



Reporting Period: 1 - 30 September 2020

# Latin America and the Caribbean Region

## COVID-19 Situation Report No. 8

United Nations Population Fund



### Regional Highlights

- The COVID-19 pandemic has hit Latin America and the Caribbean in a context of low growth, marked inequality and vulnerability, growing poverty and extreme poverty, weakening of social cohesion and increasing expressions of social discontent.
- Cases continue to increase in Latin America and are currently at or near the highest levels observed since the start of the pandemic in all countries.
- Most countries in the region have weak and fragmented health systems, which do not guarantee the universal access needed to address the COVID 19 crisis.
- The impact on the health of personnel on the frontlines, which often lack sufficient and adequate personal protection equipment (PPE), continues to be high.
- The crisis is also having a considerable impact on women's access to healthcare and, in particular, to sexual and reproductive health services. Lockdown measures enforced in countries have also led to a sharp increase in gender-based violence.
- Contraceptives are expected to suffer shortages or stock outs by the end of this year.
- The pandemic is showing increased incidence among vulnerable populations, particularly indigenous people, afro-descendants, prisoners, migrants, and LGBTI people.
- Urgent funding is needed to meet rising needs.

### Situation in Numbers

 **9,602,584** Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

 **353,603** COVID-19 Deaths

Source: WHO, 6 October 2020

### Key Population Groups

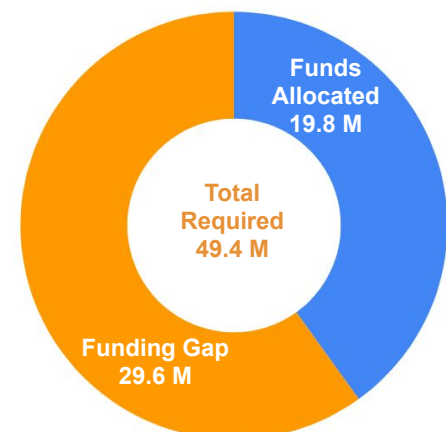
 **8 M** Pregnant Women

 **172 M** Women of Reproductive Age

 **165 M** Young People (age 10-24)

 **58 M** Older Persons (age 65+)

### Funding Status for Region (US\$)



## Coordination and Partnerships

### Coordination at regional level

Regional level coordination supports country offices to respond to COVID 19 in line with the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) and UNFPA's Global Response Plan. The GHRP covers multiple LAC countries with humanitarian needs. These are Colombia, Haiti and Venezuela, which have national humanitarian response plans and an additional 17 countries which are covered by the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for a coordinated response to the needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela. The RMRP has been revised to address the needs of refugees, migrants and host communities in the context of COVID 19 particularly as related to health and protection. UNFPA participates in the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela and co-leads the GBV sub-sector. UNFPA also participates actively in the Regional Group on Risks, Emergencies and Disasters for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) including the health, protection, logistics and shelter sectors.

### Coordination at sub regional level

UNFPA continues to work with sister agencies in the delivery of services in the Caribbean. In this respect, the Joint UN COVID-19 Multi-Country Response Plan for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean will be expanded to 2021. UNFPA is leading the strengthening of the GBV referral pathways for access to multi-sectoral services by GBV survivors. UNFPA is also engaged in coordination for hurricane preparedness and response.

### Coordination at country level

UNFPA provides advocacy and technical assistance to government counterparts and strategic partners to promote the continuity of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and GBV services. This includes prenatal and postnatal care, safe births, access to contraceptives, GBV prevention and response, protection of frontline health personnel, including midwives, and generation and analysis of data.

UNFPA's activities are conducted in partnership with the UN country team and/or humanitarian country team. UNFPA actively participates in humanitarian coordination mechanisms (including the health and protection clusters) and leads or co-leads the GBV sub-cluster where this has been activated. UNFPA is also engaged in the drafting of the UN's framework for the socio-economic response to COVID-19.



## IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTIVES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The coronavirus disease pandemic (COVID-19) could critically undermine progress to end unmet family planning needs by 2030 in the Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) region. In this paper, we examine how access to contraceptives in the region could deteriorate as an immediate effect of service disruption as well as the indirect result of declines of personal and household income.

