

Strengthen your defense! #GetVax #VaccinesWork

www.paho.org/vwa



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

FINAL REPORT

**Vaccination Week in the Americas 2018
April 23-April 28**

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Listed below are the countries that participated in Vaccination Week in the Americas 2018 and reported their data to Pan American Health Organization Headquarters for the compilation of this final report:

Anguilla	Grenada
Argentina	Honduras
Bahamas	Jamaica
Barbados	Mexico
Belize	Nicaragua
Bermuda	Paraguay
Bolivia	St. Kitts and Nevis
Brazil	St. Lucia
British Virgin Islands	St. Maarten
Canada	Suriname
Colombia	Turks and Caicos
Cuba	Trinidad & Tobago
Dominica	United States
Ecuador	Uruguay

Below are the non-reporting countries that did participate in Vaccination Week in the Americas 2018:

Aruba	Guatemala
BES Islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba)	Guyana
Cayman Islands	Haiti
Chile	Montserrat
Costa Rica	Panama
Curaçao	Peru
Dominican Republic	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
El Salvador	Venezuela

HISTORY

In response to a measles outbreak in Venezuela and Colombia, back in 2002, health ministers of the Andean countries proposed the idea of a coordinated international vaccination effort to prevent further spread of the disease. With the support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), this proposal evolved over the succeeding months into a new initiative, which is now called Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA). VWA was celebrated for the first time in **April 2003** by 19 countries and territories; later that same year the initiative was endorsed through a resolution during the 44th Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Today, the initiative has matured into a hemisphere-wide celebration of the power of vaccination and a key annual opportunity for all countries of the Americas to highlight the essential work of national immunization programs.

What is VWA?

Led by the countries and territories of the Region, Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA) is an effort to advance equity and access to vaccination. Country participation in VWA is flexible and national activities are selected annually based on current public health priorities; however, at the core of the initiative are efforts to reach out and vaccinate populations with little or no access to regular health services, such as those populations living in urban fringes, rural and border areas and in indigenous communities. By “reaching the unreached,” VWA contributes to strengthening national immunization programs across the Americas. The initiative has also provided an important platform for raising public awareness regarding the importance of immunization and for keeping the topic on the forefront of political agendas and in the media spotlight. VWA has become a bright example of what can happen when countries work together, across borders and in different languages, to improve their populations’ health.

VWA Objectives

Countries’ participation in VWA has always been flexible; national activities are selected by ministries of health in accordance with current health priorities. The overarching objectives of VWA are to:

To promote equity and access to immunization

To promote the transition from child to family immunization

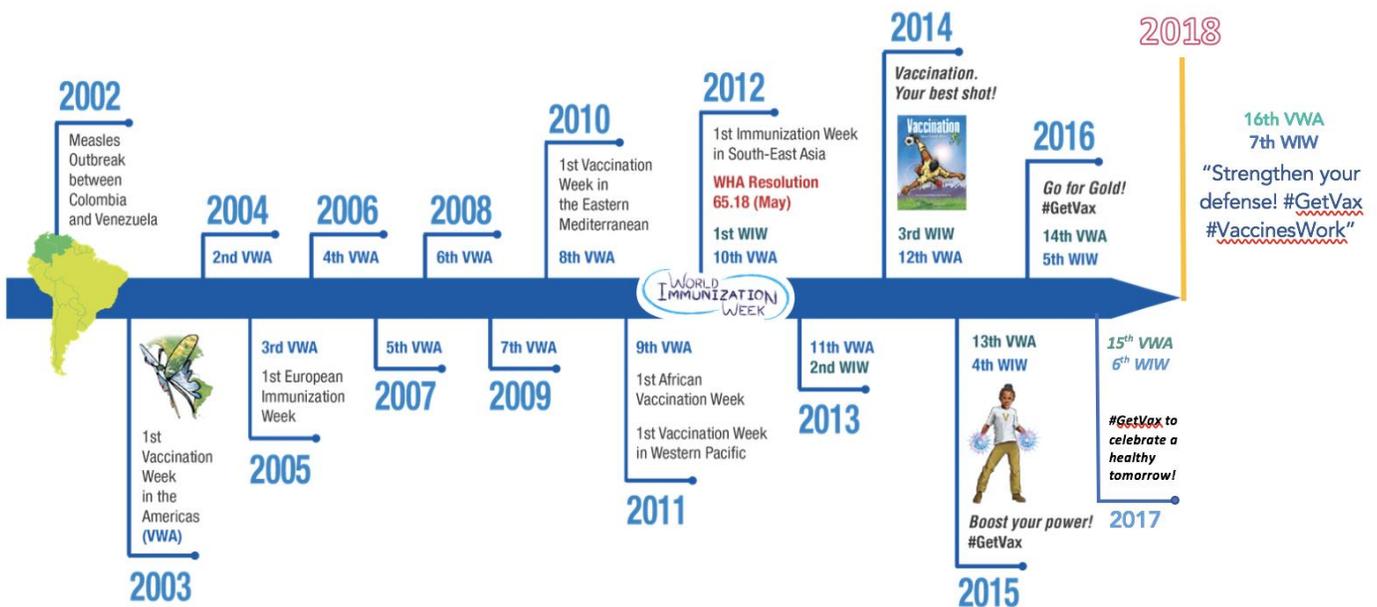
To maintain immunization on the political agenda

Increase vaccination coverage of all antigens.

