

KEY FIGURES

977.8K

NEW COVID-19 CASES IN LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN FROM 12-18 APRIL 2021

78.1M

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 (19 Apr.)

Cases	27,332,136	+3.7% from 12 Apr.
Deaths	864,990	+3.9% from 12 Apr.
Vaccines	78,157,944	+21% from 12 Apr.



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

REGIONAL

According to PAHO, the slow delivery of vaccines, challenges in vaccination roll-outs, the premature easing of public health measures and the circulation of more contagious variants are leading to a COVID-19 surge in the region. South America continues to be the epicentre of the virus, with cases rising sharply in Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and areas in Bolivia bordering Brazil, while Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile also report growing caseloads.

The highly contagious P.1 variant from Brazil is driving the surge in cases and deaths in South America and some neighboring Caribbean countries, including Guyana and French Guiana, with cumulative cases in the sub-region now approaching 23,000,000.

BRAZIL

As the pandemic rages on, largely fueled by the highly contagious P.1 variant, Brazil's two biggest vaccine producers are facing supply shortages. Brazil has been largely dependent on the AstraZeneca vaccine, manufactured by the Fiocruz Health Institute, and the Chinese-manufactured CoronaVac. Against the mounting pressure to scale up their roll-out, the Ministry of Health acquired tens of millions of shots from Sao Paulo state's Butantan Institute. However, both the Butantan Institute and Fiocruz now face supply constraints, as the former has

suspended production while it awaits the active ingredient from China, while the latter has produced a mere 4 million of the 50 million doses it agreed to deliver by the end of April.

Brazil now faces a worsening public health crisis, with the Government only managing to fully vaccinate 7,506,646 people, the equivalent of 3.5 per cent of the population, as intensive care units (ICUs) are above 90 per cent capacity in most states and 7 out of every 10 hospitals are at risk of running out of oxygen and anesthetic.

MEXICO

According to WHO, Mexico could have avoided 190,000 deaths during the pandemic in 2020. Mexico, which ranks fourth in excess mortality, only behind Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia, recorded 43 per cent more deaths in 2020 than expected when compared to trends from 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Recently, the Government itself reported that its real COVID-19 death toll is more than 110,000 higher than the approximately 210,000 COVID-19-related deaths officially reported. As resource-strapped hospitals became overwhelmed amid the pandemic, patients were encouraged not to seek medical attention unless experiencing severe symptoms, which contributed to high mortality rates, with an estimated 58 per cent deaths occurring outside hospitals.

Sources:

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

KEY FIGURES

\$1M

CERF ALLOCATION TO SUPPORT MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE

9.7K

PEOPLE DISPLACED DUE TO LA SOUFRIÈRE ERUPTION

45%

OF SHELTERS ESTIMATED TO LACK SAFE DRINKING WATER

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES: **VOLCANIC ERUPTION**

OVERVIEW

La Soufrière continues to erupt explosively, with fast-flowing slides of solidified lava, ash and hot gas forming pyroclastic density currents (PDCs), one of the most dangerous hazards after an eruption, still flowing down the valleys on the flanks of the volcano. While damage and loss assessments are still ongoing, assessment teams remain unable to access the most affected areas. The presence of PDCs suggests a devastating impact on housing, critical infrastructure and agriculture in surrounding communities. The Government indicates that the eruptions have already decimated 40 per cent of the agriculture in northern St. Vincent.

As of 18 April, there are 85 public shelters occupied by more than 4,300 people and more than 5,300 people staying in private shelters, numbers that are likely to grow as national authorities continue to locate more evacuees. There are growing concerns around access to food and water as well as health and safety among displaced people, especially in shelters, as preliminary assessments suggest that 45 per cent of them lack safe drinking water, while 62 per cent do not have protected areas for single women and female-headed households, raising the risk of sexual and gender-based violence.

According to the Government, the most pressing needs include WASH, food assistance, health, shelter, education and recovery of agricultural and other livelihoods. The Government has expressed its preference for cash support to provide greater flexibility to response efforts.

RESPONSE

With the Government requesting international assistance, international donors, governments, the private sector and multilateral institutions have all begun to deliver relief items and mobilize financial assistance.

The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) disbursed US\$1 million to UNICEF and WFP for immediate multi-sectoral response to priority needs related to WASH, environmental cleaning assistance and cash-based assistance for emergency food and livelihood support. The World Bank has disbursed a \$20 million loan to support the Government's response to the ongoing crisis.

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has launched a fundraising campaign which aims to raise \$100 million over the next two weeks. Additionally, a partnership between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCO) and the Government of Romania provided \$300,000 to St. Vincent & the Grenadines, while the Digicel telecommunications company has pledged \$500,000 in urgently needed relief items.

Sources:

- The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre
- National Emergency Management Organisation (St. Vincent & the Grenadines)