



**Reporting Period:
1 October - 30 November 2020**

Latin America and the Caribbean Region

COVID-19 Situation Report No. 10

United Nations Population Fund



Regional Highlights

- The COVID-19 pandemic has hit Latin America and the Caribbean at a time of low growth, marked inequality and vulnerability, growing poverty, weakening of social cohesion and increasing expressions of social discontent.
- Cases of COVID-19 continue to increase in the region and are currently at or near the highest levels observed since the start of the pandemic.
- Most countries in the region have weak and fragmented health systems, which do not guarantee the universal access to health care needed to address the COVID-19 crisis.
- The impact is high on the frontline health workers, who often lack sufficient PPE.
- The crisis is also having a considerable impact on women's access to health care and, in particular, to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. Lockdown measures enforced in countries have also led to a sharp increase in gender-based violence (GBV).
- Contraceptives are expected to suffer shortages or stockouts by the end of this year.
- The pandemic is also showing increased incidence among vulnerable populations, particularly indigenous people, afro-descendants, prisoners, migrants, and LGBTI people.
- Urgent funding is needed to meet these rising needs.

Situation in Numbers

 **14,688,648** Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

 **485,427** COVID-19 Deaths

Source: WHO, 22 December 2020

Key Population Groups

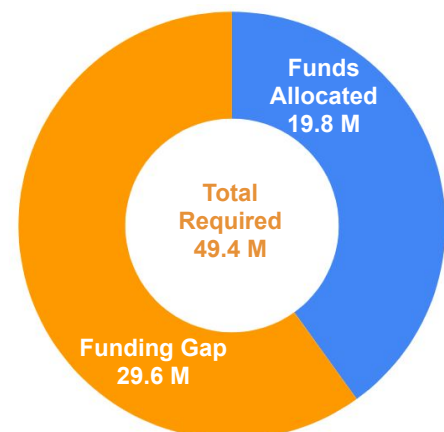
 **8 M** Pregnant Women

 **172 M** Women of Reproductive Age

 **165 M** Young People (age 10-24)

 **58 M** Older Persons (age 65+)

Funding Status for Region (US\$)



Coordination and Partnerships

Coordination at regional level

Regional level coordination supports country offices to respond to COVID-19 in line with the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) and UNFPA's Global Response Plan. The GHRP covers multiple LAC countries with humanitarian needs. These are Colombia, Haiti and Venezuela, which have national humanitarian response plans and an additional 17 countries which are covered by the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for a coordinated response to the needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela. The RMRP has been revised to address the needs of refugees, migrants and host communities in the context of COVID-19, particularly as related to health and protection. UNFPA participates in the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) and co-leads the GBV sub-sector. UNFPA also actively participates in the Regional Group on Risks, Emergencies and Disasters for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) including the health, protection, logistics and shelter sectors.



Nearly 12,000 people are staying in shelters following the deadly storm.
© UNFPA Honduras

Response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota

In November, Hurricanes Eta and Iota left severe damage across multiple countries in the region. Health care delivery systems have been critically affected, which has compounded the impact of COVID-19 and compromised access to sexual and reproductive health services. At the same time, GBV is known to increase during disasters. Actions in GBV prevention, mitigation and response are considered life-saving in humanitarian settings. UNFPA is providing GBV coordination, participating in health and protection sector needs assessments and providing dignity kits to women and girls in situations of vulnerability in the hurricane-impacted countries. UNFPA is also supporting continuity of life-saving SRH and GBV services in the most affected areas of Colombia, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Coordination at sub-regional level

UNFPA continues to work with sister agencies in the delivery of services in the Caribbean. In this respect, the Joint UN COVID-19 Multi-Country Response Plan for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean will be expanded to 2021. UNFPA is leading the strengthening of GBV referral pathways for access to multi-sectoral services by GBV survivors. UNFPA is also engaged in coordination for hurricane preparedness and response.

Coordination at country level

UNFPA provides advocacy and technical assistance to government counterparts and strategic partners to promote the continuity of 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 data. UNFPA's activities are conducted in partnership with the UN country team and/or humanitarian country team. UNFPA actively participates in humanitarian coordination mechanisms (including the health and protection clusters) and leads or co-leads the GBV sub-cluster where this has been activated. UNFPA is also engaged in the drafting of the UN's framework for the socio-economic response to COVID-19.

