

PAHO



Pan American
Health
Organization




World Health
Organization

Americas Region



1ST INTERREGIONAL MEETING

**Urban
Preparedness**
for health emergencies
and disasters



First Interregional Meeting on Strengthening Preparedness for Health Emergencies and Disasters in Cities and Urban Settings

Quito, Ecuador. October 15-17, 2024



Introduction

According to the United Nations Statistics Division, the Americas region is experiencing steady urbanization, reaching 81% globally in 2018. By 2022, 179,060,000 people will inhabit Central America, and 436,817,000 will inhabit South America. However, more than 293 million people live in Latin America's 86 most populous metropolitan areas. Factors such as rapid urbanization, settlement in at-risk areas, and pronounced inequality increase the vulnerability of populations and create more complex public health and emergency management challenges for urban settings. The COVID-19 pandemic and the high population concentration highlighted cities' susceptibility to the spread of diseases and the occurrence of disasters, underscoring the urgent need to improve preparedness and response to urban health emergencies in Latin America.

In addition, cities in the Americas face unique challenges, such as managing large population volumes, urban mobility, and limited infrastructure, which require specific approaches to emergency preparedness and response. The integration of strategies such as Hospitals Resilient to Emergencies and Disasters supports the construction of a solid framework to strengthen the capacities of the Health Sector in cities, ensuring effective and timely medical care during critical situations. However, coordinated efforts are required in an integrated manner.





In this context, the implementation of the initiative for "**Strengthening health emergency and disaster preparedness in cities and urban settings in Latin America and the Caribbean**" emerges as a strategic response to address these challenges by Resolution WHA75.7 (May 2022) of WHO, which focuses on strengthening preparedness and response to health emergencies in cities and urban settings and also with Resolution WHA73.8 (November 2020) which called on WHO to focus on the unique vulnerabilities of cities from a health security perspective.

PAHO's Health Emergencies Department (PHE) implemented in 2023 the pilot phase in Tegucigalpa, Quito, and Bogota to identify critical aspects for implementing this mandate in the Region, and it is currently moving forward with the implementation of the initiative in Quito, Bogota, and Cali, based on a comprehensive approach that includes a preliminary diagnosis of the capacities and needs of each city, a feasibility and impact analysis, followed by the formulation of specific roadmaps to strengthen capacities and competencies, in addition to promoting an intersectoral and participatory approach, aligned with the eight key areas

identified in the design of the framework at the global level.

In 2024, Quito, Bogota, and Cali will join the initiative, in addition to the projected extension to other cities in Latin America (Guatemala) and the Caribbean (Kingston).

The initiative's main objective is to strengthen health emergency preparedness, response, and recovery capacities at urban levels in Latin America and the Caribbean. It will focus on the Health Sector's resilience to ensure the continuity of its operations, regardless of the type and origin of the hazard.





GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING

Contribute to the implementation of WHO Resolution WHA75.7 (May 2022) for strengthening preparedness to health emergencies in cities and urban settings.

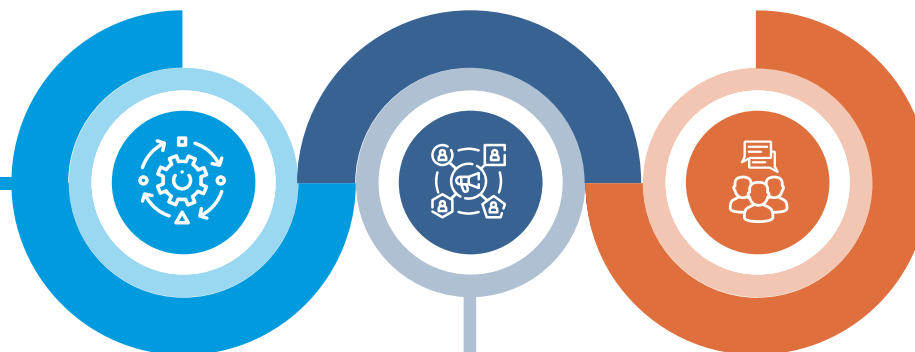




SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

1

Evaluate the progress of the initiative.