To serve as a platform for integrated activities

World Immunization Week

Following the early successes of the Americas in implementing VWA, other regions of the World Health Organization (WHO) have subsequently come on board with similar sister initiatives (see timeline below), each adapted to the realities of Member States. This global movement culminated in the establishment of World Immunization Week (WIW) in 2012. Since then, every year, WIW in conjunction with VWA have come together to raise awareness on the importance of immunization and vaccinate different populations across the globe, making a special effort to reach people who may not have regular access to health services, including indigenous peoples, migrants, border populations, and people living in urban fringes. WIW was endorsed by the World Health Assembly that year and currently represents the overarching umbrella for all unique regional endeavors. This year marked WIW's 7th year and VWA's 16th year celebration.



WIW 2018 saw global partners unite under the theme 'Protected Together, #VaccinesWork' and tell the story of the *collective responsibility* we all have to ensure that everyone, everywhere can reap the benefits of immunization.

Communications activities during WIW 2018 aimed to spotlight three groups of actors critical to the success of vaccines—the public, frontline health workers, and donors— across three focus days with engaging social media content and traditional media placements. Several high-level champions supported this content on social media and helped push the number of #VaccinesWork mentions on Twitter and Instagram to 72,763 for WIW 2018. While this was a

slight decline on 2017's figure – likely due to the week stretching over a weekend – this year saw the most mentions ever of #VaccinesWork on a single day during WIW (16,437 – 24 April).

Protected Together

#VACCINESWORK

VWA 2018 Quick Overview

April 23-April 28, 2018 marked the 16th year that the countries and territories of the Americas and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) have come together to celebrate Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA). This year more than 60 million people of all ages were vaccinated, and since 2003, more than 740 million people of all ages have been vaccinated through a diverse array of campaigns conducted under the umbrella of this monumental initiative.

This year's regional slogan was "Strengthen Your Defense! #GetVax #VaccinesWork" and had a soccer theme in honor of the 2018 FIFA World Cup that took place in June-July 2018. The campaign slogan links strengthening defense on the soccer team with strengthening the body's defense to vaccine-preventable diseases through vaccination. As part of the campaign, famous soccer players joined the #VaccinationTeam and served as public health champions by promoting vaccination as the most effective way for people to strengthen their defenses against approximately 20 dangerous diseases.



Nicaragua, VWA 2018

VWA was celebrated this year by over 40 countries and territories. Dozens of events were held across the Region to launch the week, ranging from national celebrations with the participation of presidents and other high-level authorities, to more intimate events held in villages with the participation of local communities. Under the framework of VWA, thousands of health care workers vaccinated many different populations ranging all ages, including those living in remote, border, and urban fringe areas,

indigenous populations, and other at-risk groups, against a wide range of diseases such as poliomyelitis, rubella, congenital rubella syndrome, measles, diphtheria, mumps, whooping cough, neonatal tetanus, influenza, yellow fever, diarrhea caused by rotavirus, bacterial pneumonia, and human papilloma virus, among others.

Many countries also used VWA as an avenue to carry out other preventive health measures, including deworming; vitamin A supplementation; blood pressure, blood sugar, BMI and vision screening; a bike-a-thon; Chikungunya and dengue control and prevention; and dental care.