Continuity of sexual and reproductive health services and interventions, including protection of health workforce

UNFPA is supporting national and local planning, coordination and monitoring to ensure continuity of SRH services. UNFPA coordinates efforts with regional partners including PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, UNAIDS and professional associations such as the International Confederation of Midwives. The objective is to ensure access to quality lifesaving SRH information and services for women, adolescents and youth through joint advocacy with health authorities. UNFPA is intensifying its efforts to secure continuity of maternal health care, through technical support and training of service providers and provision of PPE.

Country examples:

- **Argentina:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Women, Gender, and Diversity and the Ministry of Health on SRH and GBV.
- **Bolivia:** UNFPA is delivering PPE to health personnel at prioritized health facilities and to women accessing SRH services. This is supported by provision of training and communication materials.
- **Brazil:** UNFPA supports telehealth services in 6 municipalities in the Marajó Island (State of Pará) for continuity of SRH care. UNFPA is providing PPE and SRH supplies in Amazonas, Roraima, Bahia and Pará states. In Roraima and Amazonas, UNFPA also supports care for pregnant women with COVID-19.
- **Colombia:** 690 migrant women have received contraceptives and 146 pregnant women have received essential services in the states of Arauca, La Guajira and Norte de Santander. UNFPA has provided information and condoms to 194 young people in Arauca and Saravena and is integrating SRH and GBV services in La Guajira, targeting indigenous and migrant women.
- **Costa Rica:** UNFPA is supporting an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on access to contraception and GBV services. UNFPA is providing PPE to support continuity of SRH services and is partnering with other UN agencies in a COVID-19 prevention campaign targeting indigenous communities.
- **Cuba:** UNFPA is providing SRH kits with reusable equipment in all provinces of the country, providing PPE for health workers, and procuring infrared thermometers for the reopening of schools, per a request from the Ministry of Education.
- **Chile:** UNFPA has provided Training of Trainers on the Minimum Initial Service Package for SRH in emergencies (MISP). As a result, the Ministry of Health (MOH) now has a national team of 8 MISP trainers.
- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance on the development and implementation of the National Plan for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancies, including municipal-level prioritization, while promoting the continuity of SRH services, prenatal care and family planning.
- **Ecuador:** UNFPA is coordinating with the MOH on the development of the Manual on SRH in Emergency Contexts.
- **El Salvador:** Through the medical advice line 131, launched last month and run with technical and financial support from UNFPA, callers can reach health personnel. One of the benefits has been that doctors are now able to reach people who, before the pandemic, faced difficulty accessing medical care.
- **Guatemala:** UNFPA provides technical support to the MOH for continuity of obstetric care, adolescent health care and family planning services in the context of COVID-19 and is delivering PPE for essential workers to support continuity of life-saving SRH services.

Regional Response Summary (continued)

- **English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean:** In **Trinidad and Tobago**, UNFPA supported the provision of N95 and surgical masks for the Medical Research Foundation, the largest HIV treatment site in the country, while surgical masks and face shields were provided to the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago. In **Suriname**, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) affiliate Foundation Lobi Health Center was supported with delivery of essential SRH services, including through PPE for face-to-face services. In **Guyana**, UNFPA supported the provision of contraceptives and PPE to the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association (GRPA) and the MOH. In **Belize**, 91 rural and public health nurses who provide maternal and child health services have been provided with access to mobile telephone and data plans to support remote appointments and follow-up for services delivered in the past three months.
- **Haiti:** UNFPA assesses the impact of COVID-19 on delivery of maternal health services through the emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC) monitoring process. The demand for maternal health has increased and UNFPA is strengthening capacity of EmONC facilities in three out of four departments. UNFPA is providing PPE to more than 60% of the EmONC network in the country and has deployed six midwives.
- **Honduras:** 200 health services providers in the Department of Cortés were trained on SRH and maternal health care in the context of COVID-19, and PPE was delivered to 500 maternal health care providers in Tegucigalpa and in the health regions of Intibucá, La Paz, Copán, Atlántida, Lempira, Olancho, Choluteca and Valle.
- **Mexico:** UNFPA is strengthening networks of primary health care services, with an emphasis on SRH and ensuring the provision of PPE for health personnel working at the first level of neonatal and maternal health care. The IMPrEP project in three cities integrates measures to reduce COVID-19 infections in the provision of services.
- **Nicaragua:** UNFPA is in the process of procuring PPE and has mobilized the donation of 700,000 condoms for the MOH. UNFPA supported the Global Movement for Children in the second rapid assessment on COVID-19's impact on interruption of maternal health services, use of contraceptives, school dropout, GBV and household consumption.
- **Panama:** UNFPA is supporting maternal health services in the indigenous region of Chiriqui through "maternal houses" and has conducted a field visit to assess needs for similar interventions in the province of Darien.
- **Paraguay:** UNFPA is providing technical support to the MOH in several areas including: i) strengthening the vital statistics system; ii) developing protocols for remote services for pregnant women; iii) monitoring the supply of essential services; and iv) updating protocols for SRH care for adolescents.
- **Peru:** UNFPA (i) provided technical assistance and mobile phones to health entities in three northern coast regions and one district in Lima to strengthen monitoring of pregnant women among refugees, migrants and host communities; (ii) coordinated with the MOH to train 70 health providers on adolescent SRH and COVID-19; and (iii) procured PPE for frontline SRH professionals.
- **Uruguay:** UNFPA provided PPE to the MOH to guarantee the right of each women to have her partner present during delivery and obstetric procedures. UNFPA also provided technical and software solutions for continuation and strengthening of HIV surveillance during COVID-19.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA continues to work with humanitarian partners and authorities to address critical needs in prioritized medical centers and temporary shelters for returnees. Three centers for pregnant women have received improvements in infrastructure, water, and electricity services. UNFPA is also contributing to the Health Cluster narrative for the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan.

