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# LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY (LHSS) ACTIVITY

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Strengthening the Colombian health system to sustainably integrate Venezuelan migrants and respond to health emergencies.

## OVERVIEW

The Local Health System Sustainability (LHSS) Activity, *Comunidades Saludables* in Spanish, strengthens the Colombia health system. It does this by working with the Government of Colombia (GOC) to provide sustainably financed, high-quality health services to Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees, and receptor communities. LHSS also improves the Colombian health system's capacity to respond to current and future shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic. LHSS Works in nine departments, Antioquia, Atlántico, Bolivar, Cundinamarca, La Guajira, Magdalena, Norte de Santander, Santander and Valle del Cauca. The activity runs from April 2020- April 2024.

The influx of migrants from Venezuela and the COVID-19 pandemic strained Colombia's already resource-constrained health sector. Colombia is now facing the dual challenge of providing social services to migrants and responding to the pandemic. LHSS works with the GOC and local stakeholders, like hospitals and Secretaries of Health, to strengthen health sector resiliency, improve governance of the migrant health response, and ensure equitable access to quality health services.

## COMPONENTS

### IMPROVING MIGRANT HEALTH RESPONSE

LHSS supports the Colombian Ministry of Health's (MOH) response to migrant health needs at local and national levels, and it assists MOH to develop policies that integrate migrants into the health system. LHSS also strengthens municipal and departmental administrations' capacity to manage donations; implement migrant-related health policies; and develop health service communication strategies.

### SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

LHSS helps MOH, healthcare providers, and municipal and departmental administrations to sustainability finance health service delivery by increasing revenue, and by improving efficiency and risk pooling. LHSS works with the GOC to identify options for mobilizing resources; provide essential health services to migrants; and increase migrants' enrollment in the General Social Health Insurance System.

### BETTERING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES

LHSS works with the GOC and healthcare providers to increase migrants and receptor communities' access to quality healthcare. LHSS supports the implementation of Colombia's Integrated Territorial Action Model (MAITE), using a differentiated approach to address migrant health needs and a community health approach to expand access to quality primary care.

### STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEM RESILIENCY

LHSS works with the GOC and local partners to strengthen the Colombian health system's resilience to current and future shocks, including COVID-19. LHSS provides technical assistance to strengthen country-level coordination; epidemiological surveillance; laboratory systems; case management; and infection prevention and control.

## RESULTS

- Mobilized over USD \$9 million from the Global Fund for Colombia's COVID-19 response;
- Enrolled over 4,000 migrants in the healthcare system through regional health insurance enrollment days;
- Supported Colombia's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan by deploying 15 management teams to assist with regional vaccine provision;
- Conducted seven seminars to 521 health workers and provided real-time assistance to improve the quality of care to 1,800 patients;
- Partnered with MOH to develop a donation mobilization strategy to manage donations from private sector actors and international donors;
- Helped ten health institutions implement quality improvement projects related to maternal and child health, and non-communicable and chronic diseases;
- Trained over 12,500 health professionals and 14,000 community members on COVID-19 and general respiratory infection prevention through MOH rapid response teams; and
- Supported the creation and embedding of information systems to strengthen Colombia's tracking, tracing, and isolation strategy, focused on migrants and vulnerable communities.