

THE RECOVERY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19

AGRICULTURE WATER & SANITATION EMPLOYMENT & LIVELIHOOD
ENVIRONMENT TOURISM HEALTH TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY
COMMERCE CULTURE EDUCATION GENDER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



GOBIERNO DE LA
REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

- 2021 -

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CRNA

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The Recovery Needs Assessment for the Impacts of COVID-19 (CRNA¹, for its acronym in English), is a process executed by the United Nations (UN) System at the request of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPyD). This evaluation was carried out by a technical team integrated by the Government of the Dominican Republic, the World Bank, the European Union, and the Inter-American Development Bank, with the technical assistance from the United Nations Development Program. The fundamental purpose is to have reliable and timely information to guide the formulation of short and long-term recovery strategies, framed in national and local development plans, the multi-year programming

of the public sector and the National Development Strategy (END, for its acronym in Spanish).

According to the CRNA methodology, the evaluation was carried out in nine key sectors for the economy in the Dominican Republic, to estimate the combined effects by sector affecting families, communities, and vulnerable groups. The analysis period is from the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, until December of the same year². The utilized information derives from official sources and it was provided by various entities such as the MEPyD, the sectoral ministries, the National Statistics Office, as well as from recent studies generated by international partners.

The developed recovery strategy, provides the basic elements for the Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) with the purpose of guiding the government and other stakeholders in the formulation of policies, adoption of institutional framework for recovery, identification of financing mechanisms and recovery implementation. The DRF is the following step to the CRNA for detailed planning, implementation and monitoring of the recovery process.

¹ COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment.

² According to the availability of information for that moment.

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- World Bank (WB)
- European Union (EU)

With the participation of the United Nations System Agencies

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- Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, or those of the UN member states.

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1. Presentation

The Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPyD), the agencies of the United Nations System, the European Union (EU), the World Bank (WB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), present the evaluation of the effects and an estimate of the recovery needs to overcome or alleviate the social and economic impacts of the containment measures adopted to face COVID-19 in the country. This evaluation provides important elements to strengthen, guide and prioritize interventions that will facilitate a comprehensive recovery of the most affected social groups and sectors, and to face the pandemic challenges in the short and medium term.

The CRNA evaluation corresponds to an internationally validated methodology that facilitates the estimation of costs effects, identifies the social and economic impacts caused by the pandemic, utilized available evidence, prioritizes and organizes the recovery needs in

response to the different sectors of interest and affected human groups, and also identifies mechanisms and necessary policies for a resilient recovery.

The overall coordination of the CRNA evaluation was the responsibility of the **Office of the Resident Coordinator**, with technical guidance from the **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**. The information collected on most sectors comes from official sources according to availability and it has been updated until December 2020. The collected data regarding the effects and needs of recovery of the productive, social and infrastructure sectors, as well as the impact generated in humans, has been provided and validated by the different technical institutions of the country.

A technical team participated in this evaluation, and it was integrated by more than 110 specialists, national and international, from the most affected socio-economic sectors and cross-cutting issues. For

instance, in the social sector, the subsectors of health, education and culture were included; in the productive sector, those of agriculture, industry, commerce, and tourism; and in the infrastructure sector, the transport, environment, water and sanitation subsectors were involved. In the human impact assessment, several aspects such as employment conditions and livelihoods, poverty and social protection, gender, and food security, among others, were considered. This study has been the result of a participatory process that was able to identify five priority strategic lines to propose a vision for recovery along with guiding principles and specific lines of action.

In addition, the results of the CRNA also served as an input for the creation of the **National Multi-year Public Sector Plan**, prepared by the national government through the **Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPyD)**, in agreement with other public sector institutions.

The information provided by the CRNA is expected to facilitate the identification of priorities and decisions by the national government, sectoral ministries and other state offices; and also assist the international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in the control of the social impact and the economic decline associated with the pandemic to ensure the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable populations, through immediate actions to reduce their vulnerability and to increase their capacities and resilience in the short and medium term.

In addition to the impact caused on health, the COVID-19 crisis has generated one of the most serious socioeconomic crises in recent decades at a global level. For Latin America and the Caribbean, the impacts could cause a great setback in human development index by slowing down schooling rates, increasing health risks and food insecurity, generating levels of unemployment and loss of

income, which would rise the levels of poverty and social inequality.

In the Dominican Republic, the pandemic has verified the response capacity of society and of Government to guarantee well-being and to promote development achievements within the agenda of the National Development Plan³.

The evaluated period runs from March to December 2020. Due to mobility restrictions caused by the pandemic, the technical assessment mission was carried out mainly by virtual methods in the period of October 27, 2020 until March 8, 2021. In addition, a variety of secondary sources of information were utilized, such as, the **Socioeconomic Survey (SEIA)** of the United Nations, which was carried out in collaboration with non-profit associations and community-based organizations, and also the **Unique System of Beneficiaries (Siuben)**, which during the pandemic conducted

four rounds of interviews, in about 6,900 households per round.

This Executive Summary is organized as follows: First of all, it shows a summary of the estimated effects, followed by the presentation of human and macroeconomic impacts, and lastly, a synthesis of needs by sector and a set of guidelines for the recovery.

³ See: General Guidelines of the Program of Government of Change of the Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) 2020-2024

2. Methodology

for estimating effects and recovery needs

In order to estimate the socio-economic recovery needs in the Dominican Republic due to the measures adopted to face the COVID-19 pandemic, the COVID-19 CRNA ⁴ Recovery Needs Assessment Methodology was applied, which is an adaptation of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) ⁵ proven internationally for crisis recovery.

The PDNA methodology was developed in 2008 under the framework agreement between the European Union (EU), the World Bank (WB) and the United Nations Development Group ⁶. This methodology outlines a standardized approach, that can be adapted to the context of each country to evaluate and generate a more resilient and sustainable people-centered recovery processes. The results of the process are integrated

into a report that describes the effects, impacts and needs of each sector, and proposes a recovery strategy that identifies concrete actions to reduce the impact on most affected populations while the crisis progresses in different scenarios.

The CRNA is aimed at understanding the effects generated in the different socio-economic sectors in terms of losses and additional costs, to:

- *Assess the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic on the population, with an emphasis on vulnerable groups.*
- *Identify the priority needs for affected households and critical sectors of the economy, to restore production and access to goods and services while continuing to manage the risk of contagion.*

- *Identify the necessary policies and institutional mechanisms for adequate recovery support, including measures to prevent and mitigate similar crises in the future.*

The CRNA methodology considers the context prior to the event; in this case, the existing situation before the pandemic, and it also analyze the gap generated pre and post COVID-19 situation. This previous context was substantially modified by the measures that were adopted to contain the spread of COVID-19 throughout the territory.t COVID-19.

⁴ COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment.

⁵ Post Disaster Needs Assessment -PDNA.















⁶ FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO.

The CRNA methodology considers the context prior to the event; in this case, the existing situation before the pandemic, and it also analyzes the gap generated pre and

post COVID-19 situation. This previous context was substantially modified by the measures that were adopted to contain the spread of COVID-19 throughout the territory.

Figure 1 presents the grouping of different sectors, the impacts and the evaluated cross-cutting themes.

FIGURE 1.
EFFECTS AND RECOVERY NEEDS.

PRODUCTIVE		SOCIAL		INFRASTRUCTURE	
	Agriculture		Education		Environment
	Commerce		Health		Water & Sanitation Waste
	Industry		Culture		Transport
	Tourism				
HUMAN IMPACT					
	Gender		Poverty & Social Protection		Food & Nutrition Security
					Employment & Livelihoods

The CRNA process involves five key steps, as well as relevant concepts for understanding each one. It should be noted that the recovery needs and the estimated cost cannot be fully defined at the time of this assessment, due to the uncertain evolution of the pandemic that vary gradually.

The five key steps of the CRNA are: context analysis, identification of the pandemic

effects, including estimation of sectoral losses and additional incurred costs; an analysis of the human and economic impacts caused and associated with said effects; the estimation of the recovery needs in the short, medium, and long term; and the formulation of strategic guidelines for a resilient recovery, at the sectoral and national level.

Relevant concepts:

Losses: Income not received due to the lack of provision of services.

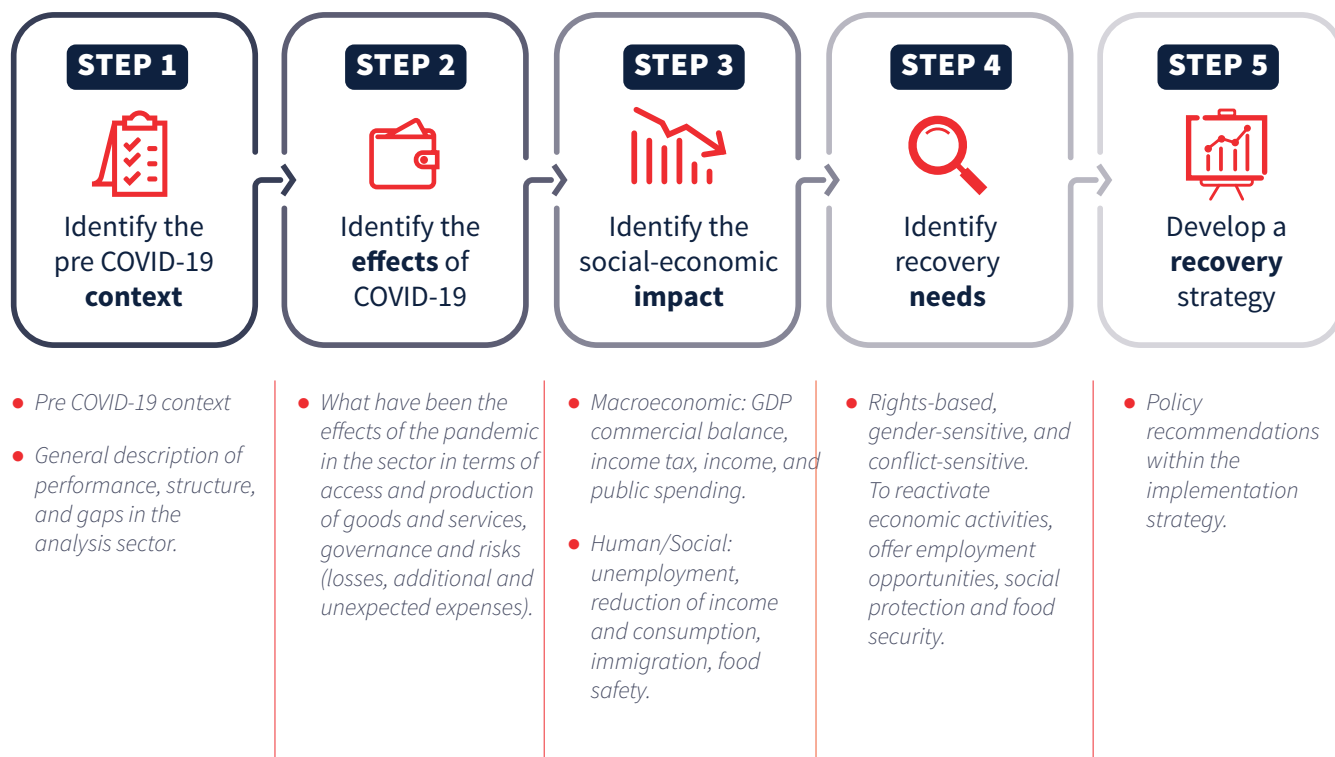
Additional costs: extraordinary expenses required to provide or access to goods and services.

Effects: Losses and additional costs.

Recovery needs: Actions to alleviate the effects and the socio-economic and resilient recovery that improves the quality of life of the affected people.

FIGURE 2.

STEPS OF THE METHODOLOGY.



3. Context of the pandemic in the Dominican Republic

On March 1, 2020, the Dominican Republic confirmed the first imported case of COVID-19, just ten days before the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak as a global pandemic. One year after this health event, specifically as of February 28, 2021, the country had accumulated a total of 239,998 confirmed cases and 3,106 deaths, having the months of July and August 2020 with the highest rates of positive cases. The health services of three provinces reached the saturation point of ICU beds during those same months, reaching an occupational percentage that exceeded 90.0 %.

In the Dominican Republic, as in the rest of the countries of the world, given the speed

of the virus spread and the lack of knowledge of the disease implications, among other factors, the Dominican Government declared a state of emergency on March 19, 2020. Therefore, a series of measures for preparedness, mitigation, and containment were integrated in the development of the contingency plan against coronavirus (COVID-19)⁷.

This contingency plan includes containment actions and partial or total closure of various essential activities, restriction of national circulation, suspension of school and university teaching, interruption of urban and interurban collective transport, land, air and sea travel, in addition to the closure of companies and businesses and promotion of telework.

The Dominican Government established a plan for the gradual reopening of economic activities

Consequently, the situation moved from being a health sector emergency to a socio-economic crisis, establishing challenges and responsibilities for both national authorities as well as for the entire society.

⁷ Contingency plan for coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Santo Domingo: Ministry of Public Health. Available at: <https://repositorio.msp.gob.do/handle/123456789/>.

Considering economic reactivation as an imperative issue, the Dominican Government established a plan for the gradual reopening of economic activities, in response to the reactivation call made by PAHO / WHO. Initially, this reopening was planned to be

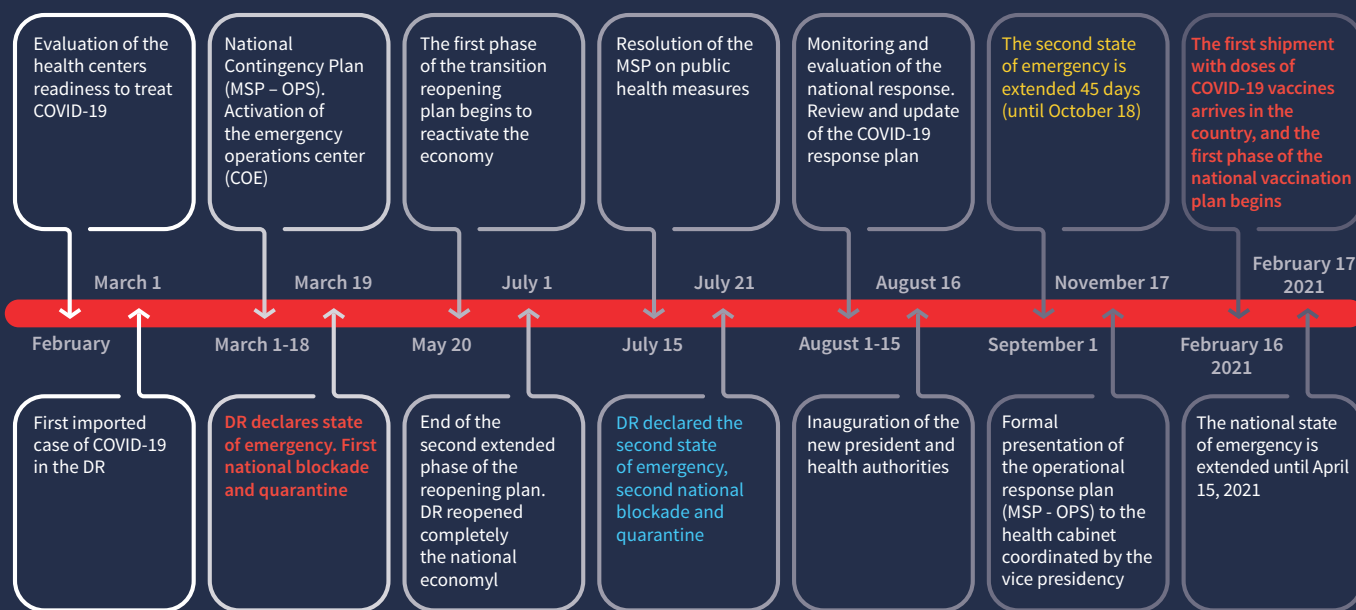
done in four phases (scheduled from May 20 to July 1), each phase within two weeks apart to assess the epidemiological situation before moving to the following phase. However, at the end of the second phase there was a significant increase in cases, postponing the phase 3.

In any case, by July 1, the country continued with a large part of its economic activities.

Figure 3 shows a chronology response to the emergency caused by COVID-19 by the Dominican Government.

FIGURE 3.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Fuentes: OPS a partir de datos del Ministerio de Salud y el gobierno dominicano.

Epidemiological situation in the country

As shown in **Figure 4**, during the month of April 2020 the community transmission began

to be registered in the country, however, it was during the months of July and August when the largest report of COVID-19 cases was registered, followed by a progressive downward trend in the months of September,

October, and November. Ever since, there has been a variable trend towards an increase in new cases, reaching figures above a thousand cases per day on several occasions and a rebound at the beginning of 2021.

FIGURE 4.

TRENDS OF COVID-19 CASES BY MONTH IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (UNTIL FEBRUARY 2021).

