

### KEY FIGURES

# 5.5M

**CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES  
IN LATIN AMERICA & THE  
CARIBBEAN AS OF 9 AUGUST**

### REGIONAL: COVID-19

Cases are referenced from PAHO/WHO 9 August COVID-19 Report - <https://bit.ly/2025YQw>



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

As of 9 August, PAHO/WHO report **5,519,857 cases** and **218,708 deaths** in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as **3,740,226 recovered cases**.

### KEY FIGURES

# \$5.9B

**IN REMITTANCES TO GUATEMALA  
FROM JAN-JUL 2020, 1.4% MORE  
THAN JAN-JUL 2019**

### CENTRAL AMERICA: COVID-19

#### PANAMA

A group of mostly Haitian migrants stranded in Darién, near the eastern border with Colombia, damaged emergency camps in protest, setting fire to shelter tents and the camp's medical station. Protesters are threatening to burn more camps in Darién, home to some 2,000 migrants, if they are not transferred to the western border with Costa Rica to continue their journey, despite the border closure due to the pandemic.

The violence forcibly displaced local families as well. Authorities detained 12 migrants over the fires and announced

they will deport any migrant detained for disorderly conduct.

#### GUATEMALA

The Central Bank reports that remittances totalled US\$5.9 billion from January to July, a 1.4 per cent increase from the \$5.8 billion sent during the same period in 2019, despite the ongoing pandemic. Remittances increased slightly in June and July following drastic declines from March to May. Remittances are a major source of foreign income in Guatemala, especially for rural families; 2019 remittances totalled \$10.5 billion, just under the \$11 billion in exports.

#### Sources:

- Government of Panama
- Central Bank of Guatemala

### KEY FIGURES

# 3.1M

**STUDENTS IN BOLIVIA AFFECTED  
BY SUSPENSION OF SCHOOL  
YEAR DUE TO COVID-19**

### SOUTH AMERICA: COVID-19

#### BOLIVIA

The Government suspended the rest of Bolivia's school year over the COVID-19 pandemic and its threat to the health of students and faculty, affecting some 3.1 million students, 88 per cent of whom are in the public system. The Government said they could not guarantee free and universal education as most rural areas do not have adequate internet access. The UN in Bolivia is expressing concern over the measure and is urging the Government to find formal alternatives to keep schooling on track and guarantee the right to education.

#### PERU

The Government is exempting qualified foreign medics and nurses from validating their degrees in Peru a bid to provide overrun health services with additional staffing and support.

The exemption will allow those among the 830,000 Venezuelans in Peru with qualified degrees support medical workers, who account for 7,000 cases and 200 deaths. Those qualified will be able to earn income outside a battered informal economy that has prompted many who are unable to earn livelihoods to return to Venezuela.

#### Sources:

- Government of Bolivia
- Government of Peru

### KEY FIGURES

# \$1.1M

## IN FINANCING FROM CANADA TO RESPOND TO GBV IN NINE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

#### Sources:

- Government of Canada
- Government of The Bahamas

### CARIBBEAN: COVID-19

#### GBV RESPONSE

Canada is committing US\$1.1 million to tackle Gender-Based Violence (GBV) amid the COVID-19 crisis in nine Caribbean countries. The financing will support vulnerable women and children more at risk due to confinement measures through food and medication vouchers. Canada's support comes through its EnGenDER project with support from UNDP, UN Women, WFP and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

#### THE BAHAMAS

The Bahamas declared a total lockdown from 4 to 19 August following an exponential increase in cases after opening borders for travel to boost the economy. The Government reports that intensive care unit (ICU) beds are at capacity and non-critical care beds are approaching capacity.

Health officials traced the new cases to gatherings and people travelling to and returning from high-risk areas abroad. Despite the lockdown, borders nevertheless remain open.

### KEY FACTS

- Upcoming harvests are unlikely to improve food insecurity brought on by COVID-19.
- Families are increasingly resorting to coping strategies to cover minimum food requirements.

#### Sources:

- FEWS Net

### CENTRAL AMERICA: FOOD INSECURITY

According to the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS Net), upcoming harvests for Central America are unlikely to improve acute food insecurity outcomes brought on by the COVID-19 crisis.

FEWS Net expects Integrated Food Security Phase Classifications (IPCs) of Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from June to January, citing declining food access over high levels of unemployment especially in urban areas.

The lean season, which lasts through August, usually means low demand for labour; between lost livelihoods and rising food and public transportation prices, families are increasingly resorting to coping strategies to cover minimum food requirements.

Prices will likely remain high despite projections of average upcoming harvests, as poorer households will likely not be able to find work due to mobility restrictions during peak labour season in October.

### KEY FIGURES

# 77%

## INCREASE IN FIRES ON INDIGENOUS LANDS IN JULY 2020 COMPARED TO JULY 2019

#### Sources:

- Government of Brazil

### BRAZIL: WILDFIRES

Fires rose 77 per cent on indigenous lands compared to July 2019, according to Greenpeace. This jump comes as the plight of indigenous communities with existing COVID-19 vulnerabilities draws increasing international attention.

The 6,803 recorded fires in the Amazon in July 2020 is 28 per cent more than the 5,318 fires recorded in

July 2019, per information from the National Institute for Space Research (INPE). July closed out with a steady increase, topping out at 1,000 fires on 30 July, the highest single-day total in July since 2005. The increase is prompting concern over another wildfire season on the scale of the 30,900 fires recorded in August 2019.