

**Press release #11
Results from 3 June 2020 to 10 June 2020
Nicaragua, 12 June 2020**

***Explanatory note:** From 10 June 2020 onwards, the Citizen Observatory will be presenting information collected by the Observatory and information provided by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health (MINSa) separately. This is because independently confirming the data published by MINSa is not possible, and there is a risk of double counting. We could avoid this previously when MINSa provided more information on each case, however now there is insufficient public information available to avoid duplication.*

In the weekly report updated on 10 June 2020 we include reports of cases and deaths that came to our attention belatedly (a total of 272 suspected cases and 4 deaths, taking place between 19 March and 8 June). These cases change the data that was previously presented. Both this report and our website include the updated information.

As of 10 June 2020, we report a grand total of **4,971 suspected cases verified by the Citizen Observatory in all departments and autonomous regions (in 122 municipalities)**. This week we have registered **812 new cases** which represents a **20% increase** during this period.

Managua (2,323), Matagalpa (475), Masaya (467), Leon (322), Chinandega (247), Granada (159) and Esteli (150) are the departments or regions that are reporting the highest amount of affected people. This includes only suspected cases reported by the Citizen Observatory.

Up to the 10 June, MINSa has reported 1,464 confirmed cases, 456 active cases, 953 recovered and 55 deaths (a 4% case fatality rate). **This death toll reaffirms the urgent need for the government to introduce measures to avoid transmission and count on detailed information collection. This would in turn steer decision making in order to confront the situation more effectively.**

Of the 182 irregularities reported on this week, **53 refer to exposure of people through group activities, 36 to threats and retaliation, and 32 to an inadequate MINSa response.**

Until the 10 June we have reported and verified 1,398 deaths, of **which 109 (9%) are categorised as deaths from pneumonia and**

1,289 (92%) as suspected deaths from COVID-19. These deaths have taken place across the 17 departments and autonomous regions (in 91 municipalities) in the country. Managua (614), Masaya (178), Leon (117) and Chinandega (98) report the highest number of deaths. The department of **Managua registered 44% of all deaths, Masaya 13%, Leon 8%, Chinandega 7%, Matagalpa 6% and Granada 5%.**

From these 1,398 deaths, 155 (11%) took place in people's homes and 14 (1%) during a transfer to a healthcare facility. **For the first time, we have received a report of a suspected COVID-19 fatality taking place in a care home for the elderly.**

This week we have verified information on **281 new fatalities**, which represents a **25% increase** on the number of deaths from last week.

Until the 10 June, the Observatory received reports of **536 healthcare workers with associated or presumptive COVID-19 symptoms. These were reported across 16 departments** (mainly Managua, Leon and Matagalpa) and 59 municipalities.

Over the last three weeks, there has been an 86% increase in the number of suspected cases of COVID-19 among health personnel (246, 348, 458 respectively). Over this period **and consistently**, 60% of affected personnel have been medical doctors and 15% have

been nursing staff. This highlights the importance of increasing preventive measures and introducing massive testing protocols for those who are on the front line.

Up until the 10 June, our data shows that 61 healthcare workers have died of suspected COVID-19 disease. Of these, 25 were medical doctors, 16 nursing staff, 9 administrative staff, 2 medical visitors, 2 laboratory workers and 7 categorised as other (technical personnel, for example).

Up to date we have received information of clandestine burials in 16 of the 17 departments and/or autonomous regions, and in a total of 40 municipalities.

This week there was an evident increase in reports related to threats, harassment, coercion and retaliation, especially towards healthcare workers. **At least 16 doctors have been fired from their posts at public healthcare facilities.**

The 16 doctor's dismissals took place in healthcare units in Estelí, Granada, Managua and Rivas. Some of these doctors have reported they were fired for telling the truth about the arbitrary acts committed by the State against medical professionals, or for calling on the public to lockdown voluntarily. We also received reports of doctors fired for having received and distributed personal protective equipment to healthcare workers. There were also reports of doctors resigning from their positions in solidarity with their fired colleagues and as a protest for these arbitrary acts by MINSa.

On top of the current healthcare crisis, we have also received reports this week related to economic issues such as disproportionate increases (up to 40%) in water and electricity bills, and increased costs and shortage of medicines and products related to the treatment and prevention of COVID-19, especially oxygen tanks. Families are facing great difficulties to cover the expenses caused by the illness, mainly because both the State and private businesses have not fomented policies against stockpiling and speculation.

If you can, stay home and save lives!

You can find the full weekly report 04 – 10 June, 2020 in our webpage <https://observatorioni.org/>

Suspected cases by Observatory*	Deaths due to neumonía or suspected deaths by COVID-19 reported by Observatory*
4971	1398

*** The number of suspected cases by the Observatory, and the number of deaths from pneumonia or suspected deaths by COVID-19 have been verified by local information source.*

Confirm COVID-19 cases reported by MINSa	COVID-19 deaths reported by MINSa
1464	55