



In partnership with  
**Canada**

**VWA 2024**  
Vaccination Week In the Americas

# Introduction to PAHO

20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

22nd Vaccination Week in the Americas

13th World Immunization Week



# Outline

- History of PAHO
- History of Vaccination Week in the Americas
- Achievements in disease elimination
- Collaboration with Rotary International
- Our future: Elimination Initiative 2030

# History of PAHO

- In 1870, a yellow fever epidemic struck Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina and, within eight years, had spread to the United States through maritime transport.
- The need to **control the spread of epidemics** from one country to another to **protect people's health and countries' economies** led to the creation on 2 December 1902 of what is today known as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).



# History of PAHO

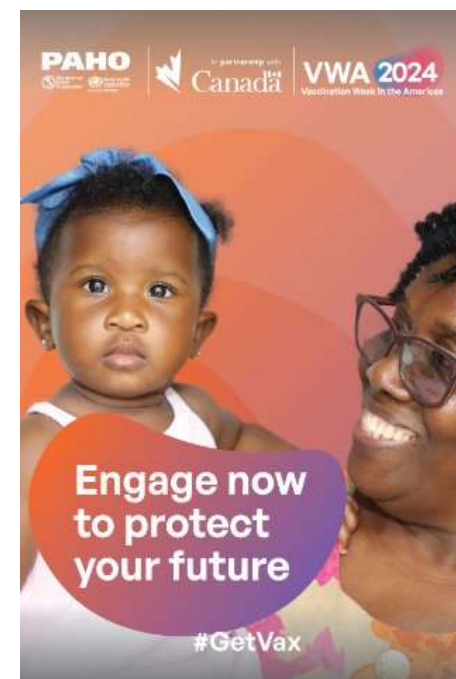
- The PAHO is committed to providing technical support and leadership to Member States as they pursue their goal of Health for All.
- Specifically:
  - a. To urge each Republic to promptly and regularly **transmit to the Bureau all data relative to the sanitary conditions** of their respective ports and territories.
  - b. To obtain all possible aid for a **thorough, careful, and scientific study and investigation of any outbreaks** of pestilential disease which may occur in any of the said Republics.
  - c. To lend its best aid and experience toward **the widest possible protection of the public health** of each of the republics in order that disease may be eliminated and that commerce between the said Republics may be facilitated.
  - d. To **encourage and aid or enforce in all proper ways the sanitation** of seaports, including sanitary improvements of harbors, sewage, drainage of the soil, paving, elimination of infection from buildings, and destruction of mosquitoes and other vermin.

# PAHO's regional immunization program

- Since the creation of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in 1977, countries of the Americas have moved from using six vaccines in their national vaccination schedules to an average of **16 vaccines**.
- The EPI is constantly updating itself so that all people can receive all recommended doses of vaccines throughout their lives to obtain **maximum benefits** from vaccine-preventable diseases.

