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**68<sup>th</sup> Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference**

**VIOLENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN:  
A Public Health Crisis**

**April 25–27, 2024**

**ROYALTON CONFERENCE CENTRE  
Royalton Saint Lucia Resort, St Lucia**

**In-person Conference**

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# **Caribbean Public Health Agency**



## **68<sup>th</sup> Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference**

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### **In-person Conference**

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# Reducing the Public Health Impact of Pandemics in the Caribbean through Prevention, Preparedness, and Response [RG-T4387] Project



## ABOUT THE PANDEMIC FUND

The Pandemic Fund (PF) is the first multilateral financing mechanism dedicated to providing multiyear grants to help low- and middle-income countries become better prepared for future pandemics. The PF's First Call for Proposals provides additional financing to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) capabilities, and address critical gaps in countries through investments and technical support. It is expected to support and reinforce capacity building and implementation of PPR under the IHR (2005) and other frameworks, consistent with the One Health approach.

*In its First Call, 19 proposals were selected; one of which is the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)'s regional proposal (the only regional proposal chosen).*

CARPHA, the lead regional public health agency and an expression of Caribbean Cooperation in Health, is mandated by its Inter-Governmental Agreement to support its 26 CMS in bolstering national systems and coordinating regional response to public health threats. CARPHA is competent in all three areas of PPR and has a successful track record of same, as demonstrated by its successful regional COVID-19 response. CARPHA has established programmes for PPR coordination (Communicable Diseases, Emergency Response, Tourism and Health, Food-borne, Vector-borne, Field Epidemiology) and serves as the Regional Reference Laboratory. CARPHA works with regional and international agencies and uses regional mechanisms for coordinating its public health response work.

CARPHA's regional entity proposal was successfully selected in July 2023 for the first round of PF financing, with CARPHA as the Executing Agency and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) as the Implementing Entity. This regional project, with CARPHA as the beneficiary and CARPHA Member States (CMS) as the participants, serves to support CARPHA in reducing the public health impact of pandemics in the Caribbean region, whilst building pandemic PPR through strengthening i) disease surveillance and early warning systems (EWS), ii) laboratory systems and iii) workforce capacity, regionally at CARPHA and at country levels.



A landmark Public Signing Ceremony for the PF Technical Cooperation Agreement ("Reducing the Public Health Impact of Pandemics in the Caribbean through Prevention, Preparedness, and Response" [RG-T4387] Project) was held on December 14, 2023, at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre (pictured above). Additionally, on March 15th 2024, CARPHA fulfilled the IDB's nine conditions prior to first disbursement, achieved full eligibility and now, is eligible for first disbursement.

## PROJECT AT A GLANCE

### Goal: Reduced Public Health Impact of Pandemics in the Caribbean Region

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>OUTCOME</b><br><b>1</b><br>Demonstrated capacity to prevent detect and respond to outbreaks | <b>OUTCOME</b><br><b>2</b><br>Increased cooperation in the Caribbean region for preparedness and response efforts | <b>OUTCOME</b><br><b>3</b><br>Sustained and/ or increased investments in domestic and external PPR funding | <b>OUTCOME</b><br><b>4</b><br>Effective stewardship or pandemic preparedness funds |
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