Spreading the Word

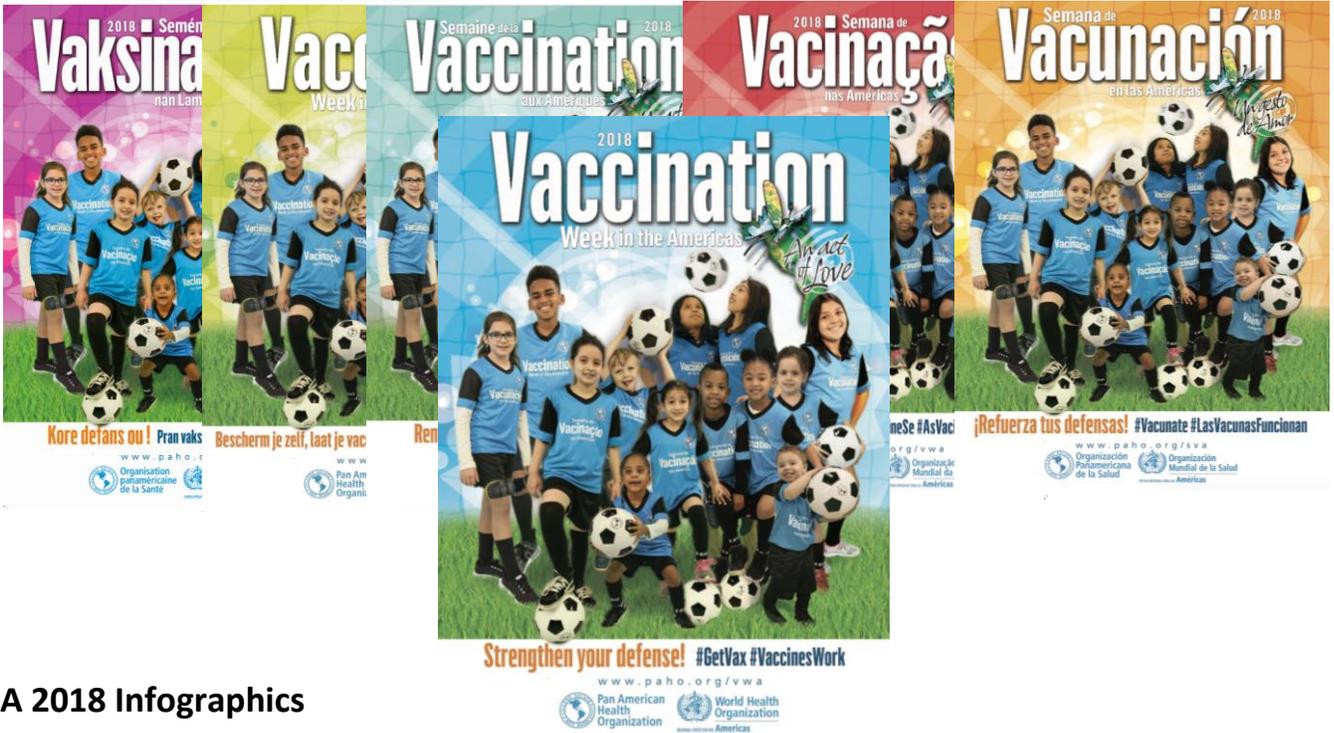
Regional Communication Campaign

Inspired by the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, the Regional slogan for this year’s campaign was “Strengthen your defense! #GetVax #VaccinesWork.” This slogan used the strengthening of a soccer team’s defense as a metaphor for strengthening one’s defense against vaccine-preventable diseases through vaccination. The VWA website was revamped for the 2018 campaign and featured general campaign materials, as well as those geared at measles and rubella vaccination and surveillance activities. Some of the material was tailored for different audiences in delivering unique key messages:

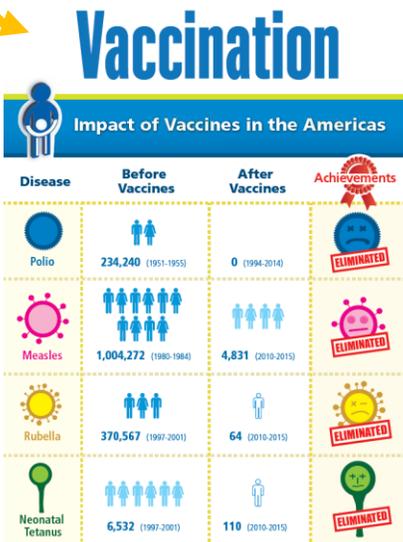
Audience	Key message	Supporting messages
Health workers	Be on the lookout for vaccine-preventable diseases, especially those that have been eliminated in our Region	Recognize the symptoms of measles and rubella Report suspected cases of VPD to the health authorities
	Never miss an opportunity to vaccinate	
	Parents/caregivers	Vaccination is safe and effective Vaccination is for everyone
Decision makers	Vaccination is a sound investment	Keep EPI strong and well-funded
Travelers	Vaccinate before traveling	Talk to your health care provider to see which vaccines you need before you travel
		Get vaccinated at least 2 weeks before traveling

Campaign Tool Kit

The 2018 VWA material campaign tool kit consisted of promotional posters, stickers, infographics, banners, screen art, social media cards, and PowerPoint slides available in the English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Creole and Dutch languages. Around 25,000 posters were printed and shipped by PAHO to Member States. The VWA 2018 campaign tool kit was made available for participating countries to access digital versions of material and all other multimedia resources through the PAHO website (<https://www.paho.org/vwa/>). A few of the materials are below:



VWA 2018 Infographics



VWA 2018 Stickers



Additional Social media resources

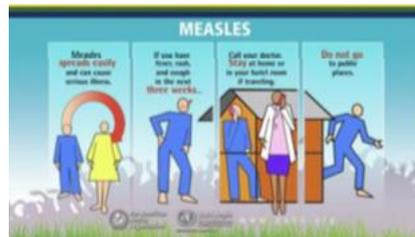
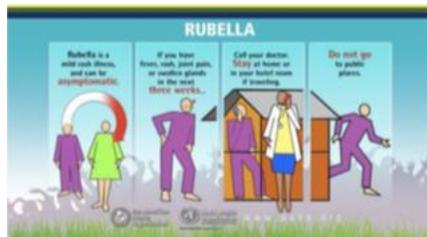


VWA 2018 Social media cards



In 2017, almost 900 cases of measles were registered in four countries of the Region, and that number has continued to grow throughout 2018. In response to this outbreak, some countries took action to strengthen their measles immunization as part of their VWA celebrations.

Health alert material on the topic, such as informational videos and infographics on measles and rubella, were made available on the PAHO website. In addition to these digital resources, videos urging people to get vaccinated before traveling, emphasizing the importance on getting vaccinated, and a recognition video to all health care workers, were also made available for participating countries to use. All additional videos can be found on the VWA health alert page (<https://www.paho.org/vwa/health-alerts-2018/#.WtTSjdPwZBw>).





Social Media Raffle



To engage with staff in PAHO HQ and country offices, staff had the option to participate in a quiz each day. Quiz questions were posted on PAHO’s Twitter, Facebook and Instagram from April 23-April 27 during VWA. Everyone who correctly answered a question was entered into a raffle for the chance to win a PAHO soccer ball or something signed by Uruguayan soccer star Edinson Cavani. At the end, balls were won by one person in the PAHO office in Guyana, two people in the PAHO office in Honduras, and two people from HQ in Washington, DC.



PWR-HND, Piedad Huerta and Patricia Chinchilla at PAHO Honduras.

PSA Spotlights and other videos—helping spread the word even further

Dr. Carissa F. Etienne "Vaccination Week in the Americas 2018"



PSA for VWA 2018.

