Impact of COVID-19 on child and adolescent TB services: experiences from the Americas

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The Impact of COVID-19 on Latin America and the Caribbean

- Health Impacts
- Economic impacts
- Social and humanitarian impacts

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) United Nations
Health Impacts in the LAC

- Highest numbers of absolute and per capita cases worldwide.
- Fragmented and unequal health systems.
- Participation in health insurance plans was low.
- Lack of access to quality health care and information on health, especially serious in rural areas including indigenous people.
Economic impacts in the LAC

- GDP decreased 5.3%
- 1.6 million more unemployed in 2020, compared to 2019
- In 2020 poverty in LA may rise by at least 4.4 percentage points (28.7 million more people) compared to the prior year

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Latin America (18 countries): population size and trends by per capita income strata, 2019 and 2020 (Millions of persons)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Latin America (18 Countries): GDP per capita and incidence of poverty, 1980-2020

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Populations most affected by the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Area affected by the pandemic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Physical and mental health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low- and lower-middle income strata</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal workers</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female paid domestic workers</td>
<td>Labour income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and adolescents</td>
<td>Child labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young people</td>
<td>Access to basic services (water, sanitation, electricity, gas, digital technologies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older persons</td>
<td>Unpaid care work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural population</td>
<td>Intrafamily violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous peoples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afrodescendants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons with disabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless persons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Social and humanitarian impacts

- The pandemic is exacerbating existing food insecurity caused by environmentally driven food shortages, political turmoil, and dwindling purchasing power.

- Latin America and the Caribbean has seen an almost three-fold rise in the number of people requiring food assistance.

- The number of people experiencing acute food insecurity could increase by 11.7 million to 16.0 million people in 2020 because of the pandemic.

- The Gini index is expected to increase with the pandemic by between 1.1% and 7.8% in several countries in the region.
COVID-19 has impacted the operation of TB health services in The Americas

- Limited access to services: outpatient services were partially interrupted. These disruptions have affected all types of care for people with TB.
- Health Services: routine health services were reorganized or interrupted and many stopped providing care to people in detection or treatment for TB.
- Diagnosis: interrupted or stopped because don’t have a BSC II or adequate PPE to following the recommended biosafety measures.
- Treatment and care: TB health services were reorganized or interrupted and many stopped providing treatment.
- Heath care workers: Decrease in the workforce, many of the health workers who usually provide TB care were reassigned to the COVID-19 response.
- Others: Fear of the population to attend the consultation, due to the probable transmission of COVID-19 in the health services.
Impact of COVID-19 on TB cases notification. Preliminary information from 10 LAC countries (Jan – Jun, 2020)

Notificación mensual de casos de TB en países seleccionados de la Región de las Américas, 2020

40.3%, between the 1st and 2nd quarter.
Percentages of TB cases identified in children and adolescents with known HIV status. January - June, 2019 and 2020

MEXICO

- 69% (A2019), 60% (A2020)
- 13% (A2019), 13% (A2020)

PARAGUAY

- 70% (A2019), 63% (A2020)
- 10% (A2019), 10% (A2020)

TB Program, 2020
Number of Children and adolescent on ITP - January - June 2019 - 2020

MEXICO

Contacts investigated

- 2019: 849
- 2020: 380

55%

CALI, COLOMBIA

- 2019: 441
- 2020: 165

63%

PARAGUAY

- 2019: 116
- 2020: 92

21%
Number of household contacts children and adolescents investigated. January - June, 2020

MEXICO

2019: 1518
2020: 812
Change: -47%

CALI, COLOMBIA

2019: 4574
2020: 2035
Change: -56%

PARAGUAY

2019: 4868
2020: 1193
Change: -75%
TB cases in Paraguay

Number of TB cases identified in the general population (not include indigenous population) by month.
Paraguay - 2018 - 2019 - 2020

Number of TB cases identified in the indigenous population.
Paraguay, January - June, 2018 - 2019 - 2020

Interventions

National TB Program, 2020
- Information note: Tuberculosis and COVID-19 (19th March 2020)
- Recommendations for laboratory diagnosis of TB during the COVID-19 pandemic (7th April 2020)
COVID-19

TUBERCULOSIS AND COVID-19: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If you have a cough, you may have a respiratory illness.

It could be COVID-19 if it’s a dry cough that began suddenly, accompanied by general malaise, fever and difficulty breathing/shortness of breath.

It could be TB if your cough has been getting worse, lasts two weeks or more, and produces mucus.

IN EITHER CASE

Call the assigned telephone number in your country or your healthcare provider to obtain a diagnosis. If you have TB, you may be at increased risk of serious complications if you become infected with COVID-19.

