

### LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN: COVID-19 CRISIS OVERVIEW

Countries continue to deal with direct and indirect impacts on migration, displacement and livelihoods, as well as long-term effects on vulnerable groups such as students, indigenous communities and healthcare workers. According to WHO's 14 September weekly epidemiological update, Latin America and the Caribbean accounts for than 8.3 million cumulative cases, more than any other WHO region in the world and ahead of the next-most affected region (South-East Asia) by nearly 3 million cases. The region's 310,956 deaths also lead all regions and account for a third of the global death toll.

## 8.3M

**CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19 AS OF 14 SEPTEMBER**

## 12.7k

**CASES PER EVERY 1 MILLION PEOPLE AS OF 14 SEPTEMBER**

Cases per 1M inhabitants (10 Sep)



Sources: Government case and population data compiled at <https://bit.ly/37VaJV1>

### EDUCATION

The COVID-19 crisis continues to affect more than **165 million students**<sup>1</sup> in the region. Despite implementing distance learning through online or broadcast television platforms, existing gaps in regular internet and television access are limiting continued education, especially in rural communities. Several countries already report alarming numbers of students either dropping out of the school system or unable to

participate in online learning, stoking fears of long-term setbacks to their education. Moreover, the prolonged closure of schools is increasing nutritional risks for public school students who rely on school feeding programmes and protection risks for students in violence-prone communities and girls and adolescent girls now subject to gender-based violence while outside of school.

## 29

**OF 33 LAC COUNTRIES USING REMOTE LEARNING SINCE MARCH 2020**<sup>1</sup>

## 14%

**OF RURAL STUDENTS IN 14 COUNTRIES HAVE INTERNET ACCESS**<sup>1</sup>

## 45%

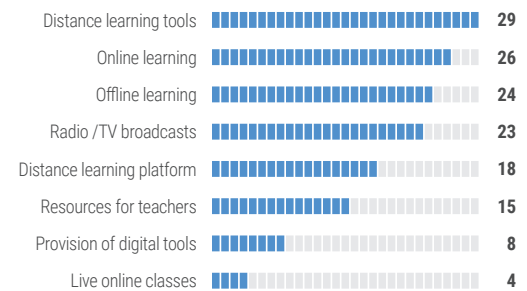
**OF STUDENTS IN PERU NO LONGER ACCESSING REMOTE LEARNING**<sup>2</sup>

## 310k

**HONDURAN STUDENTS WITH NO SCHOOLING SINCE MARCH 2020**<sup>3</sup>

1. ECLAC - <https://bit.ly/3m7WHpK> 2. Peru Teachers' College - <https://bit.ly/2Zsn2Fr> 3. Francisco Morazán University - <https://bit.ly/3ii9R1h>

### Learning strategies in 29 LAC countries (no. of countries)<sup>1</sup>



### INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

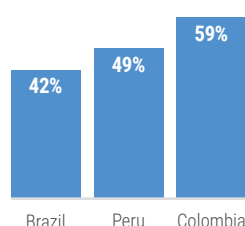
The UN published a COVID-19 Action Plan to respond in the remote triple border area between Brazil, Colombia and Peru. The area is home to 208,600 people, 57 per cent of whom are indigenous. The area is suffering a disproportionate impact due in part to limited service coverage and access, as it is the most remote area for each country. The plan seeks to mobilize an emergency response to address immediate needs beyond first-level responses backed by reprogrammed funding.

### HEALTHCARE WORKERS

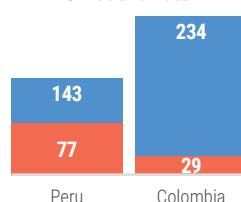
The COVID-19 crisis continues to strain healthcare systems across the region, including front-line staff working directly with infected patients. According to PAHO/WHO, there are more than 426,200 cases and 1,900 deaths among healthcare workers in 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. More than 70 per cent of these cases are in female healthcare workers.

The high, repetitive exposure to the virus, as well as continued lack of adequate personal protective equipment (PPE), has placed critical personnel at a significant risk that is threatening their personal health and systems' overall response capacity.