PAHO Director Dr.

regional Public Service Announcement (PSA) encouraging everyone to join the vaccination team this year as PAHO celebrated its 16th annual Vaccination Week in the Americas. She encouraged all to join the vaccination team by getting their defenses up to date and getting vaccinated. She expresses gratitude to all health care workers in all corners of the Americas for all their hard work and solid dedication in keeping the whole team protected.

Carissa F. Etienne released a

For many years, PAHO has garnered support from prominent entertainment, sports and political figures, such as Ricardo Montaner, Don Francisco, Ronaldinho, Sesame Street, and among others. Below are a few of VWA 2018's PSA spotlights:

Uruguay

Uruguayan football star Edinson Cavani joined the Vaccination Week in the Americas 2018 campaign. The striker for the Uruguayan national team and League 1 club Paris Saint-Germain appears in a public service announcement (PSA) encouraging children, parents and the whole family to “make the best goal of their lives” and get vaccinated. Cavani shared our messages on his own Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts, receiving 250,000 likes; his video has received 545,000 views on Facebook. Cavani also surprised several kids at two health centers in honor of vaccination week. You can see the PSA and other Cavani videos (in English, Spanish, French or Portuguese) at this link: <https://www.paho.org/vwa/es/espanol-multimedia/>.



Screenshot of VWA 2018 PSA with Edinson Cavani.

Guatemala



Screenshot of VWA 2018 PSA with Alejandro Diaz.

Guatemalan football striker star Alejandro “Gambetita” Diaz also took part in joining the VWA 2018 campaign team. The Antigua GFC striker appears in a PSA inviting all to join the defense team by encouraging everyone to get vaccinated in order to strengthen their defense.

Video can be found at: <https://www.paho.org/vwa/espanol-multimedia/>

Cuba

With a lot of energy and enthusiasm, Cuba filmed a very catchy “get vaccinated” promo music video featuring director of ecological group and lead vocalist of “Cubanos en la Red”, Osemel Francis Turner. “Cubanos en la Red” try sharing important messages to the public about social and environmental topics through music. Osemel and his group, along with the general public dancing to the beats of their music, joined in on creating a very fun, up-beat video in spreading the key message on getting vaccinated in supporting VWA 2018.

Promotional music video can be found at <https://www.paho.org/vwa/espanol-multimedia/> .



86,842 views

Screenshot of Osemel Francis Turner, Cuba.

Nicaragua



Still of “An act of love in the land of lakes and volcanoes, Nicaragua.”

A moving story of a passionate Nicaraguan nurse, Maritza Elena Pallavicini, and Nicaraguan mother of two, Karla Bethania Ortiz, share their unique perspectives and a common opinion on the importance of getting vaccinated and the impact vaccination has on being able to carry out a happy and healthy life for themselves, families and their community. Full story and video can be found at:

https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14261:vaccination-three-women-in-nicaragua-take-a-different-journey-towards-a-common-goal-&Itemid=72251&lang=pt

PAHO website, Social media and Press Release Summary



facebook



- More than **800,000** people reached through social media
- **5,320** people visited the website for a total of **13,374** visits (some of the visits were repeat visitors)
- Uruguayan football star Edinson Cavani shared our messages on his own Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts, receiving **250,000** likes; his video has received **545,000** views.
- On Twitter, through 48 tweets, we reached **458k** people
- **793** quizzes were submitted,
- 34 Facebook posts reached **306k** people
- 17 Instagram posts and 7 stories reached approximately **21k** people
- LinkedIn posts reached approximately **15k** people.
- In terms of press, VWA was mentioned in over **200** articles in more than **28** countries in the Region and the world. Many articles focused on the importance of measles and rubella vaccination due to the outbreak.

VWA 2018 Launching Events

VWA & WIW 2018 launched in Cuba

On April 23, for the first time, VWA and World Immunization Week (WIW) launched their annual celebrations together in Havana, Cuba – a first-time Regional and global launch location that took place at the Victoria de Giron Institute of Basic and Preclinical Sciences. PAHO Director Carissa F. Etienne participated in the event, along with Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), ministers and other high-level health authorities from Latin America, Caribbean, and other regions of the world.



VWA 2018 launch in Havana, Cuba.



VWA 2018 launch in Havana, Cuba.

“Vaccination is one of the most powerful tools we have to prevent disease and save lives”

Cuba was chosen to host the regional launch of the campaign because of the great strides the country has made in vaccine development and in eliminating vaccine-preventable diseases, such as polio, neonatal tetanus, diphtheria, measles, rubella, congenital rubella syndrome, whooping cough and mumps, said Director Etienne. “Cuba is a shining example of commitment, investment and passion for health.”

During the opening ceremony, the Cuban Deputy Health Minister, Jose Angel Portal Miranda, emphasized that in Cuba “vaccination is available to everyone, free of charge, and can be accessed from primary health care providers. As a result, vaccination coverage in Cuba for all vaccines currently stands at 98%, resulting in high population immunity.”



VWA 2018 launch in Havana, Cuba.

Region to eliminate polio.



VWA 2018 launch in Havana, Cuba.