HOW TO PREVENT COVID-19 AND STAY HEALTHY IF YOU HAVE TB

• Take preventive measures: wash your hands with soap and water frequently; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
• Minimize your exposure to COVID-19: follow the social distancing recommendations in your country.
• If you’re being treated for TB, confirm with your health facility where you will receive treatment during the pandemic.
• Continue taking your treatment daily, don’t miss a dose and follow medical advice. You must complete your treatment to be cured.
• Follow your doctor’s general recommendations, including maintaining a healthy diet, getting enough sleep, not smoking, staying active, and limiting alcohol consumption.
• If you develop symptoms such as a dry cough, fever and shortness of breath, call the designated number in your country or your healthcare provider. Explain that you have TB.

PAHO/WHO
Social media
What did the Ministries of Health do?

▪ Operational guidelines on maintaining TB health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

▪ Guidance on how to provide continuity for TB program:
  ▪ How to provide medical care for TB (telemedicine), VOT

▪ Communication materials:
  ▪ Education campaigns for the population: COVID-19 transmission and biosecurity.
  ▪ Campaigns targeting healthcare workers on how to provide TB care in the health services
What did the Ministries of Health do?

- NTPs provide technical assistance to health services and local TB program
- Strong coalition with civil society organizations, scientific societies, Indigenous Health sector, Parliamentary Front and communities
- Monitor the access to and continuity of essential health services for TB
- Coordination meetings with laboratories
- Psychosocial support for patients with DR-TB and at risk of loss of follow up
Guidelines

- Management and Control of Tuberculosis During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Information for the community:
  - Frequent A&Q
  - Information about Social protection for TB patients during the COVID pandemic
Guidelines

- Management and Control of Tuberculosis During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Community work:

- TB prevention counseling
- Detection: chest x-ray (mobile unit)
- Xpert
Guidelines
Management and Control of Tuberculosis During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Paraguayan Ministry of Health

Guidelines
Management and Control of Tuberculosis During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Recommendations for laboratory diagnosis of TB during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID 19 y Tuberculosis

1. Ambas patologías muestran síntomas similares: tos, fiebre y dificultad para respirar.
2. Ambas atacan el pulmón principalmente.
3. Ambos agentes biológicos se transmiten principalmente por contacto cercano.
4. El período de incubación es más largo en TB
5. Las personas enfermas con TB y COVID 19 pueden tener peores resultados de tratamiento.
- TB detection in jails
- Advocacy
- Food
- House-hold and community-based care
Mexican Ministry of Health

- Information for Health Care Workers - Management and Control of TB During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Information for the community
Coalition with Civil Society Organizations

