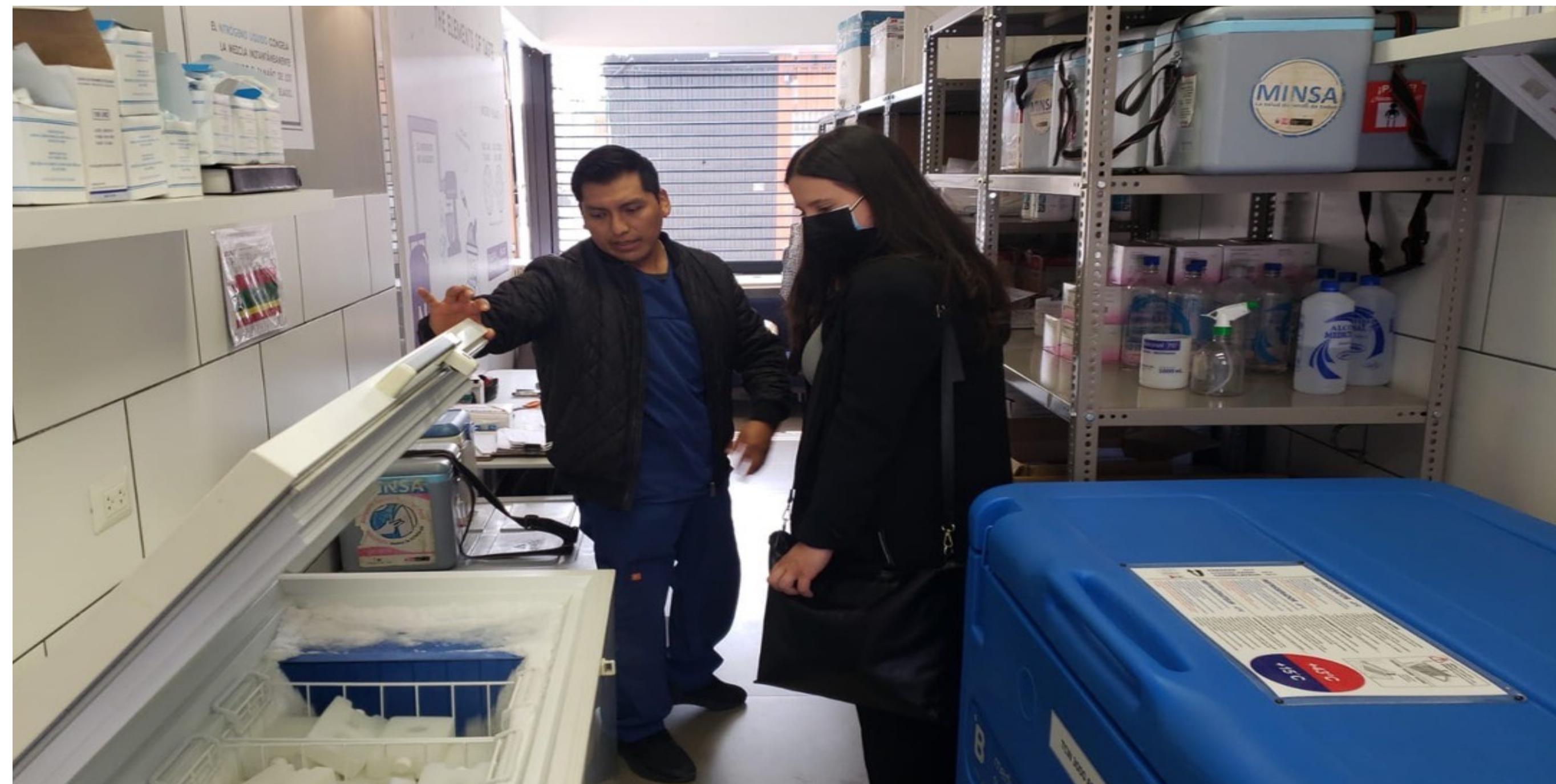


Exploring Barriers and Enablers to Peru's COVID-19 Pandemic Response, and the Local, Regional, and Global Implications

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OBJECTIVES



Stephanie visiting the cold-chain COVID vaccine storage room during a site visit to a COVID-19 mega vaccination center in Lima, Peru

Peru had more COVID-related deaths per capita than any other country. Peru faced many challenges in its initial pandemic response, primarily with obtaining COVID vaccines. However, once COVID vaccines were procured, Peru successfully initiated wide-spread COVID vaccine campaigns. Peru's pandemic response challenges and successes offer lessons for the scale-up of vaccination programs and health innovations, restructuring of health systems and health politics, and stronger pandemic response measures.

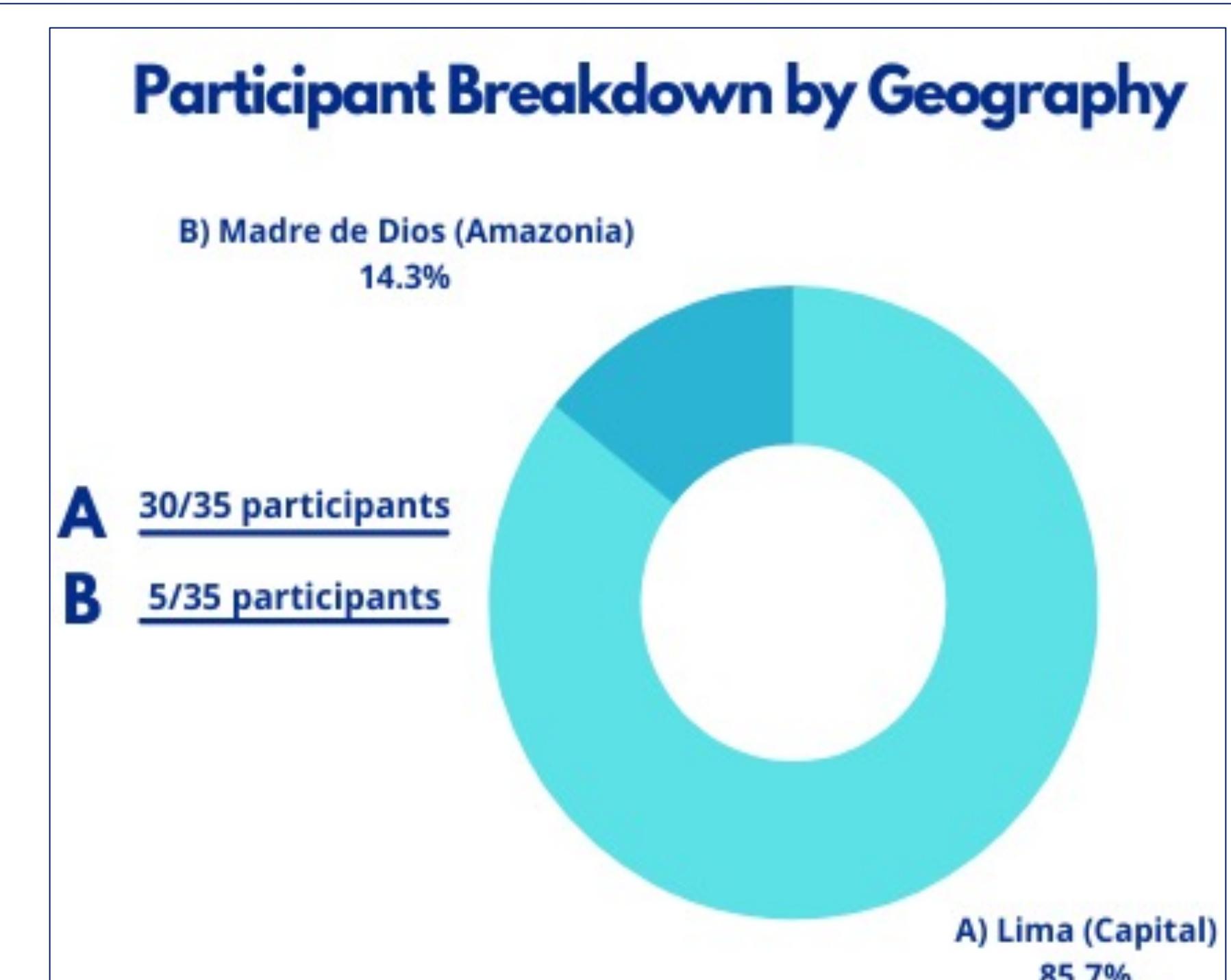
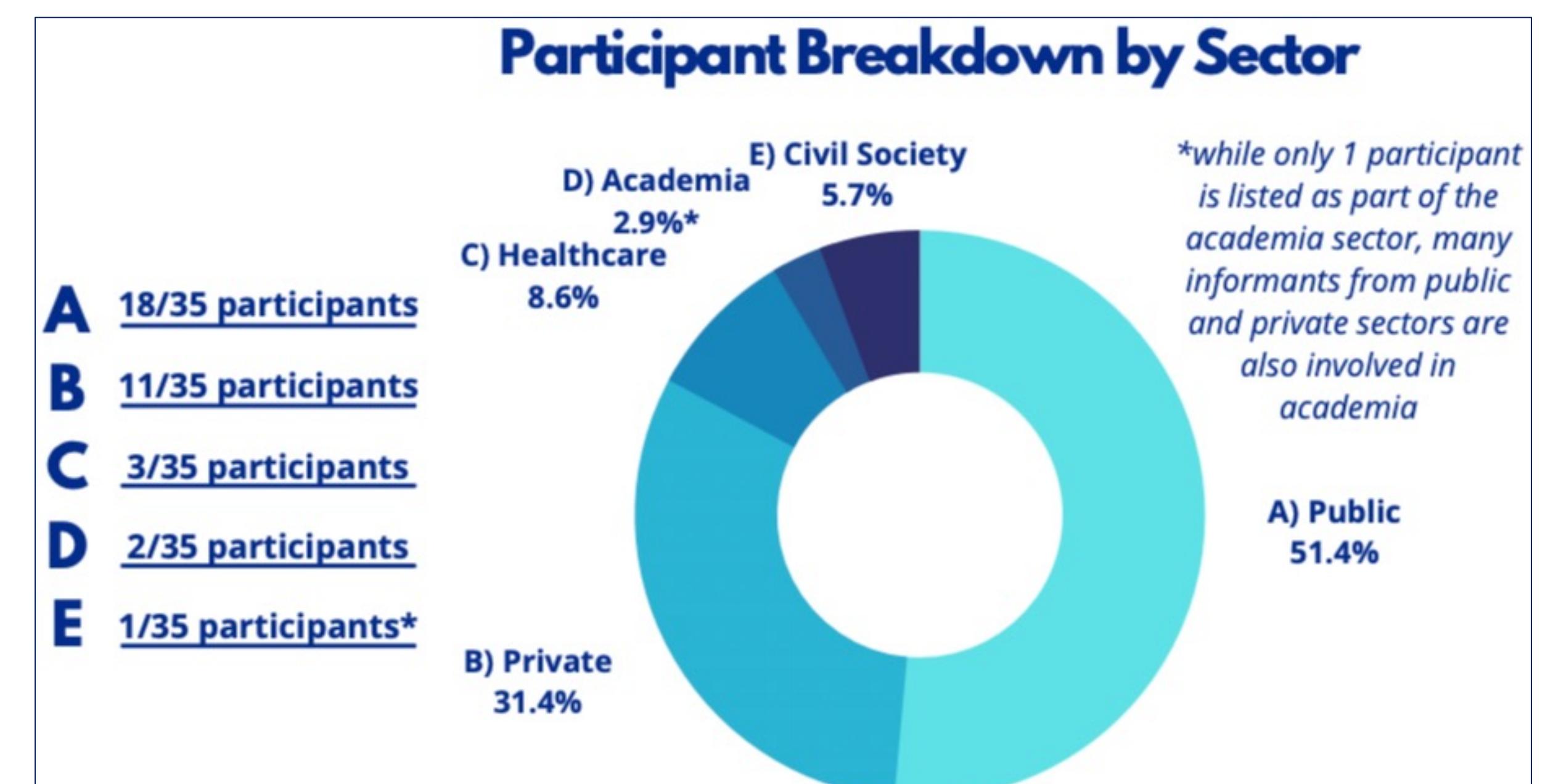
This thesis explores national, regional, and global barriers and enablers to Peru's COVID-19 pandemic response, particularly for timely and effective COVID-19 vaccine procurement and distribution. Research findings will inform the strengthening of pandemic preparedness in Peru, Latin America, and globally.

Objectives:

- Identify how being an upper middle-income country (UMIC) influenced and restricted Peru's governance decisions regarding vaccine procurement and distribution.
- Investigate how previous medical policies and regulations, along with political changes during the pandemic, impacted Peru's pandemic response.
- Explore country-specific factors that impacted Peru's capacity for timely and effective COVID-19 vaccine procurement and distribution.

METHODOLOGY

31 semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted in Lima, Peru with 35 individuals involved in Peru's pandemic response. Participants represent public, private, academia, healthcare, and civil society sectors and worked in diverse geographies and communities across Peru during COVID-19.



To provide a global context to findings from the Peru interviews, 7 semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted in Geneva, Switzerland with individuals involved in global pandemic response decision-making at multilateral and advocacy organizations. The Geneva-based interviews will not be analyzed for this project given time constraints.

A qualitative analysis will be done on the 31 Peru-based interview transcripts, afterwards a force field analysis will be applied to the findings to understand which factors most negatively and positively impacted Peru's pandemic response capacity and decision-making. Findings will be used to offer policy recommendations to improve pandemic preparedness at local, regional, and global levels.

INITIAL RESULTS

Preliminary findings indicate political instability and corruption, lack of experienced leaders and organized decision-making, cross-sector competition, a fragmented health system, and limited medical resource regulations and manufacturing capacity reduced Peru's ability for a timely and effective pandemic response. However, factors such as experience with vaccination campaigns, limited vaccine hesitancy, community-based donations and support, and cross-sector collaboration allowed Peru to effectively distribute COVID vaccines and achieve high 2-dose vaccination levels.

Understanding barriers and enablers to Peru's pandemic response provides insight to necessary national and international changes to restructure health system and governance approaches to future pandemic responses.

NEXT STEPS

- Translation of transcripts from Spanish to English
- Qualitative data analysis of Peru-based interview transcripts
- Force field analysis of barriers and enablers to Peru's pandemic response capabilities
- Dissemination of results to interview participants and local organizations in Peru (e.g., MINSA – Peru's Ministry of Health)
- Use findings to make policy recommendations for future pandemic preparedness and response measures



Health practitioners administering COVID-19 vaccines to by-passers in Lima's Historic Center