Portal Miranda also highlighted that an average of 4.8 million vaccines against 13 diseases are administered each year in Cuba, with eight of the 11 vaccines that are given being produced in the country itself. He also reminded the audience that the first polio prevention campaign in Cuba took place in 1962 with the vaccination of 2.6 million children and adolescents under the age of 15. Thanks to this and other initiatives, the country was the first in the

A closer look at a selection of VWA launching events and activities of the Region

Argentina

With PAHO/WHO's support, Argentina launched its fourth edition of their most popular and famous VWA launching events, "The Night of Vaccines." This vaccination initiative was held on April 20-21 from 8pm to 2am in the province of Córdoba, Argentina. The Pediatric Hospital of the Child Jesus (*Hospital Pediátrico Del Niño Jesus*) opened its doors to the community to give the vaccines included in the national vaccination schedule for free and at the same time, offer various musical shows, games for children and soccer-tennis matches, among other forms of entertainment. "It's a vaccination party," highlighted Hospital Director, Silvia Ferreyra, as she approached the tent where 50 vaccinators were present to apply doses. This year, a total of 6,305 doses were applied at this single event.



The Night of Vaccines, Cordoba, Argentina, April 2018. Credit: Ministry of Health-Cordoba/ PAHO/WHO.

Nicaragua



Nicaragua, VWA 2018

Nicaragua held their VWA national launch on April 23 at its capital, Managua. In addition, 18 other communities participated in this launch with an estimated sum of 11,285 guests present at this year's VWA launches. Some of the activities such as community parades, health fairs, school visits to vaccinate children, among others, all helped Nicaragua kick off their VWA this year.

Ecuador

This year, Ecuador celebrated its VWA launch in Guaranda on April 23 with the participation of authorities including the minister of health, PWR of PAHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and media among others.



Ecuador, VWA 2018

Jamaica

Jamaica launched its VWA National event on April 27 at the Bucknor Community Center in Clarendon. Many participated in the event including officials of the Ministry of Health, local politicians and parish teams, among others. The national launching event was broadcasted on national television in order to extend the invitation for everyone to join in on VWA by getting vaccinated. In addition, Jamaica also had 5 other smaller and more intimate launching events separate communities such as St. Thomas, St. Mary, Kingston, St. Andrew and Westmoreland. Community vaccination sessions were also organized around local football matches in keeping with this year's theme.



Jamaica, VWA 2018

Colombia



Colombia, VWA 2018

Colombia held several launching events in honor of this year's VWA that all took place on April 21. They coordinated a total of 5 national/departamental events, 29 local events, and 3 international-border events with Venezuela, Ecuador, Brazil and Peru. They reached an estimate of 15,833 participants at these events.

Honduras

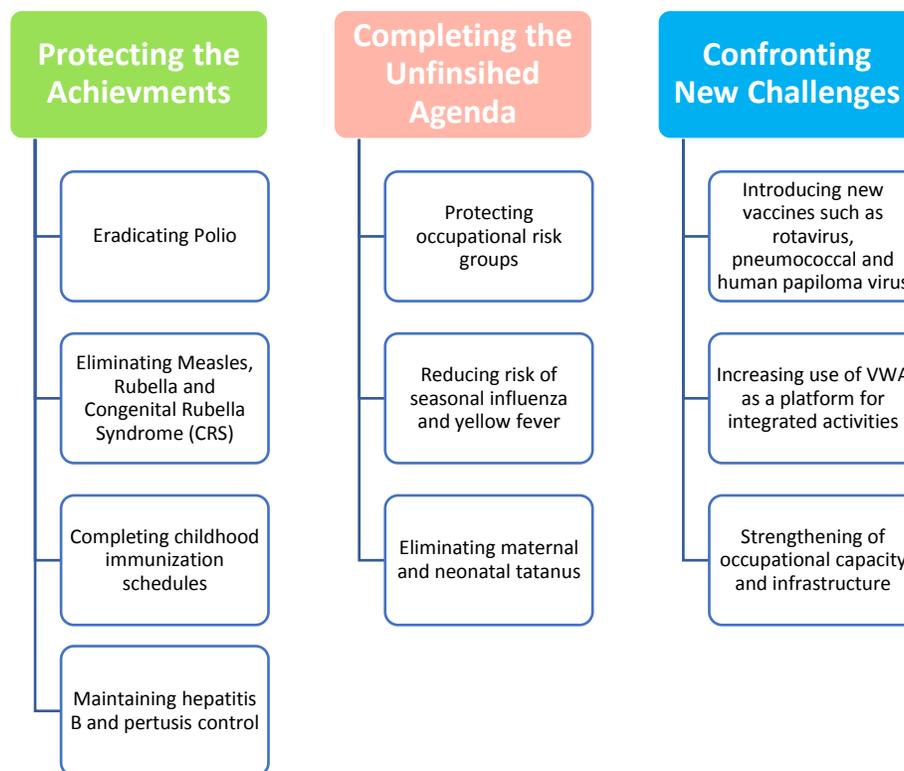
At Honduras's national VWA launching event, that took place in Tegucigalpa, there were a total of 100 participants, among which were: Minister of Health, political and technical authorities of the Ministry of Health, Representatives of the United Nations external cooperation, Feed The Children, President of the Pediatric Association, and representatives of civil society.



Ecuador, VWA 2018

VWA 2018 Summary of Vaccination Campaigns

Despite the diverse array of activities which take place under the umbrella of VWA, most country efforts can be categorized according to the three strategic areas of PAHO's Regional Immunization Vision and Strategy (RIVS): namely efforts to (1) sustain the achievements, (2) complete the unfinished agenda, or (3) confront new challenges.



Due to the depth, breadth and overlapping nature of many country efforts, the following section is not a comprehensive summary of VWA results, but instead a sampling of some of the countries achievements during the 2018 initiative. Specific quantities results of individuals vaccinated and antigens administered can be found on Tables 1. All data are based on country reports submitted to PAHO's regional headquarters.

