

## Human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic

Since this pandemic started, CMT has worked hard to guarantee human rights through different actions and programs that provide benefits to the vulnerable groups

COVID-19 pandemic has affected human rights in different ways, however, there are associations like CMT, which is always looking for new forms to guarantee the full development of the most vulnerable people.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still the biggest challenge for all the sectors, and the observance and commitment to human rights is not an exception. In the middle of a crisis it is important to take actions to control and provide the services and diagnose that people need, in order to guarantee that the response given corresponds to the powers of each individual.

For that reason, it is important that the ones in charge of the governments all around the world guarantee the essential human rights during this pandemic, like health, education, food, non-discrimination; but above all, non-stigmatization. The fact is that this pandemic changed the ways we interact, our work or class routines; and as a consequence, it also affected the exercise of our fundamental human rights.

We know that lockdown is part of these affectations, because as a result of being at home most of the time, our development and basic freedom were affected. Perhaps we did not notice, but basic issues regarding health, education, and free transit also suffered changes.



### Economic, social, and cultural rights



- The loss of employment violates these rights so, the state must guarantee to citizens the fulfillment and enjoyment of those fundamental parts.
- In addition, it is expected that pandemic will affect rights like having a decent job, the access to housing, or even the access to basic services.

That is the reason why Congregación Mariana Trinitaria worked hard since this pandemic started in order to guarantee human rights through different actions and programs that bring the basic services closer to the population, and to guarantee the fulfillments of their rights.

### Right to health



- Everybody has the right to health care in case of coronavirus infection. It is a human right, but inequalities and the lack of access to this service cause that many people do not get medical attention so, their life is at risk.
- More to the point, medical centers are overcrowded, and in many cases, they are short of essential medication.

### Right to education



- Schools were closed and teachers had to change their in-person classes to online classes.
- Inequalities to access to technology and electronic devices became a risk for children, and it caused a setback on their learning process.

### Right to food



- Pandemic caused serious effects in all the dimensions of food security. It affected human welfare and the people's rights to have a suitable diet in every part of the world.
- COVID-19 deteriorated the factors that cause food insecurity and malnutrition, in addition to this, problems such as conflicts and plagues cause even more affectations to crops.

### Right to freedom of movement



- This is the most affected right due to all the restrictions to travel to another country, or even to another city. In some cases, there are hourly restrictions on regular activities.

### Right to privacy



- In some countries where most people are in lockdown, it is difficult to have limits on the public and family areas. People doing home office had to transform their houses into offices.
- Additionally, protection to personal data was also affected. An example of this, are the apps that in some countries get geolocalization data from users, and they are being used to study the mobility of people.

### Some of the actions that CMT performed during the pandemic

- Supply network and guarantee of distribution
  - Reactivation of community economy
- Savings and financial inclusion for productive purposes
- "Zero interest" financing for micro productive sectors in the field and cities
- Financing to develop basic infrastructure in municipalities
- Platforms for distance education and health
  - Professional and responsible spread of information about COVID-19 and the suitable ways to prevent more infections

The efforts that CMT made this year are aimed at providing attention to sectors that were affected by the pandemic like education, food, and particularly social welfare.

Some of the programs that we may mention are: a Program of Supportive Contribution to Technology that provided benefits to some PREFECOS (public high schools) in Michoacán, and the municipality of Nava in Coahuila. In the upcoming years Conalep, (a public high school system) in Sonora, Lagos de Moreno, and Atengo will also receive benefits, as well as "Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas 'Francisco García Salinas'", just to mention some examples.

Moreover, the emergent program implemented by CMT and "Secretaría del Campo" in Zacatecas called "Program to Support Agricultural Productivity 2020", contributed to reactivate agriculture and livestock economy, and it helped through sustainable development to support the local producers in that area.

In addition to that, CMT implements a series of actions focused on the migrants and their families, through collaborations with local governments, associations, institutions or groups; with the objective of providing attention and reducing shortages in basic social infrastructure issues and productive projects.

In case you want to get more information about CMT, you may log into Facebook or Twitter and search @CongregacionMT, or you may also go to the webpage [www.cmt-global.org](http://www.cmt-global.org) to become part of the CMT family.

### For 23 years, CMT has had an impact on

- 799 thousand 342 houses
- Building 1,803 houses
- The improvement of 67 thousand 934 facades
- The enlargement of 12,3 km of energy network
- 319 thousand 834 new water systems
- The installation of 107 water storage systems in several communities