- Deliver TB drugs,
- Take sputum samples in remote communities, in indigenous communities and in jails,
- Contact tracing,
- House-hold and community-based care
### Pre-existing conditional cash transfer programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>País</th>
<th>Programa</th>
<th>Periodicidad</th>
<th>Aumento de los Pagos o adelanto</th>
<th>Cobertura (personas)</th>
<th>Cobertura (% de la población)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Asignación Universal por Hijo</td>
<td>Una vez</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,880,376</td>
<td>26,3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belice</td>
<td>The Boost Program</td>
<td>Una vez</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,911</td>
<td>2,6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brasil</td>
<td>Bolsa Familia</td>
<td>Cinco veces Pasó de 3 a 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>53,229,083</td>
<td>24,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Programa Familias en Acción</td>
<td>Dos veces Pasó de 1 a 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,548,119</td>
<td>21,5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>PATH</td>
<td>Tres veces</td>
<td></td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>12,4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Tekoporã</td>
<td>Una vez</td>
<td></td>
<td>840,648</td>
<td>12,2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perú</td>
<td>Juntos</td>
<td>Una vez</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,520,729</td>
<td>10,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>Asignación Familiar Plan de Equidad</td>
<td>Dos veces Pasó de 1 a 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>372,231</td>
<td>10,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tarjeta Uruguay Social</td>
<td>Dos veces Pasó de 1 a 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>417,602</td>
<td>12,0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fuente:** Elaboración propia con base en la información nacional disponible. Cobertura (personas) de la CEPAL, Base de datos de programas de protección social no contributiva en América Latina y el Caribe.
Temporary money transfer programs
(update until June 30, 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>País</th>
<th>Nombre del Programa</th>
<th>Moneda Local/USD PPA</th>
<th># de pagos</th>
<th>Estado de los pagos</th>
<th>Población cubierta estimada (B)</th>
<th>% de la población (A)</th>
<th>% de la población (B)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia</td>
<td>ARS $10,000 (USD $331)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Efectuado</td>
<td>8.7 millones personas</td>
<td>8.7 millones personas</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brasil</td>
<td>Auxilio Emergencial</td>
<td>BRL $600 - $1,200 (USD $213 - $446)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>80 millones personas</td>
<td>65 millones personas</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Bono Familia</td>
<td>BOB $500 (USD $122)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>3.2 millones personas</td>
<td>2.7 millones personas</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bono Universal</td>
<td>BOB $500 (USD $122)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>4 millones personas</td>
<td>3.4 millones personas</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Bono de Emergencia COVID-19</td>
<td>CLP $50,000 (USD $598)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>2.7 millones personas</td>
<td>1.5 millones personas</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia (2.0)</td>
<td>CLP $100,000 por usuario (USD $530,25)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.6 millones personas</td>
<td>4.9 millones personas</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Ingreso Solidario</td>
<td>COP $160,000 mensual (USD $59)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>3 millones hogares</td>
<td>2.6 millones hogares</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>Subsidio de Emergencias</td>
<td>CRC $125,000 (USD $206)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>33 mil hogares</td>
<td>23.7 millones personas</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bono Proteger</td>
<td>CRC $100,000 (USD $231) segundo pago</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Efectuado</td>
<td>680 mil personas</td>
<td>532 mil personas</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Bono de Protección Familiar por Emergencia (Bono de Contingencia)</td>
<td>USD $50 (USD $89)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Efectuado</td>
<td>950 mil personas</td>
<td>950 mil personas</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>Bono de Compensación</td>
<td>USD $300 (USD $211)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>1.5 millones personas</td>
<td>1.2 millones personas</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Bono Familia de Q1 mil</td>
<td>Q1,000,000 (USD $359)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>2.3 millones hogares</td>
<td>981 mil personas</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>“Tañant en espacios unícu”</td>
<td>3,000 gourdes (USD $48)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>1.5 millones personas</td>
<td>146 mil personas</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>Bono Unico. Asistencia a los Trabajadores Independientes o de Cuenta Propia</td>
<td>2,000 Lempiras (USD $139)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>500 mil personas</td>
<td>260 mil personas</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>The COVID Compassionate Grant</td>
<td>$10,000 (USD $101)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Efectuado</td>
<td>355 mil personas</td>
<td>337 mil personas</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panamá</td>
<td>Bono Solidario (Plan Solidario)</td>
<td>USD$80 (USD $244)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>1.2 millones personas</td>
<td>1.2 millones personas</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Programa Pityvó</td>
<td>PYG $548,200 (USD $172)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>1.6 millones personas</td>
<td>1.1 millones personas</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perú</td>
<td>Bono Urbano (Yo me quedo en casa)</td>
<td>PEN $780 (USD $360)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Efectuado</td>
<td>2.7 millones personas</td>
<td>2.5 millones personas</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bono Independente</td>
<td>PEN $780 (USD $360)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Efectuado</td>
<td>733.000 personas</td>
<td>664 mil personas</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bono rural</td>
<td>PEN $780 (USD $360)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Efectuado</td>
<td>980 mil personas</td>
<td>384 mil personas</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bono Familiar Universal</td>
<td>PEN $780 (USD $360)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Efectuado</td>
<td>1.6 millones personas</td>
<td>1.4 millones personas</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>República</td>
<td>Programa Pa’ s</td>
<td>DOP $5,000 (USD $185.5)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>2.3 millones personas</td>
<td>200 mil personas</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominicana</td>
<td>Programa Quídade en Casa</td>
<td>DOP $5,000 (USD $185.5)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Efectuado</td>
<td>1.5 millones personas</td>
<td>1.5 millones personas</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad</td>
<td>Public Assistance Grant</td>
<td>$500.00 (USD $78)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>En ejecución</td>
<td>42 mil personas</td>
<td>42 mil personas</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobago</td>
<td>Bono especial quídade en Casa - Sistema Patria</td>
<td>VEF $800.000 (USD $268.60)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Efectuado</td>
<td>6 millones personas</td>
<td>6 millones personas</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>Bono Normalidad Relativa - Sistema Patria</td>
<td>VEF $600,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Efectuado</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions

- Countries and the NTP have made numerous efforts to continue the fight against TB in the context of the pandemic.

- TB capacities building contribute to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly in relation to search and contact tracing, home and community-based care, as well as in surveillance and monitoring systems for TB.

- The actions incorporated to address Covid-19 can benefit TB programs, especially in relation to infection control and telemedicine.

- To ensure countries’ economic recovery, comprehensive welfare and inclusive social protection systems are necessary.
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