

If you would like to volunteer or learn more information, please contact:

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2013: Honduras, El Salvador, and Guyana

2016: Paraguay

2017: Belize

2019: Ecuador

2025: Dominican Republic

ASHA
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

1520750

ASHA
International Programs

ASHA-PAHO/WHO COLLABORATION

Building capacity for services in communication disorders in resource-limited countries



The Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

General Objective

The overall objective of the ASHA-PAHO/WHO Project is to strengthen knowledge and build capacity of professionals, institutions, and/or organizations that address communication disorders in the areas of speech, language, swallowing, and hearing.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To develop joint activities involving content knowledge, provided by content experts who will conduct training and educational programs in countries selected by ASHA-PAHO/WHO in order to address issues related to speech, language, swallowing, and hearing problems and prevention, identification, intervention, and rehabilitation according to the needs identified at the country level.
- To improve awareness of gaps between needs and availability of audiology and speech-language pathology services in the region



ASHA lecturer with students enrolled in new SLP/AUD program at the University of Guyana.

The ASHA-PAHO/WHO Project Implementation Carried out by ad hoc committees of ASHA member volunteers

In 2013, ASHA and PAHO/WHO selected three countries for joint collaboration:

HONDURAS: Provide technical assistance required for the development of a program in communication disorders at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH)

EL SALVADOR: Provide technical assistance to the Instituto Salvadoreño de Rehabilitación Integral (ISRI) to strengthen human resources engaged in rehabilitation of communication disorders

GUYANA: Provide consultation and assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) to strengthen Guyana's strategic plan for early detection and intervention of communication disorders

Added in 2016

PARAGUAY: Provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the National Secretariat of Human Rights for Persons with Disabilities (SENADIS) to educate professionals and parents of individuals with communication disorders

Added in 2017

BELIZE: Provide technical assistance to the MOH, the Inspiration Center and its partners to educate healthcare and community service providers about communication disorders

Added in 2019

ECUADOR: Provide technical assistance to the MOH to educate service providers on communication disorders

Added in 2025

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and the National Health Service



Coordinator and students enrolled in new Phonoaudiology program at UNAH, Honduras.

The WHO Rehabilitation 2030: A Call for Action

In February 2017, ASHA took part in a Stakeholder Consultation meeting to discuss the strategic direction for coordinating action and implementing joint commitments to increase the awareness of rehabilitation as a health strategy for all people across the lifespan and across the continuum of care.

www.who.int/disabilities/care/rehab-2030/en/

2023 World Health Assembly: Strengthening Rehabilitation in Health Systems

Landmark resolution on strengthening rehabilitation in health systems.

www.who.int/news/item/27-05-2023-landmark-resolution-on-strengthening-rehabilitation-in-health-systems



2023 World Health Assembly