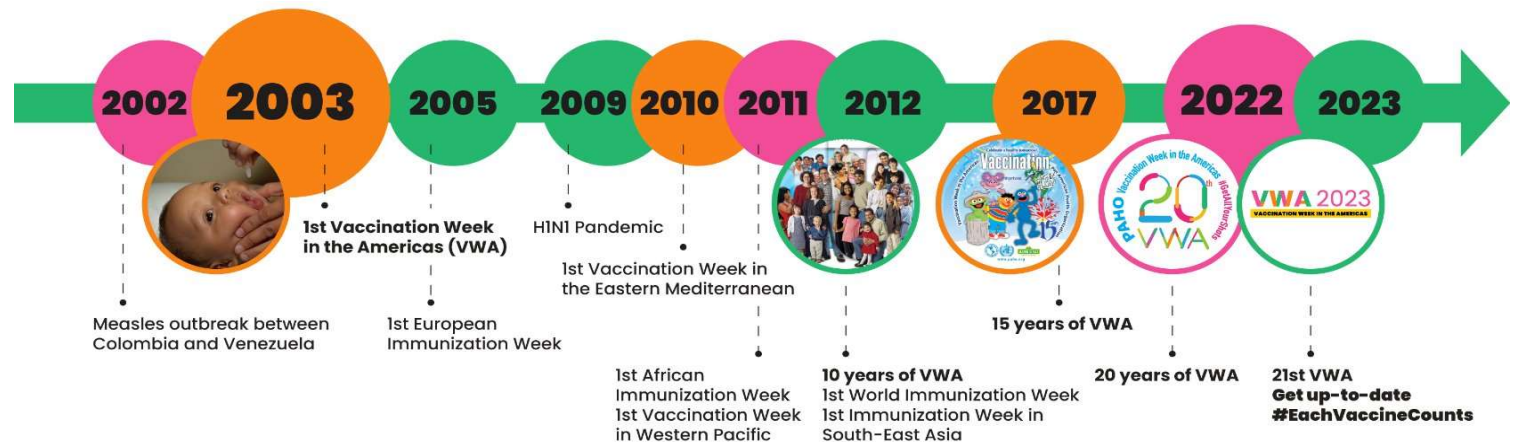
#GetVax

<https://www.paho.org/en/topics/immunization>

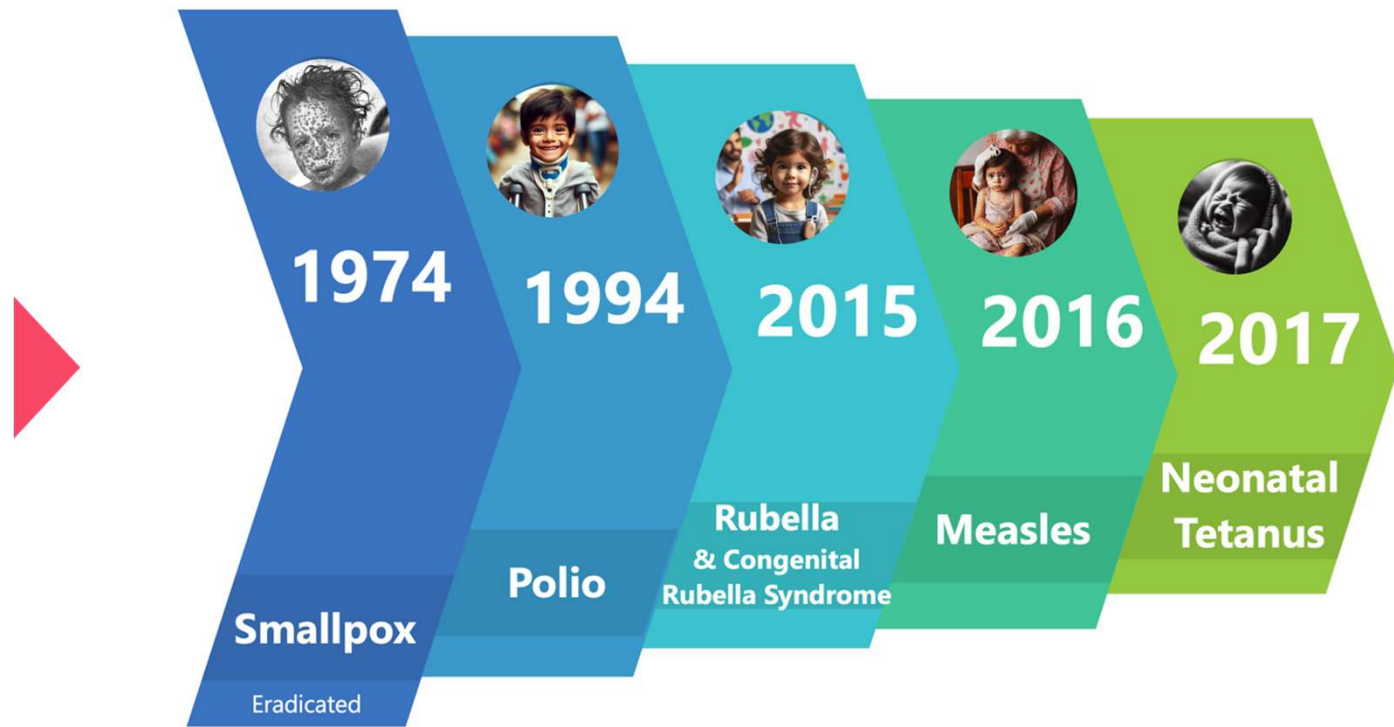


# Vaccination Week in the Americas

- VWA is a yearly event where **more than 40 countries and territories in the Americas come together** to offer live-saving vaccines to millions of persons of all ages.
- The VWA started in **2002**, when the Ministers of Health of Colombia and Venezuela joined forces to end a measles outbreak.
- As the years passed, more and more countries joined the effort to organize coordinated vaccination operations to **reach vulnerable populations, put an end to outbreaks and prevent future ones**, in the spirit of pan-Americanism.



# Achievements in disease elimination



For over 40 years, the success of the EPI has allowed the Region of the Americas to **eradicate** smallpox and **eliminate** 6 vaccine-preventable diseases: polio, rubella, congenital rubella syndrome, measles, and neonatal tetanus.

# Achievements in disease elimination

Since 1979, the Regional Revolving Funds have ensured access and availability to all health commodities needed for the elimination of communicable diseases.

Solidarity  
Equity  
Transparency  
Quality  
Panamericanism

**PAHO**  
**Revolving**  
**Fund** For Access  
to Vaccines



**PAHO**  
**STRATEGIC**  
**FUND**



#GetVax

<https://www.paho.org/en/revolving-fund>



# Collaboration with Rotary International – Operations

## Brazil

Rotary clubs mobilized to help stave off a potential polio outbreak after dangerously low vaccination rates were reported by health officials. More than 11 million Brazilian children were inoculated during a massive two-month vaccination campaign, reversing a trend of plummeting immunization coverage.

## Guyana

Members of the Rotary Club of Demerara are using their 30 years of experience in fighting disease to deliver COVID-19 vaccines and aid to Indigenous communities.

