



Welcome to the AI4PEP bi-weekly News Brief.

This week we bring you some exciting updates from Team MENA: **Brazil, Dominican Republic, and Peru.**

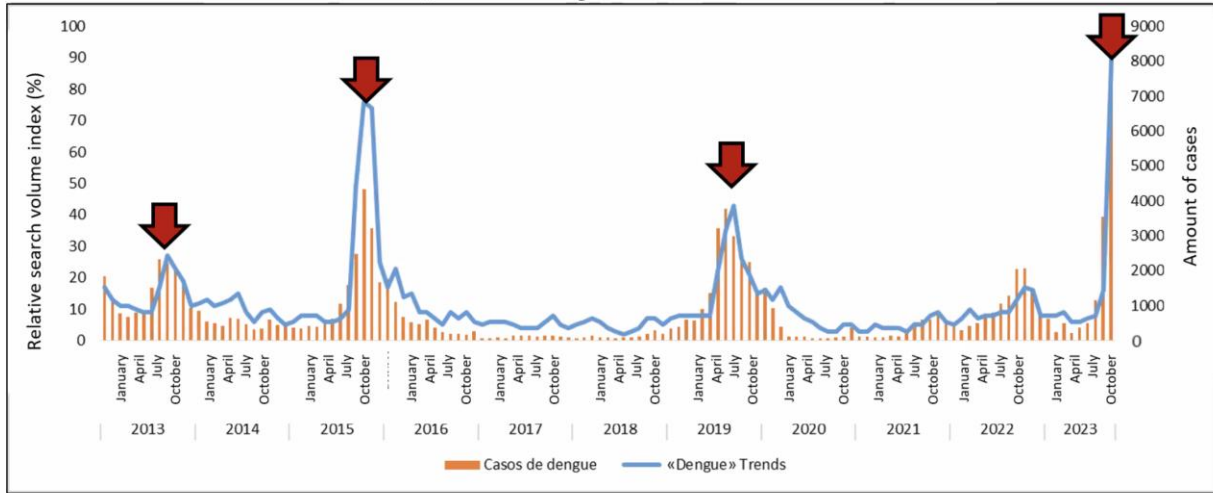
Brazil

- Congratulations to AI4PEP-Brazil on their recent feature in a local Brazilian lead Magazine. In the interview, one of the team members Robson Bonidia shares in detail about the IDRC funded project they are implementing in partnership with the AI4PEP Secretariat. Feel free to read more about the interview here:
<https://veja.abril.com.br/tecnologia/plataforma-virtual-ajuda-a-combater-epidemias-com-inteligencia-artificial/>
- A Protegee of the project who was previously reported to have won a national competition for a project related concept was due to travel for the final competition at the Volkswagen Symposium, which is scheduled for the 5th November in Berlin. It is very exciting to see Brazil leading the way in Mentorship & skills transfer within the cohort. We look forward to more of such success stories.

Dominican Republic

- The team reported that they had submitted an abstract to present in a local congress. The team has put together a paper that **seeks to establish the correlation between Dengue Outbreaks and Google Trends in the DOMR between 2013 to 2023: a Time Series Analysis.**
- The trend provides some background information and characterizes dengue outbreaks in the DOMR before they erupt.

Figure 2: Correlation analysis between Dengue cases and Google Trends data, January 2013 - October 2023.



The Pearson correlation coefficient between Google Trends data and dengue case reports was 0.882 ($p < 0.05$), calculated on SPSS (p -value = 0.000), for the study period as a whole, which showed an increasing trend in the epidemic periods of 2013, 2015, 2019 and 2023.