2

Facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons learned among participating cities and other regions of the world

3

To formulate in a participatory manner regional strategic lines of work for the expansion of the initiative in the region of the initiative in the region



EXPECTED RESULTS

1

Progress report on the initiative in cities and urban environments in the Americas, containing:

- Success stories
- Critical areas that require greater attention and resources to improve urban resilience.
- Challenges of the initiative in each participating city.
- Recommendations for the short and medium term.

2

Interregional strategy to continue strengthening health emergencies and disaster preparedness, including coordination between local governments, subnational levels, and the National Health Authority.

3

Establish a community of practice on health emergency and disaster preparedness in cities and urban settings.



FORMAT



Hybrid:
Face-to-face and virtual

AUDIENCE

- Mayors and officials of key cities in the implementation of the initiative
- Officials from the Metropolitan District of Quito and other municipalities in Ecuador, responsible for emergency management, urban planning and resilience.
- Risk management officials from the Ministries of Health of Latin America.





AUDIENCIA

- Experts in health emergency and disaster management, with a focus on the urban context and high population density environments.
- Representatives of organizations of people with disabilities and vulnerable groups (children, the elderly, indigenous communities, migrants) as well as other civil society and non-governmental organizations involved in preparations and inclusive planning for emergencies and disasters,

Professionals and academics in public health, resilience and
- urban planning, with a focus on risk management in urban environments, including researchers and consultants specialized in adaptation and risk mitigation strategies for cities and metropolitan areas.
- Representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), and officials from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), as well as representatives from other UN agencies that contribute to preparedness and promote resilience in cities and coordination between local and national governments.





First Interregional Meeting

Strengthening Preparedness Capacities for Response and Recovery to Health Emergencies and Disasters in Cities and Urban Environments.

WORK AGENDA - DAY 1

October 15, 2024.

Venue: Swissôtel, Av. 12 de Octubre 1820, Quito.

Session 1. Opening Session

TIME	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PANELISTS
8:00 - 08:30	Participant registration	Registration and identification of participants	Reception
08:30 a 10:00	Welcome, introduction and objectives of the meeting	Presentation summarizing the main urban health challenges, connecting the issues with the initiative to be discussed.	Miguel Malo Secretary of Health of Quito DMQ Valeska Stempliuk Disease Prevention, Surveillance and Control Advisor PAHO/WHO Ecuador Ludy Suryantoro Head of the WHO Multisectoral Engagement Unit for Global Health Security Preparedness Department of Health Security Preparedness WHO Headquarters - Geneva
	Initiative overview (15 min) -Introduction, objectives, scope and expected results.	Present a general and global overview of the initiative, scope and key areas.	Ludy Suryantoro WHO Headquarters - Geneva
	Presentation of participants	Interactive session using SLIDO	Moderator: Master of Ceremonies Municipality of Quito



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Session 2. Progress and successful experiences in the initiative's implementation

TIME	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PANELISTS
	Round Table: Analysis of strategic lines in the initiative's implementation for the Americas		Moderator: Ing. Daniel Arteaga Head of Unit Disaster Risk Reduction a.i., PAHO Washington D.C Department of Health Emergencies PAHO/WDC Washington D.C.
10:00 – 11:00	Quito Presentation	To present the main implementation advances in Quito.	Miguel Malo Secretary of Health Quito DMQ
	Bogota Presentation	To present the main implementation advances in Bogota.	Gloria García Pinillos Director of Health Emergencies and Emergencies. Municipality of Bogota, Colombia.
	Cali Presentation	To present the main implementation advances in Cali.	Paola Ramírez University Professional - Health Risk Management and Disaster Attention Group
	Round of discussion	Discussion of the main barriers and opportunity areas for implementation in the 3 cities; guiding questions	Moderator: Alex Camacho Vásquez
	Questions and Answers	Open space for questions from the audience	
11:00 - 11:10	Coffee break		



WORK AGENDA - DAY 1

October 15, 2024.

