

# Mpox Outbreak

## Regional challenges: lessons learned and the way forward in the Americas

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# Current situation and challenges

- Operational Planning based on SPRP was developed by some countries: i.e. BRA, CHI, COL
- Mpox virus PCR testing is available in all countries
- Surveillance guidelines are developed, however, mpox notification is underestimated
- Weak case investigation & contact tracing; few countries use Go.Data, i.e. CHI, PRY.
- Insufficient involvement of key populations in preventive measures, testing, and patients' reference to care, i.e. GTM, PER
- Integration into regular planning is now necessary
- Decentralization currently in a few countries (i.e. ARG, COL, GTM, MEX, USA), but more remains to be done.
- Still more integration into active and sentinel surveillance systems is necessary
- Strengthening contact tracing is necessary, including this and other approaches.
- Key population organizations and MoH need to better coordinate to effectively respond to mpox, including those in most vulnerable contexts and settings.

# Current situation and challenges

- Early integration of all components of mpox response into the national AIDS Program demonstrated a successful surveillance and response, with community engagement and participation in Peru.
- Development of vaccination plans and their implementation in 6 countries: USA, CAN, SLV, CHI, PAN, PER.
- Clinical management using tecovirimat and adoption of MEURI protocol: COL, BRA, CHI signed LoA.
- Integration of the mpox response into national AIDS programs is necessary in the region.
- Very limited supplies and lack of prioritization of procurement of these vaccines by MoH.
- Very limited supplies and limited evidence on efficacy.

# The way forward to keep mpox in the radar

- Lobby with health authorities and civil society to maintain interest in mpox beyond the PHEIC.
- Integrating mpox surveillance into STI surveillance, including sentinel surveillance
- Integrate mpox into the response to HIV/STIs, i.e. genital ulcer management
- Introducing mpox clinical management into HIV/STI integrated care for key populations (MSM, sex workers, trans women, among others)

# The way forward to keep mpox in the radar

- Further engagement of organized MSM, PLHIV and other civil society groups for risk communications, i.e. regarding prevention, including immunizations.
- RCC to properly approach stigma and discrimination and counter infodemia
- Ensure sustainable supplies of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics.
- Evaluate inclusion of mpox as part of PAHO's Disease Elimination Initiative
- Participate in research regarding new testing technologies, immunizations, IPC and therapeutics