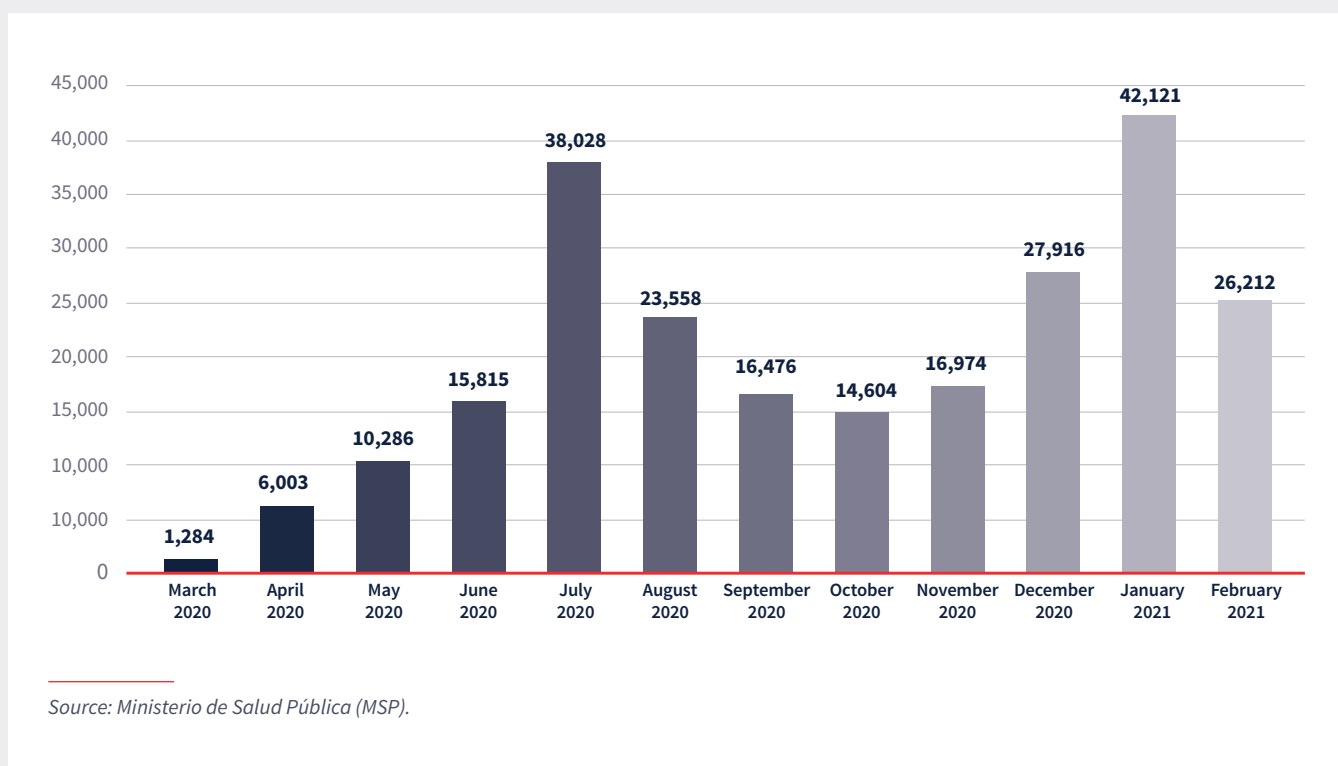


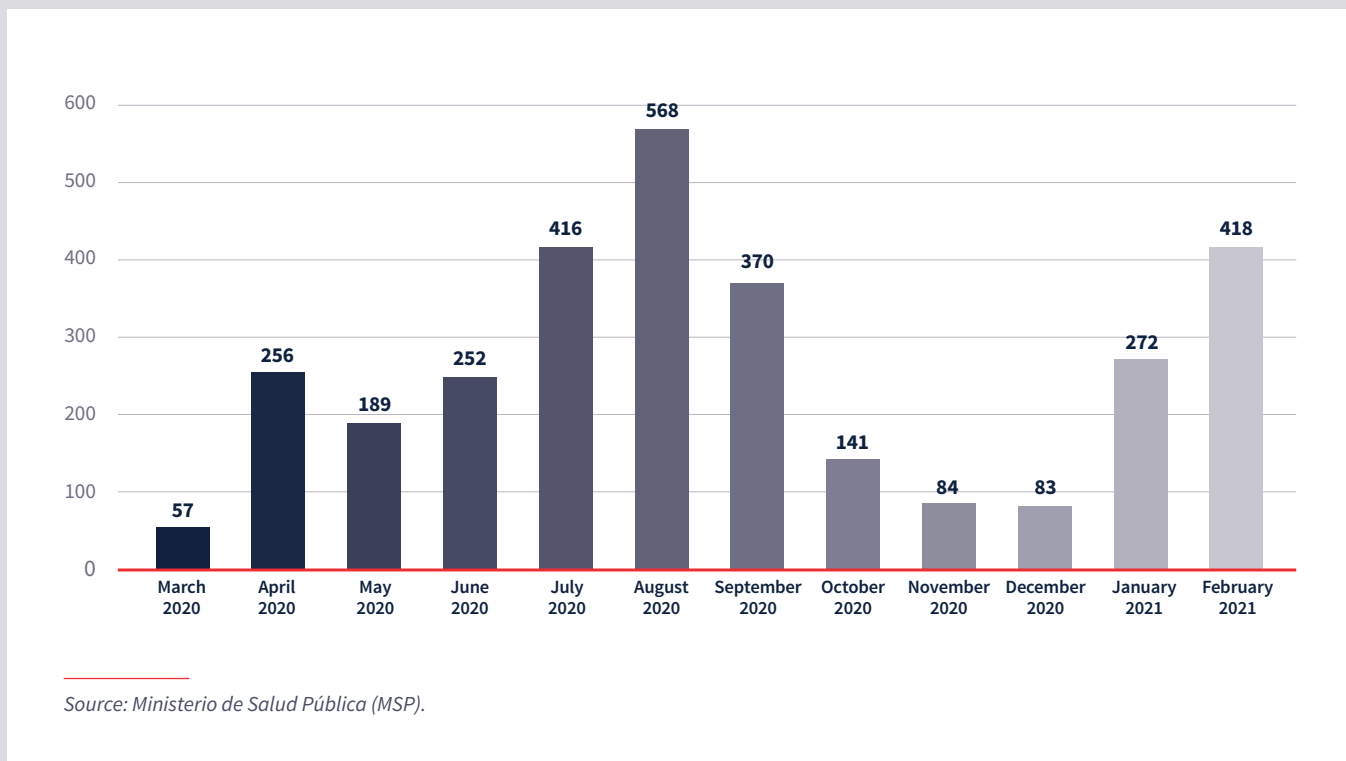
Figure 5, depicts the trends of deaths that occurred per month, highlighting the highest number of deaths occurred in the months of July (416) and

August (568) of 2020, which accounted 32% of all deaths during the studied period. From this period on, the number of deaths progressively decreased

and subsequently showed a rebound in January and February 2021.

FIGURE 5.

DEATHS TRENDS FROM COVID-19 REPORTED BY MONTH IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC UNTIL FEBRUARY 2021.



In general, most of the COVID-19 cases were concentrated in urban areas. The provinces of the National District (68,192), Santo Domingo (47,291) and Santiago (26,985) represented 59% of all accumulated cases (142,468 of the 239,998

accumulated cases in the country), as well as 51% (1,593 of the 3,106) of all accumulated deaths as of February 28, 2021. The differences between provinces were also seen in the incidence rate, mortality, and fatality per million inhabitants.

Table 1 displays an increased rate of positivity is associated with a higher percentage of occupancy in intensive care units. It shows the government's effort to increase the application of tests to the population.

TABLE 1.

TREND OF COVID-19 INDICATORS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

COVID-19 INDICATORS	MAY 31	JUN 15	JUN 30	JUL 15	JUL 31	AGO 15	AGO 30	SEP 15	SEP 30	OCT 15	OCT 31	NOV 15	NOV 30	DIC 15	DIC 31	JAN 15	JAN 31	FEB 15	FEB 28	TENDENCY
Daily attack rate	2.8	4.0	7.8	10.3	16.8	7.3	2.5	6.6	5.0	3.7	3.0	4.6	3.0	7.5	13.7	22.7	9.8	5.1	3.7	↑↓↑
Positivity %	19.2	22.6	27.1	36.2	33.6	31.9	28.1	27.8	12.7	12.5	10.3	10.1	12.5	13.0	16.4	21.8	19.6	15.2	12.5	↑↓↑
Death Rate %	2.9	2.6	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	↓↑↑
ICU Occupation %	<40	48	62	70	81	60	52	40	33	30	33	36	37	51	54	60	54	46	37	↑↓↑

Source: Own elaboration based on data published by the General Directorate of Statistics, Ministry of Public Health⁸

⁸ Contagion refers to a case where it is confirmed that a person has the virus, even when it is asymptomatic, while lethality refers to the number of deaths in relation to those infected. Lethality is the ratio of deaths with respect to confirmed cases, the figures are available on the portal: <https://COVID19.gob.sv/>

One of the main achievements of the country's response to this health emergency was due to the linkage and connection among the public, private, and military services network, that avoided the saturation of hospital beds

and intensive care units in much of the country, except for certain provinces that during the months of July and August 2020 had an occupational percentage that exceeded 90%. In addition, the country managed to

increase the number of PCR tests considerably, demonstrating the progressive increase between March and July 2020, by reaching for the first time the amount of 100,000 processed tests.

4. Assessing the effects of the pandemic

The adopted approach of the CRNA allows the analysis of crisis of impacts and effects in order to identify recovery needs, from a human, socio-cultural, economic, and environmental perspective.

The assessment of the pandemic effects is expressed in quantitative and qualitative terms. Once the effects of each sector have been described, the economic or monetary value of the economic losses due to foregone income is estimated, due to the lack of provision of services and the required extraordinary expenses to provide or access goods and services.

The total estimated effects in the study period, presented in Table 2, amounted 18,459

million dollars. Of the total effects, 80.3% corresponded to losses and 19.7% to additional expenses. The productive sector (agriculture, industry, commerce, and tourism) represents 74.7% of the total effects; the social sector (health, education and culture) a 23.3%; infrastructure (transport and water and sanitation) represents a 2.0%; and environment 0.1%. Also, 76.7% corresponded to the private sector and 23.3% to the public sector. These data evidence the need to plan and implement a comprehensive socioeconomic response to face the effects of the current crisis caused by COVID-19. The mitigation measures implemented by the Government through social protection programs meant additional expenses equivalent to 11.9% of the total effects.

The total estimated effects in the study period, presented in Table 2, amounted **18,459 million dollars**. Of the total effects, **80.3%** corresponded to losses and **19.7%** to additional expenses.

TABLE 2.

TOTAL EFFECTS IN US \$⁹

SECTOR(*)	TOTAL EFFECTS	LOSSES	ADDITIONAL COSTS AND OTHER EXPENSES	%
SOCIAL	4,294.50	761.23	3,533.26	23.3%
Health	1,750.52	593.68	1,156.84	9.5%
Education	203.32	24.74	178.57	1.1%
Culture	142.81	142.81		0.8%
Social protection	2,197.85		2,197.85	11.9%
PRODUCTIVE	13,782.15	13,697.73	84.42	74.7%
Farming	263.54	247.42	16.12	1.4%
Industry	1,846.75	1,846.75		10.0%
Commerce	5,570.48	5,570.48		30.2%
Sightseeing	6,101.38	6,033.08	68.30	33.1%
INFRASTRUCTURE	366.91	364.39	2.52	2.0%
Transport	352.80	352.80		1.9%
Water and sanitation	14.11	11.58	2.52	0.1%
ENVIRONMENT	16.14	4.49	11.65	0.1%
Total	18,459.69	14,827.84	3,631.85	100.0%

Source: CRNA team (from the evaluations of the sector teams)

* The period for the analysis ranges from the initiation of the pandemic in March 2020, until December of the same year, in most of the lines, according to the availability of information at that period of time.

4.1 Productive sector: agriculture, industry, commerce, and tourism

The productive sector accumulated the largest damages (74.7%), with a greater impact on Tourism (33.1%), Commerce (30.2%) and Industry (10%). These figures evidence the need to have a plan for a comprehensive socio-

economic response to face the crisis effects of caused by COVID-19.

There were relatively low effects in the agricultural sector, since the government implemented a series of measurements to protect the marketing and rural producers. The decree of interruption of all economic activities of March 17, 2020

and other measurements to contain the epidemic, had short-term impacts, such as the reduction of normal supply

⁹ It was defined with the MEPyD that the exchange rate of the Dominican peso per US dollar to be used for the evaluation of the CRNA would be RD\$57.06 per US \$, which results from the average rate for the sale of the March-November 2020 period, according to data from the Central Bank, RD.

operations; less demand for products for the tourism sector and export; reduction of sowing area and adjustment of production levels to avoid post-harvest losses. Additionally, complications were generated for the acquisition of international production supplies, difficulties in repaying earned credits or acquiring new ones, and removal of the temporary migrant workforce.

The lack of markets, particularly due to the sharp drop in tourism, generated a reduction in sales and transactions, which temporarily impacted the income of agricultural producers and generated funds and decapitalization problems. The most affected value chains were vegetables, poultry, and dairy products.

In order to stabilize these effects, the Government implemented a series of fiscal, economic, social, monetary, and financial measures to maintain production and food security, such as the purchase of surplus production, storage of perishable products in refrigerators, and the provision of agriculture credits. In addition to that, the Government provided

land mechanization services and distribution of inputs to assist production.

In the **industrial sector**, a decrease in manufacturing sales of US\$1,847 million was observed, compared to the same period of the previous year, which represented a relative drop of 14.1%. This decline in the sector was attributed to the decrease in the manufacture of petroleum refining products (37.5%), reduction in other manufacturing industries (17.4%) and in the beverages manufacture (10.9%). The construction sales market showed a decrease of US\$816 million, a fall of 29.1% in relative terms.

The security measures generated by the pandemic caused an increase in fixed and variable costs in the industrial sector. The biosafety protocols adopted to minimize the risk of contagion, caused impacts on the companies, in some cases it was required to make investments in physical assets, modifications to the facilities to adapt the spaces, additional purchases of consumable material and changes to the modality of work.

The reduction of local and international demand for most of the manufactured products in the Dominican Republic, caused a decrease in the volume of production and sales.⁸ In the construction sector, losses increased between March and April due to the severe implemented government measures to ensure social distancing. However, the gap narrowed throughout the year due to the gradual reopening of the economy.

On the other hand, the analysis of performance of free trade zone industries demonstrates a drop in exports of US\$550 million, equivalent to 9.2% compared to the previous year (2019). The largest proportion of the economic loss of foreign trade was concentrated in the months of April and June, and stabilized from August when the sector was heading towards its expected behavior for 2020.

¹⁰ According to the Monthly Index of Manufacturing Activity of the Association of Industries of the Dominican Republic (AIRD).

The **commerce sector** achieved losses of US\$5.57 billion due to foregone income during the study period, representing a drop in the potential income (27.3%). The subsectors that showed the greatest drops were other businesses, followed by the fuel trade and vehicle market. Foreign trade reached losses of US\$389 million, which represents a relative decrease of 13.8%.

Four out of five micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) that were surveyed¹¹ reported a drop in their income. Thirty-four per cent (34%) of these companies reported a reduction between 25% and 50% of their income; another 34% reported reductions around 50% and 75%, and the 20% reported falls over 75% of their income. The sixty-three per cent (63%) of the surveyed MSMEs were not able to operate in the teleworking modality.

The distancing measures forced the temporary closure of many stores and businesses, as a result some businesses turned to non-traditional marketing

channels. For instance, some intermediaries created their own collection and delivery logistics platforms. This was the case of large supermarket groups, since they faced limited operating schedules and restrictions on the maximum capacity of people along with a greater flow of customers than usual.

The main measures of the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic to support the commerce and MSMEs sector included the provision of liquidity facilities and reserve requirements to provide loans at preferential rates available.

The Dominican Government created the Employee Solidarity Assistance Fund (PHASE I and II), which offered direct transfers of monetary resources to employees to alleviate the cash flow of companies, to avoid massive layoffs and to mitigate supply or shock demand caused by the COVID-19 epidemic in its early stages. In March 2020, the authorities announced tax facilities, such as making more flexible early collection and extending the term and payment of the ITBIS.

Four out of five **micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)** that were surveyed reported a drop in their income

In the tourism sector, between March 16 and July 1 (second quarter 2020), restrictions were imposed on the arrival of foreign tourists, which represented a 100% drop. During the third and fourth quarters of the year, the volume of arrivals indicated signs of improvement. However,

¹¹ Ministry of Industry, Commerce and MSMEs (MICM), the National Statistics Office (ONE), the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) launched in December 2020 the “Survey to monitor the economic impact on MSMEs due to the COVID-19 crisis.” Until February 12, 2021, 481 MSMEs.

the last quarter of 2020 closed with slightly less than half the levels of 2019. The year 2020 ended with the decline of 62.7% of international visitor arrival compared to 2019 ¹², with 2.4 million of international visitors per years. Between January and September 2020, the hotel, bar, and restaurant sector presented a year-on-year contraction of 47.7%. It was estimated that the impact of losses of tourism in 2020 will represent a decrease of 4 percentage points of GDP..

A total of 65,344 jobs in the tourism sector were lost directly and indirectly as of June 2020 (20.3% of all formal and informal related jobs) ¹³. This substantial loss of employment can generate a considerable impact on poverty.

The pandemic caused substantial extraordinary expenditures to companies, government, and families. At the sectoral level, businessmen reported extraordinary disbursements, such as the application of sanitary bio protocols and increased prices of inputs for production, as well as financial and insurance costs,

in particular medical insurance, and various expenses generated by contract cancellation and loss of perishable products.

The national government generated temporary tax relief measures and in August 2020 the COVID-19 Responsible Recovery Plan for the Tourism Sector was launched. As part of the financial sector, the banks granted term extensions of 60 and 90 days for loan payments (mortgage, consumer, motor vehicle and MSMEs) that will not affect the credit history of customers and in addition credit card period of payments was extended.

4.2 Social sector: health, education, and culture

The evaluation of the social sector included those aspects related to health, education and culture, that accumulated total losses and additional costs valued at 11.4%. Although the social sector accumulated lower losses and costs than the productive sector, its influence on the human impact is direct

and severe. The health sector accumulated the highest losses and additional costs (9.5%), followed by education (1.1%) and culture (0.8%).

From February to December 2020, the health sector accumulated incremental losses and expenses that amounted to US\$1,750 million, of which 32% (US\$593 million) correspond to losses and 68% (US\$1,157 million) to additional expenses in different components. The distribution of losses by components was concentrated in the production and distribution of health goods and services (47%); resources, infrastructure, and physical assets of the health sector (5%); access of the population to health goods and services (33%); governance of the sector (3%); and increased vulnerability and risks (12%).

¹² UNWTO, Barometer, January 2021.

¹³ Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, 2020. Data from the National Labor Force Survey.

By December 2020, 172,218 cases¹⁴ were reported and the response to COVID-19 process generated an additional demand of 14,601 people of which 10,743 were hospitalized, 146 required specialized services due to high-cost comorbidities and 3,712 were admitted to Intensive Care Units¹⁵. During this period, the total number of processed tests was 969,605¹⁶.

These additional services required supplies and materials for laboratory tests, diagnostic exams, materials and devices for personal protection, the purchase of medicines, and the hiring of specialized and non-specialized human resources. Additionally, it was urgent and necessary to implement a process of recruitment, hiring and training of human resources to strengthen the care of COVID-19 patients, including medical specialists and subspecialists, nurses, bioanalysts, managers, among others. In total, 3,738 people were hired during the analyzed period.

