

Dr. Ana Amaya, Health Sciences
College of Health Professions

The rise of regional health cooperation from the Global South after COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the weaknesses of the international system to address the crisis in an equitable manner. In the absence of coherent leadership, regional organizations from the Global South made significant efforts to coordinate the work of their member states and harness their collective power to negotiate with public and private institutions. This book will examine how and why regional organizations have progressively increased their involvement in health in the past decades. It will discuss the position of regional organizations within global health governance by examining the unique characteristics of regional cooperation efforts stemming from the Global South. It will conclude by assessing the potential for greater regional influence for health at the multilateral level and will propose a way forward based on lessons learned from the pandemic. Most of the literature published in this area has examined the European Union as the model for regional cooperation from a politics, international relations or economics angle. Approaching this topic through a public health and Global South perspective can potentially contribute to current debates on how to strengthen health systems to prepare for future health crises and shift power imbalances at the multilateral level.