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Session 3. Health disaster risk reduction in cities and urban settings

TIME	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PANELISTS
Part 1	Discussion panel: Towards Risk Reduction in Cities and Urban Environments with a Development Perspective		Moderator: Eng. Daniel Arteaga Advisor UNDRR Americas
11:10 - 12:20	Resilient Hospitals facing health emergencies and disasters	Analyze how hospitals resilient to Health Emergencies and Disasters can strengthen disaster risk reduction in Cities and Urban Environments.	Alex Camacho Vásconez Head of Unit Disaster Risk Reduction a.i., PAHO Washington D.C
	Health Risk Management in Conflict-Affected Urban Settings. Health Risk Management in Conflict-Affected Urban Settings.	Analyze key aspects of health risk preparedness in conflict-affected urban contexts	Tanja Schmidt Team Leader, Preparedness, Readiness and Capacity Building, Health Emergencies Programme, WHO Regional Office for Europe
	Resilient Cities: Ecuador's experience in building resilient cities	Presentation and Q&A focused on the biggest challenges and the most innovative implemented solutions.	Jorge Carrillo Tutivén Titular. National Secretary of Risk Management Ecuador
	Urban Risk Assessment	To integrate the territorial approach in risk assessment in cities and urban environments. It is expected that participants will be able to recognize and identify the key elements in risk assessment in cities and urban environments.	Raquel Lejtregger International Consultant in Risk Assessment in Urban Environments.
	Final interactive discussion	Guiding questions: What are the most critical emerging risks facing cities in your region and how might you better anticipate these risks? What risk assessment approaches have been most effective in your cities or regions and how might they be replicated in other urban contexts? What role should critical infrastructure (hospitals, transportation, water, etc.) play in reducing disaster risk in urban settings? What regional and international cooperation strategies have been most effective in reducing risks in cities and urban settings, and how can they be strengthened?	Gerson Orlando Bermont. District Secretary of Health of Bogotá DC Eng. Patricia Carrillo Director of Risk Management. DMQ Lt. Crnl. Washington Arce. Fire Commander Christian Arias Risk Management Director / Ministry of Health of Ecuador



WORK AGENDA - DAY 1

October 15, 2024.

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Session 3. Health disaster risk reduction in cities and urban settings

TIME	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PANELISTS
Part 2	Expert panel: Health protection against the risk of wildfires in the urban environment		Moderator: Virginia Herzig Director of Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Ministry of Health Guatemala
12:20 - 13:00	Discussion panel	Facilitate an open discussion about the presentations, where participants will be able to ask panelists questions about best practices, challenges and lessons learned in wildfire health protection in urban areas.	Gerson Orlando Bermont. District Secretary of Health of Bogotá DC Eng. Patricia Carrillo Director of Risk Management. DMQ Lt. Crnl. Washington Arce. Fire Commander Christian Arias Risk Management Director / Ministry of Health of Ecuador
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break		
Part 3	Discussion panel: Key Challenges Cities and Urban Environments Face due to Climate Change		Moderator: Alex Pérez. Secretary of Mobility DMQ
14:00 - 15:30	To present the impact of the climate crisis on health in urban settings.	Explore the direct and indirect impacts of the climate crisis on public health in cities, from respiratory diseases to heat wave-related problems.	Diana Espinoza International Center for El Niño Research. CIIFEN
	Sea level rise in cities and its impact on health	Analyze how sea level rise is affecting coastal cities, with a focus on the implications for health infrastructure and the need for adaptation strategies.	Tshewang Choden Dorji Advisor, Data Management, Analytics, and Products (DMAP) Health Emergency Information & Risk Assessment (HIM) PAHO Health Emergencies Department (PHE)
	New urban agenda and health	Discuss how the new urban agenda can serve as a key tool for integrating health into sustainable and climate change resilient urban planning strategies	Monica Quintana UN Habitat Regional Office



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Sesión 3.Reducción del riesgo de desastres en salud en ciudades y entornos urbanos

TIME	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PANELISTS
14:00 - 15:30	Extreme Hydrometeorological Events in Cities and Urban Environments	Review the impact of climate-related hydrometeorological events on critical infrastructure in cities and urban environments (heat waves, floods, high winds, among others).	Gisell Alban International Consultant PHE PAHO
	Interactive Discussion Exercise	Facilitate an interactive discussion with panelists and participants, focusing on key questions about the challenges and possible solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change in cities. During this section, participants will be able to contribute their experiences and perspectives, while panelists respond to questions from the audience.	Panelists: Diana Espinoza, Tshewang Choden Dorji, Monica Quintana, Gisell Alban.

