
Open letter to the Government Representatives of the Member States of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) attending the 56th Directing Council of PAHO, key international and national partners, non-governmental organizations and the general interested public

Referring to the document entitled "PAHO's response to maintaining an effective technical cooperation agenda in Venezuela and neighboring member states" [CD56/INF/12](#), the undersigned, who subscribe and adhere to this letter, we issue a firm reminder about the complex humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and its negative effects inside and outside the Americas region:

1. The social, political, and economic crisis that the country suffers has negatively affected social and health indicators not only in Venezuela but also in several other countries in the Americas region.
2. Venezuela meets the emergency criteria of level 2 and level 3 (Emergency classification of the World Health Organization) with a number of imminent deaths that can be preventable, specifically maternal and infant deaths, by immuno-preventable diseases, malaria, TB, HIV, child malnutrition, and chronic diseases.
3. Venezuela suffers a confluence of economic hyperinflation, and impoverishment, with severe shortages of food and medicine. The country leads the global misery index and has one of the highest homicide rates in the world.
4. The largest migratory exodus from the Western Hemisphere is occurring from Venezuela to other nations within and outside the Americas with a severe impact in the bordering countries.
5. There is a resurgence of vaccine-preventable communicable diseases that were previously classified as eliminated, such as diphtheria and measles.
6. Venezuela has the worst global performance in the control and elimination of malaria, considered a complex emergency by the World Health Organization's Global Malaria Program.
7. There are escalating public health problems, for example, there have been increases in new HIV infections, tuberculosis cases, maternal and infant mortality, and early and unintended pregnancies, among others.
8. In the national health context, there is a lack of access to essential medicines, a severe lack of adequate, timely and quality care for people with acute and chronic diseases, and a health system that is seriously compromised in meeting the demands of vulnerable and most-at-risk groups.

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9. The recommendations for short- and medium-term interventions proposed to the Venezuelan government, as necessary measures to improve the situation, do not go beyond a list of recommendations of little scope in the face of the loss of institutional coherence of the Venezuelan Ministry of Health and the complexity of the humanitarian crisis, which is not recognized by the country's authorities.

Based on the above-mentioned evidence, we demand:

The creation of a **Multisectoral Technical Working Group** with key partners (national and international) that can develop—as a matter of urgency—an **Emergency Response Plan** for the country. This plan must have among its objectives to mitigate the social and health consequences, the ailments and deaths—already imminent—by the magnitude and complexity of the emergency and include activities that reach the countries of the region that are affected.

With our utmost consideration,

Academia Nacional de Medicina
Red de Sociedades Científicas Médicas de Venezuela
Sociedad Venezolana de Salud Pública
Sociedad Venezolana de Puericultura y Pediatría
Red Defendamos la Epidemiología Nacional
Alianza Venezolana por la Salud
Observatorio Venezolano de la Salud
Sociedad Médica de la Maternidad Concepción Palacios
Sociedad Médica del Complejo Hospitalario José Ignacio Baldo
Sociedad Médica del Hospital José Gregorio Hernández
Asociación de Médicos Residentes del Hospital Vargas de Caracas
Asociación Civil Médicos Unidos de Venezuela (MUV)
Asociación Civil Impacto Social (ASOCIS)
International Council of Aids Service Organizations (ICASO)
Movimiento Ciudadano Dale Letra
Colegio de Enfermería del Distrito Capital
Colegio de Bioanalistas de Venezuela
Coalición TB de las Américas
Médicos por la salud
ACCSI Acción Ciudadana Contra el SIDA