Full Report: [English](#) | [Español](#)

### Continuity of Sexual Reproductive Health Services and interventions, including protection of health workforce

UNFPA is supporting national and local planning, coordination and monitoring to ensure continuity of SRH services. UNFPA coordinates efforts with regional partners including PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, UNAIDS and professional associations such as the International Confederation of Midwives. The objective is to ensure access to quality lifesaving SRH information and services for women, adolescents and youth through joint advocacy with health authorities. UNFPA is intensifying its efforts to secure continuity of maternal health care, through technical support and training of service providers and provision of PPE.

#### Country examples:

- **Brazil:** UNFPA supports telehealth services in 6 municipalities in the Marajó Island (State of Pará) for continuity of SRH care. UNFPA is also providing PPE and SRH supplies in Amazonas, Roraima, Bahia and Pará to strengthen access to SRH information and services for refugee and migrant women.
- **Colombia:** In Arauca and Norte de Santander, UNFPA provided 375 migrant women with contraceptives and 55 pregnant women received essential services. During adolescent pregnancy prevention week, UNFPA provided information and condoms to 194 young people in Arauca and Saravena. UNFPA is also integrating SRH and GBV services in La Guajira targeting indigenous and migrant women.
- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance for the development of strategic actions and accelerators for the National Plan for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancies.
- **Ecuador:** UNFPA and the Health Training Center of the Universidad Central are developing the virtual course on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH and GBV in emergencies adapted to the COVID-19 context. This course targets 480 health workers and humanitarian response officials.
- **Guatemala:** UNFPA provides technical support to the Ministry of Health for continuity of obstetric care, adolescent health care and family planning services in the context of COVID 19 and has delivered PPE for essential workers for continuation of life-saving SRH services.
- **Haiti:** UNFPA is supporting EmONC services in the departments of South, Grand Anse, North West, South East, and Nippes. UNFPA is delivering PPE for health personnel, monitoring the availability of vital medicines & supporting national partners to strengthen maternal death surveillance and improve access to family planning. UNFPA is also supporting an assessment of the impact of COVID 19 on the health sector.
- **Honduras:** UNFPA provided a webinar on "Sexual and reproductive health care during the COVID-19 pandemic" aimed at 63 professionals from the municipalities of Choloma, Villanueva and San Pedro Sula. UNFPA also conducted field visits to 21 health facilities to assess the status of SRH services.
- **Mexico:** UNFPA is strengthening networks of primary health care services, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and ensuring the provision of PPE for health personnel working at the first level of neonatal and maternal health care.
- **Nicaragua:** UNFPA is in the process of procuring PPE for delivery to the Ministry of Health (MoH) to a value of USD 320,000.
- **El Salvador:** Through the medical advice line 131 launched last month, callers can reach health personnel. One of the benefits has been that doctors are now able to reach people who faced difficulty obtaining medical care before the pandemic.

- **English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean:** PPE procurement continues for **Suriname, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago**, which has already delivered some 10 boxes of N95 masks, 6 boxes of surgical masks and an additional 2000 surgical masks to partners. In **Belize**, the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN COVID-19 MPTF) and Spotlight Interventions continue to be implemented, through risk communication, remote ante and prenatal care, and SRH Mobile services/contraceptives. Through Emergency Funds, the SROC is also providing services to the most at-risk population, including migrants and refugees in **Guyana**, and has procured female condoms and injectables to support the IPPF Affiliate. In **Guyana**, UNFPA has also procured four ERH Kits 8 to be distributed in the main hospitals in the sub-region.
- **Panama:** UNFPA supported MINSA in the development of the Technical and Administrative Standards of the Integrated Women's Health Program and the Plan for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis. UNFPA is procuring PPE for personnel of maternity hospitals in regions with indigenous populations.
- **Paraguay:** UNFPA is providing technical support to the MoH in several areas including: i) strengthening the vital statistics system; ii) developing protocols for remote services for pregnant women; iii) monitoring the supply of essential services; and iv) updating protocols for SRH care for adolescents.
- **Peru:** UNFPA is supporting the MOH to i) strengthen SRH data management; ii) adapt maternal health and family planning services to the COVID-19 context; iii) procure SRH kits and PPE for utilization for services targeting refugee and migrant women and host communities; and iv) launch an online course for health providers on adolescent SRH.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA is working with humanitarian partners and the authorities to address the needs of women and youth, including pregnant women, in prioritized medical centers and temporary shelters for returnees. UNFPA delivers emergency reproductive health kits, PPE, and cleaning supplies for SRH services and provides hygiene kits for women and girls in quarantine.