Session 4. Side events

Side Events: Strengthening Preparedness for Response and Recovery in Urban Environments and Cities

15:30 - 17:00	Strategic Risk Assessment of Health Emergencies and Disasters in Urban Settings Freiburg Hall	Coordination Mechanisms for Health Emergency and Disaster Response in Cities and Urban Settings Appenzell Salon (translation)	Risk communication strategies for health emergencies and disasters in cities Montreaux Hall
	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
	Presentation of the STAR and STAR-H tool in the urban context	Response Coordination Tools (JEROS)	Instruments, key aspects, etc.
	Interactive exercise (simulated scenario)	Interactive exercise for JEROS implementation	Interactive exercise
	Questions and Answers	Questions and Answers	Questions and Answers
	Juan Carlos Sánchez / Virginia Herzig	Leonardo Hernández / Santiago Tarapues	Tanya Escamilla / Rafael Castillo
17:00 - 17:10	Summary of the day and conclusions		



First Interregional Meeting

Strengthening Preparedness Capacities for Response and Recovery to Health Emergencies and Disasters in Cities and Urban Environments

WORK AGENDA - DAY 2

October 16, 2024.

Session 5. Inaugural Session (Venue: Centro Cultural Metropolitano)

TIME	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PANELISTS
8:00 - 08:30	* transfer to the event venue		Registration desk
8:30 - 09:00	Introduction	Introduction of authorities and panelists Safety instructions Methodology of the meeting	Authorities at the podium: -Dr. Sonia Quezada, PAHO Representative in Ecuador. -Dr. Manuel Antonio Naranjo Paz y Miño. Minister of Public Health of Ecuador -Mr. Pabel Muñoz, Mayor of DMQ (ECU)
09:00 - 10:30	Interventions (25 min)	Ceremony	
	Welcome message. Minister of Public Health of Ecuador Dr. Manuel Antonio Naranjo Paz y Miño		
	Message Dr. Sonia Quezada PWR PAHO Ecuador		
	Welcome by Dr. Ciro Ugarte (virtual) 2 min		
	Inaugural message from Mayor Pabel Muñoz		
	Health Emergency Preparedness Initiative in Urban and City Environments (10 min)	Highlight the impact of health emergencies and disasters with emphasis on urban settings. Present progress in the implementation of the initiative, emphasizing the global scope of strategic actions in the Americas.	Ludy Suryantoro Head of the WHO Multisectoral Engagement Unit for Global Health Security Preparedness Department of Health Security Preparedness WHO Headquarters - Geneva
	Healthy Municipalities, Cities and Communities Movement (10 min)	Regional platform of local governments made up of cities, municipalities, mayors' offices, cantons, communes, communities and commonwealths.	German Ricardo Camacho Barrera Mayor of Paipa. President of the Movement of Healthy Municipalities, Cities and Communities.
10:30 - 11:00	Group photo and coffee break		



WORK AGENDA - DAY 2

October 16, 2024.

Venue: Centro Cultural Metropolitano

Session 6. Inclusion in Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management in Cities and Urban Settings

Seminar: Inclusion in Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management in Cities and Urban Environments			<p>Moderator: Juan Angel de Gouveia, President of RIADIS Alternate Moderator: Alex Camacho Vásquez Head of Unit Disaster Risk Reduction a.i., PAHO Washington D.C</p>
11:00 - 12:00	<p>Universal accessibility as a key element of emergency and disaster response in the Metropolitan District of Quito.</p>	<p>To present the key aspects of accessibility in emergency planning and response in cities and urban environments, highlighting challenges and solutions.</p>	<p>Alex Pérez Secretary of Mobility Quito. DMQ</p>
	<p>Inclusion of the specific needs and contributions of older adults in disaster risk management.</p>	<p>Analyze the specific needs of older adults during emergencies and highlight how they can contribute to preparedness planning and execution.</p>	<p>Andrea Pacheco Barzallo Professor and Researcher International University</p>
	<p>Spatial Accessibility to Critical Infrastructure in Emergency Situations</p>	<p>Identify the key aspects to be managed to ensure accessibility to health infrastructure and other essential services during emergencies and disasters in urban settings.</p>	<p>Dr. Ciro Jaramillo Molina (virtual) Full Professor. School of Civil Engineering and Geomatics. Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia</p>
	<p>INGRID-H Inclusion for Disaster Risk Management</p>	<p>To highlight the importance of the inclusion of people with disabilities as a fundamental component in disaster risk management, specifically in the urban context, and to present the progress of INGRID-H implementation in the region.</p>	<p>Juan Carlos Sánchez International Consultant PAHO Washington D.C.</p>



WORK AGENDA - DAY 2

October 16, 2024.