The second important group of effects, corresponds to the costs/expenses made to

increase the number of beds and expansion, adaptation and installation of new ICUs, as well as the cost of the loss of human capital. In response to the pandemic, the number of hospital beds increased to 285 between April and December 2020, 386 beds for the Intensive Care Units, and 267 ventilators. The total cost amounted US\$85 million¹⁷.

On the other hand, the pandemic had effects in the implementation of public health programs, for example, a reduction in vaccination programs, and the re-emergence of vector diseases (malaria, dengue, and others), as a result of fewer prevention efforts.

Regarding the **education sector**, the 2019-2020 Dominican Republic school calendar was planned to initiate activities on August 19, 2019, and to conclude on June 19, 2020, with a period of 41 weeks for students and four additional weeks for teachers' own tasks¹⁸, however, everything culminated a week earlier than initially planned due to the health crisis. On March 17, 2020, the National Council of Education suspended¹⁹ the

face-to-face classes in schools and universities (14 weeks before the end of the school term), and it also canceled the National Tests and approved the grade pass to all the students²⁰.

¹⁴ OPS.

¹⁵ SISALRIL. SFS Plan 10 estimates

¹⁶ SISALRIL. SFS Plan 10 estimates.

¹⁷ 79% corresponds to the installation of ventilators, 13% to the expansion of the number of beds and the adaptation and expansion of ICU services, 7% to the adaptation of isolation areas and 1% to the remaining items.

¹⁸ MinerD Resolution No. 06-2019.

¹⁹ The normative instruments issued are: Resolution no. 01-2020, by means of which some dates of the 2019-2020 School Calendar related to the National Tests and Evaluation are modified; Resolution No. 02-2020 that modifies the dates and makes adjustments to the national evaluations of the year 2020; Resolution No. 03-2020, which establishes the conclusion of the 2019-2020 School Year, according to Resolution No. 06-2019, and outlines the start of the next 2020-2021 School Year.

²⁰ Resolución n.º 09-2020, que cancela las Pruebas Nacionales correspondientes al Año Escolar 2019-2020 y otorga certificación definitiva a la Cohorte 2020, tanto para el nivel básico del subsistema de adultos, como para el nivel medio y secundario en todas sus modalidades.

Due to lack of income generation by private schools during the first two months of the 2020-2021 school year (November and December) and the student migration to the public sector, an estimated loss of US\$24.7 million occurred in the private educational sector. Furthermore, additional expenses of US\$178.6 million were reported by the Ministry of Education to implement the “Educational support plan (2019-2020) strategies: “That learning does not stop” and “;We learn at home (School year 2020-2021)”.

The **culture sector** is of significant importance, both for its contribution to the construction of the social network and from the economy point of view, since about 12.5% of the employed population worked in areas related to culture²¹. The Ministry of Culture established a temporary closure of operation on March 19, 2020²², as well as for all cultural and artistic activities and programming, both for public and private sectors.

The impacts of this crisis affected the sector in two large dimensions. From the economy of culture point of view, it was observed the retraction of

cultural consumption and the decrease in spending, from both public and private. There was a reduction in the public budget and a loss of income necessary for the sustainability of the services. Cultural spaces were closed, which reduced the availability of infrastructure and cultural equipment with medium and long-term consequences throughout the value chain.

There was a loss of jobs and a decrease in income, aggravated by previous informality and the intermittent work of the actors in the sector. In some subsectors there was decapitalization and future losses due to a fall in investment in new creations, as well as the collection of royalties derived from the dissemination of works with intellectual property. In addition, the social impact deepened the digital gap, and the previously inequalities in the sector that threaten cultural diversity, given the uneven access to expressions through digital channels and mass media.

The generalized virtualization methods intensify the concentration of cultural consumption towards internet services and content, with preference towards international platforms and increases the

From the economy of culture point of view, it was observed the retraction of cultural consumption and the decrease in spending, from both public and private.

²¹ 2014 BCRD (occupations that apply to the sector according to ISCO). According to the 2017 National Household Survey, 67% of the Dominican population uses the internet on some device (computer or cell phone), but only 14.5% of the urban population has a computer and 5.7% of the rural population, which is an indication of the gap for the creation and dissemination of quality and competitive cultural content that can be disseminated through digital media. Drown2017, p. 160.

²² According to data provided by the General Directorate of Internal Taxes (DGII) based on the reports.

difficulty of the national creative sector to disseminate and monetize its productions. All these affect the cultural and creative bonds, the reconversion of activities and the exodus of its actors towards other sectors and methods of survival.

Given the risks of agglomerations and their consequent prohibition, the transmission of cultural heritage of US\$178.6 million expressions has been interrupted, threatening the loss of knowledge and expressions of traditional keepers and the interruption of social encounters.

These effects derived from the interruption of activities in the culture sector and the uncertainty generated by the lack of confidence for reopening, has affected the cultural and creative network, in the short and medium term, leading its actors to a reconversion of activities and an exodus towards other sectors and methods of survival. It has a domino effect in the value chain. As an example, the closure of a cultural space for the performing arts hinders the activity of producers, artists, communicators, designers, among others.

The effect that culture has on social cohesion is inherent, with the enjoyment of a full life, with mental health as a stimulus for innovation and creativity, and the sense of belonging and consolidation of identity through common experience. Its interruption has a negative impact on all these aspects.

4.3 Infrastructure sector: transport, environment and water and sanitation

The infrastructure sector was the third most affected by the pandemic, registering losses and additional costs equivalent to 2.1% of the total. All the transportation subsectors were seriously affected by the measures adopted to combat the spread of COVID-19, including automotive cargo transport (TAC), both air cargo and passenger transportation, highway, ports, airports and urban mobility systems. Due to the measures implemented since March 2020, it was only permitted to use transportation system for food, health and emergencies vehicles, while the remaining means of transportation mobilized according to curfew measures.

The main effect observed by confinement and demobilization, is the lack of use of all transportation systems, with the consequent reduction in direct income from the provision of services and the various fees that are generated. For example, the reduction in land mobility has increased the number of items that affect revenue in this sector, such as the collection of road tolls, and airport, maritime and border charges that are no longer collected due to the closure of flights. and international borders, the shock generated by the crisis due to the restriction of economic activities caused a loss of income of RD\$15,167.6 million for the transportation sector in the period of January until September 2020.

Regarding urban mobility, since the virus arrived in different cities, the number of passengers has been reduced compared to the average of previous months, which has made an impact on the income of public transport operators, which is mainly from direct collection and in some cases indirectly, through subsidies.

The impact on employment and productivity has been

especially experienced in the most vulnerable groups in society, which are mostly made up of workers from lower socioeconomic sectors, deprived of the possibility of teleworking and highly dependent on the use of public transport.

On the other hand, available data that complement the evolution of the sector related to loans opportunities from the financial system to economic activities, reports a significant support for recovery in the period April-June 2020, which represented a 49.0% growth in available resources due to the Government's measures to contain the impacts of the pandemic. The growth of loans to support this sector recovery reached 39.4%, from July to September.

In relation to air transport, a sharp drop is reflected in the number of passengers that arrived in the country during the months closure measures were applied. The most critical months were April, May and June 2020, in which only 1,773 passengers arrived (in the three months), compared to 637,000 that arrived in January and almost 600,000 in February of the same year.

The impact on **employment and productivity** has been especially experienced in the most vulnerable groups in society.

In the **environmental sector**, a total of net losses of US\$13.4 million were registered, of which 100% correspond to the public sector. The foregoing is due to the effects generated by the increase and disposal of infectious medical waste without adequate treatment, which produced impacts on air, soil and water quality, and causing a greater risk of public health and damage to the tourism industry. Associated with the lack of livelihoods of the vulnerable population accentuated by the pandemic, there was also an increase in the use of natural resources by some sectors of the population.

The pandemic also impacted the implementation of a considerable number of environmental projects, plans and programs that were significantly delayed. Technical inspections and monitoring activities were suspended, reducing surveillance capacity and creating difficulties in measuring the effects of the pandemic in the sector.

Other important effects were the reduction of the financial resources generated by the system of protected areas and by environmental authorizations; the increase in expenses for the management of household solid waste, and the cut budget made by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources with the consequent delay of programs (forestry, among others).

Regarding the effects on the **water and sanitation sector**, the fragmentation in various organizations of the water service suppliers made it difficult the collection of information on the effects of the pandemic in this sector. However, information was collected throughout the three most important public sector institutions in the country (CAASD, Inapa and CORAASAN)

before and during the pandemic. These three institutions operate in various territories and provide service to a total of 9 million people, which represents 85% of the country's population.

The results provided by these three entities show losses of at least US \$ 14.1 million generated by the pandemic²³, partially due to the amount that was not collected between March and December 2020 with respect to the same period of 2019, due to structural causes of these institutions as well as for the pandemic. A significant decrease in invoice process of 5.5% was also observed in the period, equivalent to approximately US \$ 4.4 million, of which US \$ 3.8 million are losses caused by the pandemic²⁴.

Another observed effect is the deterioration in the collection process, calculated as the relationship between the collected and the invoiced, which went from 71% in 2019 to 65% in 2020. Additionally, extraordinary expenses were made to comply with biosafety protocols, water supply by tanker trucks, supply of chlorine and disinfectant for domestic water treatment and construction or repair of infrastructures to respond to the pandemic, which amounted to US \$ 2.5 million.

The pandemic reduced the profits of the companies that deliver water and sanitation services (APS), affecting their financial capacity and increasing dependency on central government transfer, during a period in which fiscal resources are under great pressure.

²³ As we do not have data from the other corporations, this is considered to be a minimum figure.

²⁴ Losses were valued considering the decrease in the billing amount suffered by CORAASAN (linked to the decrease in consumption) minus the increase in billing observed in the CAASD (linked to an increase in household and customer consumption) in the season. In the case of Inapa, this decrease in turnover in 2020 was not accounted for in losses as it was not directly due to the pandemic, but to the withdrawal of some 12,000 contracts from the Monsignor Nouel province, which became CORAAMON, and secondly, to purifications carried out in several provinces where there were unfeasible clients. However, this decrease in billing incurred simultaneously with the reduce collection of revenue further weakens financially Inapa.

5. Impact assessment

According to the CRNA methodology, **impacts** are determined in human and macroeconomic dimensions. The impact on human development considers the effects of the pandemic on the quality of life of people in the medium and long term. The macroeconomic impact estimates the likely effects of the pandemic on economic performance and the emerged temporary macroeconomic imbalances, as well as its various impacts on household income and employment in all sectors.

5.1 Human Impact

The PDNA approach, therefore the CRNA, *“is based on human development: a people-centered approach. The dimension of human recovery is centered in the human development concept, in order to include the necessary measures to restore people’s ability to reach their full potential for a productive*

and creative life in accordance with their needs and interests. People need equitable access to livelihoods, health services, housing and land, security, freedom, community life and other essential services for recovery and human development ²⁵.”

The effects of the pandemic in the social, productive and infrastructure sectors generate a human impact, which is reflected in the living conditions, access to health, education and social services; livelihoods, employment and income; poverty and extreme poverty; food security and social protection.







Impacts are determined in **human and macroeconomic dimensions.**



²⁵ Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Volume A - Guidelines. Revision June 2015.

FIGURE 6.

ILLUSTRATION OF HUMAN IMPACT

	CROSSCUTTING ISSUES
Impact on living conditions	 CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE
Impact on livelihood	 YOUTHHOOD
Impact on poverty	 OLDER ADULTS
Impact on food security	 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Impact on social inclusion and exclusion	 IMMIGRANTS
Impact on social protection	 GENDER

5.1.1 The impact on living conditions: health, education, and access to water

The faced barriers by Dominicans to comply with the health and social distancing measures were the overcrowding in their own homes, the lack of certain basic services such as water, lack of transportation systems and other services related to living conditions. In the year 2019²⁶, 14.3% of the nationwide homes were already living in overcrowded conditions and 13.5% of the households were not supplied with potable water from the public network. This situation is even worst in rural areas, where this value is 31.2%; and according to data, 446 schools nationwide had difficulties with the supply of drinking water.

Health

As mentioned before, 239,998 cases were confirmed and 3,106 deaths from COVID-19 were reported on February 28, 2021. Among the infected people were

25,523 children under 20 years of age, 346 pregnant women and 784 health workers.

In response to the pandemic, the health sector substantially increased services for COVID-19 patients. At the same time, the other health services were reduced or interrupted, due to the reassignment of health personnel to the COVID-19 sector, and the impossibility of carrying out their functions due to existing conditions and changes made in health budgets.

There was a substantial reduction in the development of health promotion and disease prevention programs, a reduction in vaccination programs, maternal health, prenatal care, family planning, detection and treatment of HIV, and control of the growth and development of children. In addition, exposure to risk increased as well as the foreseeable effects on comorbidities, mental health problems, child malnutrition, unhealthy growth of minors and the reappearance of vector diseases arose.

The health system reflects that 8.7% of pregnant women did not have access to regular medical check-ups, 26.4% of people with disabilities reported lack of access to medicines or therapies, 10.9% of children under five years old did not received their vaccinations, 20% of people over 65 years old were not able received medical services and 77% of women did not obtained contraceptives. Also, it was reduced the HIV detection and children growth treatment²⁷.

²⁶–National Statistics Office (NSO).

²⁷ Regarding the impact on households, 26% of the households interviewed in the SEIA-Red Actúa Survey as of September 2020 reported that they faced barriers to access controls, treatment and / or medications. A World Bank survey showed that 12% of households did not have access to medicine when it was needed. According to the National Institute for Student Welfare, 1.5 million students did not receive preventive, dental, visual and hearing health services.

Education

The main COVID-19 impact in the educational sector has been the loss of student learning opportunity. The World Bank estimated that due to COVID-19, Dominican students will suffer an average of loss in their learning of 1.3 years of school²⁸. Before COVID-19, a student in the Dominican Republic could achieve 6.3 years of adjusted schooling, depending on the quality of learning. Students affected by school closures are expected to only achieve 5.4 years of adjusted schooling. This equates to future losses of approximately 8% in the average annual enrollment of student²⁹.

Estimates based on data from the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) indicate that students' reading scores could drop to 38 points, if face-to-face classes are not resumed for a full academic year (10 months). On the other hand, if schools are closed for 6 months, in the intermediate scenario, the reading score

The private education sector experienced a drop in enrollment at all levels, while the public sector showed an increase in enrollment at the primary and secondary levels

could be reduced by 29 points. The decrease in the PISA score, mentioned above, would even be greater for the 20% poorest students than for the 20% richest students (40 vs. 33 points), widening the existing learning gap by socioeconomic level.

Despite the efforts made by the Ministry of Education, the Information System for School Management of the Dominican Republic (SIGERD) showed a

decrease of 240,461 students in the Dominican educational system between the school years of 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, which represented a 9.5% reduction in school enrollment. In addition, it was evidenced that the greatest impact was at the initial level, where the reduction reached 138,516 students, with a 40.7% decrease of enrollment at that level. The private education sector experienced a drop in enrollment at all levels, while the public sector showed an increase in enrollment at the primary and secondary levels. The migration of students from the private to the public education system is mainly explained by the inability of families to pay tuition due to the decrease of their income.

²⁸ World Bank, 2020, "[Learning Poverty in the Time of COVID-19: A Crisis within a Crisis](#)".

²⁹ World Bank, 2020, "[Learning Poverty in the Time of COVID-19: A Crisis within a Crisis](#)".

According to SEIA-Red Actúa Survey,³⁰ 16% of the families with school-age members attending an educational center in February 2020, could not continue virtual classes during quarantine (via internet, telephone, television and / or radio). This situation rises 40% in border territories. According to an IDB study³¹, the social composition of the students who dropped out of school is diverse, it is estimated that 26% comes from the poor sector, 60% from vulnerable middle class, and 15% from consolidated middle class. Regarding gender issues, 61% of the students who dropped out of school were women and 39% were men.

Due to these impacts, the country could lose approximately one year of the made efforts in the past to increase schooling for young people between 15 and 17 years of age. Approximately 18,960 individuals will become part of the group of young people between 18 and 23 years old who neither study nor work (JNET). The loss of

opportunities for individuals who would become JNET, would generate an average reduction of 6.2% in income for the next 20 years of their life³².

Due to the pandemic, the provision of preventive, dental, visual, and hearing health services to the school population was significantly reduced, and a series of actions to promote school reintegration and retention were not implemented.³³ Regarding school feeding, 1.4 million students of the Extended School Day and 400,000 students of Half-day Course 28 received their food kits.³⁴ received their food kits.

As a final point, the school cessation increased the parents' activities, mainly done by women, with more attention and support to their children's learning process, The increase of hours of unpaid care work is associated with the reduction of opportunities for women paid workspace. Special mention should be made regarding the fact that 76.5% of the teachers in the country are women, who, in addition to the increase working hours due to the distance education modality, they are required to support their own children in learning processes and household chores as well.

³⁰ To measure the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the poorest population of the Dominican Republic and improve the response and recovery, the United Nations System conducted the SEIA survey, in collaboration with associations without profit-making, community-based organizations and the Unique System of Beneficiaries (Siuben). In its third round (September 15 to October 18, 2020) 6,106 surveys were conducted at the national level, of which 5,498 were probabilistic (Siuben and NGOs accompanied by UN agencies) and 608 non-probabilistic.

³¹ IDB, 2020, The Educational Costs of the Health Crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean.

³² IDB, 2020, The Educational Costs of the Health Crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean.

³³ Programs of Inabie and MinerD, respectively.

³⁴ World Food Program WFP (2020) "Reactive social protection against emergencies in LAC - Dominican Republic: response to the COVID-19 pandemic".

Access to water

Continuous access to water and sanitation services is essential for the application of preventive measures against COVID-19; hand washing is one of the most effective procedure for slowing down the rate of infections. Therefore, several measures were implemented to guarantee a minimum daily volume of potable water for the entire population, such as reducing the suspension of the service for non-payment and providing water supply through tanker trunks.

The volume of water supplied increased slightly during the pandemic (less than 2%). Although most of the household consumers increased their consumption, the productive sector suspended its normal operation and the water demand for their activities decreased substantially. It is worth mentioning that the pandemic coincided with a water stress context caused by the drought that affected the north part of the country in May 2020, which limited the

additional supply capacity of the operators.

The restrictions linked to the pandemic affected the maintenance and monitoring of infrastructure, having as a result a decrease of almost 30% in repair activities and 10% less of water samples were analyzed, which impacted the quality and continuity of water and sanitation services.