1. **Protecting the achievements:** *polio eradication, measles, rubella and CRS elimination, completion of vaccination schedules, and hepatitis B and pertussis control.*
 - o **21 countries** took advantage of VWA 2018 to implement campaigns to indiscriminately vaccinate children **against polio**. In total, health workers administered **906,404 vaccines against polio** (OPV & IPV). Among those countries included: Anguilla, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, Suriname, Turks & Caicos and Trinidad & Tobago.

- **23 countries** made continuous effort on measles, rubella and CRS vaccination as part of this year's VWA, and in line with the 2018 regional theme, targeting groups such as travelers and children. A total of **501,776 MMR** and **74,331 MR doses** were administered by health care workers. The countries that helped with this effort were: Anguilla, Argentina, Brazil, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, British Virgin Islands, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, Suriname, Turks & Caicos, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uruguay. A few examples of different country efforts were:

- In Anguilla, MMR vaccine was administered to 300 immigration, police and customs officers on the Island of Grand Bahama.



Anguilla, VWA 2018

- In Belize, an MMR campaign was run, targeting children 10 years of age and younger who either did not have their immunization schedule updated or if they had no proof of vaccination. An additional house to house campaign was done to vaccinate children who were not registered in the health system. Results of MMR campaign:

- Children under 10 years - 388 doses administered in schools or home visits.
- Children > 10 years – 120 doses administered to children that had no proof of getting the vaccination.
- Campaign at clinic – 103 doses administered to children registering clinic for the first time.

- In Bolivia, MMR vaccination was prioritized due to the measles outbreak in neighboring countries. A total of 23,084 doses of MMR were administered by health care workers.
- In Jamaica, MMR vaccination was conducted for several vulnerable groups such as: hotel workers, healthcare workers, and students/teachers in early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. A total of 1,444 MMR doses were administered.

- **2 Latin American countries**—Mexico and Paraguay—took advantage of VWA 2018 to intensify activities of the routine national immunization programs and systematically administer multiple antigens to update and/or complete the vaccination schedules of children less than 8 years of age. Countries frequently prioritized children living in hard-to reach areas, including rural and border zones, and in indigenous communities. Strategies utilized included institutionalized vaccination, fixed and mobile vaccination posts, and vaccination bridges traveling house-to-house.
- In **9 countries and territories** of the English, Dutch and French-speaking Caribbean efforts were undertaken to complete schedules and offer doses to school-aged children and other age groups. These countries were: Anguilla, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin

Islands, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, Trinidad & Tobago. Some examples include:

- In the British Virgin Islands, nurses contacted parents and guardians of children who were not up to date with their immunization schedules and were advised to take their child to a health center as soon as possible.
 - In Dominica, due to the hurricane, many children were behind with their immunization schedules. Tracking of these unvaccinated and behind schedule children were reached in seven health districts and immunization campaigns allowed children to catch up with their vaccines.
 - In Grenada, several primary school visits were done in order to administer the second booster vaccinations to 4-year-old students.
- **17 countries** administered **hepatitis B and Pertussis containing vaccines** in order to protect against and control these diseases. The countries that reported this effort were: Anguilla, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Brazil, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, St. Maarten, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago.
2. **Completing the unfinished agenda: improving vaccination coverage against seasonal influenza, yellow fever, and maternal and neonatal tetanus in high-risk, isolated, border, and indigenous populations, and protection of occupational risk groups**

- **14 countries** including Anguilla, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Brazil, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay were among those who took advantage of the timing of VWA 2018 to implement vaccination campaigns **against seasonal influenza** in preparation for increased viral circulation during their winter seasons. In addition, **12 countries** were among the ones that took action against **yellow fever**. These countries were: Anguilla, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Grenada, Honduras, Paraguay, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay.



Dominica, VWA 2018

- Prevention of **maternal and neonatal tetanus** through the vaccination of women of childbearing age (WCBA) against tetanus/diphtheria (Td) was part of the focus of **4 countries' efforts**, including: Colombia, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua.
- Outreach vaccination targeting population groups at risk of preventable disease due to their **occupation** was also undertaken in **6 countries and territories** such as in Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands and Jamaica.
 - Anguilla, vaccinated immigration officers with Hepatitis B, Diphtheria, Varicella and MMR; health workers received the Hepatitis B vaccine.
 - In the Bahamas, 300 immigration, police and customs officers were vaccinated with the MMR vaccine.

- Barbados had a hotel MMR campaign. EPI manager sensitized hotel owners through the Barbados Hotels and Tourism Association on the risk of measles importation and what to do if a guest has a rash and fever.
- In Belize, large construction sites were visited:
 - street maintenance and housing/organization building projects—683 doses of Td administered on site.
 - Hepatitis B – 610 doses administered to front line workers (sanitation workers, health workers, tour guides and vendors).
 - Front line defenders inclusive of health workers – 266 doses were administered.
- In Jamaica, MMR vaccination was conducted for several vulnerable groups such as: hotel workers, healthcare workers, and students/teachers in early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. Polio vaccination also had a relatively high uptake. Influenza, tetanus and hepatitis B vaccination had the highest uptake of all the vaccines administered during the week. Vaccination sessions targeted several high-risk groups such as fisherfolk, farmers, front-line workers (police officers, soldiers, firemen, correctional officers), healthcare workers, institutionalized persons, children and adults with chronic diseases, morgue attendants, solid waste workers, and commercial sex workers.



