

# Long-Term Care Priorities and Initiatives in PAHO/WHO

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**PAHO**



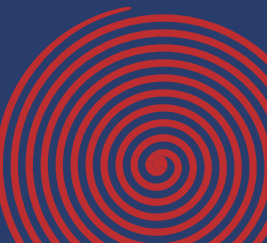
Pan American  
Health  
Organization



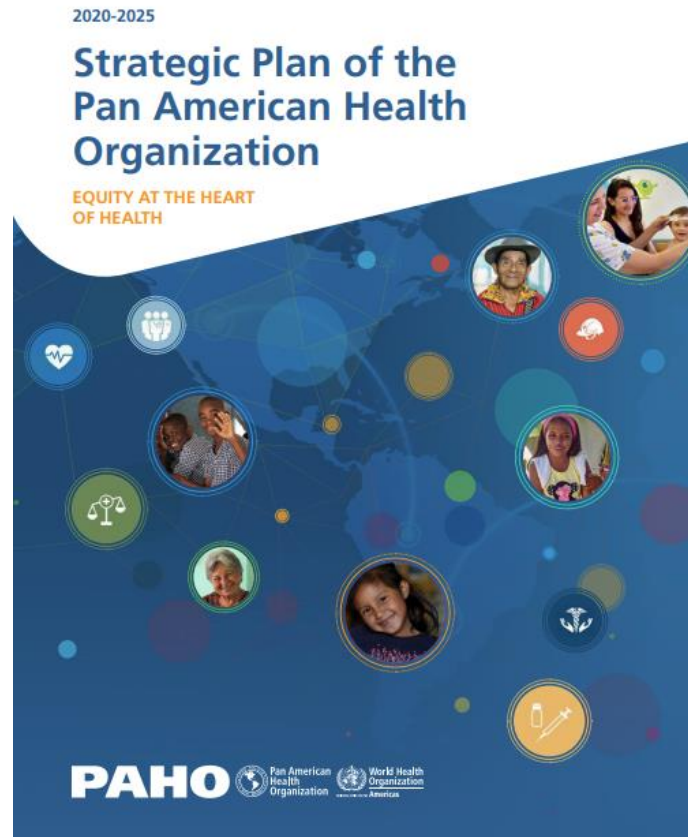
World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
Americas



Decade  
of healthy  
aging  
in the Americas



# PAHO Strategic Plan 2020-2025



## Impact indicator 8: Proportion of adults 65+ who are care-dependent

### OUTCOME 3

#### Quality care for older people

Increased health system response capacity to provide quality, comprehensive, and integrated care for older people, in order to overcome access barriers, prevent care dependence, and respond to current and future demands

OUTCOME INDICATORS	BASELINE (2019)	TARGET (2025)
3.a Number of countries and territories with capacity to prevent care dependence	6 (2019)	20

SCOPE ► Population and individual aging is an important modulator of health and social needs throughout the life course. Over the next decade, the Americas will age much faster than the rest of the



# POLICY ON LONG-TERM CARE

- **Purpose:** to provide Member States with strategic and technical guidance for the development, strengthening, and expansion of LTC capacities in the Region, considering the challenges and opportunities that each country/territory has towards providing LTC across the life course.
- **Period:** between 2025 and 2030, with results presented in a mid-term (2028) and final report (2031).
- Approved by PAHO's Member States in 61<sup>st</sup> PAHO's directing Council (October, 2024)



## POLICY ON LONG-TERM CARE

### Introduction

1. The Region of the Americas has experienced a significant increase in life expectancy at birth. However, healthy life expectancy has not achieved the same gains, causing a gap of approximately 12 years between these 2 indicators. This translates into an increase in years lived with disability and dependency, a period during which many people will require long-term care (LTC) (1, 2). LTC needs, however, may arise at any age throughout the life course (3).
2. Declines in a person's functional ability typically give rise to chronic and complex needs for support. Long-term care includes a series of activities carried out by paid or unpaid caregivers to optimize functioning and compensate for permanent or temporary loss of capacities, consistent with a person's rights, fundamental freedoms, and human dignity (4). In light of demographic and epidemiological trends, countries of the Region, and their health systems in particular, will face significant additional costs for LTC services (5). Moreover, the lack of LTC policies and institutional capacity across the Region will impact its human, economic, and social development.
3. To tackle the challenges related to care dependency<sup>a</sup> and its impact on individuals, health systems, and societies, countries urgently need to invest in increased access to LTC and disability prevention services across the life course. These services must be organized and coordinated by the health and social care systems. This Policy on Long-term Care, covering the period 2025–2034, provides the Member States of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) with strategic and technical guidance for the development, strengthening, and expansion of LTC capacities in the Region.