Addressing Gender-Based Violence

Through the Spotlight and Essential Service initiatives, UNFPA provides advocacy and technical assistance for the continuity and scale up of integrated services to prevent and respond to increased GBV in the context of COVID-19. In humanitarian settings, UNFPA provides GBV sub-cluster coordination and facilitates regular revision of GBV referral pathways to reflect the rapidly changing availability of services for GBV survivors. UNFPA also invests in life-saving GBV case management, psychosocial support (PSS) services and clinical management of rape and provides dignity kits including information about GBV prevention and services for vulnerable women and girls.

Country examples:

- **Argentina:** UNFPA is supporting the online course "Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Survivors of Violence" in the province of Buenos Aires and is collaborating with UNAIDS and UNDP to strengthen the program El Teje Solidario, which provides social and economic assistance to transgender people in situations of vulnerability.
- **Bolivia:** UNFPA provided remote training to public servants based on the Essential Services Package standards in the areas of GBV prevention, care and information management. UNFPA leads the GBV sub-cluster and participates actively in the interagency protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) task force, supporting preparation of the Action Plan and mapping of PSEA policies and procedures.
- **Brazil:** UNFPA co-leads the Protection Sector of the R4V Platform (Response for Venezuelans) with UN Women with emphasis on GBV prevention and services. In October, training on protection against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment was provided to 75 civil servants working with refugees and migrants in the state of Roraima.
- **Colombia:** UNFPA continued to provide remote GBV case management and psychosocial support in Arauca and Norte de Santander where caseworkers opened 57 new cases. UNFPA presented the model and tools for remote and rapid in-transit GBV case management to more than 260 participants in the GBV sub-sector and GIFMM (inter-agency group on mixed flow migration).
- **Costa Rica:** UNFPA is supporting the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) in the preparation of the manual for services for GBV survivors. UNFPA is developing a study on the impact of COVID-19 on GBV prevention and care, adolescent pregnancy, and early unions. UNFPA is also conducting a mapping of GBV and SRH services in the context of mixed flow migration.
- **Cuba:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the Cuban Federation of Women in the formulation of the [Guideline for GBV remote services](#). UNFPA supported the mapping of GBV services available in the context of COVID-19 and is positioning GBV and gender equality in the UN socioeconomic response plan.
- **Chile:** UNFPA is partnering with the MOH and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in actions to address GBV among migrant women. UNFPA's contributions include online educational activities and distribution of dignity kits and brochures.
- **Dominican Republic:** Following the elections and transition of government, UNFPA has provided technical assistance to the new authorities for the incorporation of gender and youth perspectives in planning for pandemic and post-pandemic contexts, including to address GBV.
- **Ecuador:** UNFPA is leading the GBV sub-sector. UNFPA partnered with the Human Rights Secretary (SDH), Indoamérica Technological University, UNICEF and UN WOMEN to provide a course on GBV and child protection in humanitarian contexts, reaching 220 lawyers, psychologists and social workers. UNFPA also delivers dignity kits and provides GBV case management in the border areas.
- **El Salvador:** Training on femicide prevention was provided to male public workers and another course targeting youth leaders on gender equality and healthy masculinities has been developed. Two courses on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) have been launched, targeting university teachers, public operators and civil society organizations that provide CSE outside the classroom.