3. **Confronting new challenges:** *introducing new vaccines, strengthening of occupational capacity and infrastructure, and using VWA as a platform for integrated interventions and*
 - To strengthen the capacity of health care workers, in 2018, **5 countries** took advantage of **introducing a few new vaccines** which included: Grenada, Honduras, St. Kitts & Nevis, Turks & Caicos and Trinidad & Tobago.

- In Grenada, during public awareness activities, HPV introduction was highlighted.
- In, Honduras, Hepatitis A vaccine was introduced for health care workers.
- In St. Kitts & Nevis, sensitization sessions were held for health care workers for the introduction and implementation of the HPV and Influenza Vaccine.
- In Turks & Caicos, during a their “Health Matters” show, there was a brief introduction of the HPV vaccine. They submitted the HPV introduction plan and communication plan to the Director of Health Services for approval.
- In Trinidad and Tobago, they introduced the MMR2 vaccine for 2-year-olds.



○ **Strengthening of occupational capacity and infrastructure**

2 countries—Cuba and Dominica—held training workshops for health care workers in order to increase the knowledge and occupational capacity of their immunization program workforce. In addition, **3 other countries**—Argentina, British Virgin Islands and Colombia—held meetings with health staff to discuss about strengthening infrastructure. Many topics were discussed across these countries including norms and standards of the immunization program cold chain resources, among others:

- Cuba had different health training workshops for their health workers in 15 different provinces on how the intradermal administration of the fIPV vaccine. By May 2018 health workers had vaccinated a total of 19,037 4-month-old children.
- Dominica had a three-day long health training workshop for health care workers on EPI.
- In the British Virgin Islands, efforts in improving clinic’s infrastructure is a priority (which was damaged due to the effects of the two devastating hurricanes). The nonfunction facilities are affecting operation for the efficient and effective maintenance of the immunization program within the affected districts/zones.
- Argentina plans on expanding cold chain resources in 8 jurisdictions in order to help reach the far remote communities.

- Many countries have a history of **integrating other preventative health interventions** (non-vaccination related) as a part of VWA. In 2018, **16 countries and territories** reported that they continued to expand upon the use of VWA as a platform for this integration. Examples include:

Country	Integrated Activity
Anguilla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health screenings and monitoring: blood pressure and blood glucose.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health education topics: importance and benefits of getting vaccinated to patients and school children.
Bahamas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health fair activity: provided basic health screenings and monitoring to public.
Barbados	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health screening, monitoring and evaluation: HIV, Rapid Plasma Ragin (RPR) testing, mental health counseling and chronic disease management for men and women (7-66 years old). • Health Education topics: importance and benefits of getting vaccinated to patients and general public. • Radio messages/media campaign to help promote prevention of measles, community outreach to reach vaccine defaulters, and to promote importance of getting vaccinated.
Belize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health fair activities: police department, NGOs and different departments of the Ministry of Health such as environmental, dental, mental, human services and safety sectors, all participated in providing education and awareness on such areas of health to the public. Each program had unique interactive knowledge based educational games on their respective services and would give out information and prizes to people who would visit their booth. People had the opportunity to get their blood pressure, blood glucose level, hemoglobin and BMI checked. Referrals to health center were made if necessary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ About 75-100 people attended the fairs ○ Total of 30 VIA screenings done • School visits: Albendazole (for deworming) and Vitamin A distribution to children and students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total of 7,528 children dewormed ○ Total of 1,086 Vitamin A distributed • Health education activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health talk on measles at 20 elementary schools ○ Health talk on measles to 200 front line workers ○ Health talk on measles to 36 women in post-natal period and received MMR vaccine in post-natal period. • Information sessions in religious communities reluctant to accept vaccines
Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health medical services:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5,802 general medical care/consultations ○ 1,313 prenatal consultations ○ 47,546 nursing care ○ 11,143 dental care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rapid tests: 3,969 (HIV and/or Syphilis and/or HB and C) ● Nutritional status assessments: 7,389 children and pregnant women ● Vitamin A distribution: 2,562 ● 22,106 house visits ● 186,188 health service calls
British Virgin Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health fair activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health education on environment topics and on Dengue/Zika was shared. ○ Diabetes Association representatives conducted screenings for the public. ○ Cancer Society representatives provided screenings and education to the public.
Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dental campaigns targeting early childhood, childhood and adolescent populations. ● Other programs such as nutrition, vector-borne diseases and environment, among others all take initiative on these days to strengthen their programs and spread more awareness on each of their respective topics.
Dominica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Specialized clinics for chronic non communicable diseases clinics. ● Health education activities for general public
Grenada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health education topics: importance and benefits of getting vaccinated to patients and to general public.
Honduras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vitamin A distribution to children under 6 months to 4 years ● Albendazole distribution (deworming) to children aged 2 to 4 years and adults of some at-risk groups ● Health education topics: childhood cancer detection
Jamaica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World Health Day activity: the immunization team in the parish of Manchester joined with other members of the health team to celebrate
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oral rehydration salts distribution to mothers or family members responsible of children under five years of old. ● Health education: on the prevention of diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, warning signs

	<p>and treatment to mothers and family members responsible of children under five years old.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vitamin A distribution to 6 months-4 year old children. • Albendazole (400mg) distribution (deworming) to 2-14 year old's.
Nicaragua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vitamin A was distributed ○ Albendazole distribution (deworming) to children ○ Health preventative activities for vector-borne diseases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ environmental clean-up days ○ educational activities ○ anti-epidemic actions carried out by health staff
Paraguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint activities with the noncommunicable area of the Ministry of Health: topic included chronic diseases, HIV, diabetes and obesity, among others. • Health promotion throughout the country educating on various aspects of prevention in general, immunization, and importance of carrying an active lifestyle.
St. Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health screenings and monitoring: blood pressure and blood glucose.
Trinidad & Tobago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health fair activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ basic health checks such as blood pressure, blood glucose and BMI monitoring. ○ health educating on different health topics such as food demonstrations and preparation.

