

KEY FIGURES

866.1K

NEW COVID-19 CASES IN LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN FROM 22-28 MARCH 2021

43.4M

COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES ADMINISTERED IN LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN: COVID-19

Sources: COVID-19 Data Explorer - <https://bit.ly/3vsHRP9>

Cases, deaths & vaccines administered (29 Mar.)

Cases	24,565,103	+3.6% from 22 Mar.
Deaths	770,408	+3.5% from 22 Mar.
Vaccines	43,415,006	+24.4% from 22 Mar.



Please scan QR code to access OCHA/HDX COVID-19 Data Explorer

REGIONAL

PAHO/WHO reports that the rapidly escalating COVID-19 situation in Brazil, whose 12.5 million cases and 312,299 deaths are second highest in the world behind only the United States, is now affecting border departments and states in neighbouring countries such as Venezuela, Bolivia and Peru. With single-day records for COVID-19 deaths throughout March, including 3,600 deaths reported on 26 March, and routine daily case counts of 80,000 or more, the dizzying surge is placing Brazil at the global epicentre of the pandemic and threatening the rest of the region.

Researchers from the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) report identifying potentially more transmissible variants beyond the P.1 strain that Fiocruz says is the dominant strain in six of eight studied states and is contributing to the fast-growing crisis. Health officials have identified the presence of P.1 in Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela and French Guiana, with local transmission detected in Mexico and Colombia.

Peru's National Institute of Health (INS) indicates that the identified presence of a Brazilian strain is a contributing factor in Peru experiencing a growing second wave of COVID-19 infections during much of 2021, a wave that saw the country set a new single-day case record with 11,260

cases on 24 March. INS says they have identified a Brazilian variant in about 40 per cent of confirmed cases in the Lima metropolitan area in the last week, mostly in eastern Lima where authorities have identified it in about 2 out of every 3 cases. This second wave has contributed about a third of Peru's 1.5 million cumulative cases as of 25 March in a three-month span since late December 2020, driving up hospitalizations and intensive care unit (ICU) occupancies.

In Bolivia, cases are rising in the border department of Pando, where authorities and PAHO/WHO believe one of the highly contagious strains from neighbouring Brazil is already circulating. While current daily case counts have been relatively low, the growth rate in short lapse of time span has put health authorities on alert.

Sources:

- PAHO/WHO
- Fiocruz (Brazil)
- Government of Peru

KEY FIGURES

7.8M

PEOPLE TO FACE ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY IN EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA & HONDURAS

Sources:

- FAO/WFP

CENTRAL AMERICA: **FOOD SECURITY**

According to FAO and WFP's joint publication on hunger hotspots and early warnings on acute food insecurity for March to July 2021, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are likely to experience a rise in acute food insecurity. With the March-August lean season underway, vulnerable households dealing with the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the aftermath of Tropical Storm Eta and Hurricane Iota have lost food reserves and access to livelihood at a critical time.

Some 3.1 million people in Honduras are expected to face high acute food insecurity, a figure that reaches 3.7 million people in Guatemala and 1 million in El Salvador. The outlook also cites deteriorating economic output that will slow recovery, as well as pre-pandemic growth stagnation and increasing debt levels, as conditions that will aggravate food insecurity risks.

KEY FIGURES

330.4k

PEOPLE IN ECUADOR AFFECTED BY SANGAY VOLCANO ASHFALL

Sources:

- Government of Ecuador
- NEMO (St. Vincent & the Grenadines)

REGIONAL: **VOLCANIC ACTIVITY**

ECUADOR

The unusual increase in the Sangay volcano's activity early and mid-March 2021 has resulted in ashfall over more than 30 cantons in provinces of Bolivar, Cañar, Chimborazo, Guayas, Los Ríos and Santa Elena. The effects of the volcanic activity have affected more than 330,400 people in predominantly agriculture-reliant communities who are now dealing with the respiratory health risk of falling ash and the ashfall's effects on livestock health, and thus livelihoods.

Bolivar and Chimborazo have activated Emergency Operations Committees (COEs) to respond to affected communities. Local officials in Guayas, Los Ríos and Morona Santiago have also responded to the ashfall in their provinces and cantons. The National Geophysical Institute (IGEPN) forecasts the activity to continue, with some peaks in activity including slight-to-major ash emissions that might reach 1.4 km above the volcano crater that might result in more ashfall in Chimborazo and Morona Santiago.

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), who has been monitoring the La Soufrière volcano in northern St. Vincent since it began exhibiting gas emissions and a growing new dome in December 2020, alerted a change in low-frequency seismic events on 24 March. NEMO reports the changes are especially different from baseline activity, as they are associated with magma movement beneath the dome, indicating that the volcano remains highly active.

NEMO further reports that earthquakes associated with the volcanic activity will occur periodically, adding that the larger quakes may be felt by the population. The orange alert status remains in place. While NEMO has not issued any evacuation order or notice, they are encouraging residents in communities near the volcano to stay prepared should an evacuation be required on short notice. UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) members remain on alert and continue to monitor developments.