### Addressing Gender-Based Violence

Through the Spotlight and Essential Service initiatives, UNFPA provides advocacy and technical assistance for the continuity and scale up of integrated services to prevent and respond to increased GBV in the context of COVID 19. In humanitarian settings, UNFPA provides GBV sub-cluster coordination and facilitates regular revision of GBV referral pathways to reflect the rapidly changing availability of services for GBV survivors. UNFPA also invests in life-saving GBV case management, psychosocial support (PSS) services and clinical management of rape and provides dignity kits including information about GBV prevention and services for vulnerable women and girls.

#### Country examples:

- **Argentina:** UNFPA is supporting the online course "Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Survivors of Violence" in the province of Buenos Aires and is collaborating with UNAIDS and UNDP to strengthen the program El Teje Solidario, which provides social and economic assistance to trans people in situations of vulnerability.
- **Bolivia:** UNFPA leads the GBV sub-cluster and provides technical support and training for a multi-sector GBV response in line with the the Essential Services Package. UNFPA is supporting the Vice Ministry of Civil Defence with the strategy for the safe return of Bolivian citizens in the COVID context, including as related to shelters for returnees at the border.

## Regional Response Summary (continued)

- **Costa Rica:** UNFPA is supporting the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) in the preparation of the manual for services for survivors of gender-based violence.
- **Cuba:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the Cuban Federation of Women in the formulation of the [Guideline for GBV remote services](#). UNFPA supported the mapping of GBV services available in the context of COVID 19 and is positioning GBV and gender equality in the UN socioeconomic response plan.
- **Chile:** UNFPA disseminated the online course Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Survivors of Violence to national partners including University of Chile Medical School; the Chilean Association of Women Judges; and the Chilean Chapter of Global Women Health.
- **Dominican Republic:** Following the elections and transition of government, UNFPA has provided technical assistance to the new authorities for the incorporation of gender and youth perspectives in planning for pandemic and post-pandemic contexts, including to address GBV.
- **Ecuador:** UNFPA co-leads the GBV sub sector and is partnering with NGOs to provide remote GBV case management and psychosocial support on the northern and southern borders. UNFPA has worked with UNWOMEN to mainstream the gender perspective in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) including analysis of the pandemic's impact on GBV.
- **English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean:** UNFPA has finalized data collection to inform the development of Guidelines for the Management of Shelters of GBV Survivors in the Caribbean. The **Guyana** Liaison Office has officially activated the GBV Working Group under the R4V in the country, through the hiring and deployment of the GBV Working Group Coordinator, also representing UNFPA as a standing member at the Government's National Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Violence. The **Trinidad and Tobago** Liaison office submitted its proposal for the 2021 RMRP under the R4V and is presently compiling inputs for the 2021 Humanitarian appeal.
- **Guatemala:** UNFPA provided technical assistance to strengthen phone lines and radio messages for GBV survivors and supported the MOH Gender Unit with training on the Essential Services Package with focus on sexual violence. UNFPA leads the GBV sub group and has provided more than 3,000 dignity kits and biosafety materials to women and girls in situations of vulnerability.
- **Haiti:** UNFPA is working in the South East department to strengthen reproductive health and GBV services along the border with Dominican Republic. UNFPA and partners are developing a proposal to integrate SRH and GBV services in the Western Departments, targeting people living with disabilities, women suffering from obstetric fistula, sex workers and LGBTI, among others.
- **Paraguay:** Through the interagency Project "Paraguay Protects", UNFPA supported i) virtual training to the Ministry of Children and Adolescents in protection for women, children and adolescents in the COVID context; (ii) training to the inter-institutional round table for the prevention of violence against women (PREVIM); and iii) improvements to women's care facilities in 2 departments of the country.
- **Uruguay:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance to the Government for GBV prevention and mitigation measures including supporting the Montevideo Secretary of Diversity and Secretary for Gender Equality to adapt key GBV messages for transgender women.
- **Venezuela:** UNFPA leads the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) and is coordinating actions with the authorities, UN partners and NGOs to address the needs of people in temporary shelters, including returnees. Hot-lines providing remote services have been launched and a safe space for women and girls.

### Ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities

UNFPA is providing technical support to governments in analyzing the availability of reproductive health supplies, forecasting needs and anticipating shortages and/or possible stock-outs.

#### Country examples:

- **Argentina:** UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health to secure the supply of Misoprostol and Male condoms through the third party procurement modality. The supplies have arrived in Argentina and are expected to be cleared and distributed in a short time.
- **Brazil:** UNFPA is promoting cooperation between states for the continuity of services in Marajó Island and supporting development of an innovative digital delivery system for SRH supplies.
- **Bolivia:** UNFPA has provided contraceptive supplies and HIV rapid test kits to the MOH for prioritized health facilities that do not have guaranteed availability due to COVID-19. The subscription to the bridge fund for contraceptives is being negotiated with the Ministry of Health and CEASS.
- **Colombia:** UNFPA provided long-acting contraceptives to rural hospitals in different municipalities and delivered PPE and SRH supplies through the Health for Peace Project and the Interagency Strategy for Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Indigenous Communities.
- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA is providing technical assistance and support to the MoH in monitoring the availability of contraceptives and their timely delivery.
- **Ecuador:** UNFPA and the MOH will sign a Co-financing Agreement for the acquisition of contraceptive methods. UNFPA is providing 110 emergency reproductive health kits for distribution to prioritized health services on the northern and southern borders.
- **El Salvador:** UNFPA has delivered contraceptive supplies to the MOH including 6,235,200 male and female condoms. A family planning teleservice is being piloted in three regions. The launch of this service was accompanied by a social media campaign which reached over 35 thousand women of reproductive age. The service will be scaled up for nationwide coverage.
- **Haiti:** UNFPA has provided essential medicines and PPE to targeted Departments. The distribution of PPE is ongoing to protect service providers from COVID 19 and ensure continuity of integrated services for maternal health, family planning and sexual violence.
- **Mexico:** Capacities of healthcare managers and service providers have been strengthened to improve the logistics management for contraceptive commodities through a virtual course.
- **Nicaragua:** UNFPA is initiating a study on the impact of COVID-19 on family planning based on data on contraceptive consumption from MoH and contraceptive sales in private pharmacies.
- **Panamá:** UNFPA has provided PPE for maternal health workers in the Guna Yala area as well as RH supplies for migrant women in the shelters of Darien region and Chiriqui region.
- **Peru:** UNFPA continues supporting the MoH for the design of community-based strategies for delivery of contraceptives at the local level and verification of stocks of contraceptives.

### Risk Communication and community engagement, including youth engagement

UNFPA is supporting risk communication and community engagement with national health authorities and other partners to develop, implement and monitor an action plan for communicating effectively with the public. UNFPA is engaging with communities and other stakeholders in the public health response to COVID-19.

#### Country examples:

- **Bolivia:** Joint actions have been developed with the Ministry of Health and PAHO for the Latin American Week for the prevention of pregnancy in adolescents. A virtual dialogue was developed with young people about myths about contraceptive methods in context of the pandemic. Campaign launch: <http://bit.ly/0PEA2020> ; news about the joint actions: <http://bit.ly/1PEA2020>. UNFPA has developed a campaign called “El amor en tiempos de pandemia”: Infographics about love myths : <http://bit.ly/AmorPandemia1>
- **Brazil:** UNFPA continues to conduct weekly webinars about the multi-sectoral impacts of the pandemic targeting the general public, adolescents and youth, and health professionals. To date these webinars have had a cumulative total of approximately 23,000 views.
- **Colombia:** UNFPA continued to provide technical support for the 192 phone line for information and advice on maternal health. UNFPA and the MOH launched a social media campaign aimed at preventing teenage pregnancy, as part of the actions implemented during the “*Semana Andina de Prevención del Embarazo Adolescente*”.
- **Chile:** Thirty adolescents and young people are actively participating in the virtual Youth Camp 2020. They use their social networks to spread messages about the central themes: human rights, gender violence and harmful practices against women and girls, gender cyber violence, among others. They also created "memes" related to sexual and reproductive rights
- **Dominican Republic:** UNFPA is supporting a social media campaign with advice on COVID-19 prevention aimed at girls and parents in alliance with the Ministries of Education and Youth and other partners.
- **Ecuador:** There has been an active participation of young people, particularly from the northern border in COVID prevention and sexual and reproductive rights campaigns, through radio and messages on social networks with intercultural adaptations.
- **El Salvador:** In coordination with ECLAC, UNFPA updated demographic projections for 2021 by departments and municipalities which will be useful instruments for planning, budgeting and monitoring actions in the health and education sectors.
- **English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean:** UNFPA continued COVID-19 risk-communication and community engagement through its suite of SRH, GBV and Family Planning communication products, disseminated through the SROC media platforms and those of strategic partners. IPPF Affiliate, Barbados Family Planning Association reached over 100, 000 persons with these SRH, GBV and COVID-19 communications, which has resulted in an increase in the demand for services.
- **Honduras:** UNFPA provided PPE for 200 social communicators providing outreach for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy in 7 Departments of the country.
- **Mexico:** UNFPA carried out 5 online youth dialogues with 250 participants, in collaboration with the Office of the Resident Coordinator, UNESCO and other members of the Inter-agency Group on Youth, to analyze the role of adolescents and youth during and post-COVID-19.