United States of America

#ivax2protect Twitter Storm

On Tuesday April 24, 2018, CDC, AAP, and What To Expect hosted a Twitter Storm with the hashtag #ivax2protect. CDC shared messages about why it's important to follow the recommended immunization schedule and links to The Ultimate Babyproofing Plan. AAP shared pediatricians' points of view and What to Expect shared parent perspectives on why vaccines are important to children's health. Healthcare professionals, parents, and partners across the world also shared why they say #ivax2protect.

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) April 21-28, 2018

NIIW is an annual observance to promote the benefits of immunizations and to improve the health of children two years old or younger. Since 1994, local and state health departments, national immunization partners, healthcare professionals, community leaders from across the United States, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have worked together through NIIW to highlight the positive impact of vaccination on the lives of infants and children, and to call attention to immunization achievements.



CANADA

National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW)

April 21-28, 2018

Canada proudly celebrated National NIAW during April 21-28, 2018. During the week, the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic was commemorated to highlight the importance of vaccination. The Government of Canada also launched a national awareness campaign on childhood vaccinations during NIAW. This initiative provides parents with concrete, factual information to help Canadians make informed decisions about vaccination that will keep their children protected and healthy. You can learn more about this campaign at Canada.ca/ChildhoodVaccines.

On April 23, 2018 Canada’s Minister of Health, the Honourable Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, held an event at UNICEF Canada, in Toronto, to announce funding for new projects and initiatives aimed at increasing vaccination rates in Canada. The news release announcement can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2018/04/national-immunization-awareness-week.html>

Additionally, a suite of vaccination promotional materials including, a digital poster, custom images and messages, were shared on the Government of Canada’s social media platforms, throughout the week. The following hashtags were used: #GetVax, #VaccinesWork and #NIAW2018 on:

 Facebook: @HealthyCdns

 Twitter: @GovCanHealth, @CDNMinHealth, @CPHO_Canada

 LinkedIn: PHAC and HC



Twitter post from Canada’s Minister of Health, the Honourable Ginette Petitpas-Taylor: Picture 1 (Left side): Minister Petit-pas Taylor announcement at the NIAW event at UNICEF Canada in Toronto. Picture 2 (right side): Minister Petitpas-Taylor with funding recipients (Kids Boost Immunity Project) Ian Roe (BC Centre for Disease Control), Shannon Turner (Public Health Association of BC) and David Morley (UNICEF Canada President and CEO).

Table 1.

VWA 2018 RESULTS BY POPULATION										
Country	0-12 months	1-4 years	<5 years	> 5 to 18 years	WCBA's Td	>60 years influenza	Adult MR/MMR	High risk occupations	Others/Unspecified	TOTAL
Anguilla	34	29	-	145	-	4	14	-	-	226
Antigua & Barbuda										0
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Aruba										0
Bahamas	1	4	-	8	-	5	-	168	124	310
Barbados	-	5	3	21	-	13	7	-	163	212
Belize	600	714	479	404	-	8	63	121	-	2,389
Bermuda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
BES Islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba)										0
Bolivia	-	9,720	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,720
Brazil	2,854,295	11,213,278	14,067,573	2,947,626	2,493,309	20,889,849	-	-	-	54,465,930
British Virgin Islands	3	9	-	30	-	60	-	27	82	211
Canada										0
Cayman Islands										0
Chile										0
Colombia	55,384	105,038	-	49,747	100,009	-	7,774	-	-	317,952
Costa Rica										0
Cuba	113,509	244,034	-	119,444	-	-	-	-	-	476,987
Curaçao										0
Dominica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Dominican Rep.										0
Ecuador	-	79,260	41,696	42,340	-	-	-	-	-	163,296
El Salvador										0
Grenada	118	95	-	769	-	158	-	17	108	1,265
Guatemala										0
Guyana										0
Haiti										0
Honduras	53,862	246,960	-	94,539	24,820	527,581	2,976	389,529	58,870	1,399,137
Jamaica	485	463	28	917	1,024	957	1,931	2,863	2,716	11,384
Mexico	1,047,486	467,300	-	1,397,035	267,242	-	63,920	28,256	71,761	3,343,000
Montserrat										0
Nicaragua	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Panama										0
Paraguay	40,339	53,988	94,387	74,440	13,241	-	518	-	-	276,913
Peru										0
St. Kitts and Nevis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
St. Lucia	11	80	31	30	46	86	59	-	-	343
St. Maarten	44	57	50	199	-	-	-	-	-	350
St Vincent and the Grenadines										0
Suriname	133	293	-	197	-	192	-	-	168	983
Turks and Caicos	-	59	59	22	-	-	-	-	-	140
Trinidad & Tobago	597	369	116	698	84	3,886	90	261	1,995	8,096
United States										0
Uruguay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Venezuela										0
TOTAL	4,166,901	12,421,755	14,204,422	4,728,611	2,899,775	21,422,799	77,352	421,242	135,987	60,478,844