

## Pan American Development Foundation Response Capabilities for COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean Democracy, Governance and Human Rights

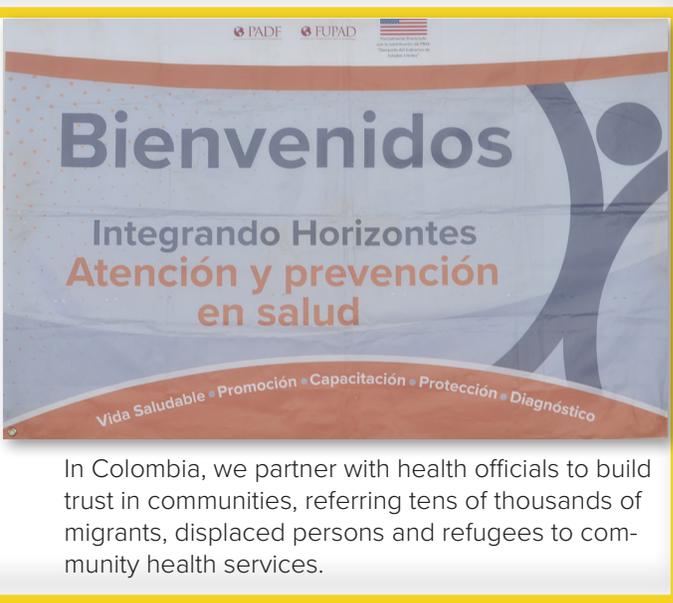
Policymakers, experts and citizens are concerned about the growing impact of official responses to COVID-19 on democracy, governance and human rights. As governments face enormous pressure to deliver basic services during the pandemic, their responses are also delaying electoral schedules, raising corruption concerns, challenging the role of the press and the accuracy of news sources, placing new limits on civil rights, eroding workers’ rights, and repressing opposition. These actions can erode citizen trust in public institutions at this critical time and have a direct effect in the success of COVID-19 responses.

With nearly 60 years of experience across the region and strong partnerships with national and local governments, civil society organizations, and communities, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is **uniquely positioned to offer immediate assistance in four urgent dimensions of democracy, governance and human rights in the COVID-19 pandemic response.**

	Community Level	Institutional Level
Short Term	Raise community awareness and build trust about health rights and access to services	Ensure that government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic are effective, transparent, ethical and accountable
Longer Term	Rebuild and strengthen community cohesion and inclusion	Enhance public service delivery capacity and transparency of public institutions

As a non-profit and non-governmental organization, PADF can receive funding through donations, grants, contracts, and partnerships with governments, foundations, and the private sector. We have vast experience supporting civil society and coordinating efforts to deliver vital services and humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations. We are a strategic partner and proud affiliate of the Organization of American States (OAS) and part of the Inter-American System, and our Public International Organization (PIO) status under the OAS allows us to quickly receive funding from the U.S. Government and scale up programs.

PADF has extensive in-country networks working in open and closed societies and an established track-record of effective project management through on-the ground and virtual collaboration. With sound financial controls, we can quickly facilitate remote procurements and payments through mobile and e-vouchers.



In Colombia, we partner with health officials to build trust in communities, referring tens of thousands of migrants, displaced persons and refugees to community health services.

## Short Term

### Raise community awareness and build trust about health rights and access to services

PADF works with communities and local governments to disseminate accurate and reliable information about access to health services for at-risk and marginalized communities, including migrants, displaced persons, Afro, and indigenous communities. PADF has partnered with health officials in municipalities in Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala and Peru to build trust in communities, referring tens of thousands of migrants, displaced persons and refugees to community health services. We also work with communal and municipal governments in Haiti and Ecuador to identify and address gaps in services to citizens.

### Ensure that government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic are effective, transparent, ethical and accountable

During pandemics, restrictions on some rights are justified when they have a legal basis, are strictly necessary, neither arbitrary nor discriminatory, of limited duration, respectful of human dignity, subject to review, and proportionate. Heightened assistance and vigilance are necessary to ensure that governments take only proper steps in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, that they do so effectively, transparently, and are held accountable for their obligations to all citizens. PADF supports civil society organizations and citizen observatories to monitor executive, legislative and judicial branch behavior, document corruption and human rights violations, and conduct national and international advocacy and awareness raising throughout the hemisphere. PADF leverages our relationship with the OAS, the United Nations, and the Inter American Commission on Human Rights to encourage governments to abide by their democratic and human rights obligations.

## Longer Term

### Rebuilding and strengthening community cohesion and inclusion

Access to scarce health services and resources during the COVID-19 response is likely to exacerbate tensions and divisions between marginalized persons and their communities, especially for refugees, migrants, and other groups without local mutual support networks. PADF conducts community-building activities that promote exchange, interaction and collaborative action between vulnerable and local residents to foster integration and trust. We promote community-led and managed development initiatives through the implementation of social projects using our proprietary Iniciativas con Balance Positivo © methodology.

### Enhancing public service delivery capacity of public institutions

PADF provides capacity building and technical assistance to elected officials and civil servants to enhance the service delivery capabilities of public institutions. We offer training, mentorship, accompaniment, and in-kind support to government ministries and local governments. We also facilitate public-private partnerships to leverage the resources and expertise of the private sector to complement public sector capacities. PADF's expertise includes transparency, anti-corruption, citizen engagement, and service delivery for vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities and ethnic and linguistic minorities.

#### Contact

Matt Potter

Thematic Leader for Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights  
Email: [mpotter@padf.org](mailto:mpotter@padf.org)

Phone Number: T: 202.458.3070  
C: 202.365.8708