

KEY FIGURES

248.6K

**CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES
IN LATIN AMERICA & THE
CARIBBEAN AS OF 3 MAY**

REGIONAL: COVID-19

Cases are referenced from PAHO/WHO 3 May COVID-19 Report - <https://bit.ly/2SyyvRtI>



Please scan QR code to access up-to-date PAHO maps on COVID-19 in the Americas.

As of 3 May, PAHO/WHO report **248,653 cases** and **13,436 deaths** across Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as **83,057 recovered cases**.

KEY FIGURES

\$70M

**REQUIRED FOR FOOD SECURITY
RESPONSE FOR 1.42 MILLION
PEOPLE IN HONDURAS**

CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO: COVID-19

HONDURAS

Food Security partners identified the need for US\$70 million dollars for their response plan, noting the availability of \$46.9 million (67 per cent) and a shortage of \$23.1 million (33 per cent).

The ongoing suspension of asylum processes and closure of Government migrant shelters is prompting UNHCR to support Mexico's refugee office (COMAR) with remote registration and processing, as well as scale up cash-based assistance to people with pending claims so they can pay for accommodations and avoid other likely overcrowded shelters.

3.6K

**MIGRANTS FROM CENTRAL
AMERICA RETURNED FROM 65
SHELTERS IN MEXICO**

The plan seeks to support 1.42 million people. The economic impact of the pandemic is compounding existing food security needs due to drought and deteriorated livelihoods – more than 91 per cent of people surveyed by food security authorities indicate they do not have reserves for more than a month.

PANAMA

According to IOM, Panama currently has 2,500 migrants in shelters, representing 215 per cent overcapacity. There are confirmed cases, both in migrants and migration and border authority officials, confirming community transmission and leading to decreased response presence.

215%

**OVERCAPACITY IN MIGRANT
SHELTERS IN PANAMA**

The Government's food assistance programme has reached 2.37 million people out of 3.2 million who need food assistance.

MEXICO

The National Migration Institute (INM) reports that Mexico has emptied its 65 migrant shelters and returned more than 3,600 people to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, a measure intended to mitigate COVID-19 contagion.

IOM reports serious health, WASH, food security, shelter and protection needs, noting that only one station currently has dedicated COVID-19 isolation and treatment spaces. Migrants are protesting conditions, while also engaging in violence amongst themselves and in some cases fleeing discrimination from local communities.

Mexico attempted to return the migrants as early as 21 March, but border closures enacted by El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala delayed the process, leading to overcrowding and unsanitary conditions.

Sources:

- IOM
- UNHCR
- UN Resident Coordinator's Office - Honduras

KEY FIGURES

\$25.3M

**ALLOCATED BY IDB TO
STRENGTHEN HEALTH SERVICE
CAPACITIES IN ECUADOR**

84%

**OF FAMILIES IN ARGENTINA
ABLE TO ACCESS GOVERNMENT
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES**

10%

**OF MUNICIPALITIES IN BRAZIL
HAVE INTENSIVE CARE BEDS**

SOUTH AMERICA: COVID-19

ECUADOR

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) disbursed some \$25.3 million to Ecuador to strengthen healthcare service capacities. The funding will mostly go towards preparing intensive care unit beds at nearly 30 hospitals, as well as protective gear for staff in Guayas, the hardest hit province.

Additionally, the Government announced a national food security plan to respond to vulnerable populations affected by the pandemic.

The plan seeks to distribute more than 4 million food rations to reach 8 to 10 million people over two months and will begin in the capital of Quito with a delivery of 80,000 rations over five days. The plan will incorporate small grocery stores and public schools as distribution points.

Ecuador currently has the third-highest caseload in South America behind Brazil and Peru, despite having South America's fourth-smallest population.

PERU

The Health Minister reports that there are only 165 available intensive care unit (ICU) beds out of the 719 set up across Peru. While the current ICU bed count is a considerable increase from the 100 available prior to the pandemic, the Minister indicates that they are working to have 1,000 total ICU beds, noting that the growing caseload, expected to reach its peak in mid-May, has increased demand for ICU beds.

The Minister notes that some areas report they are close to using all of their current ICU bed capacity.

ARGENTINA

With Argentina extending national lockdown to 10 May, while easing restrictions in smaller cities to begin restoring normalcy, UNICEF conducted a survey on the pandemic's impact. Six out of ten families earned lower incomes; seven per cent indicated at least one job loss in the household, with percentages as high as 10 per cent in the north-east.

Following reports of increased gender-based violence, the survey indicates that women in 7,992 households reported physical abuse.

UNICEF's survey also covered Government response effectiveness, noting that 84 per cent of families in need of social protection measures, including the emergency family income disbursement, were able to successfully access them.

BRAZIL

Per an OHCHR publication, UN human rights experts consider that Brazil's current austerity policies are endangering millions of lives. Citing a 2016 constitutional amendment capping public expenditure, the experts indicate that only 10 per cent of municipalities have intensive care beds, while the national health system does not even have half of the beds recommended by PAHO/WHO.

The experts fear that the policies in question are further compounding vulnerabilities to COVID-19 stemming from high inequality and poverty.

Sources:

- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Government of Ecuador
- Government of Peru
- UNICEF
- OHCHR

KEY FIGURES

\$650M

**ALLOCATED BY IMF TO SUPPORT
RESPONSE IN THE DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC**

CARIBBEAN: COVID-19

FINANCING

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the Dominican Republic's request for US\$650 million in emergency financing.

The Dominican Republic will use the financing for health and social assistance expenditures, such as a nationwide transfer program for poorer households. The financing will also go towards implementing economic measures and packages to mitigate the pandemic's economic impact.

IMF also approved US\$65.6 million in emergency financing requests from Dominica (\$14 million), Grenada (\$22.4 million) and St. Lucia (\$14 million). The financing will help the countries with balance of payments difficulties, increase spending on health, provide income support to workers and cash transfers to vulnerable households.

St. Lucia will receive an additional \$10.5 million from the World Bank to strengthen health system capacities and foster employment through civil works programs.

IMPACT ON HURRICANE SEASON

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) say their chief concern is the availability of resources to support both responses if the pandemic continues into the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season, adding that the pandemic has already disrupted contingency planning.

CDEMA indicates that Caribbean governments should engage with the private sector to bolster response and rescue operations, as COVID-19 restrictions may prevent the deployment of international teams.

IFRC estimate that only 10 to 20 per cent of response personnel will be sufficiently trained and equipped, citing the global shortage in protective equipment. IFRC underscored that the pandemic also stands to slow down already complex logistics in the region.

Sources:

- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- World Bank
- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- IFRC