- **English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean:** UNFPA's Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean (SROC) has finalized GBV Assessment tools to be used in the Caribbean in the aftermath of a disaster; the SROC is also conducting its Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) webinar series, to include the launch of the Guidelines for the Provision of Remote Services for GBV survivors. In **Belize**, remote counselling and psychosocial first aid have concluded, having reached 36 people with over 184 sessions. In **Suriname**, UNFPA continues to work with UNDP to strengthen the capacity of GBV service providers: 22 national trainers have been engaged to ensure the sustainability of capacity strengthening efforts. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, referral pathways are continuously being updated to reflect changes in the field. In **Guyana**, UNFPA is supporting – through IP Help & Shelter – the expansion of GBV and psychosocial support services and the implementation of a bilingual (Spanish/English) GBV hotline.
- **Guatemala:** UNFPA has supported hotlines and radio messages for GBV survivors in Spanish and 5 indigenous languages. UNFPA leads the GBV subgroup and has provided more than 3,700 dignity kits and PPE to women and girls in situations of vulnerability, including migrants.
- **Haiti:** UNFPA is working with the Government and partners to strengthen GBV services along the border with Dominican Republic. Training on GBV case management and psychosocial first aid was targeted to health professionals, GBV case workers and border monitoring officers at four border entry points.
- **Honduras:** UNFPA leads the GBV sub-cluster and is supporting the MOH and National Institute for Women (INAM) to strengthen remote psychosocial support services for GBV survivors in the context of COVID-19.
- **Mexico:** UNFPA trained 145 hotline operators and first responders and partnered with UNICEF and the Posadas Group to provide safe accommodation for female GBV survivors in four Spotlight locations. UNFPA also partnered with UNODC, UN Women and UNDP to distribute dignity and hygiene kits for women and girls.
- **Nicaragua:** UNFPA is supporting GBV information management and contributing to strengthening availability of shelter for GBV survivors, in partnership with the Nidia White women's movement. UNFPA is also supporting the promotion of the Ministry of Family's (MIFAN) telephone helpline 133.
- **Panama:** UNFPA developed three workshops about essential services and the importance of the Intergenerational Approach with the national women's institute (INAMU), national secretary for children, adolescents and family (Senniaf), and Santa María La Antigua University (USMA). UNFPA also supported three campaigns against violence including Violet Mask and Prevention of Violence targeting refugees and migrants.
- **Paraguay:** Through the interagency project "Paraguay Protects", UNFPA supported the contracts of 16 professional psychologists, social workers and lawyers for continuation/strengthening of integrated GBV services across five locations. UNFPA also supported the Gender Secretariat of the Supreme Court of Justice to prepare the "Protocol for GBV Case Management".
- **Peru:** UNFPA i) supported MOH to finalize the norm to assess psychological damage in cases of GBV; (ii) co-hosted a public event with the Ombudsman's office on disappearance of women, a problem that has increased in the context of COVID-19; and (iii) coordinated the implementation of GBViE response hotlines for migrant and refugee women and host communities in three regions through R4V.
- **Uruguay:** UNFPA provided technical support to health services to gather and organize data on GBV and violence against adolescents and youth, as cases have spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA leads the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) and coordinates actions with the authorities to address the needs of returnees and people in temporary shelters. Hotlines providing remote services have been launched in coordination with partners, and three safe space for women and girls have been established in border areas.

Ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities

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:

- **Argentina:** UNFPA is supporting the MOH to secure the supply of Misoprostol and male condoms through the third party procurement modality.
- **Brazil:** UNFPA is promoting cooperation between states for the continuity of services in Marajó Island and supporting the development of an innovative digital delivery system for SRH supplies.
- **Bolivia:** UNFPA is supporting the monitoring process led by the MOH and the Central Health Supplies Warehouse (CEASS) to analyze the implementation of the Revolving Fund. This included use of the information from the national Logistics Administration Information System for supply monitoring within the context of COVID-19 and beyond.
- **Colombia:** UNFPA provided long-acting contraceptives to rural hospitals in different municipalities and delivered PPE and SRH supplies through the Health for Peace Project and the Inter-Agency Strategy for Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Indigenous Communities. PPE supplies were delivered to 129 municipalities in the context of the Health for Peace project.
- **Costa Rica:** UNFPA delivered 1,300 female condoms in the context of the INAMU-UNFPA project for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy and GBV. These are being distributed among women with difficulties in accessing health services due to the pandemic.
- **Cuba:** UNFPA is supporting the MOH to ensure the supply of modern contraceptives. UNFPA is buying subdermal implants and emergency contraception for adolescents and women in reproductive risk. In addition, UNFPA is acquiring medicines for pregnant women according to priorities of the National Maternal-Child Health Program.
- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA is supporting the MOH to i) monitor availability and timely delivery of contraceptives and ii) ensure that contraceptives are available to be dispensed free of charge in the public health services network.
- **Ecuador:** UNFPA is in the process of procuring and delivering SRH kits and PPE for health personnel at the northern border.
- **El Salvador:** UNFPA has delivered contraceptive supplies to the MOH, including 6,235,200 male and female condoms. A nationwide family planning teleservice has been launched, accompanied by a social media campaign which has reached over 35,000 women of reproductive age.
- **English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean:** In **Belize**, SRH/contraceptives mobile clinics continue to provide family planning information and services, including contraceptive commodities, to men and women in rural communities. More than 600 people have benefited from 36 mobile clinics across the country. UNFPA is procuring Depo Provera on behalf of the National Family Planning Board in **Jamaica**. A Reproductive Health Commodity Security Assessment is underway across 16 Caribbean countries and UNFPA continues to conduct a series of monthly webinars targeting midwives in partnership with the Caribbean Regional Midwives Association (CRMA).

Country examples:

- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA is supporting a social media campaign with advice on COVID-19 prevention aimed at girls and parents, in alliance with the Ministries of Education and Youth and other partners. UNFPA is also disseminating information on COVID-19 prevention, in both Spanish and Creole, through local radio and loudspeaker cars in Elías Piña, at the border with Haiti.
- **Honduras:** UNFPA is assisting the MOH with monitoring the provision of modern contraceptive methods in the context of COVID-19 and continues to support third-party procurement. UNFPA provides technical support to the MOH to strengthen the supply chain in prioritized health regions.
- **Mexico:** Capacities of healthcare managers and service providers have been strengthened to improve logistics management for contraceptive commodities through a virtual course.
- **Nicaragua:** UNFPA is initiating a study on the impact of COVID-19 on family planning, based on data on contraceptive consumption from the MOH and contraceptive sales in private pharmacies.
- **Panama:** UNFPA has provided PPE for maternal health workers in Guna Yala area as well as reproductive health supplies for migrant women in the shelters of Darien and Chiriqui region. UNFPA provided condoms at temporary migrant facilities in Darien.
- **Peru:** UNFPA continued to provide technical support to the MOH for the design of community-based strategies for delivery of contraceptives at the local level, including the implementation of a pilot intervention in the Piura region.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA is joining efforts with authorities to address the need for reproductive health commodities, by providing contraceptives in prioritized medical centers and temporary shelters and through a door-to-door strategy at the community level led by the MOH.

Risk Communication and community engagement, including youth engagement

UNFPA is supporting risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) 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 partnered with UMSA Public University's TV Channel to implement a comprehensive sexuality education program, informing young people about violence prevention in the context of COVID-19. UNFPA also organized a national awareness campaign on harmful practices against girls, in commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child.
- **Brazil:** UNFPA continues to conduct weekly webinars about the multi-sectoral impacts of the pandemic targeting the general public, adolescents and youth, and health professionals. To date, these 34 webinars (26 for general public and 8 for youth) have received a total of approximately 26,000 views.
- **Colombia:** UNFPA continues to provide technical support to the 192 phone line for information and advice on maternal health. UNFPA and the MOH have launched a social media campaign aimed at preventing teenage pregnancy, as part of the actions implemented during the *Semana Andina de Prevención del Embarazo Adolescente* (the Andean week for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy).