## Media and Communications

UNFPA is reaching out to populations about the COVID-19 pandemic, especially with regard to the plight of women, girls and young people, and the need for SRH and GBV prevention and response services.

- **Regional:** [UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean: COVID-19 website](#) and [Preliminary results presentation of the Youth and COVID-19 survey](#)
- **Argentina:** Week to prevent teen pregnancy. UNFPA Argentina with UNICEF and FEIM launched the campaign #Puedodecidir ( #Icandecide ) to prevent unplanned pregnancy and they can know what are the methods to prevent Sexually Transmitted Infections. More info: <http://puedodecidir.org/>
- **Brazil:** → [Acesso à internet é um dos maiores desafios enfrentados por estudantes no Brasil](#)  
→ [Resiliências entre organizações de empregadores e trabalhadores pode ser chave para o trabalho pós-pandemia](#)
- **Colombia:** → [Durante la pandemia las personas LGBTIQ pueden ser particularmente vulnerables: las acciones para protegerles son urgentes.](#) → [Adolescentes y jóvenes de Arauca y Norte de Santander acceden a métodos anticonceptivos para evitar embarazos no planeados durante la crisis por COVID-19](#)
- **Costa Rica:** El Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres y el Sistema de Naciones Unidas en Costa Rica, presentan un recurso importante para niñas y mujeres que podrían estar siendo víctimas de abusos o violencia. [¡Seguimos pendientes de vos!](#)
- **Cuba:** [UNFPA entrega donación a instituciones de salud cubanas como parte de la respuesta a la crisis generada por la COVID-19](#)
- **Ecuador:** [UNFPA y UNICEF entregaron mil Kits para mujeres víctimas de violencia](#)  
UNFPA Ecuador has produced informative communication materials on GBV; national services and care routes; sexual and reproductive health; danger signs before, during, and after childbirth and the newborn.
- **El Salvador:** [El Salvador begins telemedicine for pregnant women, new mothers and other priority groups](#)
- **English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean:** The SROC has directly reached 190,000 people with its COVID-19 communication and risk engagement products. The roll out of the second round of 63 products, was completed in September, and included COVID-19 messaging on pregnancy, and for the LGBTQI community and PLHIV.
- **Guatemala:** [Kits que protegen ante la COVID-19 y refuerzan la dignidad](#)
- **Haiti:** [Covid-19 in Haiti: Services are back in healthcare institutions after the distribution of personal protective equipment by UNFPA](#)
- **Honduras:** [UNFPA apoya a comunicadores sociales con kits de protección en 7 departamentos del país.](#)
- **Mexico:** → [Buscan fortalecer salud materna y educación sexual en comunidades vulnerables.](#)  
→ [Fortalecerán rol de parteras durante epidemia de COVID-19](#)
- **Nicaragua:** [Hombres llamados a asumir tareas del hogar y fomentar equidad en la familia](#)
- **Paraguay:** The CUIDÁnos communication campaign, which accounts for UNFPA's response to COVID-19, continued to be implemented with the addition of new actors: the [Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security](#), the youth advocacy groups [Somos Pytyvohára and Presencia Joven](#). As part of the [Ñañangareko communication campaign](#) –which adapted its narrative framework to COVID-19, it produced two real stories, in [audiovisual format](#), [about girls](#) who [died due to pregnancy](#).
- **Peru:** The CO launched a microsite about its response to COVID-19 (<https://peru.unfpa.org/es/respuesta-COVID19>), which includes short videos, testimonies, stories and a clear narrative about COVID-19 effects and UNFPA concrete actions in Peru.
- **Uruguay:** [COVID-19 in Pictograms](#)



