

# PARTNER EVENTS AND NEWS

## A quality improvement approach for better chronic care

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We are excited to share updates on the HEARTS in the Americas initiative. Did you know that in the Americas up to 40% of adults are affected by hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) contribute to approximately 2 million deaths each year?

As you might remember, HEARTS in the Americas is the regional adaptation of the World Health Organization's Global HEARTS Initiative. It uses hypertension control improvement as the entry point to enhance primary healthcare and comprehensively address the prevention and treatment of CVDs. It is guided by regional health ministries and supported by the Pan American

Health Organization (PAHO). Our program has made significant strides in recent years thanks to a fruitful collaboration between PAHO and Resolve to Save Lives.

### Recent Highlights and Progress

HEARTS in the Americas is being implemented in over 6,000 PHC facilities across 33 countries, with 4.5 million patients enrolled. Impressively, 27 countries have approved the national use of a HEARTS clinical pathway, and 8 countries have scaled up the program in over 80% of their PHC facilities. El Salvador is leading the charge by



scaling up HEARTS in 100% of its public primary healthcare facilities.

For 2024, HEARTS in the Americas has defined the following programmatic priorities:

1. Scale up HEARTS implementation in more than 60% of the region's PHC facilities.
2. Institutionalize the HEARTS clinical pathway in all PHC networks.
3. Implement the HEARTS quality improvement approach in at least 30% of the PHC facilities implementing the program.
4. Improve data quality and reporting on HEARTS implementation in more than 90% of the implementing PHC facilities.

## What's New with HEARTS in the Americas?

Our program is now fully focused on quality improvement to accelerate HEARTS implementation, improve hypertension control, and reduce human suffering from avoidable cardiovascular illness and death. At the heart of this approach are eight clinical and managerial processes known as the Key Drivers for Hypertension Control.

One of our major priorities for 2024 is the widespread adoption of the HEARTS quality improvement approach. We've developed a technical document to guide its implementation in PHC facilities entitled HEARTS in the Americas. Quality Improvement for Primary Health Care Centers.



## HEARTS Quality Improvement Workshops in Latin America

In the first half of this year, we conducted HEARTS quality improvement workshops in Belize (April), El Salvador (May), and Mexico (June) using a ‘train the trainer’ methodology. These workshops successfully trained around 200 national leaders.

In Mexico, our workshop [Taller HEARTS para la mejora de calidad de la atención primaria de salud] featured international hypertension experts like Don DiPette (South Carolina University, USA), Andrew Moran (Resolve to Save Lives), Dean Picone (University of Sydney, Australia), and Taskeen Khan

(WHO, Geneva). A panel led by Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Ruy López Ridaura emphasized HEARTS in the Americas as an ‘innovative process for primary healthcare’ and stressed the importance of advancing its implementation as part of Mexico’s ongoing healthcare reform.

### Future Plans

Looking ahead to the second half of the year, we’re excited to launch a comprehensive virtual course on the HEARTS quality improvement approach for PHC teams. Additionally, we’ll be rolling out a series of quality improvement workshops in selected countries. Stay tuned for more updates on our webpage: [PAHO HEARTS in the Americas](#).

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Thank you for your interest in our work. Together, we can make a significant impact on cardiovascular health in the Americas and worldwide.