Regional Response Summary (continued)

- **Costa Rica:** UNFPA launched the workshop “Youth raise their voices about COVID 19”. How can young people cope with the pandemic and discrimination? How to achieve participation and respect?
- **Chile:** Thirty young people completed the virtual Youth Camp 2020. They proposed six initiatives on advocacy and information on sexual and reproductive rights and UNFPA will select one of them to be implemented next year.
- **Ecuador:** There has been active participation of young people, particularly from the northern border area, in campaigns on COVID-19 prevention, sexual and reproductive rights and GBV prevention. Messages are spread through radio and social networks with intercultural adaptations.
- **El Salvador:** In coordination with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNFPA updated demographic projections for 2021 by departments and municipalities, which will be useful instruments for planning, budgeting and monitoring actions in the health and education sectors. Two opinion polls on GBV and access to SRH services during the pandemic are also being developed.
- **English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean:** UNFPA continued COVID-19 RCCE through its suite of SRH, GBV and family planning communication products, disseminated through the SROC media platforms and those of strategic partners.
- **Guatemala:** UNFPA is co-leading the campaign “[Acción Candela](#)”, emphasizing the importance of the continuity of GBV services during the COVID-19 pandemic and the right of women to live a life free of violence.
- **Honduras:** UNFPA provided PPE for 200 social communicators providing outreach on the prevention of adolescent pregnancy in seven departments of the country.
- **Mexico:** UNFPA carried out seven online youth dialogues with 302 participants, in collaboration with the Office of the Resident Coordinator, UNESCO and other members of the Inter-Agency Group on Youth, to analyze the role of adolescents and youth during and post-COVID-19.
- **Nicaragua:** To reinforce GBV prevention, including in the COVID-19 context, UNFPA organized the First Virtual Youth Leadership Camp Juventudes Ya! with 36 adolescents and young leaders.
- **Panama:** UNFPA launched “Juventus Ya National Virtual Camp” with the participation of Afro-descendants and indigenous adolescents and youth. This included live chat with teens, talking about adolescent friendly health services.
- **Paraguay:** To reinforce GBV prevention in the COVID-19 context, UNFPA developed the JEJOTOPA VIRTUAL 2020, a four week long virtual camp where 35 adolescents and young people participated, representing 17 organizations from 8 of the 17 departments of the country.
- **Peru:** UNFPA worked with partners to (i) implement a four-week virtual youth camp on GBV, with participation of 30 adolescents and youth from 14 regions and (ii) co-organize a virtual webinar on early and child marriage with 130 participants, as part of ongoing advocacy aimed at Congress passing a law to eradicate child marriage.
- **Uruguay:** UNFPA reached adolescents and youth with hygiene kits and socio-educational activities on GBV and SRH in the context of soup kitchens as the COVID-19 social impact is felt in vulnerable urban communities.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA is partnering with the MOH, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women, Ministry of Education and other UN agencies in various nationwide campaigns covering SRH, maternal health, GBV, and comprehensive sexuality education. UNFPA has joined the UN Resident Coordinator/Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) initiative on dialogue among young leaders from different political parties.



Juventudes de América Latina y el Caribe se movilizan contra la violencia de género

JuventudesYa (Youth Now!) is a strategy for youth participation to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi commitments and the Montevideo Consensus. The focus this year is on the prevention of GBV in the context of COVID-19. From August to November, 15 countries in the region (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Paraguay) implemented national camps with two new features:

- Virtual format with accessibility and inclusion measures: to reach the most excluded youth
- Innovation laboratories: projects created by the young people for the prevention of GBV and the transformation of sexist social norms and imagery will be eligible for selection to receive seed funding next year.

Each camp has the participation of around 30 diverse adolescents and young people and has been developed in association with partner organizations including OXFAM, Plan Internacional and IPPF, among others. All these young people have also been brought together in a regional virtual camp from November 23 to December 10 to coincide with and contribute to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The regional camp includes a regional innovation laboratory to scale up national projects and the launch of the initiative Youth Now: Community in Action.

Media and Communications

UNFPA is reaching out to populations about the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in 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](#)

[Instan a garantizar la disponibilidad, el equipamiento y el acceso a los servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva durante la pandemia](#). En un diálogo virtual, la CEPAL, UNFPA y representantes de los países de la región hicieron un llamado a fortalecer la incorporación de políticas públicas que aseguren el acceso a los servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva para la población vulnerable, especialmente durante la crisis ocasionada por la COVID-19.