UNFPA COSTA RICA [¡SEGUIMOS PENDIENTES DE VOS!](#)

ATENCIÓN DE MUJERES  
AFECTADAS POR  
**VIOLENCIA**

DURANTE EL ESTADO DE  
EMERGENCIA POR  
**COVID-19**

**¡SEGUIMOS  
PENDIENTES  
DE VOS!**

**¿Qué hacer si estoy en riesgo?**

Vivo con la persona  
agresora



Considero que estoy en  
una situación de riesgo



Si te es imposible salir, **buscá un lugar seguro y llamá de inmediato al 9-1-1 o pedí ayuda a personas que se encuentran cerca.**



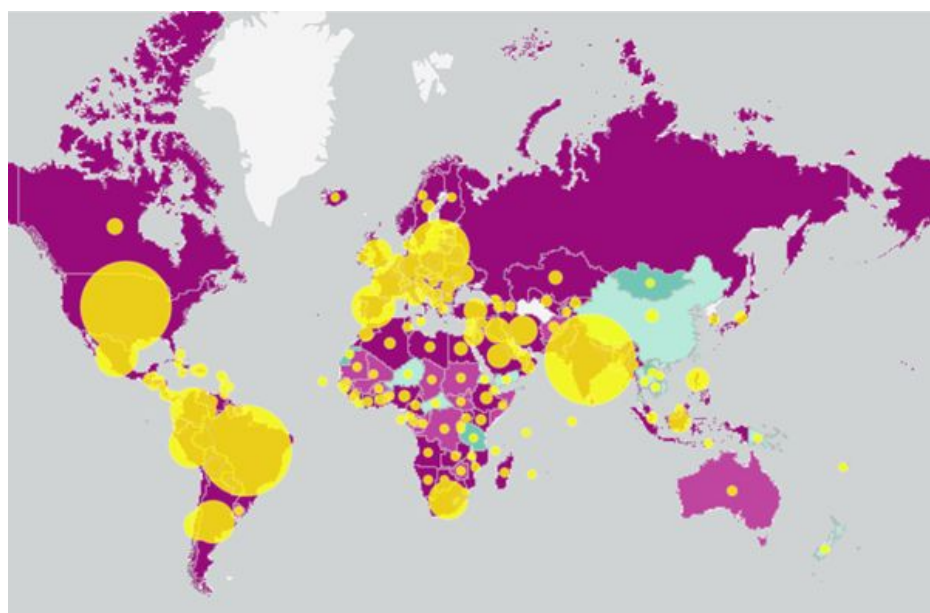
Me están acosando o  
amenazando por  
teléfono, redes sociales u  
otros medios



En tiempos de crisis, como el que vive la humanidad actualmente con el COVID-19, las mujeres, niñas y niños pueden estar en mayor riesgo de violencia. El Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres y el Sistema de Naciones Unidas en Costa Rica, presentan esta plataforma de información como recurso importante para muchas mujeres que podrían estar siendo víctimas de abusos o violencia. [¡Seguimos pendientes de vos!](#)

## Confirmed Cases and Deaths (UNFPA programme countries) WHO, 6 October 2020

Country	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Argentina	798,486	21,018
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	136,868	8,101
Brazil	4,915,289	146,352
Caribbean*	37,527	633
Chile	471,746	13,037
Colombia	855,052	26,712
Costa Rica	79,182	950
Cuba	5,845	123
Dominican Republic	115,054	2,144
Ecuador	141,339	11,681
El Salvador	29,539	865
Guatemala	94,182	3,302
Haiti	8,819	229
Honduras	79,629	2,422
Mexico	761,665	79,088
Nicaragua	4,146	151
Panama	115,286	2,423
Paraguay	44,182	929
Peru	828,169	32,742
Uruguay	2,145	48
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	78,434	653
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,602,584</b>	<b>353,603</b>



See UNFPA's [COVID-19 Population Vulnerability Dashboard](#) for real-time updates

\* Belize, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands