

KEY FIGURES

14.1M

**CUMULATIVE COVID-19 CASES
IN LATIN AMERICA & THE
CARIBBEAN AS OF 13 DECEMBER**

314k

**CUMULATIVE COVID-19 CASES
ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN AS OF
13 DECEMBER**

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN: COVID-19

Cases are referenced from PAHO/WHO 13 December COVID-19 Report - <https://bit.ly/2025YQw>

Cases, deaths & recovered cases (as of 13 Dec.)

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------------|
| Cases | 14,101,232 | +4.1% from 6 Dec. |
| Deaths | 472,148 | +2.7% from 6 Dec. |
| Recovered | 12,142,825 | +3.7% from 6 Dec. |



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

GUATEMALA

COVID-19 response oversight will revert to the Ministry of Health effective 1 January 2021 following the departure of the head of the Presidential Commission for the COVID-19 Emergency (COPRECOVID) after nearly six months. COPRECOVID and the Ministry of Health are already coordinating the transition, with COPRECOVID set to become a consulting body within the Ministry.

COPRECOVID highlights improved epidemiological intelligence, testing expansion and decentralization, as well as tracing, as key accomplishments during their tenure at the head of Guatemala's response. The change response oversight comes amid localized outbreaks following Eta and Iota's impact to Guatemala and the potential for further outbreaks during holiday season festivities, which COPRECOVID warns may lead to super-spreader events.

BOLIVIA

The Ministry of Education announced that schooling will resume on 1 February 2021 under area-specific modalities pending the results of a forthcoming education summit. The Ministry is advocating limited on-site learning in a staggered manner to reduce the number of students per classroom as a health security measure. Despite these plans, the Ministry is not

ruling out virtual learning, indicating that many decisions will depend on the pandemic's behaviour in coming months. The 2020 school year ended abruptly in August 2020 due to the pandemic, with the Government declaring that schools did not meet the necessary health security conditions to allow for a safe learning environment.

CARIBBEAN

Total cases in the Caribbean have now surpassed 300,000. Many countries and territories have recorded slight but steady increases in cases, namely Aruba, Cayman Islands, Saint Martin and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Grenada and Saint Kitts and Nevis have also reported additional imported cases resulting in increases of 5 per cent or greater. Belize, Bermuda and Curaçao have seen significant active case spikes cases of 145 per cent, 326 per cent and 566 per cent, respectively, over the last month.

Conversely, many countries and territories that saw a surge in cases after reopening their tourism-dependent economies, such as Jamaica and The Bahamas, are now seeing a steady decline in COVID-19 infections, while infections are rebounding in Cuba and the Dominican Republic after a recent drop in cases, indicating that the Caribbean will potentially have to cope with multiple waves of COVID-19 and its socioeconomic repercussions well into 2021.

Sources:

- Government of Guatemala
- Ministry of Education (Bolivia)

KEY FIGURES

600

PEOPLE IN MIGRANT CARAVAN ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE HONDURAS AFTER ETA & IOTA

Sources:

- Government of Honduras

CENTRAL AMERICA: 2020 HURRICANE SEASON

MIGRANT CARAVAN

The long-term consequences of Eta and Iota's impact in Central America are becoming evident as a caravan of 600 people in Honduras departed for Guatemala from the north-western city of San Pedro Sula on 9 December. Honduran security personnel stopped the caravan near the border crossing point of Agua Caliente, as many did not have the required travel documents or a negative COVID-19 test.

While the reported numbers are smaller compared to recent caravans,

partners in Honduras nevertheless monitored their progress as calls continue to circulate in social media for another caravan in January 2021.

The storms' impacts on San Pedro Sula, the country's industrial hub, have left many Hondurans with practically nothing, have all but paralyzed the economy and caused widespread crop loss, which the Government fears may push Honduras to the brink of food shortages.

KEY FIGURES

\$1.44B

REQUIRED FOR 2021 REGIONAL REFUGEE AND MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN

1K

MIGRANTS FROM CUBA IN SURINAME SEEKING TO CROSS INTO GUYANA

Sources:

- UNHCR
- IOM
- Government of Guyana
- Government of Suriname

REGIONAL: MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

UNHCR and IOM launched the US\$1.44 billion 2021 Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) to respond to the needs of 5.4 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees and host communities across 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The plan comes as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to strain national and local capacities, posing added challenges for vulnerable migrants and refugees and host communities.

Confinement measures and loss of livelihoods are driving many to rely on humanitarian assistance for health, shelter, food, protection and education needs. These groups are also seeing an increase in gender-based violence, mental health needs and stigmatization during the pandemic. These circumstances are leading to reverse flows back to Venezuela in unsafe conditions, leading to more health and protection concerns as people resort to using irregular border crossings due to stricter border measures.

GUYANA/SURINAME

Guyana blocked the entry of a caravan of more than 1,000 migrants, mainly from Cuba, attempting to enter via Suriname. The caravan camped out in Nickerie some 200km west of the Surinamese capital of Paramaribo, where they were waiting to cross the Courantyne River into Guyana via ferry. Guyana has since decided to suspend the ferry service, as well as flights from Cuba, to curb the influx of irregular migrants.

Since last week, the Surinamese Government has been providing migrants with shelter, food and medical assistance, requesting technical assistance from UNHCR, the Suriname Red Cross and IOM to support response efforts. The caravan had hoped to make its way into Brazil and eventually travel through Central America to the Mexico-United States border.