

Press release #14
Results from 25 June 2020 to 1 July 2020
Nicaragua, 4 July 2020

At this stage during which the number of people with the disease continues increasing, it is the time to increase individual, family and community protections. We urge the public to continue taking preventative measures such as physical distancing, hand washing and using masks.

If you can, stay home and save lives!

As of 1 July, we report a grand total of 7,402 suspected cases verified by the Citizen Observatory in all departments and autonomous regions – in 134 municipalities (87% of the country's municipalities). This week we have registered 540 new cases which represents an 8% increase compared to the previous week.

Managua (3,151), Matagalpa (774), Masaya (579), León (497), Estelí (340), Chinandega (277), Jinotega (224), Madriz (213), Carazo (200), Granada (185), and RACCS (167) are the departments or regions reporting the highest number of suspected cases.

Up to the 30 June, the Ministry of Health (MINSa) has reported 2,519 confirmed cases, 736 active cases, 1,700 recovered and 83 deaths (a death toll of 3%). This death toll reaffirms the urgent need for the government to take measures to avoid transmission and count on detailed information collection that would steer decision making to confront the situation more effectively.

Until the 1 July we have reported and verified **2,087 deaths**, of which **133 (6%) can be categorised as deaths from pneumonia and 1,954 (94%) can be reported as suspected deaths from COVID-19.**

These deaths have taken place across the 17 departments and autonomous regions, 115 municipalities (75% total municipalities in the country). The department of **Managua has registered 39% of all deaths, Masaya 11%, León 8%, Matagalpa 7%, Chinandega 6%,**

Estelí and Granada 4% respectively; Rivas, RACCS and Carazo 3% respectively.

From these 2,087 deaths, 233 (11%) took place in people's homes and 18 (1%) during a transfer to a healthcare facility.

This week we have verified information on 162 new fatalities, which represents an 8% increase in the number of deaths compared to the previous week.

Until the 1 July, the Observatory received reports of **691 healthcare workers with associated or presumed COVID-19 symptoms. These were recorded across all departments or autonomous regions (in 70 municipalities).** Managua, León and Matagalpa are the departments with the highest number of suspected cases.

As of the 1 July, our data shows **87 suspected COVID-19 fatalities among healthcare workers.** Of these, 38 were doctors, 22 nursing staff, 11 administrative personnel, 5 lab technicians, 3 medical visitors, 1 dentist and 7 categorised as 'other' (technical personnel, for example).

Of the 77 irregularities reported this week, **40 (52%) refer to exposure of people through group activities. Additionally, there are reports of an inadequate MINSa response and threats and retaliation (12, respectively).**

There were **complaints about inadequate responses in healthcare services in 7 health units, from 7 departments and from the Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region.**

Most reports received came from Chontales. Reports show:

- A shortage of electricity.
- A lack of ventilators and beds.
- A lack of basic medical resources in healthcare units, especially those in rural areas.
- Selection of medical personnel to serve in COVID-19 wards based on their loyalty to the government.
- Lack of surgical equipment in the hospital, leading to borrowing from private clinics.
- The discharge of patients that are still sick to open up space in hospitals.
- Lack of communication with patients' relatives over the patient's health and location.
- Presence of rats and rat bites in cadavers at the morgue.

There were reported firings and/or threats in 5 departments and in the Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region. Most of the reports came from Matagalpa. With regards to the healthcare sector, **there are still reports of arbitrary firings of doctors in Chinandega, Chontales, Jinotega and León.**

There have also been reports of surveillance and pursuit of suspected COVID-19 cases on behalf of the CPC (Citizen Power Council) with the intent to scare people in the neighborhoods of Matagalpa and Managua. It is also reported that the CPC has threatened various families, warning them not to

talk about their health with other people in the neighborhoods.

We had reports that the **indigenous community of Karawala (Desembocadura de Río Grande, RACCS)** does not have the minimum medical resources such as oxygen tanks and masks to protect itself against COVID-19. The community's healthcare centre does not have electricity either. There have also been reports that various **indigenous communities of Waspán (RACCN)**, do not have sufficient resources to buy soap or masks, or to maintain the recommended hygienic measures. It is important to note these communities do not have information about COVID-19 in their mother tongue.

Nicaragua has received 4,000 protection suits through the Korean Embassy, provided by the 'HANSOME NICA S.A' business to be provided to health personnel from the Ministry of Health that are looking after patients with respiratory conditions. We demand that the government is transparent about giving this kit to personnel working on the front-line with COVID-19 patients across healthcare units in the whole country.

There continue to be announcements of activities that would involve large groups of people and expose many to the risk of infection. There are reports of these types of activities in 14 departments and the two autonomous regions in the Caribbean Coast, with the largest amount of reports in Carazo and Rivas.

If you can, stay home and save lives!

Please find attached the (Spanish language) report from **25 June to 1 July**, developed by the Observatory:

Suspected cases reported by the Observatory	Deaths from pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 reported by the Observatory
7402	2087

** Suspected cases reported by the Observatory, deaths by pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 have been verified by a local information source.*

Cases confirmed by MINSAs	Deaths reported by MINSAs
2519	83

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