5.1.2. Impact on livelihoods

Impact on employment and labor income

As of March 2020, the Dominican Government launched the support programs for workers through the Employee Solidarity Assistance Fund (FASE) to mitigate the effects of loss of income from work. This program includes registered employees within the Social Security Treasury; and, the Independent Worker Assistance Program (Pa'Ti) that incorporates independent workers with registered loans in a financial institution or in a state program.

Despite the applied measures to contain the impacts on the labor market, by September 2020 the number of employed persons decreased by 335,674 and in the severest phase of confinement reached 410,367 (June 2020). Therefore, the employment rate decreased by 5.2% in the second quarter and by 6.1% in the third quarter compared to 2019³⁵. The number of absent³⁶ employed persons was drastically reduced, from 1.4 million people in the second quarter to 376,000 in the third quarter, showing a reduction of almost one million people. This is especially relevant because this reduction includes suspended employees who are registered in government support programs. This situation is the result of the relaxation of confinement

³⁵ Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, 2020.

³⁶ They are those who maintained the link with the job because they were on vacation, suspended, with leave or who expected to return to the job in a horizon of maximum 3 months, whether or not they received an income..

The employment rate for women decreased by 6.0% (September 2020) compared to a drop out of 4.2% for men in the same period, demonstrating a labor force of fewer employed women than men.

measures and the partial reopening of economic activities³⁷.

The employment rate for women decreased by 6.0% (September 2020) compared to a drop out of 4.2% for men in the same period, demonstrating a labor force of fewer employed women than men. The inactivity rate increased by 8.5%, where 693,715 people moved from an unemployment or employed status to an inactive one. In the third quarter of the year,

the inactivity rate fell to 5.2%, showing more than 251,000 people have returned to workforce; meanwhile, the unemployment rate increased by 0.6% compared to the third quarter of 2019. The formal sector employ concentrated the greatest reduction with a total of 206,000 workers, while in the informal sector and domestic services registered a decrease in occupancy of 86,657 and 42,842 respectively, compared to the July - September 2019 quarter³⁸.

According to the different branches of economic activities, the interannual decrease was 123,000 workers in the other services sector category, 103,000 people employed in hotels, bars, and restaurants, 46,000 in the commerce sector, 25,000 in the financial intermediation branch and insurance, 19,000 in public administration and defense, 17,000 in health and social assistance, 15,000 in industry and 15,000 in education, which represent approximately 73.2% of employment.

By educational level, there was a net loss of 174,000 jobs carried

out by people with a secondary degree and 108,000 with a university degree; and by age group, a decrease of 126,000 jobs occupied by people aged 25 to 39; 108,000 jobs were occupied by young people between the ages of 15 and 24; 90,000 workers were 40 and 59 years old, and 11,000 employed were 60 and over.

There was a 7.5% reduction in labor income, shifting from RD\$111.6 per hour in the third quarter of 2019 to RD\$103.2 per hour in the same period of 2020. The number of labors hours fell drastically in all deciles, both in the second and third quarter, affecting the drop in revenue. As a consequence, in the case of decile 10, as of September 2020 there was a decrease of RD\$4,939.2 in monthly income. In the case of Social Security, there was a reduction of 285,000 contributors, compared to the period of October 2019 to October 2020.

³⁷ Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, 2020. Page 4.

³⁸ Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, 2020. Page 4.

One of the important conclusions has been that women are the most affected by the pandemic, both formal and informal workers; and not being able to quickly return to the workforce, since access barriers are more complex for women than for men.

5.1.3. Poverty

In the case of the Dominican Republic, this crisis puts at risk the important economic and social advances made in improving human development levels and poverty reduction in recent decades. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, it is estimated that extreme poverty rate has increased from 3% to 8.2% (576,000 new extreme poor), and the general poverty rate moved from 21.4% to 34.6% (1.4 million of new poor), which implies an increase of 13.3 percentage points, in order to return to the 2014 registered levels.

The country has managed to mitigate the increase in general poverty by seven percentage

points and in extreme poverty by three percentage points, given the implementation of economic support programs for vulnerable populations and the productive sectors, such as "Stay at Home", the Fund Employee Solidarity Assistance (FASE) and «Pa ´ Ti». In absolute terms, social programs have prevented 752,395 Dominicans from falling into a condition of general monetary poverty during the worst months of the pandemic. Therefore, 315,431 people could have fallen into a situation of indigence if the mitigation programs were not implemented. Due to the measures to respond to the crisis, the increase of people living in poverty was limited to 650,000 poor people and 255,000 new extremely poor people as of June 2020. Likewise, the impact of COVID-19 not only increased monetary poverty, but also caused an income collapse on the social hierarchy. The population with indicative incomes of middle class (between US\$13-50 PPP per day), moved from 35% to 29% after the pandemic impact. The population with

On the other hand, the fall in labor income explains the increase in poverty, while the transfer programs put in place mitigate it.

vulnerable incomes or in a situation of poverty, with incomes below US\$13 PPP, increased seven percentage points and turn into 70% of the population (around 7.3 million Dominicans).

The analysis by area of residence shows that people located in urban areas were the most affected by the COVID-19 crisis; around 685,000 people have transited into poverty in these areas, and the general poverty rate went from 19.9% in June 2019 to 27.8% in June 2020.

In the case of women, they have historically suffered rates of monetary poverty higher than men and the effect of COVID-19 has maintained and even increased this difference. By June 2020, the poverty rate for women have increased 6.4 percentage points compared to June 2019 (about 330,000 women) and the rate of men by 6.2 points (about 320,000 men). As a consequence, this trend demonstrate an increase in the feminization index of poverty over time and the fact of economic and social inequalities suffered by women compared to men, for example, for every 100 poor men there were 117 poor women in June 2020.

On the other hand, the drop in labor income self explains the increase in poverty, while the implemented transfer programs have mitigated the situation. In June 2020, the effective loss of the average per capita income in a household was RD\$1,630, shifting from RD\$12,199 in June 2019 to RD\$10,569 in June 2020. The implementation of social mitigation programs to counteract the crisis caused

non-labor income per capita to move from 10.51% in June 2019 to 18.35% in June 2020.

Finally, according to the main results of June 2020 regarding the effect of the pandemic on multidimensional poverty, six out of the twenty-four indicators related to the intensity of the impact (moderate, intermediate, and severe), have influenced in the deprivation of access to medical services due to illness and health insurance, school absence, food insecurity, and the increase in informal employment.³⁹

5.1.4. Food security

The Government of the Dominican Republic undertook a series of confinement measures, mobility restrictions and suspension of non-essential economic activities. The industrial sector, free zones and agricultural companies were allowed to continue their operations and the availability of food remained relatively normal. However, the main problems in short term availability were linked to mobility restrictions of workforces, transportation for

agricultural and marketing production, and local markets supplies.

During January and October 2020, the agricultural production decreased by 647,000 tons in relation to the same period in 2019 (-8.1%). In addition, livestock production indicates different trends, such as an increase in meat (pork, beef), eggs and honey products, and a decrease in chickens and milk⁴⁰.

Regarding food access, the Government distributed food to the most vulnerable families to maintain food availability, by increasing the number of families from 800,000 to 1.5 million throughout the programs "Eating is First" and the Inabie's "School Food Program" and also, by establishing a new modality of distribution of uncooked food that benefited 1.6 million students and their families. Also, the "Economic Cafeterias" program was continued, and provided 40,000 daily food

³⁹ Carried out in June 2020 by the Vice Presidency with the support of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.

⁴⁰ Agriculture sector report, CRNA, 2021.

rations in selected urban territories. Although these actions have stopped a possible increase in food insecurity, the economic activity situation and the decrease in per capita household income have led an increase in extreme poverty and, therefore, have affected economic access to food. On the other hand, although the CPI for agricultural products dropout at the beginning of the pandemic (1.14% in May and 1.25% in June), it has increased at a higher rate than normal, reaching out an increase of 4.42% in October 2020 compared to December 2019⁴¹.

It should be noted that women employed in agriculture and livestock activities have the least capacity to purchase food. Their total income is barely enough to buy more than two basic baskets, with the possibility of feeding calories to the number of people in their household. This situation has been enhanced by COVID- 19, since the frequency of women intervention in commercialization processes has decreased, as a result of the closure of nurseries and schools, and because culturally women carry out unpaid work at home by taking care of

minors and sick people.

According to the Red Actúa Household Survey (September 2020), the results demonstrate that:

- *71.85% of the interviewed individuals expressed concern for not having enough food in their homes. Families headed by women expressed greater concern (76.2%) than Family units headed by men (67.34%).*
- *31% of households indicated they have reduced portion or quantity of food.*
- *21.54% of families reported that during recent weeks they have reduce the number of meals per day.*
- *2.7% of families have had complete days without food.*
- *Although most of the interviewed families confirmed the availability and quality of food in markets (hardly affected), 87.04% revealed that prices have increased.*
- *In 54% of households, where there is at least one LGBTQ person, the number of meals per day have been lowered due to reduced income⁴².*

21.54% of families



reported that during recent weeks they have reduce the number of meals per day.

⁴¹ Agriculture sector report, CRNA, 2021.

⁴² Report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on LGBTI people in the Dominican Republic_4.pdf (un.org), UNDP (2020).

5.1.5. Social Inclusion /exclusion

Social inclusion is measured in terms of the inequality of opportunities, access, and participation of vulnerable populations or of those people who, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, are in a situation of social exclusion.

It is vitally important to carry out an analysis of the differentiated effects of the different population groups that face multiple conditions of vulnerability, such as children and adolescents; women, people with disabilities, migrants, among others, within the framework of sustainable development, international commitments on rights as established in the 2030 Agenda.

The differences by socioeconomic level in access to quality education, and family income among others, are evidence of the inequality of opportunities that has accentuated the COVID-19 epidemic. The impact of the pandemic threatens the pre-existing conditions of

exclusion and disparity in the country. Reversing this trend should be one of the main challenges to be addressed in the post-COVID-19 recovery plan.

5.1.6. Impact on the vulnerable population

The socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have affected population groups in different ways. The most vulnerable groups, made up of women, children, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities have been impacted as a result of the pandemic, and are at greater risk of suffering losses.

Childhood and adolescence

Although children and adolescents are not considered a high-risk group from COVID-19, the socio-economic impact on them is significant given their vulnerability situation. The Government took several measures to contain the social impacts on children and adolescents, throughout social programs.

The impact of the pandemic threatens the pre-existing conditions of exclusion and disparity in the country.

Some of the main impacts on this social group were:

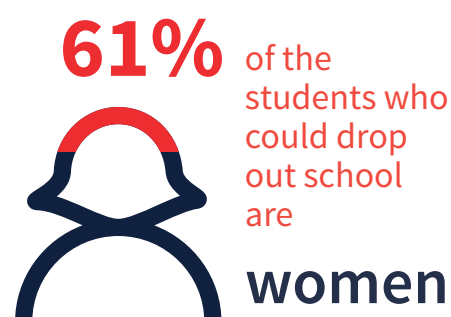
- *Seventeen thousand children under 20 years of age were infected with COVID-19 as of December 2020.*
- *Access to health services was limited; as a result, 10.85% of the interviewed people expressed that child under 5 years of age have missed their vaccinations⁴³.*

⁴³ SEIA-Red Household Survey Act on its tert1st cut to September 2020.

- Educational institutions and early childhood care centers have been closed⁴⁴.
- During quarantine, 57.4% of children and adolescents spent only 2 to 4 studying hours.
- One out five children did not have access to internet or a compute⁴⁵.
- Student lack of learning equivalent to 1.3 years of adjusted schooling for the quality of learning, could go from 6.3 years to 5.4 years⁴⁶.
- The number of children out of school in the range of 7 to 18 years of age have increased to 17,000 since COVID-19 began, representing an increase of 14% and an increase of 141,000 children. The social composition of students who could drop out of school is diverse, it estimated that 26% is poor, 60% are vulnerable middle class and 15% have consolidated middle class.
- 61% of the students who could drop out school are women and 39% are men.

Finally, the rising unemployment or the loss of livelihoods of families with children at school age put in risks the continuity of their studies, due to the inability of their parents to finance their studies or to incur related educational expenses as technological equipment and/or connectivity. In the case of more vulnerable households, students who drop out of school do so with the aim of contributing to generating family income that allows them to survive.

It should be noted that UNICEF issued a statement highlighting that prolonged closing of classes have very negative consequences for the learning and well-being of children and adolescents. The most vulnerable students and those who are unable to access distance learning are at a greater risk of permanently dropping out of school, and are forced into child labor, or in the case of girls to marry older men. It is important to consider the unique needs of each student, with comprehensive services



that could cover corrective learning, health and nutrition, as well as protection and mental health measures in each knowledge area⁴⁷.

⁴⁴ SEIA-Red Household Survey Act on its tert1st cut to September 2020.

⁴⁵ World Bank, 2020. "[Learning Poverty in the Time of COVID-19: A Crisis within a Crisis](#)".

⁴⁶ World Bank, 2020. "[Learning Poverty in the Time of COVID-19: A Crisis within a Crisis](#)".

⁴⁷ <https://primicias.net/webunicef-3-de-cada-5-ninos-y-ninas-que-perdieron-un-ano-escolar-en-el-mundo-durante-la-pandemia-viven-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>

Youth

The young population of the Dominican Republic represents one of the most important groups in the country. In 2019, young people between 15 and 34 years of working age represented 48% of the population and 56% of the Economically Active Population (EAP).⁴⁸

Although the situation of young people before the pandemic already revealed vulnerabilities, the impact of COVID-19 aggravated their employment conditions, education, and rights. During the evaluation period, there was a reduction of 108 thousand jobs occupied by young people of 15-24 years old. Likewise, it was estimated that 19,000 people between the ages of 18 and 23 years old could become part of the neither study nor work group (JNET). The school dropouts rise is partly justified by the need to obtain resources for the family and due to the loss of jobs⁴⁹. As a consequence, the loss of opportunities for people between 18 and 20 years that become JNET, would generate an average reduction of 6.2% in income for the next 20 years of your life⁵⁰.

Older adults

The reduction in the rate of population growth has caused a change in its structure, with an aging increase. This population over 60 years old represented the 4.4% in 1950 and it is estimated that it would reach 12% of in 2025⁵¹.

Older adults (over 65 years old) are highly vulnerable to COVID-19, both due to the preexistence of diseases and their socioeconomic situation. During the period of analysis, the global fatality rate from COVID-19 was 1.4, equivalent to 231 deaths per million inhabitants. This rate could increase up to 5 times due to pre-existing health conditions in older adults⁵².

Given the low rate of adults who have access to a pension and the income reduction of the elderly during the pandemic, an increase in the number of people living in conditions of poverty and monetary indigence could be expected. Due to the pandemic, 18.95⁵³ of older adults were unable to access their medical and care services in hospitals. Additionally, it is estimated that physical distancing could

The reduction in the rate of population growth has caused a change in its structure, with an aging increase.

affect the mental health of these people, since most of them live alone and hardly use technology for communication's purposes.

⁴⁸ According to the Second National Follow-up Report on the Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (UNFPA-MEPyD, 2019).

⁴⁹ IDB (2020) "*The Educational Costs of the Health Crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean*".

⁵⁰ IDB (2020) "*The Educational Costs of the Health Crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean*".

⁵¹ <https://www.one.gob.do/noticias/2020/12/18/7167/republica-dominicana-se-encamina-a-ser-un-pais-de-adultos-y-envejecientes49>

⁵² The Impact of COVID-19 on older persons, UN, 2020. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2020/05/COVID-Older-persons.pdf>.

⁵³ Según datos de la ONE.

People with disabilities

Another vulnerable group to the COVID-19 pandemic are people with disabilities, given their limited access to basic services in education, health, participation and decent and formal jobs.

The impact on the health emergency is disproportionate to this group, by facing barriers in terms of access to public health information, impediments to use some basic hygiene measures, capacity to maintain social distancing and ability to obtain information⁵⁴.

In 2013 there were 709,000 people with some type of disability in the country⁵⁵, represented by 7% of the population; of which 230,000 were children under the age of 9 and 94,000 people were over 60 years of age. According to CONADIS 2020, 41.2% of disabilities persons lack health insurance. According to the SEIA-Red Actúa Survey on the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, 26.38% individuals with disabilities did not have access to medications or

therapies; and this value have increased to 29.2% in the case of female-headed households. According to a survey conducted to the population with disabilities⁵⁶, 17% expressed their rights had been violated, especially the rights for health, public services and work; and 5.4% of the group informed they suffered some type of abuse or violence.

Currently, there is no conditional or unconditional cash transfer program for people with disabilities in the country's Social Protection Network. However, the Social Protection Cabinet has a social assistance plan for disabled people upon request⁵⁷.

Migrant people

In the Dominican Republic, 209,664 individuals have foreign status, of which 98% are Haitians. Approximately, 28,000 people were reported and registered in the Social Security Treasury (TSS) with access to health, professional risks and pension. On the other hand, the Dominican Republic is the country within the Caribbean

subregion that hosts the most Venezuelan refugees and migrants, with approximately 114,000 people, a number that is expected to increase to 121,000 by the end of 2021.

It is estimated that during the analysis period, 144,000 Haitians from the National Regularization Plan (PNRE) have lost their income, are not covered by protection programs, and required humanitarian assistance. More than 30,000 Haitians had voluntarily returned to their country due to the economic crisis by June 2020. Likewise, about 90,000 Venezuelan migrants were severely affected by the health and

⁵⁴ Technical note PAHO, UNICEF, UNPRPD: Response to the COVID-19 emergency including people with disabilities.

⁵⁵ According to the National Multi-Purpose Household Survey (Drown).

⁵⁶ UNDP Results of the survey "Situation of COVID-19 and people with disabilities in the Dominican Republic".

⁵⁷ <http://www.pasp.gob.do/index.php/servicios/asistencia-a-la-discapacidad>

socioeconomic crisis, and 87% had not been able to access the economic support offered by the Government to informal workers and vulnerable families, due to their irregular status.

In response to the economic and social crisis caused by COVID-19, the Government activated a series of social protection measures and assistance to the most vulnerable population. Among the main measures that included the migrant population were the opportunity to have free access to detection of COVID-19 test and emergency treatments. Nevertheless, this group continues to have a high level of vulnerability, especially affected by the economic crisis⁵⁸.

