
**Partnerships for Life – Alianzas por la vida
IASP Suicide Prevention Network Program for The Americas**

International Association for Suicide Prevention

Annual Report for 2023 & Annual Plan for 2024

A message to our partners

Dear partner,

A year ago, the Partnership for Life – Alianzas por la vida initiative in the Americas embarked on a journey to rapidly accelerate the development of our collaboration. We reached out to suicide prevention leaders in all 35 independent countries in our region with the goals of creating a robust network and promoting national suicide prevention strategies. Today, we are pleased to report that we have more than 200 suicide prevention partners from more than 25 countries across the Americas.

We cannot stress enough how thankful and appreciative we are to have you on our team. Your enthusiasm and motivation to establishing meaningful connections is inspirational and we are honoured to be part of an initiative with a strong international community of people like you who work tirelessly to prevent suicides. Below you will find a summary of our activities in 2023.

Our mission will be always to push for the implementation of evidence-based suicide prevention strategies using a multisectoral approach. We hope to keep this initiative as accessible as possible to all in the region and would encourage you to direct us to others who may be interested in becoming involved. By thinking globally but acting locally, we believe we can be successful in our shared goal of fewer suicides across the Americas. We look forward to continuing our work together and growing our shared initiative in the upcoming year.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season and a healthy and meaningful 2024.

Thank you!

¡Gracias!

Obrigado!

Merci!

Sincerely,
Dr. Mark Sinyor & Daniel Sanchez Morales

Outreach strategy and current active regions

At the end of 2022 leading into 2023, we renewed our outreach strategy to partners across the Americas with an emphasis on engaging partners in Central America, the Caribbean and South America. We reached out to a diverse range of stakeholders including academics, ministries / governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, community workers, other mental Health professionals, Mental Health Professionals, people with lived experiences, and others interested in participating.

By late 2023, we determined that we had broad representation across the region and also began actively recruiting partners from the United States and Canada. We now have 209 partners from 26 countries.

Leadership Structure

Americas leaders

Dr. Daiane Machado (Brazil)
Dr. Mark Sinyor (Canada)
Ms. Elizabeth Seaward (Costa Rica)
Dr. Ana Lorena Campo (Ecuador)
Dr. Richard McKeon (USA)

Regional leaders

North Region

Dr. Allison Crawford (Canada)

Central Region

Ms. Jackie Secades (Costa Rica)

Caribbean Region

Dr. Ellen-ge Denton (Guyana)

South Region

Dr. Karen Scavacini (Brazil)
Mr. Pablo Analuisa (Ecuador)
Ms. Tamara Otzen (Chile)

Deputies

Ms. Vanesa Canepa (Argentina)

Ms. Ines Stortoni (Argentina)

Ms. Katherina Belen (Chile)

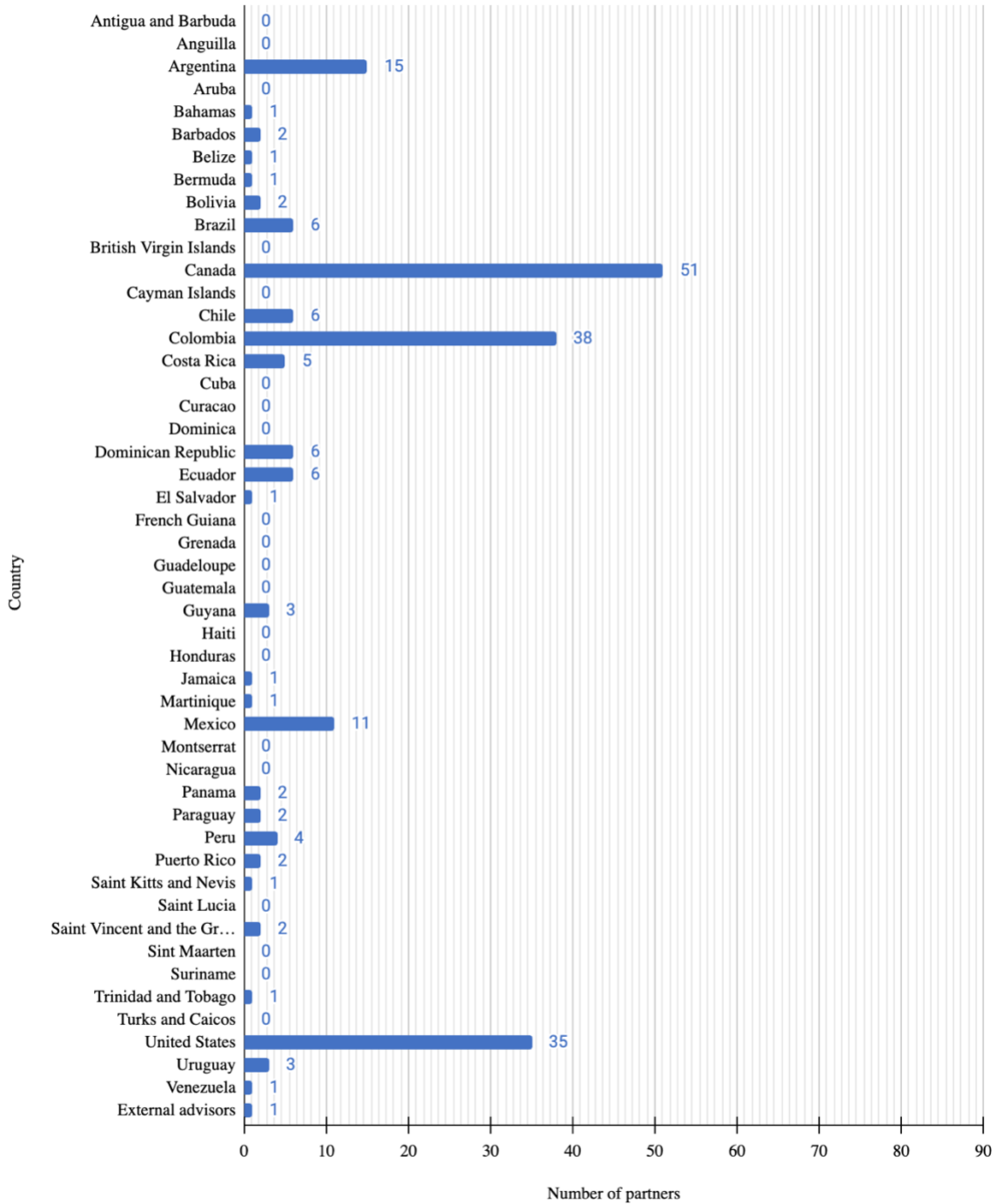
As you can see, there are still many spaces for leaders especially regional leaders. If you or any of your colleagues are interested in becoming leaders to guide the initiative in the upcoming year, please reaching out to us. The commitment would be attendance at quarterly meetings and intermittent emails in between.