### Background

4. Several policies and strategies approved by PAHO Member States recognize the importance of LTC. For example, the Strategic Plan of the Pan American Health Organization 2020–2025 highlights the need to monitor the proportion of people aged 65+ who are dependent on care (6). The Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage acknowledges the importance and value of unpaid care and support, provided mostly by women, to individuals living with a disability, chronic health condition, and/or frailty who have limited capacity to care for their health and well-being



# Policy on Long-Term Care: 5 lines of action

- 1: Strengthen governance, accountability, and stewardship through intersectoral policies to meet long-term care needs
- 2: Strengthen workforce capacity for long-term care, including health and social care workers and unpaid caregivers
- 3: Strengthen the organization and delivery of person-centered and integrated long-term care, responding to the different needs of care recipients and caregivers
- 4: Increase and optimize sustainable and equitable financing for long-term care
- 5: Strengthen information systems for long-term care and improve data collection and research

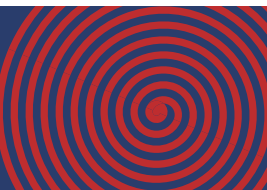


# To support implementation...

## Policy Brief Series on Lines of Action

1. Integrated and person-centered long-term care.
2. Long-term care workforce
3. Integrated governance and financing for long-term care.
4. From health promotion to end-of-life care: Towards an integrated continuum of long-term care.

- \*Information and data transversal topic
- \*Interagency collaboration
- \*Case examples



# To support implementation...

## Caregivers course

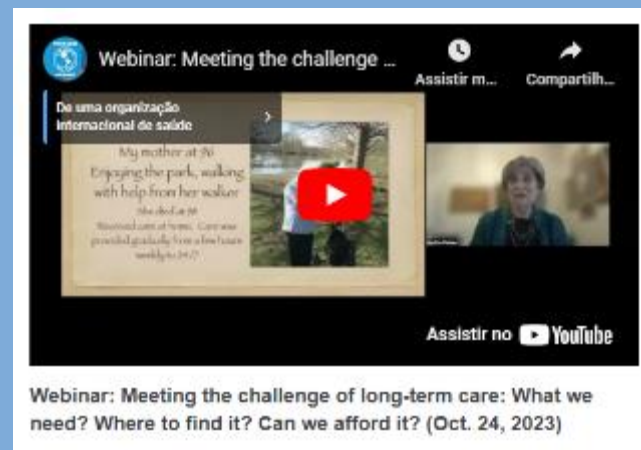
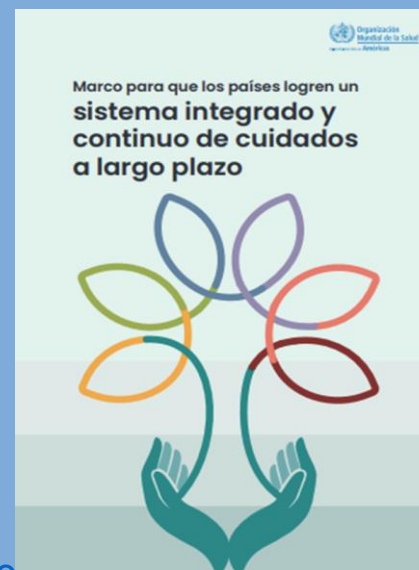
- **Regional Public good IDB:** LAC countries share many development challenges and opportunities that can be addressed more effectively and efficiently at the regional level through collective action.
- **ASTUR Foundation (execution); Colombia, El Salvador, Ecuador, Mexico República Dominicana, Uruguay, + IDB, IMSERSO, PAHO (strategic partners).**
- **2025-2026**



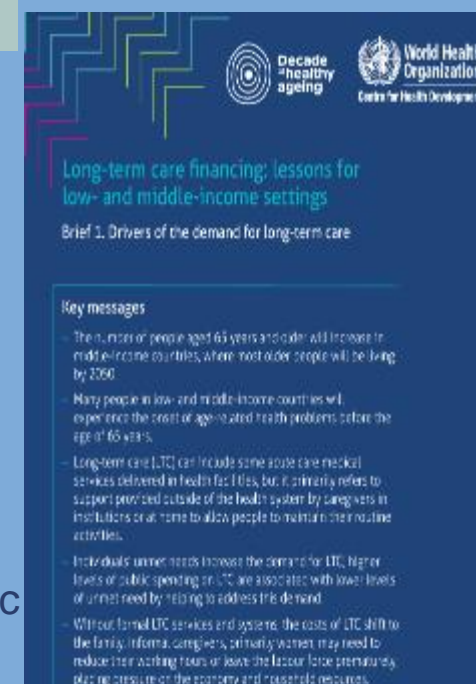
# Resources



<https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/59319>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cy6D7h6vwmc>



**Thank you!**



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