Venue: Centro Cultural Metropolitano

Session 7. International Success Stories: Resilience in Cities and Urban Environments

TIME	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PANELISTS
	Presentation of international success stories: Analysis of international implementation (continuation of session 2)		Moderator: Adam Tiliouine Health Security Preparedness Technical Officer Health Emergencies Program World Health Organization - Geneva
12:00 - 13:00	Quito Presentation	Present the main challenges and opportunities for implementation in Quito.	Miguel Malo. Secretary of Health of Quito DMQ
	OPS Presentation	Migration in the Americas: Health Challenges for Cities and Urban Settings	Celso Bambarén (virtual) Unit Chief, Country Health Emergency Preparedness and IHR (CPI)
	EMRO Presentation	Share success stories, gaps, barriers and areas of opportunity in EMRO implementation.	Jehan Al Badri /Hammid Ravaghi Dr. Jeshu Mohammed Mundodan Public Health Specialist at the Ministry of Public Health of Qatar
	Europe, EURO	Sharing successful experiences for resilience in cities through the use of tools.	Tanja Schmidt Chief of Preparedness, Readiness and Capacity Building Health Emergency Preparedness and IHR WHO Health Emergencies Program WHO Regional Office for Europe - Denmark
	SEARO Presentation	Share success stories, gaps, barriers and areas of opportunity in SEARO implementation.	Reuben Samuel Health Emergency Preparedness Program Manager for countries and IHR WHO Health Emergencies Program WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia - India



WORK AGENDA - DAY 2

October 16, 2024.

Venue: Centro Cultural Metropolitano

Session 7. International Success Stories: Resilience in Cities and Urban Environments

TIME	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PANELISTS
12:00 - 13:00	Questions and Answers: Main challenges and solutions for the implementation of the Framework for Strengthening Urban Preparedness	<p>What have been the main adaptations or innovations implemented in your city to address initial barriers to building resilience to emergencies?</p> <p>In terms of collaboration and coordination, how has coordination between local and national governments influenced the success or challenges of implementing the framework in your cities?</p> <p>What specific tools or technologies have been key to strengthening resilience in your cities, and how can they be replicated in other urban contexts?</p> <p>How has the use of digital platforms been leveraged to improve emergency response in urban settings?</p>	<p>Moderator: Adam Tiliouine Panelists: Miguel Malo, Gerson Orlando Bermont, Tanja Schmidt, Reuben Samuel</p>
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch break		

Session 8: Preparedness for pandemics caused by respiratory pathogens: experiences from urban settings and cities.

14:30 - 16:00	Introduction	Introduction of the session, its structure and the panelists	<p>Valeska Stempliuk Health Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control Advisor. PHE/IMH OPS ECU</p>
	Presentation: Preparedness is the basis of response: PRET Initiative	To present the PRET initiative, the World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions and the governance framework for pandemic preparedness.	<p>Evelyn Balsells International Consultant PHE/IHM PAHO</p>



WORK AGENDA - DAY 2

October 16, 2024.

Venue: Centro Cultural Metropolitano

Session 8: Preparedness for pandemics caused by respiratory pathogens: experiences from urban settings and cities.

TIME	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PANELISTS
14:30 - 16:00	Interactive exercise	To sensitize participants to opportunities for strengthening national capacities in urban areas through pandemic scenario questions.	Evelyn Balsells International Consultant PHE/IHM PAHO
	Panel: Preparing our cities for the unknown	Recognize the importance of preparedness in cities, sharing strategies and lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Washington Rueda , National Directorate of Epidemiological Surveillance, Quito, Ecuador Virginia Herzig , Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, Guatemala Gloria García Pinillos , District Secretary of Health, Bogota, DC
	Round of discussion and Q&A	Guiding question discussion round: How can urban environment and city preparedness plans be harmonized with national plans?	Moderator: Evelyn Balsells 3 minutes each speaker
	Conclusions and Closing	Recap the key points discussed, highlighting best practices and viable strategies.	Valeska Stempliuk PHE/IMH OPS ECU
16:00 - 18:00	Interactive Exercise: integration dynamics (guided tour)		
18:30 - 20:00	Dialogue on the Interregional Urban Preparedness Strategy. Dinner		Return to Swissotel 20:00



WORK AGENDA - DAY 3

October 17, 2024.