### Food insecurity in tri-border areas before COVID-19<sup>4</sup>



### COVID-19 deaths per 100k people in tri-border areas vs. national rate<sup>4</sup>



4. OCHA - <https://bit.ly/3m6aZHs>

## 426.2k

**COVID-19 CASES AMONG HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN 18 LAC COUNTRIES**<sup>5</sup>

## 1.9k

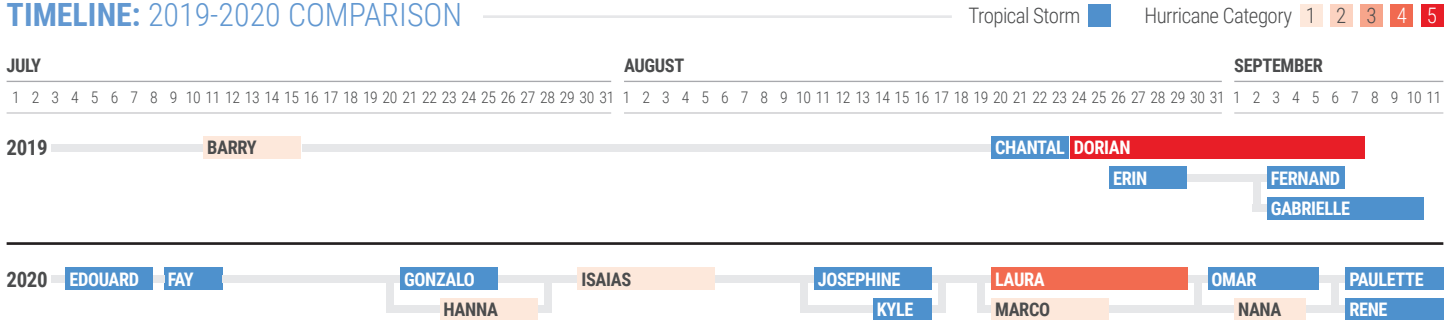
**DEATHS AMONG HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN 18 LAC COUNTRIES**<sup>5</sup>

5. PAHO/WHO - <https://bit.ly/3inKkUg>

### CARIBBEAN: HURRICANE SEASON

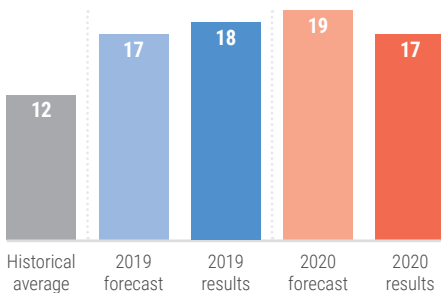
The highly active 2020 Atlantic hurricane season has already produced 17 storms as of 11 September, with at least 14 storms (Cristobal, Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo, Hanna, Isaias, Josephine, Kyle, Laura, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paulette and Rene) breaking records as the earliest storms formed per their alphabetical order. For comparison, the 2019 season had only seen seven storms by 11 September, including Category 5 hurricane Dorian, which caused destruction in The Bahamas that the country is still recovering from. Despite 2020's record-setting pace, storm impacts have been comparatively minor for now.

### TIMELINE: 2019-2020 COMPARISON

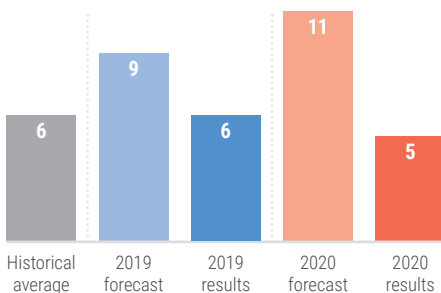


### FORECASTS VS. RESULTS

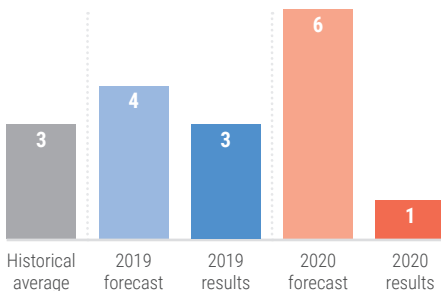
#### Named storms



#### Hurricanes



#### Major hurricanes



All forecasts, dates and results sourced from NOAA.

### RECENT STORMS

#### Tropical Storm / Hurricane Laura

Tropical Storm Laura brought heavy rainfall and flooding to the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba. Some areas of the Dominican Republic saw nearly 300mm of rain, affecting 755 homes and prompting 3,375 evacuations.<sup>6</sup> In Haiti, Laura caused flooding in 28 communes across four departments. Officials report 31 deaths and 8,835 families with damaged or destroyed homes.<sup>7</sup>

There are reports that some evacuees sought shelter with families or neighbours instead of official shelters due to COVID-19 fears. Officials in Cuba report that more than 177,000 preventive evacuations before the storm cut off roads and knocked out power in several communities.<sup>8</sup> Laura's rains increased water levels in several of the country's key reservoirs.

**3.7k**

**PEOPLE EVACUATED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC OVER TROPICAL STORM LAURA<sup>6</sup>**

**8.8k**

**FAMILIES IN HAITI WHOSE HOMES WHERE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY LAURA<sup>7</sup>**

**177.8k**

**PREVENTIVE EVACUATIONS IN CUBA BEFORE TROPICAL STORM LAURA'S ARRIVAL<sup>8</sup>**

6. Dominican Rep. Red Cross - <https://bit.ly/2RcSh2u> 7. OCHA - <https://bit.ly/3ijeXKp> 8. Govt. of Cuba - <https://bit.ly/2DM8t7Q>

#### Hurricane Nana

Nana made landfall in Belize early 3 September as a Category 1 hurricane after passing near Honduras' northern coasts and the Bay Islands department, bringing heavy rains and 60mph wind speeds before weakening to a tropical storm over northern Guatemala and then crossing into southern Mexico before dissipating on 4 September near the Gulf of Tehuantepec off Mexico's southern Pacific coast.

Nana caused minimal damages, with southern Belize taking most of Nana's impact. According to Belize's National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), some 4,085 people evacuated to shelters across the country<sup>9</sup>, with the bulk of the evacuees concentrated in shelters in the southern districts of Stann Creek and Toledo.

9. UN Belize - <https://bit.ly/32fUvEq>

