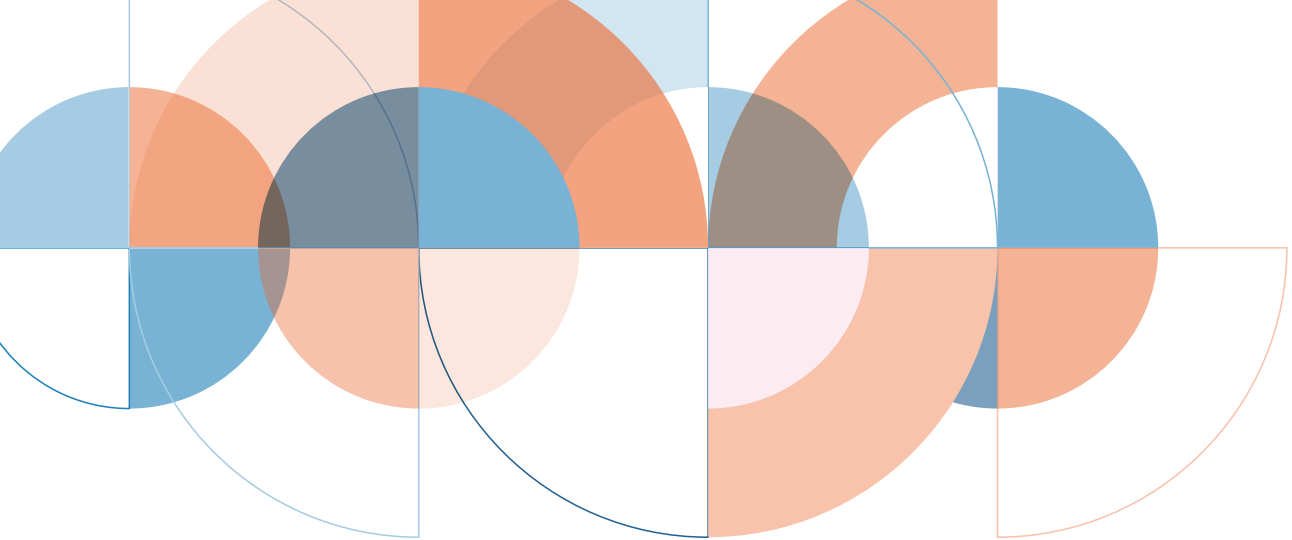
Through partnerships we can leverage the skills, technologies, and resources of the public, private, and non-profit sectors **to extend the scope of programs and find innovative ways to bring health to the Region.**



We want to work with new partners on innovative and high-impact endeavors using a variety of mechanisms that include knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building, as well as financial support.

A healthcare worker wearing white gloves is administering a vaccine to a baby. The baby is being held by a woman wearing a colorful striped top. The healthcare worker is wearing a white and blue striped shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

PAHO is the best instrument for bringing health to every corner of the Region of the Americas and improving the quality of life of its people.



To learn more about partnering with PAHO, visit:  
[www.paho.org/en/partnerships](http://www.paho.org/en/partnerships)



You can also write to us at:  
[partnerships@paho.org](mailto:partnerships@paho.org)

