

REPORT OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF REDCUIDAR+ Strengthening community long-term care

November 11, 2025

RedCUIDAR+

The Long-Term Care Policy Network in Latin America and the Caribbean is an initiative promoted by the Inter-American Development Bank, the French Development Agency and the EU Regional Program Inclusive Societies in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The network's main objective is to advance and facilitate exchanges of knowledge and experience, as well as to strengthen opportunities for collaboration between those who shape long-term care policies in Latin America and the Caribbean. The network thus helps develop the institutional and technical capacity of member countries, promoting good practices in the implementation of long-term care services.

The twelfth meeting of RedCUIDAR+ focused on an exchange of regional and international experiences and good practices on community-based approaches to long-term care.

The meeting was led and hosted by the government of **Barbados**, which actively participated in the preparation of the content. The institutions that sponsor RedCUIDAR+, the French Development Agency (AFD), the EU Regional Program for Inclusive Societies in LAC and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), thank Barbados for its leadership and invite other countries to take on the role of host in future meetings.

The meeting, which was held virtually, was attended by **116** people, including **70** government representatives from **12** countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Marco Stampini, Sector Lead Specialist from the IDB's Social Protection and Labor Markets Division, was in charge of opening and moderating the meeting, which consisted of six presentations, preceded by welcoming remarks and followed by closing remarks.

The opening remarks at the event were given by **Fiona Ramsey, Ambassador of the European Union to Barbados and to the Eastern Caribbean States** and the Honorable, **Kirk D.M. Humphrey, Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs of Barbados**. The speakers underscored the challenge posed by population ageing and the importance of exchanging practices and experiences to achieve better public policies for older people. In this context, they both highlighted the importance of community initiatives to achieve accessible, affordable, and sustainable long-term care for an increasingly growing demand.

In particular, the EU Ambassador remarked the renewed participation of the European Union through the Inclusive Societies Program with the aim of fostering public–private partnerships that strengthen social and health infrastructure within the framework of the network. Aligned with the Global Gateway Strategy’s objective of reinforcing the social dimension of cooperation—while addressing shared challenges faced by Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, such as ageing and dependency, welfare and healthcare systems, gender gap and training—the Programme seeks to create an enabling environment for sustainable, high-quality investments. After the opening, the first presentation of the meeting began with a presentation by **Colleen Walcott, Director of the National Assistance Board** from the hosting country. After an introduction on the challenges imposed by demographic changes in Barbados, Colleen presented the main services that exist in the country to meet the demand of long-term care and the role of the community in them.

The main program is the Home Care Program, installed in 1980, that currently serves 1500 beneficiaries and employs 144 care workers.

To support this program during the COVID-19 pandemic, the country implemented the Community Elder Care Project, that is still functioning. The program is facilitated by the National Assistance Board, and its aim is to provide long-term care to members of the community in their homes.

Colleen also highlighted the role of the community, particularly non-for-profit and faith-based organizations in other long-term care services in the country, like residential facilities and day-care centers, although they focus on providing support to functional autonomous individuals.

To finish, Colleen stressed the commitment of Barbados to continue developing long-term care services with an important community base. In order to achieve that, she said, it is crucial to engage other participants in the provision of services, to invest in human resources, and to encourage the distribution of care among all the spheres of society.

During the second presentation, **Shintaro Nakamura, Senior Advisor on Social Security of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**, talked about the role of municipalities for community-based interventions. He first gave an introduction on how the long-term care insurance works in Japan, and the role of the municipalities in the financing of the system.

The growth of community services in Japan responded to an increase in the demand of services and to the realization that short-term interventions that focused on “treating” functional dependence do not work. Instead, the country realized that it was necessary to invest in prevention. Within this context, community services in Japan focus on independent persons, with the objective of avoiding (or delaying) functional dependence. In 2015, the country installed the Community Comprehensive Support Center to encourage residents to remain active and participate in the community.