Gender

The Dominican Republic is a country that presents significant challenges in achieving gender equality, including violence against women and girls, high rates of maternal mortality, and teenage pregnancy. According

to the 2019 World Human Development Report, the Gender Inequality Index (GDI) shows that the country presents a level of inequality higher than the Latin American average (1.003 vs 0.941), it is the fifth country in the region with a higher GDI (higher inequality).

The pandemic widened pre-existing inequalities with a larger effect on women and girls. Women are exposed to greater risks of contagion given their roles as caregivers, both inside and outside their homes, increasing the impact of COVID-19 in their lives. School attendance continued remotely in 86.7%⁵⁹ of the interviewed households headed by women. According to interviews, students have continued their education remotely in 86.7% of households headed by women, increasing working hours for women to care for and support their children under this new modality, limiting their possibilities of joining the labor market.

The unequal distribution of domestic tasks, reinforced by

telework, the combination of productive and reproductive work increases the exploitation of labor force in women and a creation of surplus value beyond the received income, making invisible the care task⁶⁰.

On the other hand, one of the greatest vulnerabilities of women in the country is associated with low economic empowerment. In 64.7% of the interviewed households,⁶¹ the main income producer was a man versus 30.2% of the women. 12.2% of women lost their permanent job contrasted with 7.8% of men, and 40.3% of men received higher wages or income.

As of June 2020, the femininity poverty index of the country increased to 117 women in poverty for every 100 men

⁵⁸ R4V, 2021 <https://r4v.info/es/situations/platform>

⁵⁹ SEIA Survey- Red Actúa, according to gives round.

⁶⁰ FES, 2020. Building the Gender Perspective for the Escazú Agreement.

⁶¹ SEIA Survey- Red Actúa, according to gives round.

in the same socioeconomic condition, in a context where the crisis derived from the pandemic threatens to expand even further existing gender inequalities⁶².

5.1.7. Social protection

Previous to COVID-19, the main conditional cash transfer programs were the Comer es Primero Program (PCP), the School Attendance Incentive (ILAE) and the Bono Escolar Studying Progress (BEEP). The main unconditional transfer programs were the Higher Education Incentive (IES), the Preventive Police Incentive

Program (PIPP), Bonogás Hogar (BGH), Bonogás Chofer (BH), Bonoluz (BL), Enlisted Incentive Program Dominican Republic Navy (PIAARD) and the Program for the Protection of Old Age in Extreme Poverty (PROVEE).

In response to the socioeconomic crisis of COVID-19, the Government of the Dominican Republic implemented several transfer programs to protect the most vulnerable population and to

mitigate the impacts. The “Stay at Home” Program implemented from March 25 until December 31, 2020, was released to protect low-income informal workers and families in vulnerable situations. Initially, the first beneficiaries came from the Comer es Primero Program and eventually 683,764 Siuben vulnerable families were added. The amount of the subsidy was RD\$5,000 per month (US\$86)

Households receiving other subsidies, were subject to receive the difference up to the value or RD\$7,000 (US \$120) in the event of having an elderly family member, or have a chronic disease, such as HIV or tuberculosis. The beneficiary households that received an additional amount of RD\$2,000 per month were 32%, with family members over 60 years old and/or children under 5 years old. The total number of beneficiaries was 1.57 million families, of which 52% of the beneficiary population was inactive and represented 20% of the national inactive group, and 54.5% belonged to the informal sector and 11.6% to domestic service⁶³. The SEIA-Red Actúa

In response to the socioeconomic crisis of COVID-19, the Government of the Dominican Republic implemented several transfer programs to protect the most vulnerable population and to mitigate the impacts.

⁶² MEPyD. (2020). COVID-19 UNDER THE MAGNIFIER: Effects of COVID-19 on monetary poverty, inequality and the labor market. Analysis of mitigation programs. Santo Domingo: MEPyD.

⁶³ MEPyD, 2020, COVID-19 UNDER THE MAGNIFIER: Effects of COVID-19 on monetary poverty, inequality and the labor market. Analysis of mitigation programs. Santo Domingo: MEPyD. P. 31-32.

Survey indicates that in those households with LGBTI family members, only 23% declared being part of the Stay at Home Program⁶⁴.

The FASE Program was established on April 2, 2020 and had the objective of supporting formal workers in the private sector with an unconditional cash transfer. The first phase, addressed the suspended workers of companies who were up to date with their obligations with social security as of February 2020.

In October 2020, the number of people benefited from PHASE 1 moved from 667,690 to 310,808; with an average monthly amount of RD\$7,328 (US\$86). PHASE 2, supported manufacturing companies and MSMEs in operation and with unchanged employment payroll, and also those closed companies that kept all their workers payroll and social security contributions. PHASE 2 helped 27,282 companies and 256,934 beneficiaries with a monthly transfer of RD\$5,000 per worker. The number of beneficiaries of PHASE 2 increased from 112,787

to 529,827 as of October 2020. The SEIA-Red Actúa Survey reflects that of those households with LGBTI members, only 20% declared to have been integrated into the Phase Program⁶⁵.

Quédate en Casa, FASE o Pa'Ti



benefited about
1.6 million
households
in vulnerable conditions.

The Pa'Ti Program, which by October 2020 reached a total of 185,000 people, supported eligible independent workers (those who did not contribute to social security, nor were beneficiaries of the Stay at Home or FASE programs) with a monetary unconditional transfer of RD \$ 5,000 per beneficiary.

The Familias Acompañadas Program was executed by Progresando con Solidaridad (Prosoli) and its objective

was to protect and guarantee food, nutrition, emotional, and economic security to families in extreme poverty affected by the death of one of the head family as a result of COVID-19. The beneficiaries of this program were not allowed to participate in any of the other monetary transfers from Stay in Case, FASE or Pa'Ti. Nevertheless, in case of any participation in one of these programs, an evaluation was carried out to increase the amount from RD \$ 5 thousand to RD \$ 7 given the situation of COVID-19⁶⁶.

It was estimated that the Government had helped about 1.6 million households in vulnerable conditions through these temporary measures. Additionally, prepared and uncooked food was distributed

⁶⁴ Report on the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on LGBTI people in la Republic Dominicana_4.pdf (un.org).

⁶⁵ Report on the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on LGBTI people in la Republic Dominicana_4.pdf (un.org).

⁶⁶ <https://progresandoconsolidaridad.gob.do/proyectos/programa-familias-acompanadas/>

to people in poverty who were not covered in the established programs throughout the Presidency's Social Plan.

The School Feeding Program (PAE), implemented by Inabie, established a new modality of uncooked food distribution given the closure of schools as of March 23, 2020. This transfer program usually provides three food rations (breakfast, lunch and snack) in educational centers. As a result of the new measure, it was possible to reach 62.3% of the total number of students expected at the beginning of 2020, and was able to benefit 1.6 million students and their families. In addition, nearly 200 tons of food supplies were distributed to children, older adults and pregnant women with the support of 200 churches and community NGOs throughout the Progresando con Solidaridad Program together with the World Food Program⁶⁷.

The President of the Republic announced that Stay at Home program would be finished by April 2021 and starting on

May, the “Comer es Primero” program would be transformed into the “Supérate” program, to benefit one million families with RD\$1,650 pesos per month⁶⁸.

This program would be executed through ProsoLi, to facilitate the reintegration labor of the most affected population by the pandemic and those living in extreme poverty.

5.2. Macroeconomic Impact

During the period 2000-2019, the Dominican economy experienced a period of strong economic growth with an annual average rate of 5.6%, doubling the real Gross Domestic Product per capita. Prior the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dominican Republic was one of the leading growth countries in the Latin American given its stable macroeconomic framework.

COVID-19 affected the country since the first quarter of 2020. During the months of January and March of that year, an inflation rate of 2.45% was recorded (compared to the same quarter of 2019), below

the lower limit of the target range; a deficit occurred in the current account of -1.4% of GDP, placing it below the historical average; and the deficit of the non-financial public sector registered a value equivalent to -0.8% of GDP. In this context, the country registered relatively high international reserves to face pressure on the exchange rate due to imbalance in the external sector or due to asset dollarization - with an increase of 37.4% from January to March 2020 compared to the same period of 2019.

The Dominican economy, being small and open, with an annual value of exports and imports of 40% in relation to GDP and dependent on foreign investment and tourism, is vulnerable to external

⁶⁷ <http://www.adess.gob.do/2020/05/11/entidades-vicepresidencia-exponen-acciones-contra-COVID-19-en-conferencia-interamericana-de-seguridad-social/>

⁶⁸ <https://gabinetesocial.gob.do/gobierno-lanza-nuevo-programa-social-superate-garantizara-seguridad-alimentaria-y-empleos-dignos/>

crises. Tourism income is a key factor in closing the gap in the balance of goods, together with the flow of family remittances, which dampens the overall defi in the balance of payments. The effects of the confinement and temporary cessation of economic activities by COVID-19 applied in the first quarter of 2020, implied a reduction of -26.1% of tourism revenue⁶⁹.

Likewise, family remittances from abroad, which have a significant impact on the lower socioeconomic levels, contracted by 2.3% compared to the same period in 2019 due to the impacts of the pandemic in the countries where the Dominican diaspora lives, mainly the United States and Spain. During the first quarter of 2020, the balance of payments registered a current account deficit of US\$67.9 million, a lower value than the historical average. Some positive factors that may have helped to mitigate the current account deficit were the rise in the price of gold and the reduction of international oil prices.

By the end of the first semester of 2020, the GDP was 8.5% below the value of the same semester of 2019. In April, the steepest rate of decline in the level of activity was recorded since the beginning of the health crisis (-29.8% compared to the same month in 2019). In the second semester, the economy showed signs of a staggered recovery process, which contributed to a GDP variation of -6.7% at the end of the year compared to the same month of 2019.

This behavior was supported by the monetary, fiscal, and social policy measures designed to mitigate the health crisis impact, to maintain the liquidity levels of the economy and to promote the gradual reactivation of production and consumption, in relation to the gradual reopening of the productive sectors.

By the end of 2020, the country faced pressures on public finances, with a decrease in tax revenues and an increase in expenditures

that generated a debt for the Non-Financial Public Sector (NFPS) of RD \$ 338,137.8 million, equivalent to 7.6 % of GDP⁷⁰. In addition to the impact on production and spending, influenced by the slowdown in external and internal demand, both current income and expenditures of the balance of payments contracted by 30.3% and 14.6%, with a deficit of the balance of payments equivalent to -2.0% of the Gross Domestic Product.

The following economic activities reported the best performance at the end of the year 2020 and also presented recovery signs: health, financial services, real estate, agriculture and communications activities. However, despite the expansion of credits in the productive sector, areas such as tourism, construction,

⁶⁹ Report on the Dominican Economy January-March 2020, Central Bank of the Dominican Republic.

⁷⁰ Report on the Dominican Economy January-December 2020, Central Bank of the Dominican Republic.

commerce, manufacturing and other service reported negative added value. These activities represented 65.2%⁷¹ of employment in 2019.

Among all economic activities, the tourism sector is the most affected by the pandemic, with a reduction of -47.5% in its production at the end

of 2020. On the other hand, local manufacturing reported negative variation rates of -2.2% and -12.5% in mining and excavating activities.

TABLE 3.

SECTORIAL EVOLUTION OF GDP 2018-2020 (ANNUAL VARIATION RATE)

ACTIVITY SECTOR	2018	2019	2020
Agricultural	5.5	4.1	2,8
Mining and quarrying	-1.3	3.4	-12.5
Local manufacturing	5.6	2.7	-2.2
Free zone manufacturing ¹	8.1	2.1	-2.7
Construction	11.8	10.4	-10.7
Services	5.9	4.4	-7.0
Energy and water	5.7	7.5	0.4
Commerce	7.9	3.8	-4.8
Hotels, bars and restaurants	5.7	0.2	-47.5
Transport and storage	6.0	5.3	-7.6
Communications	12.5	-7.2	2.7
Financial services	7.2	9.0	7.1
Real estate and rental activities	4.2	5.0	3.8
Public administration	2.8	3.7	0.8
Teaching	2.6	2.5	-3.7
Health	8.6	4.3	12.5
Other service activities	4.8	7.1	-11.1
Value added	6.1	4.8	-6.3
IProduction taxes net of subsidies	13.6	6.9	-11.6
Gross domestic product	7.0	5.1	-6.7

Source: Central Bank of the Dominican Republic

⁷¹ Processed with information extracted from <https://www.bancentral.gov.do/a/d/2541-encuesta-continua-encft>.

Temporary relief measures to reduce the COVID-19 effects

Fiscal and monetary measure

Among the measures implemented by the Government to mitigate the effects of the health crisis, temporary tax and financial relief measures stand out, which included the deferral of the ITBIS payment and the reduction to half of the value of the payment agreement quotas. In addition, the delivery of affidavit and the payment of the 2019 IRS obligations (Income Tax) was postponed for companies and individuals, allowing more flexible payments, and consequently alleviating the tax burden situation. And the hotel sector, temporarily stopped applying the Advance Price Agreements (APA).

As a cash flow provision measure, the financial system expanded credit opportunities in 2020 with RD\$190,814.4 million for the productive sectors, households and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Among other measures

adopted, the Reserve Bank set up a short-term liquidity window with special treatment for up to RD\$15 billion for MSMEs and other microcredits. The credit to the private sector closed in 2020 with a growth rate of 8.8% compared to 2019.

Additionally, the monetary policy rate (MPR) was reduced from 4.50% to 3.50% in March 2020. This is the lowest rate during the last two decades. The repo rate was also reduced from 6.0% to 4.5% and the overnight rate from 3.0% to 2.5%. In addition, prudential regulations were eased for the crisis period, ratings and provisions were frozen, and the restructuring of credits and exemptions of capital payment was authorized to reduce immediate charges without deteriorating the risk rating of debtors.

Social and support measures for workers:

As detailed in the previous section, the country implemented programs to contain the repercussions of the pandemic in the labor market and in poverty. In effect, with the implementation of support

The credit to the private sector closed in 2020 with a growth rate of 8.8% compared to 2019.

programs such as PHASE I and Phase II; the Pa'Ti program for self-employed workers; and Stay at Home program for vulnerable households living in poverty, positive results were obtained in alleviating poverty, which would have implied an increase of 7.3 percentage points by June 2020^{72,73}.

⁷² COVID under the magnifying glass: Effects of COVID-19 on monetary poverty, inequality and the labor market. Analysis of mitigation programs. Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, June 2020.

⁷³ The details of these programs can be consulted in Section XX.

6. Sector recovery needs

According to the CRNA methodology, the evaluation of the effects and impacts of the crisis (in this case of the pandemic) defines the recovery

needs and also establish the basis for recovery and reconstruction interventions in the short, medium, and long term through a Recovery Strategy.

TABLE 4.

ESTIMATION OF NEEDS IN US \$⁷⁴

SECTOR	Total needs identified	Short term (2021)	Medium term (2022-2023)	Long term (2024 +)
SOCIAL	7,272.47	5,897.17	1,326.53	48.77
Health	2,357.00	1,107.79	1,249.21	
Education	334.51	208.42	77.32	48.77
Culture	12.96	12.96		
Social protection	4,568.00	4,568.00		
PRODUCTIVE	640.36	582.02	40.32	18.02
Farming	72.50	14.15	40.32	18.02
Industry	291.00	291.00	-	-
Commerce	232.70	232.70		
Sightseeing	44.16	44.16		
INFRASTRUCTURE	2,774.18	1,074.33	1,699.03	0.83
Transport	2,756.11	1,062.73	1,693.38	
Water and sanitation	18.07	11.60	5.65	0.83
ENVIRONMENT	19.02	14.30	3.29	1.43
TOTAL	10,706.03	7,567.82	3,069.17	69.05

Source: CRNA Team - Estimation of needs from the evaluations of the sectoral teams

⁷⁴ The exchange rate of RD\$57.06 per US\$(American dollar) was defined with the MEPyD as the rate to be used for the evaluation of the CRNA, obtained through the average of the rate for the sale of the March-November 2020 period, according to the Central Bank, RD.

Once the effects and the human and macroeconomic impact were known, the needs of each of the sectors were identified, consequently the most affected groups could return to the pre-crisis situation or even an improved condition. Concepts

such as Building Back Better are used to ensure the construction of resilience and risk reduction.

Although the methodology recommends a rough estimate of recovery cost, the inconclusive nature of

the pandemic makes this a preliminary quantification. In general, the identified needs of any crisis exceed the capacity of governments to carry them out, with particular severity in countries with limited fiscal situation.

TABLE 5.

COMPARISON OF EFFECTS AND NEEDS IN US\$ MILLIONS⁷⁵

SECTOR	Total effects	Total needs identified	Needs / losses
SOCIAL	4,294.50	7,272.47	169.3%
Health	1,750.52	2,357.00	134.6%
Education	203.32	334.51	164.5%
Culture	142.81	12.96	9.1%
Social protection	2,197.85	4,568.00	207.8%
PRODUCTIVE	13,782.15	640.36	4.6%
Farming	263.54	72.50	27.5%
Industry	1,846.75	291.00	15.8%
Commerce	5,570.48	232.70	4.0%
Sightseeing	6,101.38	44.16	0.7%
INFRASTRUCTURE	366.91	2,774.18	991.0%
Transport	352.80	2,756.11	1036.8%
Water and sanitation	14.11	18.07	128.1%
ENVIRONMENT	16.14	19.02	141.8%
TOTAL	18,459.69	10,706.03	57.4%

Source: CRNA Team - Estimation of needs from the evaluations made by sectoral teams

⁷⁵ The exchange rate of RD\$57.06 per US\$(American dollar) was defined with the MEPyD as the rate to be used for the evaluation of the CRNA, obtained through the average of the rate for the sale of the March-November 2020 period, according to the Central Bank, RD.

When comparing the effects and needs by sectors (social, productive, infrastructure, environment), it is observed that the effects in the productive sector were higher than those observed in the social sector. However, the recovery needs are mainly for the latter sector. Although the infrastructure sector presented minimal effects, it will be an important mechanism to accelerate the socioeconomic recovery.

6.1. Priority needs of the productive sector: agriculture, industry, commerce, and tourism

Once the effects and their consequences have been estimated in each sector, the identification of recovery needs is done. The possible interventions that could contribute to reverse the unfavorable situation are considered for each effect and for each impact.