- **Argentina:** Week to prevent teen pregnancy. UNFPA Argentina together with UNICEF and the non-profit organization FEIM, launched the campaign #Puedodecidir (#Icandecide) to prevent unplanned pregnancy and raise awareness on methods to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The campaign is focused on the period after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. More info: <http://puedodecidir.org/>
- **Bolivia:** [Promotion of women's rights against increased risk of femicides during the pandemic on Bolivian Women's Day](#) - La Razon → See also: Videos [#derechosenpandemiadesdeca](#)
- **Brazil:** Podcast: [Iniciativas da sociedade civil amenizam os impactos da Covid-19 nas periferias](#)

O "Fala, UNFPA" é o podcast do Fundo de População da ONU no Brasil e busca informar e discutir temas como saúde sexual e reprodutiva, equidade de gênero, raça e etnia, população e desenvolvimento, juventude, cooperação entre países do hemisfério sul e assistência humanitária, e, claro, tudo isso em uma perspectiva de direitos humanos. Acompanhe entrevistas exclusivas com funcionários e funcionárias da ONU, especialistas e convidados e convidadas. brazil.unfpa.org/pt-br → [#10 Iniciativas da sociedade civil amenizam os impactos da Covid-19 nas periferias](#) → [Fundo de População da ONU reforça atendimento em saúde reprodutiva em Ilha do Marajó com doação de equipamentos para telemedicina](#)

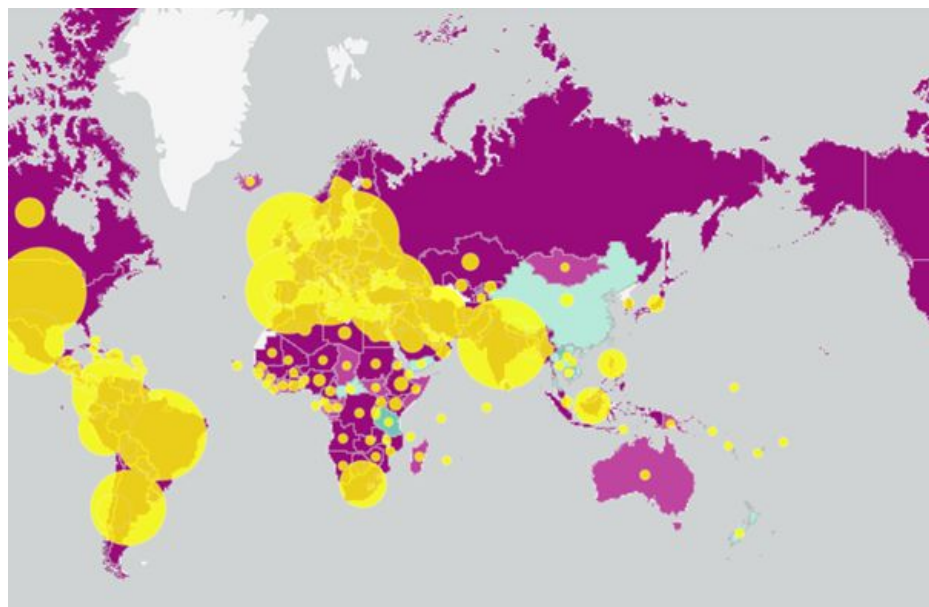
- **Colombia:** The country office supported the organization and publication on its digital media of several webinars on SRH and GBV during COVID-19, such as Reflections on Women's Health in the context of COVID-19, and good practices and challenges of maternal health in rural areas during COVID-19. Furthermore, the CO continues to report weekly, through social media, press releases and the [website](#), on its fieldwork on SRH, humanitarian response, GBV and HIV prevention, among others, implemented in the context of COVID-19. → [UNFPA Colombia entrega 8.550 kits de higiene personal a mujeres en condición de alta vulnerabilidad en 171 municipios](#)
- **Costa Rica:** Campaign ¡[Seguimos pendientes de vos!](#) aimed at women at risk of violence. → [Campaign encourages not to abandon sexual and reproductive health controls during COVID](#).
- **Cuba:** [Demographic Bulletin on COVID 19](#). → [UNFPA entrega donación a instituciones de salud cubanas como parte de la respuesta a la crisis generada por la COVID-19](#). → [UNFPA entrega donación a instituciones de salud cubanas como parte de la respuesta a la crisis generada por la COVID-19](#)
- **Dominican Republic:** [HUMNSA recibe equipos médicos e insumos de protección de la Fundación Popular y el Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas \(UNFPA\)](#) → [En el 12.2% de hogares donde una mujer es la principal generadora de ingresos hubo una pérdida de empleo permanente por COVID-19](#)
- **Ecuador:** UNFPA Ecuador is preparing the official animated educational video about referral pathways for violence against women (from the Human Rights Secretariat), as part of its digital communication strategy for GBV prevention and care in emergency contexts. The video will have versions in Spanish, Amazonian Kichwa and sign language.
- **El Salvador:** The UNFPA country office continued to publish messages on social networks for the prevention of GBV and other messages requested by the regional office. In addition, UNFPA developed a (virtual) Population Dialogue on respect for the rights of persons with disabilities, highlighting the UNFPA regional strategy to strengthen visibility, inclusion and participation of people with disabilities.

