

# PAHO



Pan American  
Health  
Organization



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
AMERICAS



## News release

### **Canada and PAHO join forces to advance COVID-19 vaccination of people in a situation of vulnerability across the Caribbean and Latin America**

*One of the components of this new partnership seeks to boost country efforts aimed at protecting at-risk individuals from COVID-19 with the common vision of Pan-American solidarity*



**Washington DC., May 27, 2021 (PAHO)** — A new collaboration between the Government of Canada and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is being launched to improve the health and protection of populations in situations of high

## vulnerability due to COVID-19

To meet this target, Canada is contributing CAN\$50 million (close to US\$40 million) in support of PAHO's critical work in the Caribbean and Latin America towards readiness and access to COVID-19 vaccines for at-risk women, migrants, refugees, transient persons, Indigenous and vulnerable populations in areas where health conditions are typically precarious.

"This collaboration was born with the common vision that COVID-19 vaccines should not be a privilege but a right for every person, regardless of their ethnicity, economic condition, gender, migratory status or whether they reside in a city or rural area," said PAHO Director Carissa F. Etienne. "Canada's contribution will help Caribbean and Latin American countries make meaningful progress on access to COVID-19 vaccines for every eligible person, starting with the most vulnerable — most frequently women."

Activities will include technical cooperation to strengthen all instances and stages of the COVID-19 vaccination deployment in Latin America and the Caribbean. This incorporates training for public health workers and health care professionals on equitable COVID-19 vaccine rollout, as well as comprehensive technical cooperation on regulatory and oversight processes, reinforcing immunization policies and vaccine delivery strategies, supporting vaccine procurement, logistics and cold chain challenges, strengthening communication strategies, and advocating for fair access and allocation of vaccines.

"Populations like migrants and indigenous communities move across areas and borders, and many times they do not have access to the health coverage they need," said PAHO Director of Health Emergencies Dr. Ciro Ugarte. "By offering vaccines to transient populations, countries in the Caribbean and Latin America can deter additional burdens to their national health systems due to infections while mitigating further transmission of the virus. This alliance is pivotal to offer much-needed technical cooperation for a comprehensive response against COVID-19, to save lives and leave no one behind."

As a key partner to PAHO, Canada is committed to working with its counterparts and international organizations to control the spread of COVID-19 around the world. This collaboration is vital to helping those affected by the pandemic and protecting their health and safety. Canada has actively engaged with PAHO since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic on its response and facilitating access to vaccines in the Americas, including through the COVAX Facility.

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## Links

[Canada PAHO country site](#)

[PAHO COVID-19 Response](#)

[PAHO site on COVID-19 vaccines](#)

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The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) works with the countries of the Americas to improve the health and quality of life of its population. Founded in 1902, it is the world's oldest international public health agency. It serves as the Regional Office of WHO for the Americas and is the specialized health agency of the Inter-American system.