We have also been unable to find partners in the following countries:

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Anguilla
3. Aruba
4. British Virgin Islands
5. Cayman Islands
6. Cuba
7. Curaçao
8. Dominica
9. French Guiana
10. Grenada
11. Guadeloupe
12. Guatemala
13. Haiti
14. Honduras
15. Montserrat
16. Nicaragua
17. Saint Lucia
18. Sint Marteen
19. Suriname
20. Turks and Caicos

If you know of any stakeholders, please direct us to them (or them to us).

Counts of Partners per Country as November of 2023



Knowledge dissemination activities

One of our main goals is to disseminate and facilitate knowledge exchange. We are also working to navigate the circumstance of having partners who do not all speak the same languages and are trying to ensure accessibility to all. Here is a summary of our progress in 2023:

Activity	Type	Details
Situational Analysis	Journal publication (<i>in preparation</i>)	The purpose of this document is to have contextual information regarding suicide and suicide prevention strategies in each of the countries in the Americas. We aim to complete and submit the document in 2024 and to invite all partners to coauthor the document with us.
First Series of international Workshops on National Strategies for Suicide Prevention	Virtual workshops	A total of four workshops (2 in English and 2 in Spanish) explored national suicide prevention strategies and implementation challenges. Recordings of the presentations are expected to be available in early 2024.
First Newsletter Report based on First Series of International Workshops	Electronic submission to IASP website	A newsletter report was created summarizing the presentations and conversations obtained from the series of workshops on national suicide prevention strategies. These reports (both in English and in Spanish) can be found in the IASP website.
Presentation of advances in the Americas – 32 nd IASP	Conference Presentation	A presentation of the advances in the Americas was made during the 32 nd

World Congress, Piran, Slovenia		IASP World Congress, Piran, Slovenia.
Presentation of the project at the 11vo Congreso de Suicidiología de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, Tijuana, Baja California, México	Conference Presentation	A presentation about the initiative was made at the 11vo Congreso de Suicidiología de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, Tijuana, Baja California, México. A key goal was to connect existent partners and invite new ones to join the initiative.
First International Webinar for the Americas: Let's talk about 988	Virtual Webinar	Our inaugural webinar for the Americas aimed to shed a light in the process of development of 988 crisis line in the USA (Dr. Richard McKeon) and Canada (Dr. Allison Crawford). The recording of the webinar is expected to be available on the IASP website by early 2024
Second Newsletter report on Awareness campaigns in the Americas	Electronic submission to IASP website (<i>in preparation</i>)	We are in the process of writing a Newsletter that explores the different awareness campaigns around suicide prevention and September 10 in the Americas. We aim to publish this piece on the IASP website by the beginning of 2024.

Advocacy and research activities

With respect to our goals of advancing national suicide prevention strategies and related efforts, we have made the following progress in 2023:

Activity	Type	Details
IASP Policy position	Evidence-based policy position petition	The purpose of this document was to emphasize the importance of having national suicide prevention strategies in all countries. <u>IASP adopted the position in September 2023.</u>
Letter to the Prime Minister of Canada	International Petition – Pilot strategy (in progress)	This document is an attempt at advocacy to encourage a government to adopt a national suicide prevention strategy. This letter has been signed by 80 partners from 26 countries including board members of the IASP. To avoid overlap with the rollout of 9-8-8 in Canada, we will delay submission of the letter until January 2024. If you have not signed the letter and wish to, please reach out to us. If successful, we are hoping to replicate this approach with other countries in the Americas
Partnership collaboration between Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Canada: training for crisis line workers	Training intervention and research project – Pilot project	This project aims to strength international collaboration among partners. We are hoping to deliver crisis intervention training to a group of helpline workers in Quito, Ecuador. To evaluate the effectiveness of the training, we are adding a research component. Based on the results and feasibility of this initiative, we plan to expand the project to other countries.

Objectives and goals for upcoming year 2024

To build on our success in 2023, we are planning many more efforts to create educational tools, research, and other activities to support national suicide prevention initiatives. Outreach and dissemination activities will continue on an on-going basis. We propose the following specific goals for the upcoming year:

- To complete all in-progress knowledge dissemination activities listed in the table above.
- To establish regional teams and leadership support systems to carry on with the Partnership for Life goals.
- To ask each regional team to propose and work to implement one feasible goal by the end of the year 2024.
- To promote international advocacy by aiding in the development and evaluation of strategies.
- To maintain knowledge dissemination and capacity building efforts by providing accessible spaces of participation such as workshops, webinars and/or training.