Agriculture

The main recovery needs from the effects of COVID-19 should

Small rural enterprises should be strengthened, and a sustainable food security policy must be implemented.

focus on small farmers and their families, the workers in the food sector, and those who live of basic products, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Although the national government responded to the needs of the agricultural sector by doubling the beneficiaries, which allowed portions of the agricultural production destined for tourism to be commercialized as well as the realization of direct purchases; other social inclusion needs in support of family farming are necessary.

Promoting social inclusion in the rural sector makes it necessary to strengthen

gender and youth policies, as well as other policies for vulnerable population groups. In order to improve the lives of the rural population, it is of crucial importance to maintain the production of family agriculture, while ensuring food security and supply to the population. Small rural enterprises should be strengthened, and a sustainable food security policy must be implemented. Policies specifically designed to prevent the spread of poverty in rural areas and policies to sustain agricultural operational cycles during the COVID-19 pandemic are needed.

Special emphasis should be placed on the horticultural sector that, in order to produce inputs again, requires irrigation infrastructure, roads and storage, and facilities for innovation and technology transfer for production and marketing. It is necessary to diversify the financing modalities to support production and to maintain access to transport services at reasonable prices, to guarantee the distribution of food.

Industry

This sector needs to identify and address obstacles that affect the food supply chains performance. Alternative supply channels must be found to handle the possible surpluses that have resulted from the closure of restaurants, schools, hotels and catering companies, benefiting consumers and small farmers.

It is essential to continue strengthening the demand for production⁷⁶, especially agrobusiness and national industry, through the regionalization of public purchases and the elimination of intermediation, by using the Decree No. 86-20, which provides instruction to the institutions in charge of programs to alleviate poverty, food security, school nutrition, protection of women, disabled, children and adolescents to carry out calls for procurement processes to the agrobusiness and national industry.

It is necessary to simplify the processes related to the sanitary registration,

which have a high economic cost and important barrier for the competitiveness of the industrial sector of the Dominican Republic⁷⁷.

It is necessary to stimulate investment in infrastructure to boost aggregate demand and the construction sector, given the high weighting of national production and the generation of employment. By prioritizing state investment in the construction of public infrastructure during the 2021-2024 period, the central government can directly stimulate demand and job creation, and compensate for the lack of spending by the private sector and households. Finally, due to the impact of COVID-19 in the industry sector of the Dominican Republic, there is a need to design economic recovery plans that take into account the impact on resilience of social and natural systems that cause closed cycled economies. This should be part of a strategy to attract investment and to increase competitiveness at the international level. The Dominican Republic has a high

This sector needs to identify and address obstacles that affect the food supply chains performance.

amount of industrial waste and a low treatment of industrial water that coexists with a lack of penalization, regulation, and regime of consequences.

The economic recovery policies must consider incentives for the adoption

⁷⁶ Decree No. 86-20 provides a mechanism for the application of this policy. According to article 1 of this presidential provision, "Institutions in charge of executing programs aimed at alleviating poverty, food, school nutrition, protection of women, the disabled, children and adolescents are instructed ...".

⁷⁷ According to the National Competitiveness Council, the procedures related to the sanitary registry constitute more than 40% of the administrative costs.

of environmentally clean production mechanisms in manufacturing activities. In the short term, technical support programs should be established, as well as pilot programs to implement circular economy principles in the production and to optimize plastic waste management in industrial parks. These policies would send a clear message to the international community about the Dominican Republic's efforts to achieve a more sustainable production.

Commerce

It is necessary to continue the promotion and facilitation of the ICT use in companies throughout the commerce sector, especially in MSMEs, to adopt teleworking measures, as well as the development of sales, marketing and distribution of their goods and services through digital channels. These measures could allow them to continue expanding their range of influence and attracting new customers, which is especially necessary in the most disadvantaged areas of

the country where it is urgent to reduce the access gap to digitization.

The recovery of the trade sector makes necessary to deepen the specialized business counseling, training and support programs for micro, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs, especially in the most disadvantaged areas of the country. It is necessary to continue the implementation of actions for the reactivation of MSMEs, which include soft financing, quick liquidity facilities, tax facilities and business formalization.

Tourism

Tour operators, especially the most vulnerable, have been living without a minimum level of income for several months. It is essential to support the reactivation of tourist demand, with the establishment of clear and transparent reopening plans, in different geographical areas and subsectors, with the precise industry communication triggers.

The tourism intelligence system must be strengthened to observe -with greater precision- the needs, desires and demands of the different segments, as well as their degree of resilience. In addition, it is necessary to establish basic indicators for sectoral planning, such as average stay, or the average time in advance of reservations.

Under this context, it should be evaluated the relative importance of aid plans that cover the emergency costs of international visitors, long stay accommodation and the costs of changing flights in the event of an outbreak. Another very relevant aspect to consider is to work closely with the airlines to avoid air connectivity loss.

Different ways to reactivate the demand of tourist companies should be promoted, by stimulating the recovery of visitors (tourist demand) and promoting measures to adapt the provision of goods and services to visitors.

It is necessary to consider instruments that facilitate access to credit or refinancing under adequate conditions for companies in the sector. Demand and supply must be diversified, with special attention to promoting innovation and intelligent management of destinations, as well as boosting internal tourism and the design of a long-term tourism strategy to increase productivity, added value and sustainability of the sector.

The conservation of natural, cultural and heritage capital should be the main basis of the development model, not only for the sustainability purposes, but also because it has become an essential element for demand. Therefore, comprehensive coastal management plans, as well as integrated water and solid waste management plans, are essential. These aspects are even more relevant post-COVID-19 since studies shows the growing importance of being perceived as a sustainable destination. In this new post-pandemic

period, it will be important and fundamental to adapt the sector to climate change and to improve its resilience.

Another important aspect, as recommended by the World Tourism Organization (2020), is investing in the human resources of the sector, by focusing on training in strategic areas such as digital services, entrepreneurship, and health protocols.

At the same time, it will be necessary to evaluate how to support affected workers (the majority are women⁷⁸ and vulnerable population⁷⁹), especially those in a situation of poverty or risk. Although the country has already implemented a variety of programs to support the income of workers in this sector, such as FASE, the future of these programs is not yet clear.

Public-private cooperation, as shown in the Responsible Tourism Recovery Plan for COVID-19, led by the Ministry of Tourism together with the National Association of Hotels

and Tourism of the Dominican Republic (ASONAHORES), will be important for the reactivation of the sector. In addition, greater international coordination with other countries is necessary on issues such as protocols and travel requirements.

The new post-COVID-19 demand orients towards a tourism model of less intensity, with a greater geographical footprint, health awareness, safety and well-being, and less crowded environment. The promotion of this type of tourism also offers greater linkage potential with the national value chain and a greater contribution for reducing poverty and inequality.

78 Of the total number of working women in the tourism sector, 65.9% carry out informal activities directly associated with this activity.

79 Processed by the Human Development Unit with the database of the National Labor Force Survey-BCRD.

6.2. Social sector needs: health, education, and culture

Health

A gradual and progressive increase in public spending and investment in health should be promoted, at least 6% of GDP, in order to face current and other health emergencies. At least 30% of these resources must be implemented at the first care level, with the intention of transforming the health system into a universal access to health and coverage, in order to advance towards the 2030 sustainable development goals.

Strengthening the first level of care should have a positive impact on the continuity of essential health services for patients, including the care of patients living with chronic diseases, HIV / AIDS, disability, as well as children and adolescents, women and older adults. In addition, as part of the maternal and child health programs, nutritional interventions should be implemented to improve the general state of health, the

strengthening of the immune system and the reduction of malnutrition risk.

In the short term, specialized health human resources and adequate support personnel must be guaranteed; as well as the provision of supplies and the necessary equipment to attend moderate and severe cases. Also, it is important that the country continue with its plan to expand hospital beds and ICU beds in the health facilities of the public, private and military networks.

Similarly, it is important to strengthen the management of the supply chain in accordance with the needs of the different levels; guarantee the effective management of personal protective equipment for the maintenance and effective achievement of infection prevention and control; strengthen surveillance and public health actions to stabilize the increase in cases through mass sampling, identification and isolation of cases and contact tracing; and to unify the collection of information (number of hospitalizations, sex, age, days, beds, discharges,

deaths, among others) of the public network, private and military health establishments (command control panel) for the timely decision making process.

Educación

The Plan "Education for All Preserving Health", which began its implementation in the 2020-2021 school year, is the recovery education strategy instrument of the sector to face the pandemic. It is expected to consolidate the hybrid model (virtual and face-to-face) of teaching and learning process throughout this Plan.

To manage educational continuity under a hybrid teaching and learning scheme that considers the reopening of schools, a greater investment - more efficient and equitable - of public resources in education is required, including the vulnerable schools, and the use of technology and available data.

Evidently, for the an educational recovery sector, it will be necessary to move towards a hybrid model of teaching and learning by adapting the

following phases: Contingency (2020-2021 school year), Transition (implement under hybrid modalities) and new normal, which will correspond to the period that begins once the pandemic is overcome.

Given the current context of the pandemic, it is not possible to indicate the beginning and end period of each phase, however, it is necessary to advance simultaneously in a series of actions that could

enable a transition from the current distance education (contingency phase), towards a hybrid model of teaching and learning (virtual and face-to-face), arranged into the following pillars.

PILLAR 1

PREPARING SCHOOLS FOR A SAFE REOPENING:

It is focuses on providing potable water supply, as well as washing and toilet services in adequate quantities for the safety of the school community. Besides the adaptation of educational infrastructure to allow the flow and social distancing, this phase will enable spaces for psychosocial care for members of the educational community and it will provide cleaning materials and personal protection items. In addition, the availability of electricity in schools will facilitate the hybrid model of teaching and learning.

PILLAR 2

NEW PEDAGOGIES, COMPETENCIES AND TEACHER PROFILE:

It will support teachers through training programs to use effectively and appropriately the different tools and platforms during the face-to-face and remote time classes. Likewise, it will be necessary to develop skills for the use of hybrid modalities, capacities to detect learning difficulties, provide support to students and to take advantage of technologies to accelerate the learning process.

PILLAR 3

EQUIPMENT AND CONNECTIVITY:

Intensify, expand and improve the implementation of the hybrid education model, by establishing the necessary digital conditions at schools and homes. Also ensure access to technological devices for vulnerable students, expand connectivity to schools, teachers, and students, and use of multi-channel strategies (television, radio, internet, printed materials) to deliver content to all students.

PILLAR 4

PLATFORMS AND CONTENT:

Strengthen learning management platforms to monitor student activities and maintain fluid communication with parents. Likewise, implement platforms that promote the development of autonomous skills, collaboration, and project work.

PILLAR 5

DATA AND STUDENT MONITORING:

Strengthen educational management systems to monitor the educational trajectories of students, such as early warning systems to identify students at risk of dropping out of school or learning lag, and to provide support with tutorials and personalized accompaniment, when necessary, as well as designing school reintegration programs, accelerated education or other related programs.

Therefore, it will be necessary for the Ministry of Education to strengthen its partnerships with other national sectors, as well as with international agencies, and to open permanent spaces for coordination and collaboration to comprehensively address the different actions of the "Education for All Preserving the Health" Plan.

Culture

For the impacts caused in the **culture sector**, recovery needs

are visualized along four lines:

a) direct support to artists and professionals, b) assistance and promotion to the culture and creativity, c) promotion of competitiveness, and d) strengthening of governance and participation.

The **artists and professionals of this union** also need the coverage of the social benefits and health coverage system. Funds should be revitalized to reactivate this sector, with actions such as the inclusion of cultural workers in transversal

activities in other sectors, such as in the educational system and in health and prevention campaigns. Actions to safeguard, register and preserve cultural expressions should also be strengthened.

Secondly, Second, it is necessary to **support and promote the sector of the Cultural Patronage Law**, and the provision of subsidies to sustain and adapt the cultural infrastructure, provide temporary flexibility of obligations and facilitate

the use of public cultural infrastructure.

Third, it is necessary to improve the **competitiveness of cultural and creative industries**, by strengthening the generation of data and the systematization of cultural information, with the development of actions for the formalization of the sector, by providing access to social benefits, protection, financing, and credits.

6.3. Infrastructure sector needs: transportation, environment, and water and sanitation

Transport

Investment in infrastructure, and particularly in the transport sector, offers an attractive alternative since it simultaneously addresses a variety of challenges: it enhances economic growth by driving demand, increases the productivity of productive factors, reduces greenhouse

gas emissions and air pollution, increases the competitiveness of economies, generates sustainable jobs and improves income distribution.

Investing in the construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets is key to promote economic reactivation and recovery in any country, and the international experience have demonstrated. In general, infrastructure, and especially that associated with the transport sector, is a dire in industry, commerce and in sectors of the economy such as tourism and agriculture⁸⁰; In addition, improving the efficiency of infrastructure systems can be an opportunity to boost growth without an additional tax burden⁸¹.

Consequently, the PNI⁸² have proposed a list of transportation 199 projects for an amount of US\$10,973 MM, among which are urban mobility, logistics and connectivity projects, ports, and airports, as well as investments of different budget scales and level of maturity, which makes an efficient tool to distribute resources in a reasonable time.

Another relevant factor is to complement these interventions with the construction and reconstruction of local roads in the different geographical areas, which has high impacts in terms of productivity for the regions and connectivity for neighboring populations, with favorable results not only economically but also social.

Finally, and for investment in transport infrastructure to be sustainable within a process of economic recovery, its development is recommended under three relevant aspects: a) Improvement and management of infrastructure in a sustained manner and in harmony with the environment, b) Strengthening of infrastructure planning systems,

⁸⁰ For example, a 1% increase in transportation productivity would increase agricultural productivity by 1.2%, according to the IDB analysis "Building Opportunities for Growth in a Challenging World."

⁸¹ IDB, Macroeconomic Report of Latin America and the Caribbean 2019.

⁸² PNI National Infrastructure Plan 2020 - 2030.

so that an environmental sustainability and resilience approach to climate change events can be systematically considered, accompanied by a standardization of design through regulation, which includes the variable of resilience as a mandatory technical parameter, c) Taking advantage of new technologies to underpin the impact of investment in infrastructure, where the digitization of services has the potential to reactivate inclusive economic growth.

Environment

To guarantee the operation of the main environmental institutions of the country, it is necessary to continue with the implementation of biosafety protocols to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, provide biosafety equipment in the Ministry and in protected areas and at garbage collection service brigades to prevent the risk of contagion.

It is necessary to systematize the information and to carry out the monitoring of environmental indicators (air

pollution and noise) through the Environmental Quality Laboratory and establish the National System of Environmental Information and Statistics and promote the use of digital technologies to facilitate environmental monitoring.

It is necessary to improve the solid waste management system through the implementation of the General Solid Waste Law and the promotion of programs for the proper management of hazardous waste within hospitals and health centers.

In addition, the incentive Green and decent jobs may be a necessary measure to strengthen employment in the country, through the promotion of labor-intensive forestry programs, and the recovery of the production and maintenance of forest seedlings in the nurseries of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Similarly, it is necessary to promote public-private partnerships for green recovery, especially for the management of protected areas, the conservation of biodiversity

and the promotion of a circular economy based on ecological design, for an efficient use of resources and a sustainable production and consumption. This would include development of joint programs with the tourism sector for the protection of the coasts, the improvement of the environmental performance and the reduction of the carbon footprint.

Water and sanitation

In the short term, ensuring continuous and quality access to PHC services is a high priority to health and educational centers and to the most vulnerable populations affected by the pandemic. In the medium and longer term, meeting the Sustainable Development Goals requires a comprehensive reform program for the PHC sector.

The pre-existing structural limitations of the sector need to be addressed for having more resilient water and sanitation institutions. This requires a strategy of greater investments and priorities that obtains better returns, while increasing the quality

The pre-existing structural limitations of the sector need to be addressed for having more resilient water and sanitation institutions.

and coverage of services. It should also be noted that the impact has been differentiated according to service suppliers, given the amounts collected, invoiced and the evolution of collection efficiency, therefore, it is important to adopt differentiated recovery measures by each provider.

In terms of investments, the National Infrastructure Plan estimates a scenario of comprehensive sanitation solutions with sewerage in priority areas and the management of individual solutions, to guarantee the safe sanitation service to the entire urban population. In addition, in rural areas, the proposal is to ensure suppliers, basic universal access to water and sanitation

services. For the 2020-2030 period, Inapa and the CORAA companies made an investment proposal of US \$ 3.7billion⁸³.

This proposal intends to improve the efficiency and financial sustainability of service-providing institutions, with measures such as the expansion of digital billing and the introduction of schemes to encourage providers of PHC services an improvement of commercial management (incentives linked to government transfers, results-based technical assistance models, etc.), and other possible measures.

⁸³ IDB (2020) National Infrastructure Plan of the Dominican Republic, Water and Sanitation Sector Note.

7. Recovery Strategy Proposal

Recovery vision

An innovative, sustainable, and territorially balanced recovery for the human, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic is proposed, which protects the most vulnerable and accelerates changes for the construction of a prosperous, inclusive and resilient country with a better quality of life for all people.

Strategic guidelines for recovery

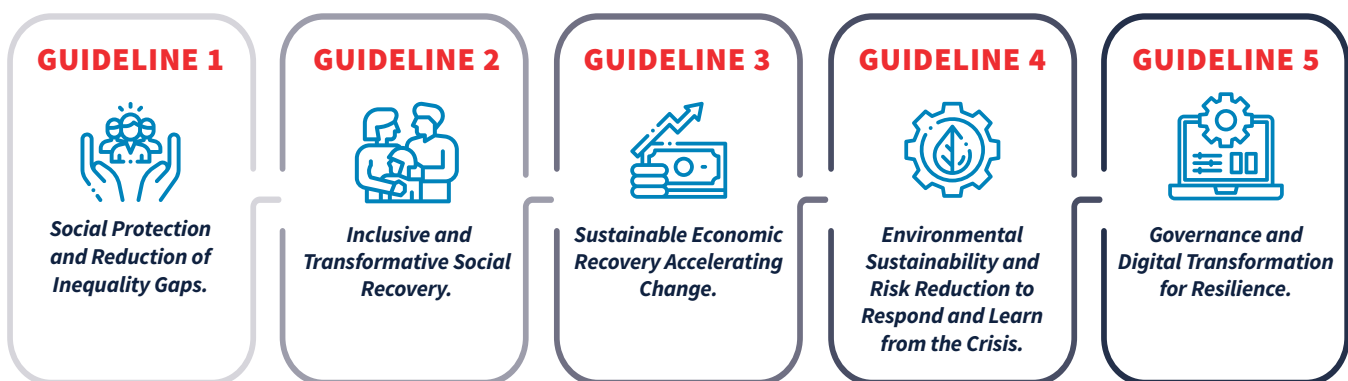
The proposed strategic guidelines are interconnected and reflect the orientation towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the best international practices for managing the effects and impacts of COVID-19 for the sustainability of development. Additionally, and deliberately, the strategic guidelines propose

an articulation with the development vision defined in the National Development Strategy 2030, as well as with the guidelines of the National Multi-year Plan of the Public Sector 2024.

