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.
- Translate findings from Spanish to English
- Conduct analysis of Peru’s pandemic preparedness and response measures
- Disseminate results to interview participants and local organizations in Peru
- Use findings to make policy recommendations for future pandemic preparedness and response measures

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.