Residents of a community decide which kind of activities they want to have in their Centers. The municipalities participate in the financing of the services and also in the training of the facilitators of the different activities run by the Centers.

The third presentation was in charge of **Francisca Gallegos – Undersecretary of Social Services at the Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF) of Chile**. She opened with an overview of *Chile Cuida*, as part of the country’s social protection national network and the progress the program has achieved in the last years.

Among the latest initiatives was the creation and implementation of the so-called Community Care Centers. They are under the orbit of the MSDF and have the participation of the municipalities and of different community organizations, which led the Centers. The Ministry of Housing also participates in the provision of the infrastructure.

The main objective is to improve the wellbeing of family caregivers. The wellbeing of care recipients is a by-product of the program. Beneficiaries can reach the program directly; alternatively, they can enter the program through an active searching strategy of the MSDF, or because they are derived from other services.

The intervention is 12-months-long and consists of an initial diagnosis, access to social services, psychosocial well-being services, care services, and social participation programs. Francisca highlighted two innovations of these centers: 1) the fact that the point of entry of the program are caregivers (instead of care recipients), and 2) the fact that beneficiaries have access not only to care services but to a whole range of social services and counseling.

The fourth intervention was also from Chile. **Paola Fernández Gálvez, Head of the Division of Social and Human Development, from the Regional Government Service of Magallanes and Chilean Antarctica**, who presented two pilots of community care in place in that region (one in Puerto Arenas and one in Puerto Natales). The pilots rely on the role of a neighborhood organizer that is in charge of identifying cases and encouraging action among members of the community and with institutions. It works with three resources: (i) a telephone-like device, empowered by artificial intelligence, that helps to fight unwanted loneliness among older people; (ii) the healthcare network; (iii) a program for house improvements.

In fifth place, the intervention of **Prof. Franca Maino, Scientific Director of the Secondo Welfare Observatory and Associate Professor at the Department of Social and Political Sciences of University of Milan and President of the Ufficio Pio Foundation**, shared an Italian experience. She showed the case of *Abitare Villa Mater*, a project currently under construction, that is going to offer housing and community participation activities to residents.

The project relies on the concept of an “open city”, with 19 housing units, and common areas (that include parks, cafeteria, cultural spaces) both for the houses’ residents and other members of the community. As in the case of Magallanes, the role of the neighborhood organizer is key as it promotes the exchange between residents and the community and makes sure that the services offered in the “city” are aligned with their users.

In Italy, community engagement in the sustainability of care services has been developed primarily through locally rooted initiatives rather than a single national strategy. Regions and municipalities have often relied on partnerships with third-sector organizations, social cooperatives, and philanthropic foundations to co-design and co-manage services addressing aging & long-term care, family support, and social inclusion. This collaborative approach—supported by national frameworks such as the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), implemented after the COVID pandemic, and the National Social Fund—has encouraged community participation by recognizing their role as active co-producers of welfare. Community foundations, volunteer networks, and faith-based organizations have played a crucial role in mobilizing local resources,

strengthening trust, and ensuring continuity of service delivery, especially in areas where public capacity is limited.

Franca explained that the project was conceived as a response to the high levels of loneliness experienced by older people in Italy. She also gave some advice for countries that wished to replicate the model in the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

Finally, **Prof. Denise Eldemire-Shearer – Director, Mona Ageing and Wellness Centre of the University of West Indies**, presented the case of Community Care in Jamaica, and highlighted the successful and long-standing collaboration with the IDB. After identifying loneliness as a major issue among older people, they opened an “Activity Center”, aimed at encouraging their social connections, as well as maintaining and improving their functionality levels. Participants decide which activities they want the center to offer. Workers at the center are volunteers, in many cases students from the University of West Indies’ social programs/careers.

After the six main presentations, **Alfonso Martínez Sáenz – Coordinator of the Social Protection Component of the EU Regional Program Inclusive Societies at Expertise France and the Hon. Cynthia Forde, Special Advisor on Elder Affairs in Barbados**. Both speakers highlighted the value of RedCUIDAR+ as a space for learning and institutional and technical strengthening of long-term care policies.

Link to event materials:

https://cursos.iadb.org/en/community_ltc

Full Name	Country/Organization
Magalí Dubin	Argentina
Maria Victoria Gazia	Argentina
Andrew Pollard	Barbados
Carolyn Estwick-Best	Barbados
Chadé Smith	Barbados
Colleen Walcott	Barbados
Cynthia Forde	Barbados
Fiona Ramsey	Barbados
Ilesha Broomes	Barbados
Kim Bobb-Waithe	Barbados
Kirk Humphrey	Barbados
Lee Rose	Barbados
Mark Franklin	Barbados
Teresa Hamilton	Barbados
Alexandre da Silva	Brazil
Carolina Alves	Brazil
Heloisa Arrussul Braga	Brazil
Kenio Costa Lima	Brazil

Mariana Borges Dias	Brazil
Mirian da Silva Queiroz Lima	Brazil
Natália Fontoura	Brazil
Paula Carvalho Natalino	Brazil
Carolina Giaconi	Chile
Constanza Piriz Tapia	Chile
Cristina Mandiola	Chile
Francisca Gallegos	Chile
Ingrid Melipillán	Chile
Luis Muñoz	Chile
Nadia Coloma	Chile
Paola Fernández	Chile
Andrea Villanueva	Colombia
Carolina Solarte Palechor	Colombia
Claudia Marcela Rodríguez Pinzón	Colombia
Elizabeth Zuñiga	Colombia
Jeimy Katherine Lozano Rios	Colombia
Lady Mateus	Colombia
Laura Gómez	Colombia
Mauricio Andrés Salazar Moreno	Colombia
Oriana Cienfuegos Maldonado	Colombia
Emilia Mora	Costa Rica
María de Jesús Morales Mora	Costa Rica
María Fernanda Zeledón Marín	Costa Rica
Diana Mejia	Dominican Republic
Edwin Daniel Martínez Mejia	Dominican Republic
Osmiris Espinal	Dominican Republic
Victoria Silva	Dominican Republic
Alfonso Martínez-Sáenz	EF
Hamwanttie Bisesar	Guyana
Jairo Rodrigues	Guyana
Mahendra Budhram	Guyana
Tanis Boston	Guyana
Angelica Mendez	IDB
Aris Balbuena	IDB
Auri Minaya	IDB
Carina Lupica	IDB
Claudia Piras	IDB
Daniel Gamboa	IDB
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Xiomara Nino	IDB
Yyannú Cruz Aguayo	IDB
Francesco Maria Chiodi	IILA
Virginia Tedeschi	IILA
Beatrice Fabiani	Italy
Franca Maino	Italy
Denise Eldemire-Shearer	Jamaica
Douladel Willie-Tyndale	Jamaica
Eduardo Sosa-Tinoco	Mexico
Emilia Chino	Mexico
Estela Nieto Sánchez	Mexico
Luis Miguel Hernández Flores	Mexico

Luisa Millares	Mexico
Magdalena Castro	Mexico
Maïa Inzaurrealde	Mexico
Rodrigo Parral	Mexico
Sarahi López Luna	Mexico
Patricia Morsch	PAHO
Dionicia Valdès	Panama
María Isabel Rosas	Panama
Roxana Hurtado	Panama
Aliyyah Hosein	Trinidad and Tobago
Allana Best	Trinidad and Tobago
Chandra Saroop	Trinidad and Tobago
Keisha George	Trinidad and Tobago
Swetlana Johnson	Trinidad and Tobago
Shintaro Nakamura	Japan
Katherine Giménez	Uruguay
María Curto	Uruguay
Viviana Piñeiro	Uruguay

Organizations: AFD: French Development Agency; IDB: Inter-American Development Bank; IILA: Italo-Latin American Institute; EF: Expertise France EU: European Union; PAHO: Pan-American Health Organization.