



## Polio Risk Analysis and Mitigation Plan in the Americas

*Paola Ojeda, Bertha Capistran, Elizabeth Thrush, Ana Elena Chévez, PAHO-Washington, DC*

As part of the polio eradication certification process, until there is no poliovirus in the world, it is necessary to continuously carry out activities that identify the risk of reintroduction of wild poliovirus or poliovirus emergency vaccine-derived poliovirus in the Americas.

For this purpose, PAHO encourages countries to carry out an annual risk analysis throughout the country. The purpose of the risk analysis is to highlight the conditions that propitiate the occurrence of an event or outbreak of polio, to act in a timely manner and take actions that allow the risk to disappear.



Ceremony on PCV13 introduction in Haiti, October 2018.  
Credit: Gue Edmond, PAHO.

The risk analysis proposed in the Region of the Americas was developed by PAHO, with support from the Regional Certification Committee (RCC) and the approval from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on vaccine-preventable diseases. The main components included in the risk analysis are: vaccination coverage, surveillance of acute flaccid paralysis, preparation for responding to the occurrence of an outbreak, as well as social determinants of each country.

These components predict population immunity, national capacity to timely identify poliovirus circulation and rapid responses to the occurrence of a polio outbreak or an event of cVDPV, as well as the risk of propagation of the virus or disease.

The result of the risk analysis should immediately generate a mitigation plan for the affected areas. The mitigation plan should be carried out with the national authorities of each program, that is, immunization, epidemiological surveillance and health services, to identify the real causes that generate risk, to propose activities and mitigation tasks.

PAHO has developed a standardized tool for this aim, which has already been used by Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, and Venezuela.