Media and Communications

- **English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean:** The SROC has directly reached over 200,000 people with its COVID-19 communication and risk engagement products, which included messaging on pregnancy, for the LGBTQI community and persons living with HIV. The COVID-19 suite of messages was a diverse mix of dramatizations, podcasts and infographics, designed to convey impactful messages in a highly engaging format, and also includes messaging in Spanish and Dutch, in order to maximize the reach and impact in the region.
- **Guatemala:** [Kits que protegen ante la COVID-19 y refuerzan la dignidad](#)
→ Campaign Acción Candela:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y_3XV5R76z3q-ZDUmEQClqRco9k4Tx1I and
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LIGaTWFoFSYAj54Pagw7P_2HE2wYc1nc
- **Haiti:** [Covid-19 in Haiti: Services are back in healthcare institutions after the distribution of personal protective equipment by UNFPA](#)
- **Honduras:** [Dar a luz tras la tormenta ETA](#). → [Huracán ETA y COVID 19. el drama que tiene rostro de mujer en Honduras](#)
- **México:** [Proyectan 146 mil embarazos más a estimados antes del COVID-19](#) → [La SMO coordina plan de trabajo 20-22 sobre la Estrategia Nacional para la Prevención del Embarazo en Adolescentes](#)
- **Nicaragua:** UNFPA, as part of the Global Movement for Children, is engaging in the Campaign “[Niñas y niños protegidos antes el COVID-19](#)”, whose objective is to provide timely information for the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the areas of education, protection, health and safety, including the prevention of COVID19 during pregnancy, in various communities in the country,
- **Panama:** La Oficina de Panamá del Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas invitó a reflexionar sobre la tragedia del embarazo en niñas y adolescentes con edades de 10 a 14 años y dentro del contexto del COVID-19. [Webinar](#).
- **Paraguay:** [Una niña embarazada es una niña abusada: este es el lema de Ñañangareko, la campaña de UNFPA Paraguay sobre el embarazo precoz](#). → The Ñañangareko campaign against sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancy emphasized the need to eradicate sexual abuse, a problem which may be intensifying due to social isolation resulting from COVID-19 control measures. See video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eV9hIGMThYM>
- **Peru:** UNFPA participated as a technical ally on Foro Mujeres de Cambio organized by media group RPP, and succeeded in achieving inclusion of a section on COVID-19 and SRH in the program. Audio: [Acceso a salud sexual y reproductiva en pandemia](#).
→ Article: [UNFPA: Muertes maternas aumentarán en 40% debido a la pandemia si no se recupera el sistema de salud](#); Special media program: [El desafío en salud y las causas de la violencia](#).
- **Uruguay:** [120 trabajadores y usuarios de la Administración de Servicios de Salud del Estado \(ASSE\) participaron en espacio virtual de conocimiento e información sobre el VIH en tiempos de la pandemia del COVID-19](#)
- **Venezuela:** → Within the framework of the strategy on resource mobilization and strategic positioning, UNFPA’s country office continues to disseminate its communication package at the national and international levels. [An infographic designed to summarize achievements in the humanitarian response has been uploaded in the OCHA Humanitarian Response Website and Reliefweb](#).
→ [Educación, anticoncepción y canales efectivos de denuncia, son prioridad para el empoderamiento de niñas y adolescentes](#).
→ [Educación y planificación, las claves para prevenir el Embarazo en Adolescentes en Venezuela](#)

Confirmed Cases and Deaths (UNFPA programme countries) WHO, 22 December 2020

Country	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Argentina	1,541,285	41,813
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	150,023	9,036
Brazil	7,238,600	186,764
Caribbean*	67,450	1,240
Chile	587,488	16,197
Colombia	1,507,222	40,475
Costa Rica	157,472	1,996
Cuba	10,242	137
Dominican Republic	161,052	2,385
Ecuador	206,329	13,949
El Salvador	43,772	1,257
Guatemala	132,867	4,688
Haiti	9,763	234
Honduras	117,022	3,027
Mexico	1,320,545	118,202
Nicaragua	4,748	163
Panama	212,339	3,566
Paraguay	99,789	2,088
Peru	997,517	37,103
Uruguay	13,048	119
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	110,075	988
TOTAL	14,688,648	485,427



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