## Canada

Rotary and Rotaract members in Kingston, Ontario volunteered at the region's largest COVID-19 vaccination center, helping to facilitate the process of immunizing hundreds of people per day.

# Collaboration with Rotary International - Advocacy

## Fundraising for polio eradication

Big: In November 2007, Rotary International entered in a unique partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to inject a further US\$ 555 million into the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Small: The Rotary initiative World's Greatest Meal (where Rotarians host meals and ask for donations) has raised over \$7 million for polio eradication operations.

## Technical documents

Vaccine hesitancy is often fuel for heated public debate, but conversations about vaccines don't have to be contentious. In fact, being willing to have them is one of the most impactful ways we can influence global health. These tips may help you open up a dialogue and get your loved ones thinking differently about being vaccinated.

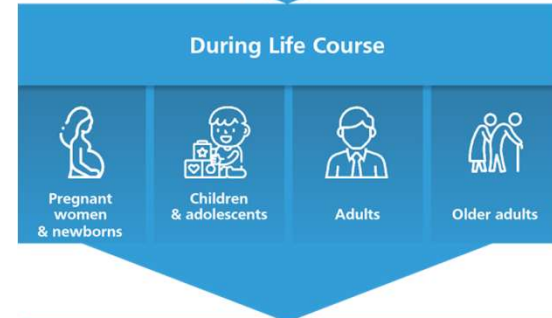
# Our future: PAHO's Elimination Initiative



<https://www.paho.org/en/elimination-initiative>

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## 4 LINES OF ACTION



**1**   
Strengthening and integration of health systems and service delivery

**2**   
Strengthening health surveillance and information systems

**3**   
Addressing the environmental and social determinants of health

**4**   
Strengthening governance, stewardship, and finance

# VWA 2024

Vaccination Week in the Americas

**PAHO**

Pan American  
Health  
Organization

World Health  
Organization  
Americas Region



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**Canada**

# THANK YOU

# Engage now to protect your future

**#GetVax**