The five guidelines of recovery are directly linked to the lines established in the National Multiannual Public Sector Plan (PNPSP) and as well as to the National Development Strategy (END) 2030:

FIGURE 7.

PROPOSED STRATEGIC GUIDELINES FOR POST-COVID-19 RECOVERY AND ARTICULATION WITH THE NATIONAL STRATEGY



Links between the Recovery Strategy and the National Multiannual Plan of the Public Sector and the National Development Strategy

The way in which the Recovery Strategy actions are integrated and articulated with the PNPS and the END, indicates a direct correlation with the objectives and the strategic development areas of the country. All the proposed activities of the recovery strategy are linked to the national development policy and seek links between the sectors, institutions and governance instruments, with emphasis on the most affected sectors due to the pandemic of COVID-19 and the priorities to minimize the impact on ongoing development processes.

The following strategy proposes a series of combined short, medium and long-term actions to respond to the identified needs and were based on the following criteria: a) rapid execution, b) priority to social and sector coverage, c) it is based on existing programs,

projects and instruments, d) it is consistent with the medium and long-term development objectives and vision, and e) the use of resources is easily accessible or redirected.

7.1. Strategic Guideline 1. Social protection and the reduction of inequality gaps.

The set of actions in this Strategic Guideline is based on expanding social protection programs, targeting social groups that have become more vulnerable, and developing complementary actions to offer sustainable exit routes to face the crisis.

Strategic Guideline 1 of the Recovery Plan is linked to the PNPS in the lines related to the policy of creating opportunities (Line 3), formal employment (Line 1) and agricultural and fishing development (Line 11); and with the END regarding society with equal rights (Guideline 2) and opportunities, and a sustainable, inclusive, and competitive economy (Guideline 3).

To respond to the severe human impact generated by the pandemic, the activities from various strategic guidelines must be articulated.

The country must respond to the increase in poverty and extreme poverty, the drop falls in labor income and the deterioration in living conditions, especially in vulnerable groups such as women and youth, and the most affected productive sectors. It is also necessary to develop timely actions to provide livelihoods to face the food deficiencies that were accentuated by the pandemic and more unfavorable conditions encountered by children, young people, and people with disabilities.

To respond to the severe human impact generated by the pandemic, the activities from various strategic guidelines

It is necessary to extend the protection coverage to the new vulnerable population groups.

must be articulated; Guideline 1, referring to social protection and reduction of inequality gaps, is especially relevant. The main proposed programs are the following:

a) Strengthen adaptive social protection to mitigate shocks

The recovery of human impacts makes it necessary to **deepen social protection policies and lines of action to face shocks**, to overcome vulnerabilities and to obtain greater territorial appropriation.

It is recommended to strengthen social protection to combat poverty as a reaction

mechanism to face the crisis and impacts derived from COVID-19, and to be prepared for possible critical events such as those derived from climate change (disasters), to contain the human impact and the sustainability of development achievements made by the Dominican Republic.

It is necessary to extend the protection coverage to the new vulnerable population groups, especially people with disabilities and migrants. The extension of coverage of social protection programs to combat poverty to groups that have entered these conditions must be coordinated with Prosoli's capacity development programs and with community network⁸⁴. The Prosoli network should play a role in strengthening the social group with guidance strategies or exit routes for vulnerable households and the strengthening of productive projects that complement the 'Get over yourself' strategy, which focuses as a priority the inclusion of women and young.

This program should promote a culture of economic and

social recognition of caregivers, as well as promote the sexual and reproductive rights of the population, a free life of violence, and the physical autonomy of women. The social protection program 'Get over yourself' should be an instrument to promote the appreciation of the culture of care, promoting sexual rights, as well as the creation of new jobs and women's labor insertion.

Additionally, incentives must be created to maintain the social protection contributions (Social Security System) and expand coverage to the informal sector with new work modalities.

b) Strengthen employment

Employment for youth and women: When considering the differentiated impacts of the pandemic on the different population groups, it is necessary to strengthen employment programs

⁸⁴ See National Protocol for Action against Climate Shocks.

with an emphasis on youth and women, for which it is possible to use mechanisms to promote entrepreneurship, job creation with incentives for youth and women, and the promotion of labor reconversion processes. In youth employment, subsidies can be created for the incorporation of this labor force.

Secondly, it is convenient to release a program to promote youth employment in agricultural activities with emphasis on –the back to the field approach, especially for young people and the recovery of unproductive areas. An offer for new agricultural entrepreneurs with a support kit (technical assistance, financing, irrigation systems and seeds, land preparation and access to tools) could be offered and complement the component of Food security, nutrition and generation income of Prosoli.

Green and adaptable jobs

It is convenient to continue with the support measures for independent workers by

providing flexible working hours with conditions of social distancing and also for family caregivers.

Additionally, double dividend strategies can be promoted, for example, the creation of green jobs, with the intensive use of labor for forestry activities, and the use of energy, water management and watersheds, among others.

c) Nutrition measures

It is necessary to strengthen actions such as support for food banks, school vegetable garden and agriculture family programs, both urban and peri urban. In addition, it is pertinent to intensify child nutrition programs and school feeding programs.

d) Tax measures

It is essential to explore into tax progressivity and to continue with tax compliance facilities for the most affected sectors, with an emphasis on small and medium-sized companies.

A support kit could be offer to new agricultural entrepreneurs (technical assistance, financing, irrigation systems and seeds, land preparation and access to tools).

7.2.

Strategic Guideline 2. Inclusive and transformative social recovery

In this Guideline, actions for the production and distribution of health goods and services are recommended; the reopening of educational centers and the recovery of lagging behind students and students at risk of dropping out; as well as actions to improve and strengthen the culture sector capacities.

Strategic Guideline 2 of the Recovery Strategy is linked to the PNPSP in the lines related to access to universal health, quality education with equity, opportunities for youth and culture for change (lines 4, 5, 6 and 9); and with the END in relation to Guideline 2: Society with Equal Rights and Opportunities, specifically in health aspects and inclusive social security, quality education for all, and culture and national identity.

a) Recovery of physical and mental health

It is necessary to guarantee adequate access and supply of health goods and services, including COVID-19 tests, vaccination services, and medicines and supplies required for the treatment of sick people. Similarly, the expansion of the installed health capacity is required, especially the improvement of the Intensive Care Units.

Second, it is necessary to develop a plan to update vaccinations for diseases

other than COVID-19, as well as consultation services and treatments that have been delayed in their care, especially for pregnant women, people with disabilities, boys / girls and adolescents and older adults. Additionally, a suitable broad mental health program must be designed to assess the emotional and psychological impacts of the pandemic and the implementation of mitigation actions for its consequences.

b) Reduce the educational gap

The safe strategy and gradual reopening of educational centers should be strengthened while preserving health. This should include support and recovery for students who are lagging and at risk of dropping out. Likewise, a monitoring and early warning system must be put in place to protect students at risk of dropping out or lagging (attendance, permanence, learning).

It is necessary to advance in the strategy of strengthening blended education, including

the application of curricular adaptation, the pedagogical strategy "We learn at home", the virtualization of training in competencies and curricular content, teacher training and the delivery of technological equipment to students, as well as internet access.

In this particular stage, the work of community liaisons is important to become monitors and to be able to warn about the persistence of problems in certain geographic areas. A system is required to identify students who, due to the effects of the pandemic, may drop out of school, risk of increased child employment (especially in rural areas), risks of malnutrition in early childhood, among others.

c) Cultural development in safe conditions

This component of the strategy must respond to recovering culture as an economic activity, as well as a fundamental social value for the Dominican Republic.

It is important to strengthen the Ministry of Culture as the governing body and coordinator of all cultural and recovery policies.

As an economic and short-term activity, it is necessary to offer access to financing and credits for cultural enterprises, with broad and inclusive coverage in the national territory; and to promote the use, construction, or adaptation of a public cultural infrastructure in open spaces (e.g., Parks), for the development of cultural activities under biosafety conditions.

To generate an effect of recovery and strengthening of sectoral development, the labor formalization of cultural workers should be pursued, and access to health services

and social benefits guaranteed. Additionally, it is necessary to speed up the approval and implementation of promotion tools and instruments, such as the Cultural Patronage Law.

Finally, in terms of governance and participation, it is important to strengthen the Ministry of Culture as the governing body and coordinator of all cultural and recovery policies, to establish partnerships with local governments to seek the reactivation of local economy, driven by culture activities, and with the private sector stimulate innovation and promotion of a creative environment.

7.3. Strategic Guideline 3. Sustainable economic recovery accelerating change

Economic recovery must be based on the revitalization of fast accelerating productive sectors - development machines- of economic growth, to generate high production chains and rapid job creation. Second,

it must be oriented towards the recovery specific effects for each economic subsector. It is proposed to implement the economic recovery strategy, which is based on the revitalization of rapid productive sectors - development machines - in three sectors: a) construction, b) tourism and c) green economy.

Guideline 3 of the Recovery Strategy is linked to the PNPSP in the lines related to tourism, industrial development, trade, promotion of MSMEs, transport sector and agricultural and fishing development (Lines 11, 19, 21 22, 23, 27); and with the END in Guideline 3: Sustainable, inclusive, and competitive economy, specifically in matters of sufficient and decent jobs; articulated, innovative and environmentally sustainable economy; and competitiveness and innovation.

a) Accelerators of economic recovery

Construction. The construction of infrastructure is a great generator of employment and a catalyst for productive and social sectors. This type

of investment is essential due to its strong linkages, the high generation of employment and its ability to distribute livelihoods in the territory. The strategy for recovering the economy dynamism with construction as the growth engine, will compensate the uncertainty about the traditional external mechanisms of the Dominican economy, such as the processing industry of the free zones and the export of emblematic agricultural products, such as tobacco, cocoa, coffee, and sugar.

Therefore, it is recommended to continue with programs for the improvement and / or reconstruction of homes for individual with limited resources. In the same way, it is urgent to advance in the execution of the Road Infrastructure Plan, as well as to undertake the improvement and construction of tertiary roads, and to execute a plan aimed to reduce the vulnerability of critical infrastructures during natural hazards, with priority in schools and primary health care centers and hospitals.

Likewise, promote small community infrastructure works, such as water supply systems to serve communities, educational and health centers, to overcome social deprivation solution and an opportunity for the rapid generation of livelihoods. Finally, the adaptation of public infrastructure to facilitate mobility of people with disabilities and elderly groups. This component has a potential opportunity to establish public-private partnerships to integrate the private sector in socio-economic recovery strategies.

Tourism. The Responsible Tourism Recovery Plan for COVID-19⁸⁵ establishes a comprehensive set of actions to mitigate sectoral impacts where the importance of financing facilities required by small operators in the tourism chain, including accommodation and transport services.

The tourism recovery strategy must be based on the introduction of new styles of tourism that are more

The development of incentives in the tourism industry for building resilience and green economy should be promoted.

sustainable and integrated into the territories, which promote the generation of benefits in the neighboring communities where tourism activity takes place. The development of incentives in the tourism industry for building resilience and green economy should be promoted, such as the conversion of conventional energy systems into tourist centers for a transition to clean energy, the promotion of resilience and the reduction

⁸⁵ Ministry of Tourism in conjunction with the National Association of Hotels and Tourism of the Dominican Republic (ASONAHORES).

of the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to earthquakes and extreme weather events.

Green economy. The transition from traditional productive and social systems to environmentally sustainable systems is appropriate. It is convenient to guide transition systems to clean energies and to promote clean production practices and a circular economy in most development sectors, such as industrial waste management and industrial wastewater treatment, sustainable transport, and alternative means (bicycle lanes, electric vehicles, etc.), reduction of single-use plastics, proper wastewater management and environmentally friendly tourism.

b) Strengthening of productive sectors

The strengthening of productive sectors such as agriculture and fishing, industry and commerce, must include access to loans, financial relief and liquidity

facilitation to companies affected by the reduction or lack of demand.

The production recovery of the agricultural sector should mainly focus on small farmers and their families, and workers in the food sector. Small rural enterprises should be strengthened and a sustainable food security policy should be implemented.

The strengthening of the agricultural and fishing productive sector should focus on access to financing, eliminating obstacles for minor loans and creating special opportunities for quick credit access (especially in the Agricultural Bank). Credit facilities should be given priority to associations and cooperatives of small and medium producers.

It should be continued with the purchase of surplus production, particularly poultry, dairy, and vegetables production, and channel them towards social food aid programs; promote the storage of perishable products in cold stores and facilitate

agricultural financing with flexible conditions. Likewise, it is necessary to maintain the supply of assistance to production through land mechanization services and distribution of inputs, among others.

In order to assist producers, the agricultural and fishing activities should be strengthened to provide planting materials, land preparation, promote urban and peri urban school gardens, improving animal, plant and safety health services, and the conformation of day laborers' brigades to assist producers.

When considering the impact of the pandemic on productive activities of vulnerable groups, emphasis should be placed on horticultural, cocoa and tobacco production, which require support and supplies, irrigation infrastructure, storage systems, road improvements, as well as facilities for innovation and technology transfer. Opportunities to diversify the financing modalities to support production will be done and maintain access to transport services at prices that guarantee the distribution of food.

Recovery must be oriented towards a more resilient agricultural sector, respectful of the environment and adapted to climate change, with agricultural alert systems, insurance mechanisms and diversified production.

The productive recovery of the industrial and commercial sectors requires the provision of cash aid to the most affected companies due to the decrease in demand. The production demand will be fostered⁸⁶, especially from agrobusiness and national industry, in search of the regionalization of public purchases and the elimination of intermediation, within the framework of Decree No. 86-20. This regulatory framework empowers the institutions with responsibilities for the execution of programs aimed to alleviate poverty, food, school nutrition, protection of women, disabled, children and adolescents, to place procurement processes to the agrobusiness and national industry.

It also seek out to reduce and streamline the health registration processes, which

constitute a high economic cost and an important barrier to the competitiveness of the industrial sector⁸⁷.

It is pertinent to design economic recovery plans by production chain and attract investment, increase competitiveness at the international level, based on good environmental practices and a circular economy, for example, with the management of industrial waste and industrial wastewater treatment.

For the recovery of transport and mobility is necessary to build and maintain infrastructures associated with the transport sector; construction and reconstruction of local roads, the adaptation of public infrastructure to facilitate the mobility of people with disabilities and the elderly, the promotion of green mobility, especially in the development of bicycle lanes, and leverage financial relief for debtors in the transport sector.

To strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises, it is necessary to promote their

participation in the public sector procurement and supply systems. Small and medium-sized companies, including transport, commerce and services require financial facilities.

7.4. Strategic Guideline 4. Environmental sustainability and risk reduction to respond to and learn from the crisis

This guideline incorporates actions for the development of policies and programs for the adequate management of solid

⁸⁶ Decree no. 86-20 provides a mechanism for the application of this policy. According to article 1 of this presidential provision, "Institutions in charge of executing programs aimed at alleviating poverty, food, school nutrition, protection of women, the disabled, children and adolescents are instructed ...".

⁸⁷ According to the National Competitiveness Council, the procedures related to the sanitary registry constitute more than 40% of the administrative costs.

waste; the increase in the use of clean energy in the sectors of tourism, education, health; the promotion of jobs in forestry activities and public-private partnerships for the provision of water, sanitation, and environmental sustainability services.

This Guideline is linked to the PNPSP in the lines related to access to water and environmental sustainability and climate change (Lines 12 and 24); and with the END in Guideline 4: Sustainable consumption and production society that adapts to climate change, on issues related to sustainable environmental management, risk management and adequate adaptation to climate change.

a) Environmental care

This guide pursues the promotion of environmental sustainability and risk reduction to respond to and learn from the crisis, with double purposes, since it enables the economy reactivation while allow the achievements of sustainable development conditions for the country.

Strengthening the management of climate change in recovery can be developed by increasing the participation of clean energy in the energy matrix of the tourism, education, health sectors, including the use of alternative fuels for homes. The transition to a resilient agricultural sector adapted to climate be developed through agricultural alert systems, the promotion of agricultural insurance, the diversification of production and the construction of infrastructure adapted to climate change.

Greater environmental care would be achieved through the development of policies and programs for the proper management of solid waste, the implementation of the new Solid Waste Law, and the promotion of programs for the proper management of hazardous waste in hospitals and medical centers. Likewise, public-private partnerships will be promoted for the provision of water and basic sanitation services and environmental sustainability (circular economy, protected areas, biodiversity, protection of coasts).

Public-private alliances will be promoted for the provision of water and basic sanitation services and environmental sustainability..

b) Risk management

Risk management can be given a greater boost by prioritizing projects in risk reduction and critical watershed management with nature-based solutions (reforestation of critical points).

7.5. Strategic Guideline 5. Governance and digital transformation for resilience

Recovery with a focus on resilience and transition to development makes it necessary to strengthen governance mechanisms .

Guideline 5 of the Strategy is linked to the PNPS in the lines related to territorial and municipal public policies, the modern and institutional state and digital transformation (Lines 15, 18 and 26); and with the END in Guideline 1, related to the democratic social state of law, in matters of efficient, transparent, and results-oriented public administration and participatory democracy and responsible citizenship.

Currently, strengthening governance and economic development make digital transformation essential. As a result, the development of health, education, public services, and environmental management services require digital transformation processes. The generation of opportunities for training, digitization and electronic commerce is needed for small and medium-sized companies. The promotion of digital technologies is vital to facilitate environmental monitoring and development of potable water and basic sanitation sector, as well as in strengthening health services (telemedicine).

Digital development would also allow the improvement

of government mechanisms and public policies for risk management, the provision of critical public services, and public management for transparency, access to information, and accountability.