Venue: Swissôtel, Av. 12 de Octubre 1820, Quito.

Session 9. Regional Implementation and Expansion Strategy

TIME	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PANELISTS
09:00 - 09:30	Introduction to the Regional Strategy	Introduce the objectives of the day, the importance of a regional strategy and the expected results. Brief presentation on the context and the need for an integrated regional strategy.	Alex Camacho Vásconez Head of Unit Disaster Risk Reduction a.i., PAHO Washington D.C
	Interactive Debate: Lessons Learned and Best Practices	Present the compilation of lessons learned and best practices from session 2, a whiteboard will be presented where participants interact to share their notes.	Moderator: Adriana Echeverria Risk Management Coordinator Secretary of Health Metropolitan District of Quito Support: Juan Carlos Sánchez
Group Workshop: Regional Strategy construction for expanding the initiative and building evidence (90 min)			
9:30 a 11:00	Introduction (10 min)	Explaining the dynamics and objectives of the workshop.	Working on different components of the initiative, developing proposals for strategic lines of action to provide a sustainable approach
	Working group: A salon Appenzell (translation)	Working group: B Freiburg hall	Working group: C salon Montreaux
	Key aspects for strengthening urban resilience	Organization and Delivery of Health Services and Other Essential Services	Risk and Crisis Communication
	Governance and Financing	Resilient infrastructure in urban environments	Community Engagement Strategies
	Multisectoral and Multiscale Coordination	Key Groups at Risk and Vulnerable (PcD, Elderly, Indigenous Population, Population in Mobility)	Population Density / Housing Conditions / Mobility and Transportation
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee break		



WORK AGENDA - DAY 3

October 17, 2024.

Venue: Swissôtel, Av. 12 de Octubre 1820, Quito.

Session 9. Regional Implementation and Expansion Strategy

TIME	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PANELISTS
11:15 - 12:00	Presentation of strategies by group	Presentation of strategies by group	Presentation of strategies by group
	Presentation of the preliminary results of the Risk Perception Survey in Quito.	To present the preliminary results of the survey on social perception of risk in the Metropolitan District of Quito.	Patricia Carrillo Director of Risk Management DMQ
Interactive exercise: Evidence-based strategic planning. Importance of data collection and indicators for informed decision making.			Moderation and introduction: Gloria Eugenia García Pinillos Director of Health Emergencies and Emergencies. Municipality of Bogota, Colombia.
12:00 - 13:00	Interaction: Identification of Key Information Needs	Participants will identify and vote on key Data and Indicator needs in cities. Sample questions for SLIDO: What are the critical data you need to collect to improve emergency preparedness? What indicators are essential to monitor disaster response capacity?	Moderator with participants
	Prioritization of Information Collection Strategies (15 min)	Facilitated discussion: discuss and propose strategies for data collection and indicators.	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break		



WORK AGENDA - DAY 3

October 17, 2024.

Venue: Swissôtel, Av. 12 de Octubre 1820, Quito.

Session 9. Regional Implementation and Expansion Strategy

TIME	ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	PANELISTS
14:00 - 15:30	Presentation of the Regional Strategy and Expansion Plan	<p>Summarize the strategies developed and present the regional action plan.</p> <p>Consolidate proposals and strategies from previous sessions.</p> <p>Use of Slido for questions and comments from participants.</p>	<p>Alex Camacho Vásconez Head of Unit Disaster Risk Reduction a.i., PAHO Washington D.C</p>
	Closing and final conclusions. Closing Remarks	Closing ceremony by authorities and organizers	<p>Authorities</p> <p>Ludy Suryantoro Head of the WHO Multisectoral Engagement Unit for Global Health Security Preparedness</p> <p>Dr. Miguel Malo. Secretary of Health Quito.</p> <p>Dr. Valeska Stempljuk PHE/IMH OPS ECU</p> <p>Dr. Alex Camacho PHE HQ WDC</p>