

# Current situation of Chagas disease in the Region of the Americas. Considerations on oral transmission

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## Current magnitude of Chagas disease

### Estimates of Chagas disease in Latin America

People at risk: 70.000.000

New cases per year: 30.000

Annual deaths: 12.000

Annual congenital cases: 9.000



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## Main achievements

- ✓ Decrease in vector transmission.
- ✓ Control of transfusion transmission.
- ✓ Initiation of control of congenital transmission.
- ✓ Beginning of comprehensive patient care in national health systems.



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## Subregional initiatives for the elimination of Chagas disease

Southern Cone (1991).

Central America and Mexico (1997).

Andean Countries (1998).

Amazonian Countries (2004).



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## Countries with documented cases of oral transmission

Bolivia.

Brazil.

Colombia.

Ecuador.

French Guiana.

Peru.

Venezuela.



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## Variants of oral transmission of Chagas disease

- ✓ Beverages made from fruits or other vegetables contaminated with triatomines or their feces.
- ✓ Food contaminated by secretions from the anal glands of infected marsupials.
- ✓ Poorly cooked meat from reservoirs.
- ✓ Blood from some reservoirs of the parasite, mainly of the order Cingulata.



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## Associated human behaviors

- ✓ Food consumption.
- ✓ Traditional medicine practices.
- ✓ Ritual practices.



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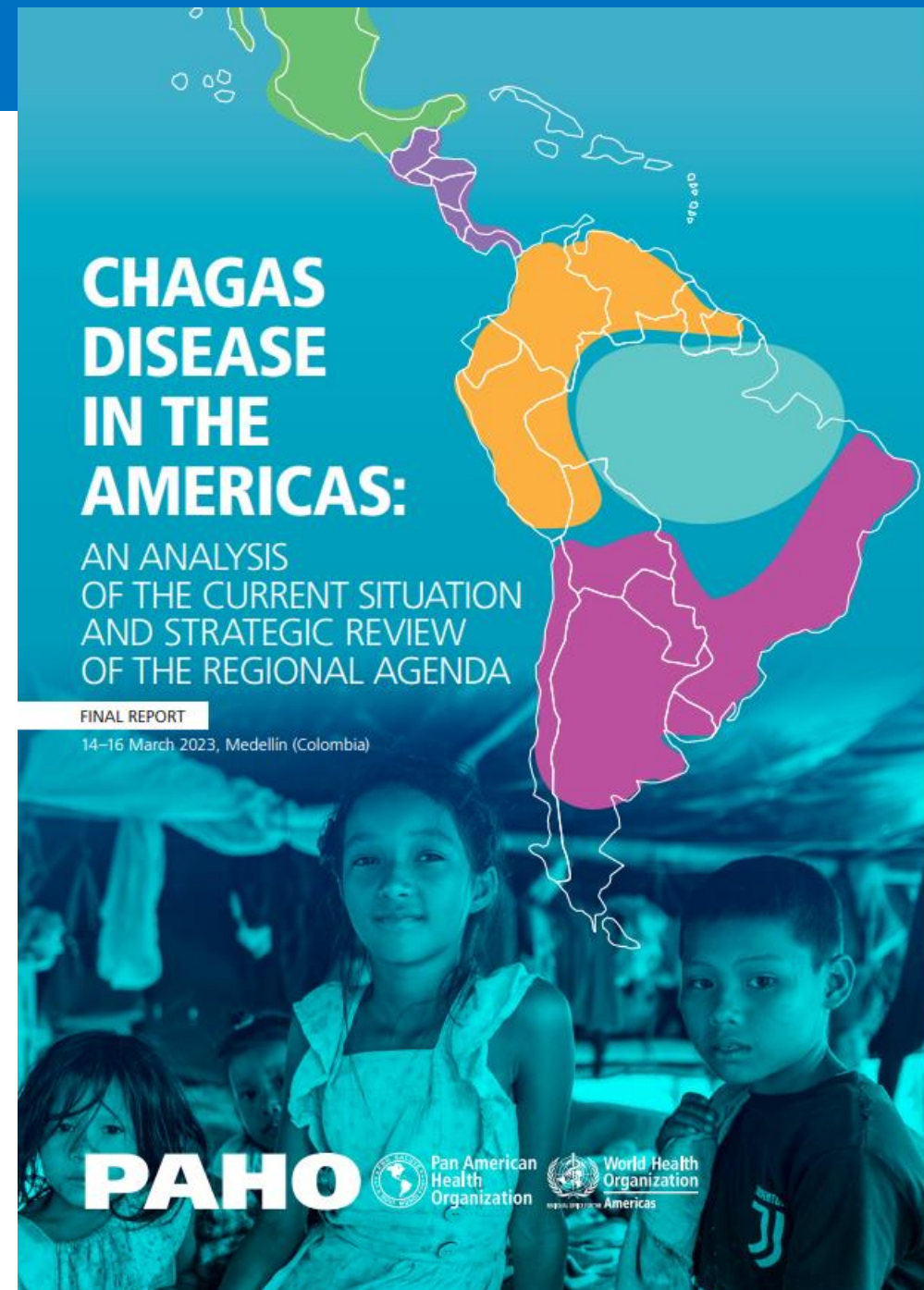


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# Objective

Update key aspects of surveillance, detection, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, control, and elimination of Chagas disease in the Americas.



## ● Recommendations

1

Evaluate the implementation of mandatory reporting of oral transmission of *T. cruzi* in affected countries, and its integration with control and prevention efforts.

2

Develop a surveillance plan for the transmission of Chagas as a foodborne-disease (FBD) in each country, with clear indications for food safety and hygiene.

3

Encourage new epidemiological studies that include more detailed information on food contamination sources and the sylvatic vectors present at the sites of infection, since this knowledge will enable preventive measures against possible oral transmission in a given area.

4

Improve knowledge about the genotypes (discrete typing units) involved in the oral transmission of *T. cruzi*.





Thank you