



Canada contributes over US\$ 11 million to PAHO's initiative to strengthen the regional manufacturing of vaccines

Washington D.C., 21 November, 2022 (PAHO) – The Government of Canada has announced a \$15 million Canadian dollar contribution (equivalent to US\$ 11.2 million) towards a Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) initiative to increase vaccine production capacities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Launched in 2021, the PAHO Regional Platform to Advance the Manufacturing of COVID-19 Vaccines and other Health Technologies in the Americas aims to increase the region's ability to respond more quickly and autonomously to health emergencies and to improve access to much needed vaccines, medicines, and other medical supplies.

"We thank the Government of Canada for this generous and timely contribution, which will be crucial in making the region better prepared for future challenges," PAHO's Director Carissa F. Etienne said.

The COVID-19 health crisis uncovered major rifts in access to health care and exposed the region's high dependence on imports for vaccines, medicines and other medical supplies.

Countries with local production capacity were the first to benefit from COVID-19 vaccines, but much of Latin America and the Caribbean had to wait for these to become available from centralized external manufacturers, leading to significant delays in the rollout of

campaigns to protect lives.

“This disparity underscored the need to invest in efforts to diversify the production of vaccines and their components across countries,” the PAHO Director said, while taking advantage of new health technologies, such as messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines that can be used beyond COVID-19.

“Canada is pleased to support PAHO’s innovative work to strengthen vaccine production capacities in Latin America and the Caribbean and to deepen our partnership on this critical issue for the region,” Ambassador Hugh Adsett, Permanent Representative of Canada to the Organization of American States said.

Building on existing capacities in the region, the PAHO initiative will support training and technology transfer, strengthen regional value chains to source the necessary components for vaccine manufacturing, and bolster regulatory systems and enabling functions for vaccines production.

As part of the PAHO effort, in September 2021 Bio-Manguinhos/FIOCRUZ in Brazil and Sinergium Biotech in Argentina were selected to be part of a technology transfer initiative for the development and production of mRNA-based vaccines in the region.

Representatives from both institutions took part of in training at the World Health Organization mRNA global hub, Afrigen Biologics, to accelerate the development of the technology in the region.

Links

[Government of Canada press release](#)

[Regional Platform to Advance the Manufacturing of COVID-19 Vaccines and other Health Technologies](#)

[For vaccine equity: producers work together to advance mRNA technology in Latin America](#)

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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.