Improving governance makes it necessary to deepen decentralization and the full development of local capacities in the territories, deconcentrate human resource capacities and transfer to the territories, as well as the financial resources necessary for development. In this sense, it is necessary to territorialize various public, social and sectoral policies; and improve coordination schemes between the national, provincial, local, and inter-territorial levels.

The impacts derived from the pandemic should leave transformative lessons for the country for better crisis management, including those that can result from an extension of epidemics, tropical storms, climate change, earthquakes, or a shock derived from a change in global economic conditions.

The development of national capacities may include a) updating the Risk Management Law and establishing a

The generation of opportunities for training, digitization and electronic commerce is needed for small and medium-sized companies.

regime of consequences for non-compliance, b) the establishment of national protocols for crisis management by the high national government, c) the development of a national strategy, which includes a strategic reserve for a prompt response to future crises (capacities, equipment and supplies), and d) the incorporation of disaster risk analysis in public investment projects.

Digital transformation may include a) offering training programs, access to digitization and electronic commerce to MSMEs, b) digital transformation to strengthen health services

through telemedicine, c) promoting digital technologies to facilitate environmental monitoring and in the APS sector, and d) development of public management monitoring and follow-up systems for transparency, access to information and accountability.

Although there are a series of goals and indicators set out in the END, and the monitoring of which is carried out through the PNPS; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country's development should motivate the review and adjustment of the indicators on the most affected sectors,

considering current scenarios and trends, depending on the scope and achievements of the recovery.

The impact on human development by COVID-19 has highlighted aspects of development that need to be analyzed considering the country's capacities, to face the challenges of recovery, with a transformation approach. The recovery strategy indicates the key aspects that need to be addressed and the establishment of its relationship with development goals is essential to improve the criteria for prioritizing actions, and

to meet the demands of the most affected populations and sectors.

When considering the importance of implementing a recovery strategy based on integrality and sustainability approach, it is necessary to ensure the establishment of links between the different lines of the Recovery Strategy; to maintain the intersectoral vision, to assure the coordination between all the actors and the transversality of the actions based on the goals established in the END and the PNPS.

Acronyms

APA	Advance Pricing Agreements
APS	Drinking Water And Basic Sanitation
APS	Primary Health Care
BEEP	School Bond Studying Progress
BGH	Bonogás Home
BH	Driver Bonus
BID	Inter-American Development Bank
BL	Bonoluz
BM	World Bank
Cepal	Economic Commission For Latin America And The Caribbean
Confotur	Tourist Promotion Council
CRNA	Post Covid-19 Recovery Needs Assessment
DGII	General Directorate Of Internal Taxes
END	National Development Strategy
Enhogar	National Multi-Purpose Household Survey
EU	European Union
ICC	Cultural And Creative Industries
IES	Incentive For Higher Education
ILAE	Incentive For School Attendance
Inabie	National Institute Of Student Welfare
Inapa	National Institute Of Drinking Waters And Sewers
JNET	Young People Who Neither Study Nor Work

MARN	Ministry Of Environment And Natural Resources
MEPyD	Ministry Of Economy, Planning And Development
MICM	Ministry Of Industry, Commerce And Msmes
Minerd	Ministry Of Education Of The Dominican Republic
MOPC	Ministry Of Public Works And Communications
MSP	Ministry Of Public Health
ODS	Sustainable Development Goals
OMS	World Health Organization
OMSA	Metropolitan Office Of Bus Services
ONG	Non-Governmental Organization
Pa ´ Ti	Independent Worker Assistance Program
PAE	School Feeding Program
PCP	Eat First Program
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
PIAARD	Army Enlisted Incentive Program Dominican Republic
PIB	Gross Domestic Product
PIPP	Incentive Program for the Preventive Police
PISA	Program for International Student Assessmen
PNPSP	National Multiannual Plan of the Public Sector
PNRE	National Regularization Plan
PNUD	United Nations Development Program
Prosoli	Progressing with Solidarity
PROVIDE	Protection Program for the Aged in Extreme Poverty

SARS	Severe acute respiratory syndrome
SEIA	SEIA-Red Actúa Survey
Sidocal	Dominican System for Quality
Sinassan	National System for Food and Nutrition Sovereignty and Security
Siuben	Unique System of Beneficiaries
TAC	Automotive freight transport
ICU	Intensive care unit
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
HIV	HIV
WTTC	The World Travel & Tourism Council / World Travel and Tourism Council

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Annexes

Annex 1: Summary of effects by sector

HUMAN IMPACT	
 Monetary poverty and livelihoods	 Gender
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 650 thousand of new people now live in poverty (27.4%).• 255 thousand new people living in extreme poverty (5.1%) (June 2020).• The mitigation measures prevented 752 thousand people from falling into poverty and 315 thousand into extreme poverty (June 2020).• Proportion of women in poverty increased to 117 for every 100 men in the same socioeconomic condition (June 2020).• Employment was reduced by 336 thousand: 206 thousand from the formal sector, 87 thousand from the informal sector and 43 thousand domestic service (3rd quarter 2019-2020).• Hourly labor income falls from DR \$ 111.6 to DR \$ 103.2 (3rd quarter 2019-2020).• Severe effects on employment in the tourism and culture sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 197 thousand unemployed women vs 131 thousand men.• 292 thousand additional women inactive in employment.• Women take on a greater workload.• 5 thousand unwanted pregnancies due to lack of contraceptives.• Women employed in agriculture and livestock are those with the least purchasing power and, in addition, carry unpaid care work.
 Food Security	 Social inclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 71.9% of households are concerned about not having enough food.• 4/10 interviewees skip meals in the day.• 87% of households stated that prices have increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10.9% of children under 5 have missed their vaccines.• 17 thousand young adults would be added to the 124 thousand who neither study nor work.• 26.8% of people with disabilities without access to medicines or therapies.• 27.6% of people with disabilities lost their job.

SECTOR SOCIAL



Health

- 25.5% of households have difficulty accessing health and medicine.
- A reduction of 3.6 million health visits.
- 969,000 COVID tests have been conducted.
- 25,966 medical services provided for causes associated with COVID.
- The linkage of public, private and military health services network stands out.
- 1.5 million students did not receive preventive, dental, visual, and hearing health services provided by INABE.



Culture

- Contraction of cultural consumption and decrease of spending on culture. 57% decrease in local purchases.
- Loss of jobs, decrease in income aggravated by previous informality and intermittence of cultural workers.
- Decapitalization of the sector and fall in the investment of new creations.



Education

- Decrease of 240,461 students in school enrollment (9.5%). School years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.
- Greater effect in initial level with reduction of 138,516 students (40.7%).
- Enrollment in adult education decreased by 61,247 students (24.2%).
- Enrollment reduction in the private sector; 221,013 students for all levels (37.1%), many of whom have migrated to the public sector.
- The loss of opportunities for individuals between 18 and 20 years of age who would become young people who neither study nor work (JNET), would generate an average reduction of 6.2% in income for the next 20 years of their life.
- Effects on educational quality, lags in the development of capacities and achievements.

PRODUCTIVE SECTOR



Agriculture

- Losses in livestock for US \$ 147.8 million and in agriculture of US \$ 99.6 million.
- The agricultural trade balance (January - October 2020) is in deficit of US \$ 662.7 million, this deficit increased by US \$ 115.7 million compared to 2019.
- Lower production due to a drop in domestic demand (tourism sector) and / or exports.
- Reduced availability of inputs for agricultural production (fertilizers, pesticides); decrease in veterinary and drug services.
- Difficulties to repay or acquire credits.
- Positive impact of family farming avoiding a severe decrease in income and greater food security.



Industry

- Fall in the manufacturing sector of US \$ 1,847 million (14.1%).
- The fall is attributed 37.5% to petroleum refining products, 17.4% to other manufacturing industries and 10.9% to beverages.
- Construction sector sales decreases US \$ 816 million (29.1%).
- Free Zones performance registered a decrease of US \$ 550 million (9.2%).



Tourism

- 47.5% drop in the hotel, bar and restaurant sector.
- Estimated losses of US \$ 6 billion.
- 62.7% drop in international visitors
- Financial expenses, such as the acquisition of new loans, refinancing, bank commissions, expenses generated by an increase in the price of production inputs, loss of perishable products, insurance and expenses generated by contract cancellations.



Commerce

- Losses of US \$ 5.57 billion from income received (27.3%).
- The fall is attributed to other businesses, followed by fuel and vehicle trade.
- Foreign trade reached losses of US \$ 389 million (13.8%).
- According to the MIPYMES survey (January 2021):
 - 80% of companies report on their income. Of these, 47% have arrears in payments to suppliers, 59% are in arrears with their clients' payments. Women-led companies have been the most affected.
 - 73% present a loss in their client portfolio; 30% due to limited payment options, 26% due to liquidity problems and 24% due to supply chain problems.
 - 63% had no possibilities of teleworking.

INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR



Transport

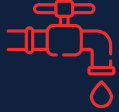
- Sectoral losses of US \$ 352.8 million.
- The metro-cable car system suffered losses of US \$ 17.6 million.
- The conchos and guaguas service lost US \$ 54.3 million in revenue.
- The decrease in INP toll collection was US \$ 13.9 million.
- The small transportation business have had insolvency problems to pay the credits, affecting the service and the livelihoods especially of owners and drivers.



Environment

- Sectoral losses of US \$ 13.4 million.
- Increase in the volume of waste (single-use disposable plastic) and infectious biological hazardous waste without adequate treatment, creating a risk to public health and to the tourism industry (US \$ 4.5 million).
- Increased use of natural resources: 10% of 5,000 households surveyed have made greater use of resources from rivers and forests (SEIA survey).
- Interruption of forestry and agroforestry programs and projects, among others (US \$ 2.6 million).
- 94% decrease in the number of visitors to protected areas: loss of US \$ 4.5 million, affecting its maintenance.
- Decrease in income received from environmental licenses and permits of US \$ 1.2 million.

INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR– SUMMARY OF EFFECTS



Drinking water and sanitation

- Sectoral losses of US \$ 13.3 million.
- Decrease in the amount billed (5%) and collected (13.5%) for PHC services, affecting its financial sustainability (Losses of US \$ 12 million).
- Decrease in the number of service outages (83%).
- Slight increase in the volume of drinking water produced (2%).
- Decrease in water quality monitoring operations.
- Reduction in infrastructure maintenance interventions (30%).
- Increase in digital collection (33%).

Annex 2:

Summary of prioritized needs

The needs identified at the sectoral level were prioritized and sequenced in time considering three moments: the short term, where the most urgent actions to protect people and communities must be included, which includes interventions in the first year; medium-term actions, those that can move to the second and third year; and finally, long-term interventions, which require more than three years to be implemented.

AGRICULTURE NEEDS	Priority level		
	1	2	3
Development of gender and youth policies, as well as other vulnerable population groups in the rural sector.			
Promote the production of family agriculture, and guarantee food security and supply to the population.			
Strengthen small rural accumulation companies and implement a sustainable food security policy.			
Design policies to prevent the spread of poverty in rural areas and keep agricultural cycles operational during the COVID-19 pandemic.			
Promote agricultural financing and flexibility of credit conditions.			
Strengthen agricultural and fishing activities by facilitating access to planting material, land preparation, and support for school, urban and peri-urban gardens.			
Strengthen animal and plant health and safety services and the formation of day laborers' brigades to assist producers.			

INDUSTRY NEEDS	Priority level		
	1	2	3
Identify and address obstacles to the proper functioning of food supply chains.	1		
Strengthen the demand for production, especially from agribusiness and national industry, through the regionalization of public purchases and the elimination of intermediation.		2	
Simplify the processes related to the sanitary registration for the competitiveness of the industrial sector.			3
Stimulate investment in infrastructure, due to its high weighting in national production and its high generation of employment in the Dominican Republic.		2	
Directly stimulate demand and job creation to compensate for the lack of spending by the private sector and households.	1		
Design economic recovery plans that consider the impact on the resilience of social and natural systems caused by closed cycle economies.	1		
Consider incentives for the adoption of environmentally clean production mechanisms in manufacturing activities.		2	
Establish support programs and circular economy pilot programs in production and industrial parks to optimize the management of plastic waste.			3

TOURISM NEEDS	Priority level		
	1	2	3
Strengthen the tourism intelligence system to observe the needs, desires and demands of the different segments more accurately.			3
Establish assistance plans that cover the emergency costs of international visitors.		2	

Reactivate the demand of tourism companies by promoting the recovery of visitors.	Red	Grey	Grey
Consider instruments that facilitate access to credit or refinancing under adequate conditions for companies in the sector.	Red	Grey	Grey
Adapting to climate change in the sector and improving its resilience will also be fundamental aspects in this new post-pandemic period.	Grey	Red	Grey
Invest in the human resources of the sector with a focus on training in strategic areas such as digital services, entrepreneurship, health protocols.	Grey	Grey	Red

HEALTH NEEDS	Priority level		
	1	2	3
Promote a gradual and progressive increase in public spending on health, at least 6% of gross domestic product.	Red	Grey	Grey
Strengthen the first level of care.	Red	Grey	Grey
Implement nutritional interventions as part of maternal and child health programs.	Grey	Red	Grey
Guarantee specialized human resources in health and sufficient support personnel for the management of Covid-19.	Red	Grey	Grey
Provision of supplies and the necessary equipment for the adequate care of moderate and severe cases of Covid-19.	Red	Grey	Grey
Expansion plan for hospital beds and ICU beds in public, private and military health facilities.	Red	Grey	Grey
Strengthen supply chain management according to the needs of the different levels of care.	Grey	Red	Grey
Guarantee the effective management of personal protective equipment for the maintenance and effective achievement of infection prevention and control.	Red	Grey	Grey

Strengthen surveillance and public health actions to counteract the increase in cases through mass sampling, identification, and isolation of cases, and contact tracing.	Red	Grey	Grey
Unify the collection of information (number of hospitalizations, sex, age, days, beds, discharges, deaths, among others) of the health establishments of the public, private and military networks for decision-making	Red	Grey	Grey

EDUCATION NEEDS	Priority level		
	1	2	3
Prepare schools for a safe reopening in the face of the risk associated with Covid-19	Red	Grey	Grey
Implement new pedagogies, skills and teaching profile focused on the digitization and modernization of teaching.	Grey	Red	Grey
Equip institutions and the student community for digital connectivity.	Grey	Red	Grey
Develop learning management content and platforms.	Grey	Grey	Red
Strengthen student data and monitoring systems.	Grey	Grey	Red

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS	Priority level		
	1	2	3
Invest in the construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets in the transportation sector with an environmental focus.	Grey	Red	Grey
Strengthen planning systems for resource investment in the transportation sector.	Red	Grey	Grey
Construction and reconstruction of local roads in all regions of the country.	Grey	Red	Grey
Digitization of services in the transport sector	Grey	Grey	Red

ENVIRONMENT NEEDS	Priority level		
	1	2	3
Implementation of biosafety protocols in environmental institutions.	1		
Monitor environmental indicators of air and noise pollution.		2	
Improve the solid waste management system (General Waste Law).		2	
Implement green jobs within the strategy to reactivate employment.	1		
Promote public-private partnerships for the development of green recovery projects.		2	

WATER AND SANITATION NEEDS	Priority level		
	1	2	3
Guarantee continuous and quality access to PHC services, health and educational centers and the most vulnerable populations affected by the pandemic.	1		
Meet the Sustainable Development Goals through a comprehensive reform program for the PHC sector.		2	
Guarantee the safe sanitation service to the entire urban population.		2	
Improve the efficiency and sustainability of the institutions that provide water and sanitation services.	1		

Annex 3:

Summary of the Recovery Strategy

The needs identified at the sectoral level were prioritized and sequenced over time considering three moments: the short term, where the most urgent actions must be included to protect individuals and communities, which includes interventions in the first year; followed by medium term actions, those that can move to the second and third year; and finally, long-term interventions which require more than three years to be implemented.



GUIDELINE 1.

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND REDUCTION OF INEQUALITY GAPS

- a) Strengthen adaptive social protection to mitigate shocks
- b) Strengthen employment
- c) Nutrition Measures
- d) Tax measures

PNPSP

3. *Towards a comprehensive policy for creating opportunities.*

1. *Formal employment.*

11. *The rural population and agricultural and fishing development.*

END

Guideline 2 -
Society with equal rights and opportunities.

- *Equal rights and opportunities.*

Guideline 3 -
Sustainable, inclusive and competitive economy:

- *Sufficient and decent jobs.*



GUIDELINE 2.

INCLUSIVE AND TRANSFORMING SOCIAL RECOVERY

- a) Recovery of physical and mental health
- b) Reduce the educational gap
- c) Cultural development in safe conditions

PNPSP

3. Access to universal health
5. Towards a quality education with equity
6. Create opportunities for youth
9. Culture for change.

END

Guideline 2 -

Society with equal rights and opportunities.

- *Comprehensive health and social security*
- *Quality education for all*
- *Culture and national identity in a global world*



GUIDELINE 3.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACCELERATING EXCHANGE

- a) Accelerators of economic recovery.
- b) Strengthening of productive sectors.

PNPSP

19. Tourism, an opportunity
22. Industrial development, a priority
23. Promotion of MSMEs
21. Trade an important activity
27. The transformation of the transport sector
11. The rural population and agricultural and fishing development.

END

GUIDELINE 3 -

Sustainable, inclusive, and competitive economy.

- *Articulated, innovative and environmentally sustainable economy.*
- *Sufficient and decent jobs.*
- *Competitiveness and innovation in an environment of cooperation and social responsibility.*



GUIDELINE 4.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK REDUCTION TO RESPOND TO AND LEARN FROM THE CRISIS

- a) Environmental care
- b) Risk management

PNPSP

- 12.** Access to water and improvement of the resource
- 24.** Environmental sustainability and climate change in an island country.

END

Guideline 4 -

Sustainable consumption and production society that adapts to climate change.

- *Sustainable management of the environment*
- *Risk management that minimizes human, economic and environmental losses*
- *Adequate adaptation to climate change*



GUIDELINE 5.

GOVERNANCE AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR RESILIENCE

PNPSP

- 15.** Towards a modern and institutional state
- 26.** Territorial and municipal public policies for change
- 18.** Towards digital transformation.

END

Guideline 1 -

Social state democratic law.

- *Efficient, transparent, and results-oriented public administration*
- *Participatory democracy and responsible citizenship*

THE RECOVERY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19

MADE WITH THE SUPPORT OF:

