

PDNA

Evaluation of the effects, impacts and needs El Salvador is facing due to the double incidence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

EL SALVADOR 2020



GOBIERNO DE
EL SALVADOR



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Presentation

The Government of the Republic of El Salvador, in order to respond to the areas affected in the emergency caused by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, in addition to the confluence of the COVID-19 pandemic, made the decision to conduct a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, which will allow to quantify the effects of both events. El Salvador is the first country in Latin America to achieve this combined event analysis. With the assessment, the recovery costs that the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country would entail are estimated, using to this end the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) methodology, developed jointly with the European Union, the World Bank and the United Nations System. The foregoing is based on an offer and a working relationship that has been developed and strengthened with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the agency's experience in areas of response and recovery from disasters.

The assessment process was technically conducted by a United Nations System team, with the UNDP acting as technical coordinator of the exercise, and by a group of experts from the European Union and the World Bank. This great effort occurs at a time when El Salvador and the entire world are still going through the COVID-19 pandemic, so the entire assessment process was carried out

virtually (team training, meetings and the subsequent discussion of the assessment coordination team). On the part of the Government of El Salvador, the assessment was led by the Ministry of Economy and the Secretariat of Trade and Investments of the Presidency of the Republic, and technically supported by a team made up of over 60 focal points from 23 public institutions.

The approach included, by the different focal points of government institutions, the analysis and review of a set of data that shows pre-disaster conditions, and compared them with post-disaster conditions, in order to evaluate the effects and impacts of the phenomena that occurred, in order to determine a general recovery strategy. The methodology combined quantitative and qualitative data, in order to analyze and evaluate economic and human impacts.

We hope that this great effort, product of the coordinated inter-institutional work between the Central Government and the different participating international cooperation organizations, will allow us to begin preparing our strategy with a recovery framework, to define the next steps to follow on the road to the reconstruction of El Salvador. This is of great relevance, since El Salvador is a country that is constantly exposed to natural events that,

due to its vulnerability, significantly impact it, so it is important to work on the country's resilience to face and mitigate the impact of future events that may take place, so that its people do not have to continue suffering the consequences of these situations.

It is, therefore, a task with a national scope that is in our hands now; an effort of this Gov-

ernment that seeks the benefit of Salvadorans, the ultimate goal of our actions. Today, more than ever, we are convinced that this work cannot wait, and we must, as a mandate, continue this process begun with the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment that we present below.

Acronyms

BCR: Central Reserve Bank

CPI: Consumer Price Index

DIGESTYC: General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses

FGR: Attorney-General's Office

FOPROMID: Civil Protection, Prevention and Disaster Mitigation Fund

ILO: International Labor Organization

ISSS: Salvadoran Social Security Institute

ITCZ: Intertropical Convergence Zone

MAG: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

MARN: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

MINEC: Ministry of Economy

MINSAL: Ministry of Health

MPI: Multidimensional Poverty Index

MPHS: Multipurpose Household Survey

MSME: Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises

ORMUSA: Organization of Salvadoran Women for Peace

PDNA: Post Disaster Needs Assessment

PHEIC: Public Health Emergency of International Concern

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

VAT: Value Added Tax

WHO: World Health Organization

WMO: World Meteorological Organization

Preface

This analysis is part of the evaluation of the effects, impacts and needs El Salvador is facing due to the double incidence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Methodology is used to estimate the costs of the combined effect of the two conjunctures, in terms of damages, losses and additional costs, as well as the cost of the combined needs for a comprehensive and resilient recovery in the face of future crises.

The time frame in which this analysis is made considers its beginning in mid-March 2020, with the emergence of COVID-19, and its ending with the presence of storms Amanda and Cristóbal in late May and early June 2020. The rise of these storms changed the forecasts to face the pandemic and the measures implemented to that date and put the resilience capacity of the Salvadoran population to a test. This forces us to carry out an unprecedented analysis in which the effects of the two catastrophes are separated, while their interaction is captured.

El Salvador is the first country in Latin America, and one of the few in the world, to carry out a combined analysis of the effects of both phe-

nomena. The study represents a notable contribution to the recovery needs assessment practice in situations that will surely recur and become more complex with COVID-19 and the potential impact of other natural hazards, such as heavy rains, hurricanes, seismic and volcanic activity, among others.

The estimated needs derive from the effects that confinement and containment measures that the management of the pandemic required until May 2020: the loss of income, the increase in costs to ensure the provision of sectoral services and the unexpected costs that had to be incurred for respond to the pandemic. These needs increased with the arrival of tropical storms, which added a scene of destruction of infrastructure and physical assets and increased economic losses in various sectors.

This evaluation was led by the Government of El Salvador, through the Ministry of Economy (MINEC) and the Secretariat of Trade and Investments of the Presidency of the Republic. It also had the support of the United Nations System, the World Bank and the European Union, as part of its tripartite agreement. The general coordination and technical direction of the process were in charge of the United

Nations Development Program (UNDP), and with the active participation of sixty technicians and government officials from the governing entities of twelve socioeconomic sectors and two cross-cutting areas analyzed. Due to mobility restrictions due to the pandemic, the evaluation was carried out virtually, between July 11 and September 25, 2020.

This report is organized as follows: 1) An executive summary that allows the reader to focus on the most relevant aspects of the context, sectorial effects, human and macroeconomic impact, recovery needs per sector and brief guidelines for its implementation; 2) The elements to formulate a national recovery strategy that includes a vision, guiding principles and five strategic lines with their budget and potential action lines; and 3) A section of next steps recommended by the participants to continue this process.



Key findings

The total¹ estimated damage in all the sectors analyzed amounts to US\$106.71 million, of which 35.0% corresponds to the public sector and 65.0% to the private sector. The² total losses, on the other hand, amount to US\$2,824.78 million, of which 22.0% correspond to the public sector and 78.0% to the private sector.

Damages in the social sector are concentrated in **housing** (81.0%) and are linked to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal; while **health** losses (86.0%) are linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the infrastructure sector, damages are concentrated in **transportation** (86.0%) and **power outages** (67.0%). In the productive sector, **commerce** was mostly affected (39.0%), followed by **services** (29.0%) and **industry** (22.0%), in all cases due to the effects of COVID-19.

These effects, expressed in terms of losses and damages generated by tropical storms

Amanda and Cristóbal, together with the COVID-19 pandemic and pre-existing socio-economic inequities, have contributed to widening the gaps, if the five indicators of human impact suggested by the PDNA methodology are taken into consideration: living conditions, employment and livelihoods, gender equity, food security, and social inclusion. Similarly, the Salvadoran economy is expected to contract, which would deteriorate the country's macroeconomic conditions and induce reductions in production and income levels, and, therefore, in consumption, investment, and import/export capacities of companies.

The recovery needs³ estimated by the PDNA amount to US\$1,211.6 million, reflecting the interventions required to repair or rebuild infrastructure and physical assets with enhanced measures that are in line with the principles of rebuilding to something better and disaster risk reduction to ensure future resilience.

The social sector is the one with the greatest needs, a total of 75.0%. For this percentage,

1/ Damages: Cost of repairing or replacing infrastructure and physical assets to their pre-crisis situation.

2/ Losses: Cambio de flujos económicos relacionados con los ingresos no percibidos, los costos adicionales y gastos extraordinarios requeridos para prestar o acceder al servicio.

3/ Recovery needs: Costs required for a physical reconstruction in improved conditions and for socio-economic recovery that improves the quality of life of the affected people.



US\$473.3 million are required for education; US\$283.7 million for health; US\$121 million for housing; and almost US\$14 million for culture. In this sector, additional US\$20 million have also been considered for a bond aimed at reducing the negative impacts on people who fall into poverty. These are linked to the need to relocate, safe housing and the continuity of support in health and education in the face of the post-COVID-19 reality (health measures, non-face-to-face education that requires technology and equipment).

To face the complex situation, five strategic intervention lines are suggested, in which the identified needs are grouped: 1) Governance; 2) Economic recovery; 3) Risk reduction, resilient infrastructure and decent housing; 4) Technology and innovation; and 5) Welfare, protection and social inclusion. It is suggested that the findings of this evaluation be used to formulate solid action plans that make it possible to address the needs identified, in order to address the most urgent ones in the short term and consider longer term ones for later stages.

Context Analysis

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COVID-19 in El Salvador

On December 31, 2019, Chinese health authorities informed the World Health Organization (WHO) about a pneumonia outbreak in the city of Wuhan, event that marked the beginning of public policy responses worldwide. On January 7, 2020, the WHO reported that a new strain of coronavirus group 2B was identified, from the same SARS family, whose genome sequencing had been carried out and was named SARS-CoV-2. Faced with the spread of the disease, the WHO declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on January 30, 2020. The rapid spread of COVID-19 caught the medical and scientific community, government authorities and the population itself by surprise.

In January, the Presidency of the Republic of El Salvador and the Ministry of Health (MINSAL), with the support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), took actions to contain and respond to COVID-19.

On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and called on countries to activate and expand their own response mechanisms. On the same day in El Salvador, in addition to the suspension of classes and entry of foreigners from abroad, the Salvadoran president, Nayib Bukele, sent a request to the Legislative Assembly to declare a state of emergency and exception in the country, which was approved days later.

On March 18, 2020, with a state of emergency already in force, the first positive case was

confirmed in the country. Then, reports and guidelines of varying order and technical level were drawn up: medical treatment of cases, epidemiological surveillance, strengthening of diagnostic and laboratory capacity, health personnel protection policies and risk communication to the community. Case zero originated from the arrival of a person from Italy, and was located in the municipality of Metapán, department of Santa Ana.

The reopening of the economy began on June 16, and the full reopening on August 24 was, at which time the Central Government issued an official statement⁴ in which it called on the Salvadoran population to abide by the biosecurity measures during the economic reopening, in order to protect its health and life. Additionally, information was provided on the strengthening of the public health network and the validity of the 7 Points Plan.⁵

El Salvador was one of the first countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that activated solid measures and actions to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, which had an impact on slowing down, at least initially, contagion and

4/ Available at <https://covid19.gob.sv/gobierno-del-presidente-nayib-bukele-hace-un-llamado-a-la-poblacion-a-acatar-las-medidas-de-bioseguridad-durante-la-reapertura-economica/>

5/ On August 10, the President announced the 7 Points Plan, which basically poses: 1. The country has a thousand free beds to care for patients infected with COVID-19; 2. Random and massive COVID-19 tests will be taken, which will allow to establish the areas of El Salvador where there is a greater number of infections; 3. Sending medicines to people who present coronavirus symptoms to

TABLE 1

Comparison of cases in SICA countries

Country	Number of cases			Deaths			
	Record Date	31/05/20	30/06/20	30/07/20	31/05/20	30/06/20	30/07/20
Belize		18	24	48	2	2	2
Guatemala		4,607	16,930	47,605	90	727	1,835
El Salvador		2,395	6,173	15,841	44	164	430
Honduras		4,886	18,082	40,460	199	479	1,214
Nicaragua		885	2,017	3,080	35	74	116
Costa Rica		1,022	3,130	16,344	10	15	125
Panama		12,531	3,686	62,223	326	604	1,349
Dominican Republic		16,908	31,816	66,182	498	733	1,123
Total		43,252	109,858	251,783	1,204	2,798	6,194

Source: COMISCA, 2020.

fatality rates,⁶ compared to the countries of the region. As of May 31, there were 2,395 confirmed cases and 44 deaths in El Salvador, figures that, compared to the Central American countries and the large countries

of the continent, Brazil and Mexico, result in a very low fatality rate: 1.8%⁷ (Table 1) (Chart 1).

By the end of June, despite the fact that infections doubled in the Central American

their homes and report it to number 132, which aims to lower the mortality of the virus and decongest the health system. 4. "Personal clusters" are established, a group of ten people in "a bubble", who do not belong to the family group and who can meet and go out together, but only among themselves, that is, they do not have contact with other people, only the ten members of that group; 5. Continuity of the delivery of food packages by the Government, to alleviate the crisis generated by the paralysis of the country due to the pandemic; 6. "Immunity card" for people who have already overcome COVID-19,

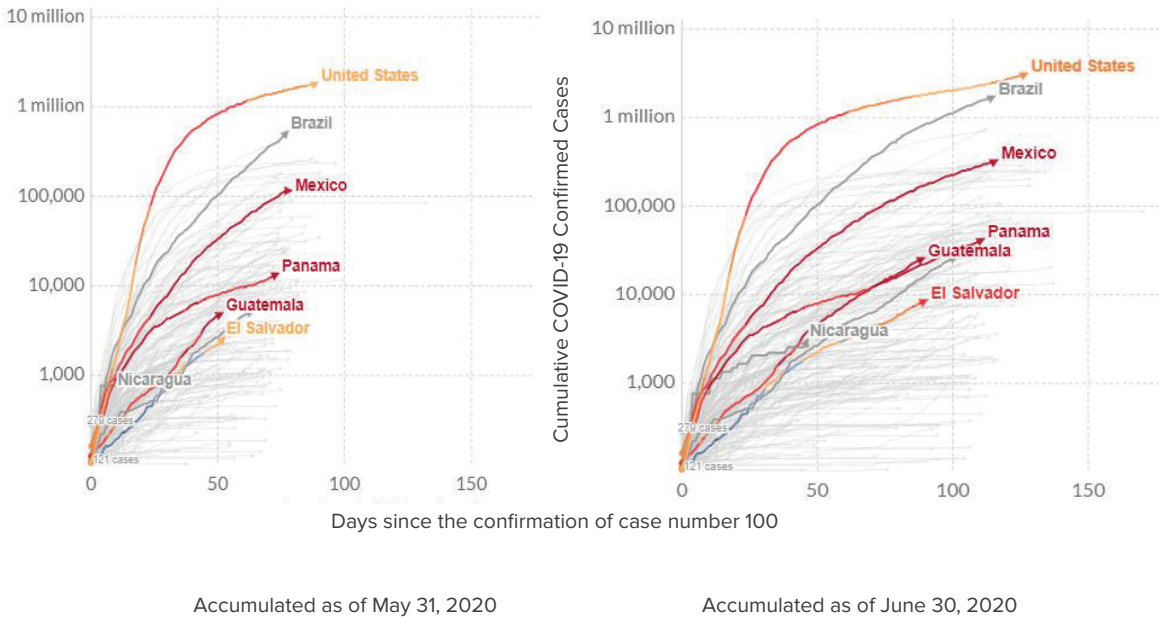
who will be able to mobilize as they wish after having overcome the disease; 7. Hiring 100% of people who have overcome coronavirus to deliver drug kits and government food packages, with a remuneration of US\$500.

6/ Contagion: A case where a person is confirmed to have the virus, even when asymptomatic; meanwhile, mortality refers to the number of deaths in relation to those infected.

7/ Mortality: Ratio of deaths with respect to confirmed cases. The figures are available on the portal <https://covid19.gob.sv/>

FIGURE 1

El Salvador: Trend of confirmed COVID-19 cases in May, June and July 2020



Source: Taken and adapted from the Our World in Data portal: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>

region (from 43,252 to 109,855),⁸ the average fatality decreased slightly (from 2.78% to 2.55%). In this context, with the strong impact of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, the trend of confirmed cases in El Salvador was increasing. It is important to highlight that this situation occurred in the context of the beginning of the economic re-activation (Figure 1).

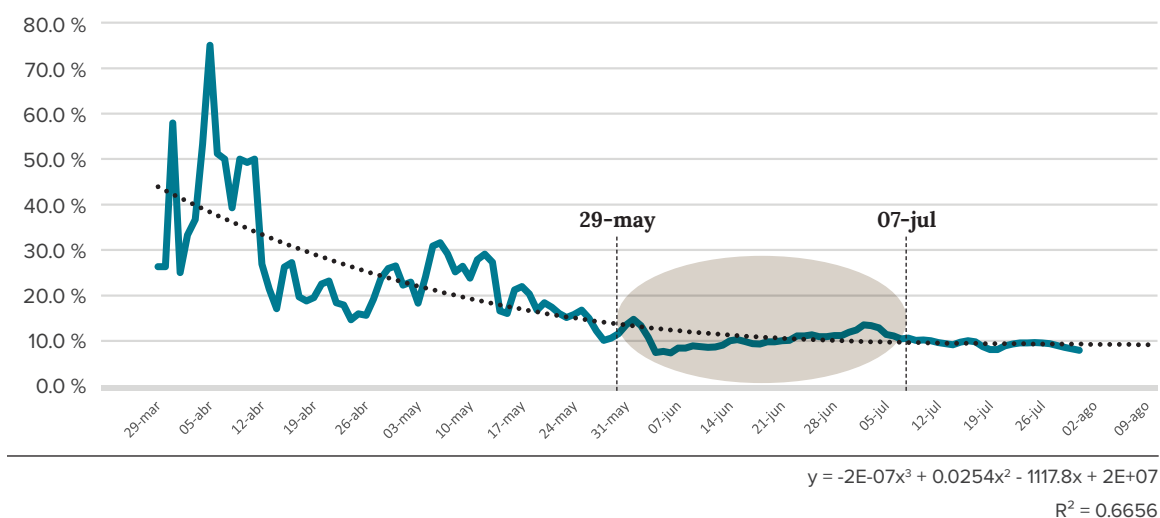
In the days following the occurrence of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, the growth rate of the cases was exponential: it took an increasing turn and a trend that remained constant in the following weeks (Figure 2).

Thus, the number of positive cases infected by COVID-19 by the end of June increased to 6,173 cases, while the deaths totaled 164, therefore, the fatality rate increased to 2.66%, which at that date was even slightly higher than the Central American average 2.55%.

^{8/} The figure includes the five Central American countries and the Dominican Republic. Source: COMISCA.

FIGURE 2

El Salvador: Growth rate of cases every third day



Source: Estimate on data registered up to June 2020 by PAHO/WHO: Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), Situation Reports (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>).

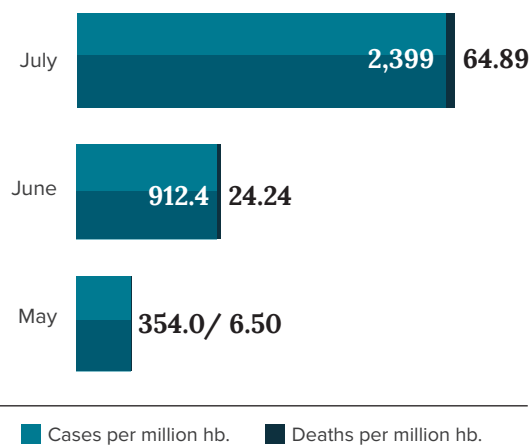
Initial cases and the spread of infections accelerated in recent months, reaching an R0⁹ of 1,1 (1–1,2) new infections per patient.¹⁰ This was reflected in July, when 15,841 confirmed cases and 430 deaths were recorded. These figures indicate the transit of 354 confirmed cases per million inhabitants on May 31, to 2,399 by the end of July; and the deaths from 6.5 per million inhabitants in May, to 65 by the end of July (Chart 3).

9/ The basic reproduction number R0 is considered as the average number of new cases generated by a given case (base) throughout an infectious process.

10/ Figure obtained from the study of the Center for the Mathematical Modeling of Infectious Diseases, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: <https://epiforecasts.io/covid/posts/national/el-salvador/>

FIGURE 3

El Salvador: Monthly cumulative rates of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 as of May 31, June 30 and July 30, 2020 (per million inhabitants)



Source: Own elaboration, with data from the portal <https://covid19.gob.sv/>

The pandemic is expanding in cities with the largest population size, which is why COVID-19 cases are located mainly in the department of San Salvador, with around 51.3% of cases for the month of May, and 41.47% for July 2020. With infections on the rise, between May and July, the rate in San Salvador went from 696 to 3,403 cases per million inhabitants; followed quite far by La Libertad, with 12.44% of the national total; and San Miguel, with 9.73%.

Likewise, the characterization of those infected by the end of August in El Salvador showed that 47.0% are women and 53.0% are men; while the 20-39 age group observed the highest percentage of infections (41.4%), followed by the 40-59 group (40.3%). Similarly, 89.5% corresponded to local cases and 0.5% to imported cases,¹¹ with an important group of imported cases stranded that reached 10.0%, of which a third belonged to the Central American region. Given that the infections trend has not abated, this initial and limited evaluation in time does not reflect the totality of the effects up to the end of the pandemic.¹² Regarding the handling of corpses, one of the most complex issues of

the pandemic, was assumed by the municipalities, which developed rigorous security protocols, with sufficient spaces available for burials.

As already mentioned, El Salvador is already in a stage of full opening. In the future, the country faces an uncertainty situation regarding the post-pandemic phase and the economic, social and human effects that are not yet fully dimensioned. The trend shows opportunities and risks, and presents a series of proposals to face the needs identified, in order to better face the continuation of the response and reactivation, with a view to a sustained recovery and thus avoid a worsening of the poverty gaps, inequity and food insecurity in the country. This recovery will have to be framed within the development priorities outlined by the new Government and in the search for resilience against future risks.

Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

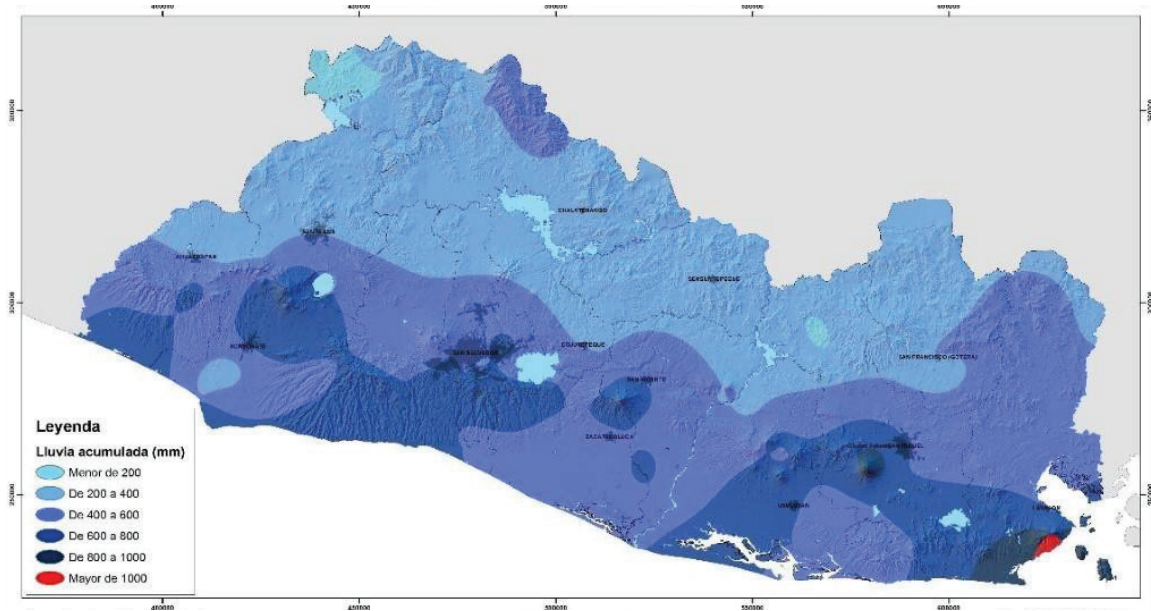
Between May 29 and June 7, 2020, a low pressure system south of the coasts of El Salvador and Guatemala started temporary rains in El Salvador, the low pressure strengthened to Tropical Depression DT2-E, which in its displacement to the north, before making landfall on the coast of Guatemala, on Sunday, May 31, 2020 around 3:00 a.m., it reached the category of Tropical Storm, AMANDA. Said system made landfall on the coast of the department of Santa Rosa, Guatemala, west of the border with El Salvador, being the

^{11/} A third of which comes from the Central American region: <https://covid19.gob.sv/>

^{12/} For still changing figures, you can consult the official portal of the Presidency of the Republic of El Salvador (<https://covid19.gob.sv/>) that of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>) or other portals, such as Worldometers, Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center and Our World in data (Owid).

FIGURE 4

**Rain accumulated in El Salvador due to storms Amanda and Cristóbal.
Period: 7:00 am on May 29, to 7:00 am on June 7, 2020**



Source: MARN.

cloud bands of the Tropical Storm those that directly impacted with strong winds, mainly in the early hours of the morning and on Sunday May 31, as well as heavy rains in El Salvador, on their way to Guatemala on Sunday.

Between June 4, 5 and 6, Tropical Storm Cristóbal moved through the Gulf of Mexico, which remained in the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over Central America and displaced abundant humidity and temporary rainfall over the country during all these days, with emphasis on the coastal area and volcanic mountain range of the national territory.

The rains associated with these events were counted in nine days from the measurements

recorded at 7:00 am on May 29, 2020, and that ended at 7:00 am on June 7, 2020. Rain was generalized at a national level, with the most significant accumulations along the coastal and central strip of the country, as well as throughout the eastern zone. The maximum accumulated in the nine days of the storm was recorded at the Volcán Conchagua Station, department of La Unión, with a record of 1,087.1 mm. The second maximum was recorded at the San Miguel Volcano Station 2, with a record of 979.8 mm. In third place was the Panchimalco Station, with a cumulative 837.0 mm.

The day with the highest accumulated rainfall was May 30 (rain recorded from 7:00 am

on May 30 to 7:00 am on May 31, 2020). The national average of rainfall in the nine days of the event was 490.6 mm, which corresponds to approximately 27.0% of the annual rainfall, according to the 1981-2010 standard (1,784 mm). In terms of annual rainfall, from January 1 to June 7 it adds up to 677 mm. When comparing the first 10 days of June with the standard, there is a difference of 280 mm, which corresponds to 70.0% over the standard (June 10 standard: 397 mm).

As of June 7, at least eleven meteorological stations reached with this event over 40.0% of the expected annual rainfall. In the first six days of June, with the storm event active, 93.0% of the expected monthly rain was reached, with a cumulative amount of 302 mm (rain expected in June: 322 mm).

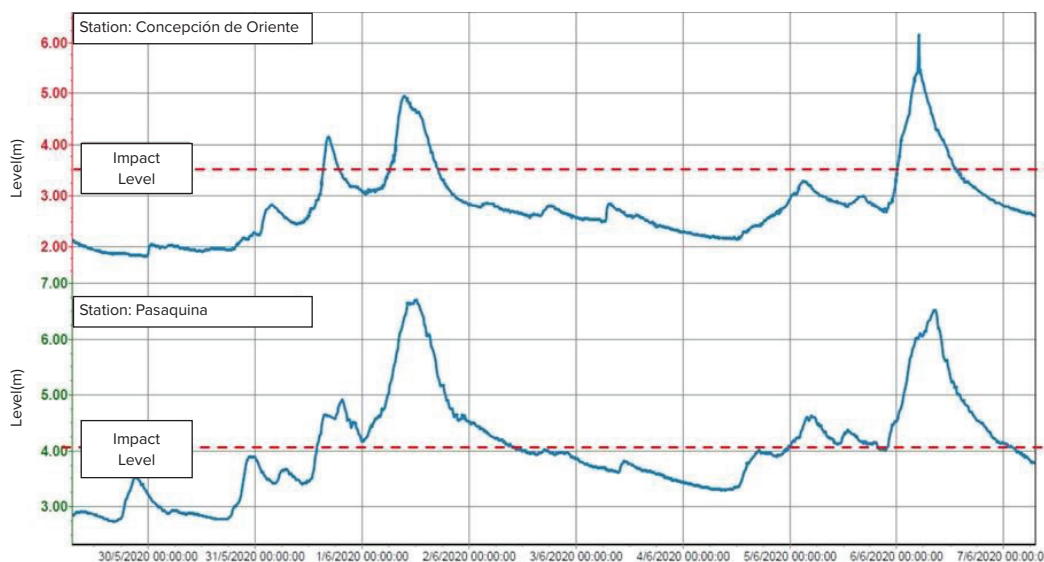
Floods

During the period in which this report was drafted, the atmospheric conditions described favored main and short-distance rivers to experience floods and overflows, causing urban flooding in homes, access roads and main roads, and rural flooding in communities, farmland, paddocks and land communication routes.

The areas most affected by river overflows and floods were located in the coastal zone of the country, in addition to affectations in the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador. Rainfall in transnational basins, including those of the Goascorán, Paz and Lempa rivers, caused significant increases in their main rivers, causing them to overflow in low-lying areas (Fig. 5).

FIGURE 5

Precipitation record in the Goascorán river basin



Source: MARN, presentation of hydrometeorological aspects due to Amanda and Cristóbal for PDNA.

The overflow of the Goascorán River and significant increases in the Paz River stand out at the Hachadura Station (maximum level reached: 4.20 m), causing the temporary closure of the Las Chinamas border with the neighboring country of Guatemala. The river Grande de San Miguel stands out, registering maximum levels of 9.0 m (reference level: 7.7 m) at La Canoa Station, causing the breakdown of two dams built to mitigate overflow risks. This caused the temporary closure of the Litoral highway, between km 139 and 140.

Likewise, in the Banderas, Mandinga and Apancoyo rivers, overflows were registered in communities in the Sonsonate coastal

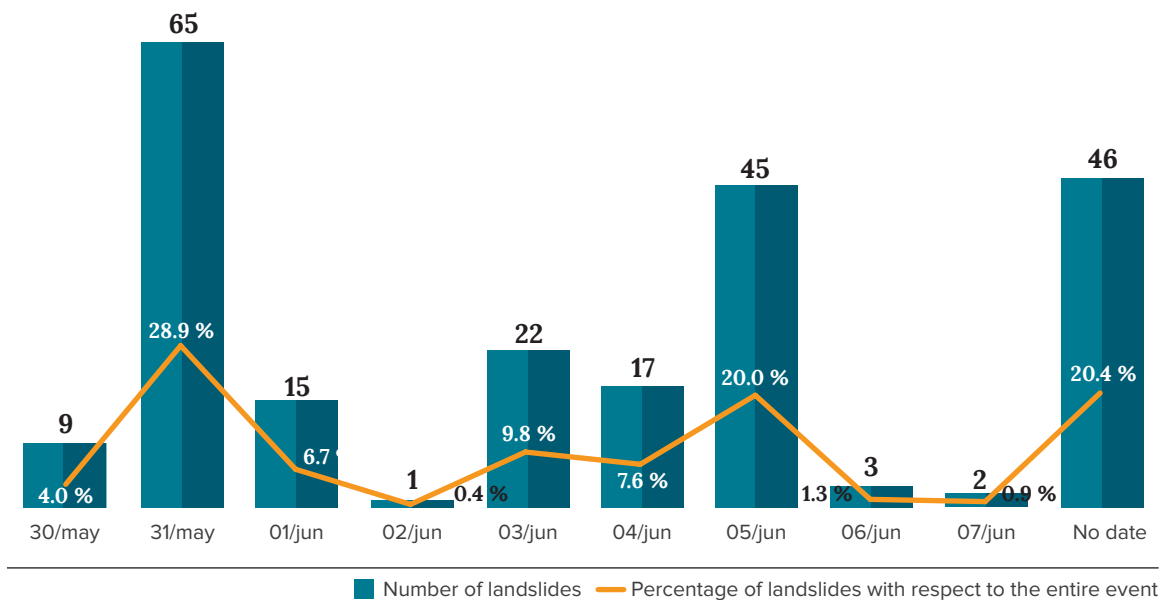
area, causing damage to homes, agricultural areas and access roads. Other short-distance rivers experienced flash overflows that caused flooding in low-lying areas. The chart illustrates the flow reached in several rivers that exceeded their overflow levels and impact.

Landslides and collapses

The maximum precipitation intensities exceeded 2 mm/min, reaching the maximum intensity in Izalco, of 4.3mm/min. In landslide-prone areas, the maximum intensity was recorded in the Bálsamo mountain range, with 3.4mm/min in the Panchimalco sector, in the period from May 30 to 31.

FIGURE 6

Landslides recorded between May 30 and June 7



Source: DOA-MARN, DOA impact forecasts, presentation for the PDNA.

The accumulated precipitation maximums and intensities that were registered along the volcanic chain contributed to the percentage of humidity rising to saturation levels. The critical landslide-prone areas were, for this event, those that reached most of the accumulated maximum precipitation and maximum humidity levels, between 93.0% and 99.0%. Landslides resulted from these conditions throughout the period (Figure 6).

A temporary event during the first days of the rainy season in the country, such as the one that occurred, determines an unfavorable scenario for the rest of the period. The typical

heavy-intensity rainfall in the country would increase the threat levels for landslides and the probability that they occur and have impacts on infrastructure, livelihoods and populations.










This local condition is clearly linked to global conditions. As the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has pointed out, 2020 remains one of the warmest years on record. The two storms in El Salvador add to the many extreme weather events this year, ranging from scorching temperatures and wildfires to devastating floods and marine heat waves.

Immediate Response

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To COVID-19

-  Reduced mobility, confinement of people returning to the country, isolation of infected people, and health and protection measures.
-  On March 11, 2020, suspensions of classes and entry of people from abroad were declared. President Nayib Bukele sent a request to the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador, for it to declare a state of emergency and exception in the country, which was approved in the following days.
-  On March 18, 2020, the first positive case in the country was confirmed and guidelines were issued for the medical treatment of cases, epidemiological surveillance, strengthening of diagnostic and laboratory capacity, and policies for the protection of health personnel and risk communication to the community.
-  Support mechanisms are defined for the most affected families through the delivery of a cash bonus of US\$300 in a single installment, at an estimated total cost of US\$450 million, for approximately 1.5 million households.
-  Delivery of 3.8 million solidarity baskets that included a provision of food in kind, in part using the food provided for the School Feeding Program administered by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MINEDUCYT).
-  The Government developed a series of programs to guarantee the liquidity of the financial sector and provide relief to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through loans through public banks, in addition to the US\$600 million trust.
-  During the first quarter of the year, the Central Reserve Bank (BCR) approved the repeal of the rule that obliged financial institutions to maintain a reserve of 3.0% of liquid assets, freeing up US\$500 million for commercial banks, cooperatives, corporate savings and credit, and federations.
-  The Economic Response and Relief Plan of the Government of El Salvador in the face of the National Emergency against COVID-19, among other measures, establishes that natural and legal persons directly affected can defer payment of utilities such as water, power and telecommunications, as well as well as loans services, and the extension of the term to file and pay taxes.
-  The latest issuance of debt through bonds will be used to support the private sector and economic reactivation. According to Decree No. 640 of the Legislative Assembly, the US\$600 million will be allocated to the construction of the trust for the economic recovery of companies registered as employers in the Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS) and informal companies affected by the pandemic.¹³

13/ It is not immediately available. It must still be ratified by the Legislative Assembly, together with the respective budget reallocation.

To tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

- ▾ The Ministry of Interior and Territorial Development (MIGOBT) managed with the National Civil Protection Commission the allocation of funds of the Civil Protection, Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters Fund (FOPROMID), for the acquisition of goods and services for emergency care, for the operation of the shelters enabled, as well as for supplies, equipment and infrastructure necessary to support operations to assist people affected by this event.
- ▾ The shelters necessary were immediately arranged to provide temporary shelter to over 10,000 people sheltered at the highest peak of the pandemic.
- ▾ On the part of the Salvadoran Government, food packages were delivered to households at a national level, with the aim of reducing food insecurity caused by the loss of resources that families faced due to the confinement measures taken to combat the contagion curve of COVID-19 and the ravages due to the storms.
- ▾ In addition, different agencies carried out interventions on issues regarding food assistance, violence prevention, education for childcare, among others.





Estimate of the **recovery needs** due to the double impact of the **Amanda and Cristóbal** storms in the midst of the COVID-19 response

25 Methodological aspects

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40 Recovery needs

Methodological aspects

In order to estimate the recovery needs that arose in El Salvador as a result of the measures adopted to face the COVID-19 pandemic and those additional ones that arose due to the impact of Amanda and Cristóbal storms, the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Recovery Planning methodology was used, promoted jointly by the European Union, the World Bank and the United Nations System.

The PDNA Methodology considers the context prior to the event. In this case, the existing situation when tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal impacted the country. This context is strongly influenced by the measures that had to be adopted to contain the spread of COVID-19 throughout the Salvadoran territory, in particular the social, economic, cultural, financial and political conditions, which will allow an analysis of the gap generated between the situation before and after storms.

The evaluation focused on twelve different socioeconomic sectors grouped into three broad categories: Social sector (health, education, housing and culture), Productive sector (agriculture, commerce, services, industry and tourism) and the Infrastructure sector (water and sanitation, power and transport). Additionally, the analysis of two key cross-cutting aspects is included: gender and employment and livelihoods.

The simplified PDNA process (Figure 7) considers five key steps: The context analysis already discussed; the identification of the effects of the disaster, including the estimation of costs related to sectorial damages and losses; an analysis of the impacts caused in the short, medium and long terms, caused precisely by these effects; estimation of recovery needs; and the formulation of strategic guidelines for a resilient recovery, first at a sectorial level and then at a national aggregate.

FIGURE 7

PDNA process followed in El Salvador



The three key concepts to understand the global results achieved in the assessment, which are presented in the next section of this document, are:

- ▣ **Damage:** Cost of repairing or replacing infrastructure and physical assets to their pre-crisis situation.
- ▣ **Losses:** Change in economic flows related to foregone income and the additional costs and extraordinary expenses required to provide or access the service.
- ▣ **Recovery needs:** Costs required for a physical reconstruction in improved conditions and for socio-economic recovery that improves the quality of life of the affected people, a resilient recovery (building back better).

Once the effects produced by both COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal have been identified, the methodology allows the analysis of the general human impact, including the projected impact on multidimensional poverty and income levels in the country, gender equality and social inclusion; as well as the potential macroeconomic impact, particularly in relation to economic growth, flow of remittances and trade balance.

Based on the analysis of both the effects of the events (damages, losses and additional costs) as well as the impact of the disaster, the needs and recovery cost of the country are estimated. Recovery needs include the interventions necessary to rebuild the physi-

cal infrastructure affected by the storms in the different sectors analyzed, under improved conditions; this would reduce vulnerabilities and increase their resilience to future similar events. It also covers the recovery of livelihoods and other human impacts identified, including an estimate of the cost to achieve the proposed recovery. The recovery needs in each of the sectors are estimated for the short, medium and long term.

A participatory process with over 60 institutional delegates allowed the identification of five priority strategic lines for recovery, as well as the vision proposed for recovery as the national goal to be achieved, together with the guiding principles and solid action lines. The recovery needs expressed in each of the sectors are integrated according to the strategic lines proposed, in order to visualize the national aggregate.

Combined effects of COVID-19 and the tropical storms

It is worth noting that neither the COVID-19 pandemic nor the containment measures implemented have affected infrastructure and physical assets in the sectors analyzed. Storms Amanda and Cristóbal are the cause of the partial or total destruction of the physical infrastructure, which in turn generates changes in the economic flows associated with income loss due to the impossibility of providing the service, and the additional costs required to ensure the provision and access to said goods and services.

With this background, the total damages and losses suffered by each of the sectors analyzed in the PDNA are summarized (Figure 8). The total damage is estimated at US\$106.71 million, of which 35.0% corres-

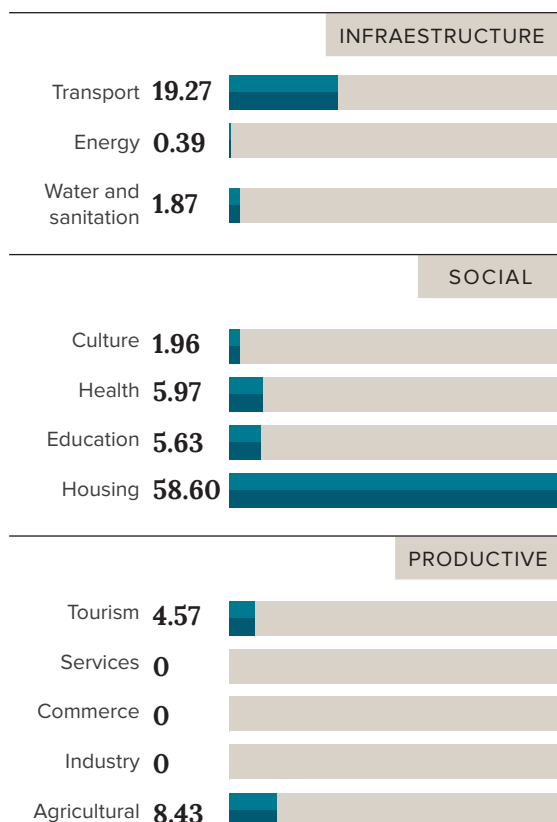
ponds to the public sector and 65.0% to the private sector. The total losses amount to US\$2,824.78 million, of which 22.0% correspond to the public sector and 78.0% to the private sector.

FIGURE 8

Summary of sectorial damages and losses (COVID-19 and tropical storms)

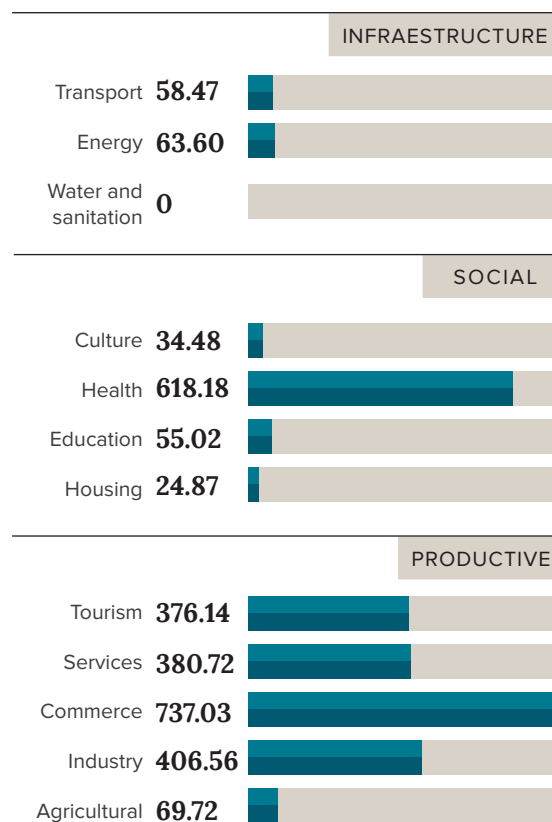
Sectorial damages (millions of US\$)

(Public: 35.0%; Private: 65.0%)



Sectorial losses (millions of US\$)

(Public: 22.0%; Private: 78.0%)



Note: Services, commerce and industry sectors did not report damages to their infrastructure generated by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal.

In the social sector, the damages are concentrated in housing (81.0%) and are linked to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, while the losses are concentrated in health (86.0%) and are linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the infrastructure sector, damages are concentrated in transportation (86.0%) and power outages (67.0%). In the produc-

tive sector, commerce was most affected, representing 39.0% in losses, followed by services (29.0%) and industry (22.0%).

As can be seen from Table 2, losses, which include foregone income, additional costs and unexpected expenses to maintain the provision of and access to goods and services during the COVID-19 pandemic, were also concentrated in the private sector, as they represented US\$1,958.80 million, coming mainly from the productive sector (US\$1,767.40 million), mostly from industry, commerce, and services. While the public sector accounted for US\$611.32 million, which were mostly losses in the health sector (US\$512.84 million).

TABLE 2

Losses due to COVID-19 in all Sectors

Sector	COVID-19 (March-May 2020) million US\$		
	Losses	Public	Private
Social	688.28	573.99	114.29
Health	605.65	512.84	92.81
Education	51.92	40.45	11.47
Housing	20.39	20.39	-
Culture	10.32	0.31	10.01
Productive	1,767.50	0.10	1,767.40
Agricultural	25.22	0.10	25.12
Industry	406.56		406.56
Trade	737.03		737.03
Services	380.72		380.72
Tourism	217.97		217.97
Infrastructure	114.33	37.22	77.11
Transport	54.53	30.34	24.19
Power	59.80	6.88	52.92
Water and Sanitation	-		
Total	2,570.12	611.32	1,958.80

Table 3 summarizes the damages and losses generated by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. The damages were concentrated in the private sector, US\$69.47 million; in the housing subsector, the social sector is the one with the highest contribution (US\$58.6 million). In the public sector, damages amounted to US\$37.23 million, with Infrastructure (US\$21.15 million) being most affected, narrowed on the transportation subsector with US\$19.27 million. Private sector losses total US\$231.63 million, coming mainly from the productive sector (US\$202.66 million) and narrowed on the tourism subsector (US\$158.17 million). While the public sector only had losses of US\$23.06 million, which are mainly from the health sector (US\$12.52 million). Industry, commerce and services did not report any damage from the storms.

TABLE 3

Damages and losses caused by tropical storms in all sectors

Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal (million US\$)						
Sector	Damages	Public	Private	Losses	Public	Private
Social	72.17	13.56	58.60	44.26	21.34	22.92
Health	5.97	5.97	-	12.52	12.52	-
Education	5.63	5.63	-	3.10	3.05	0.05
Housing	58.60	-	58.60	4.49	4.05	0.44
Culture	1.96	1.96	-	24.15	1.72	22.43
Productive	13.01	2.52	10.48	202.66	-	202.66
Agricultural	8.43	0.16	8.27	44.50	-	44.50
Tourism	4.57	2.36	2.21	158.17		158.17
Infraestructure	21.53	21.15	0.39	7.74	1.69	6.05
Transport	19.27	19.27		3.94	1.25	2.69
Power	0.39	-	0.39	3.80	0.44	3.36
Water and Sanitation	1.87	1.87		-		
Total	106.71	37.23	69.47	254.66	23.03	231.63

Human impact

Background: monetary and multidimensional poverty in El Salvador

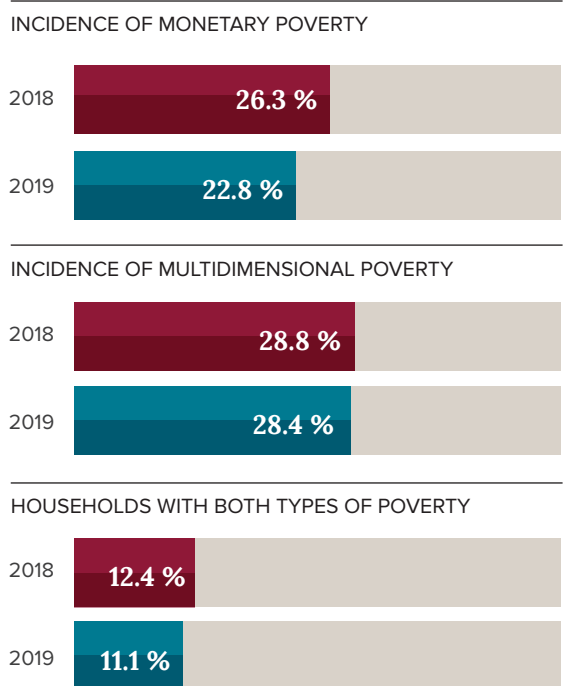
El Salvador's population was 6.7 million people in 2019. Out of this total, 4.1 million reside in urban areas, and 2.6 million in rural areas. 47.1% are men (3.2 million), and 52.9% are women (3.6 million). In demographic terms, 51.4% of the population is under the age of 30, while 13.6% is over 60 years old (DIGESTYC, 2019).

Living conditions in El Salvador prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal reflected significant challenges in terms of human development and poverty. As of 2019, 11.1% of households fell within the income poverty and multidimensional poverty categories.

The proportion of households in a situation of monetary poverty in El Salvador decreased by 3.5 percentage points, from 26.3% (5.7% extreme poverty, and 20.6% relative poverty) in 2018 to 22.8% (4.5% extreme poverty, and

18.3% relative poverty) in 2019, equivalent to 442 thousand households or 1.5 million people. This has resulted in a decrease of 49,040 households and 254,778 people living in poverty in recent years (DIGESTYC, 2019). Out of these, 4.5% live in extreme poverty, while 18.3% live in relative poverty. In rural areas, 24.8% of households live in poverty, of which 5.2% live in extreme poverty, and 19.6% live in relative poverty. In urban areas, 21.7% of households live in poverty: 4.1% live in extreme poverty, and 17.5% live in relative poverty.

FIGURE 9
Incidence of monetary and multidimensional poverty (% of households), 2018 and 2019



Source: UNDP (2020), base MPHS 2018 and 2019.

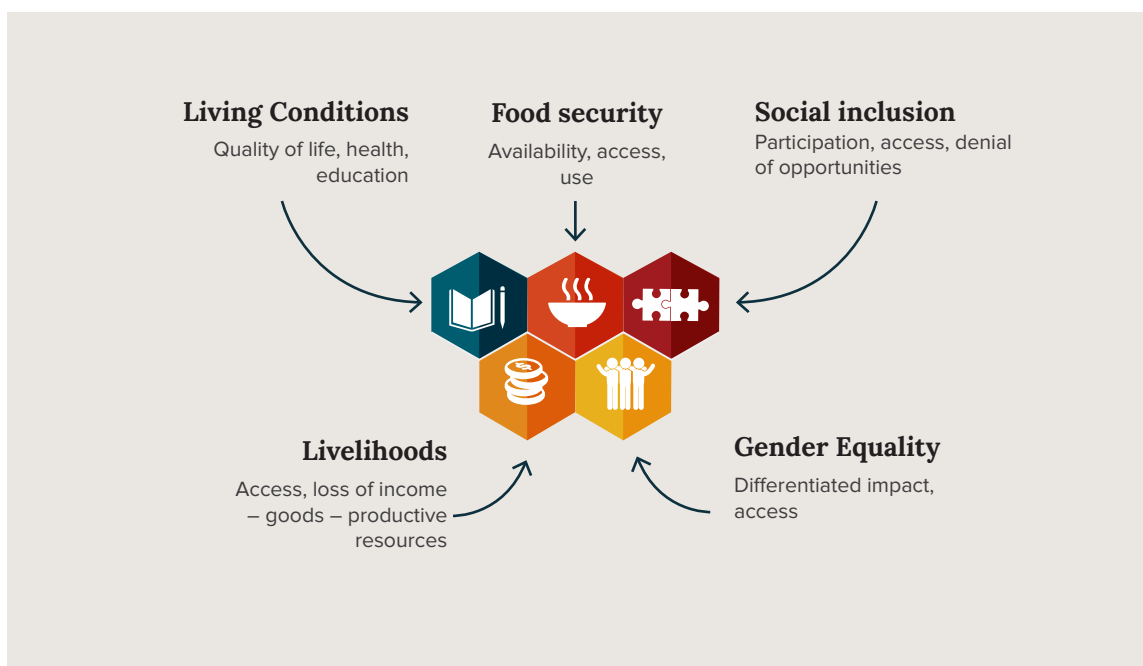
While for 2019, 28.1% of Salvadoran households live in multidimensional poverty; that is, they have an average of eight deficiencies within the twenty indicators of the five welfare dimensions (education, housing conditions, work and social security, health, utilities, food security and quality of habitat). This is equivalent to 543,875 households, that is, about 2.1 million people in the country live in poverty, with significant deprivations. Urban multidimensional poverty represents 17.5% of urban households and 46.0% of rural households. 74.0% of households headed by women have between one to three deprivations, and of these there are 230 thousand households with dependents between 0 and 17 years of age (UNDP, 2020).

Impact generated by the pandemic and tropical storms on the salvadoran population

To analyze the impact that the combination of the two crises had on individuals and families, microsimulations of the impact on monetary poverty were carried out and the measurement of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) available to El Salvador was used.¹⁴ In this way, it was possible to know the baseline or situation of the fami-

^{14/} To simulate the macroeconomic shock of the impact of COVID-19, the microdata of the MPHS 2019 were used and five assumptions were established of how household income would be affected by the crisis: See section on microsimulations. The estimate was made in the month of September/20.

FIGURE 10

PDNA indicators for human impact analysis

lies before the pandemic in at least six key indicators related to deprivation in terms of access to drinking water, access to health services, overcrowding, access to sanitation, underemployment and access to social security.

On its side, the PDNA Methodology suggests the analysis of human impact around the five key aspects (Figure 10). Depending on the type of crisis being analyzed, on the availability of information and on the ability to provide the indicators suggested, human impact experts select the most reliable variables for analysis. In the case of El Salvador, the information available was sufficient and it was possible to count on the invaluable

experience of the General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses of the Ministry of Economy (DIGESTYC), an institution that contributed significantly to this evaluation. Table 4 summarizes the main findings of this analysis, according to the indicators pointed out.

Table 4 summarizes the main human impact indicators identified in the different sectorial analyzes prepared for this study. For more details, see the chapter on human impact, in the second part of this document. Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, added to the COVID-19 pandemic and pre-existing inequities, have contributed to widening the gaps in all indicators (Table 4).

TABLE 4

Summary of human impact indicators

Human impact
Life conditions¹⁵
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23,855 homes suffered some level of damage (18.0% severe, 28.0% moderate, 54.0% mild) due to the storms¹⁶ • 71 thousand families were affected by the storms¹⁷ • 11 thousand people were sheltered in the second week of June¹⁸ • Increase of 6 thousand COVID-19 cases and 164 deaths by the end of June/2020¹⁹ • 5.4 million outpatient consultations not attended to the month of July/2020, in relation to the same period in 2019²⁰ • 555 schools with storm damage as of May 30, 2020²¹ • 16,131 students dropped out of higher education institutions as of May/2020²²
Employment and livelihoods²³
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The average salaries of ISSS contributing workers experienced a reduction of -6.4%, between January and June 2020 • 70,427 formal jobs lost in the private sector, between February and June 2020²⁴ • 628 thousand new people living in poverty (30.3% households) • 276 thousand new people living in extreme monetary poverty (7.2% households)
Food Safety²⁵
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 182 thousand new people living in severe food insecurity between December/2019 and May/2020 • 336 thousand people with severe food insecurity in municipalities affected by the storms • The price of the basic urban food basket increased by US\$9 and the rural one, US\$7.4 compared to June/2019 • 20,000 households with low food consumption as of May/2020

15/ Ministry of Housing, Directorate of Civil Protection (DGP) and Government of El Salvador.

16/ Housing Sectorial Report, PDNA 2020 in El Salvador, p. 10.

17/ Housing Sectorial Report, PDNA 2020 in El Salvador, p. 10.

18/ Housing Sectorial Report, PDNA 2020 in El Salvador, p. 11.

19/ Health Sectorial Report, PDNA 2020 in El Salvador, p. 1.

20/ Health Sectorial Report, PDNA 2020 in El Salvador, p. 11.

21/ Education Sectorial Report, PDNA in El Salvador, p. 4.

22/ Education Sectorial Report, PDNA in El Salvador, p. 13.

23/ ISSS.

24/ Employment Sectorial Report, PDNA in El Salvador, p. 1.

25/ Data obtained from WFP: Food and Nutrition Security Situation, Tropical Storm Amanda Emergency. Report No. 2, June 4, 2020. WFP: Food and Nutrition Security Survey, COVID-19. Follow-up No. 1, May 2020. And from the Rapid Assessment of Food and Nutrition Security against COVID-19.

Human impact

Gender Equality²⁶

- Overload generated by gender roles, which adds to the workload, to the home, to the care and to the accompaniment at school in an adverse context that ignored the care needs at the start
- Impact on economic activities in which women are mostly involved: Trade and services in the informal sector
- Impact on the already scarce resources they have, such as time, access to employment and services and income that enhance their autonomy, among others
- 2,427 cases of violence against women²⁷
- 11,485 unintended pregnancies due to lack of contraceptive drugs (UNFPA, June 2020)
- In the health field, it has impacted on the continuity of services provided to women, such as sexual and reproductive services, which shows as unwanted pregnancies

Social inclusion²⁸

- 18 thousand women are part of the health personnel
- From January to June, 258 pregnant girls (10-14 years) and 6,581 teenage pregnancies have been registered
- Increase in youth unemployment
- Hospital saturation made it difficult to access outpatient consultations
- People with disabilities or elders are more vulnerable to chronic diseases and COVID-19 infections and face greater job insecurity and informality

Impact on the most vulnerable groups

Although the impact of the events is generalized throughout the Salvadoran territory, there are particular social groups that demonstrate significantly high levels of vulnerability, since these people are generally neglected, stigmatized or may face difficulties in accessing comprehensive services that facilitate their recovery.

Girls, boys and adolescents: They are considered to be more vulnerable, as they are overrepresented within households living in poverty. The percentage of monetary poverty in households with children and adolescents was double that of households made up of adults (36.1% vs. 18.3%).

Youth: This group also faces vulnerabilities, as it is stigmatized by the strong waves of violence that characterize the country, which influences youth employment rates to decline and their opportunities are limited. In addition, the pandemic could deepen the need for them to seek employment so much, probably at the cost of dropping out school, and at

^{28/} UNDP, with the support of ISDEMU.

^{29/} Gender Report, PDNA in El Salvador, p. 3.

^{30/} DIGESTYC, MINEDUCYT, FGR, Hospital de la Mujer.

the same time increase the difficulty for youth to find a job.

Women: In the period from January to June 2020, violent deaths of women amounted to 57 cases. Over 50.0% (1,087) of complaints filed for sexual violence crimes are against girls and adolescents (FGR, 2020). The Ministry of Health has reported that the pregnancies of girls between the ages of 10 and 14 have increased by 78.16% from April to June, which means 118 new cases. Furthermore, 37.0% are underemployed, 70.5% in the informal sector, and receive an average monthly salary of US\$306, 22.0% lower than that of men.

Elders: Four out of ten live in homes with a roof made of inadequate materials; seven out of ten reside in the urban sector; and only one in ten is economically active. In addition, 66% of older adults suffered from high blood pressure in 2015 and 34.5% from chronic kidney disease, conditions that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19 infections.

People with disabilities: This group faces a double vulnerability, as 54.0% of people with disabilities were women, and 38.0% were 65 years or older in 2015. 34.8% have at least one chronic disease, and the monthly income of a person with disabilities is less than that of a person without disabilities.

Impacts identified due to COVID-19 and the storms on gender equity

Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal amid the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed

to deepening pre-existing gender inequalities. On the one hand, they had an impact on the economic activities in which women are mostly involved, such as hotels, restaurants, industry and construction, which account for more than half of the women employed (62.8%). 79.5% of working women are employed in the tertiary sector, compared to 49.5% of men (DIGESTYC, 2019), a sector that is estimated to have the strongest economic impact derived from the pandemic. In addition, inequalities have worsened in the multiple duties of women, due to care responsibilities; thus, women dedicate five hours, compared to two hours for men (there is a gap of three hours) (Ministry of Economy/DIGESTYC, 2017²⁹).

Reported violence against women has experienced a sustained reduction in the first half of the year. The projected registered homicide rate by the end of 2020 is 3.0 for women (Infosegura,³⁰ August 2020). 2,427 acts of violence against women were reported, and only a substantial increase in acts related to the dissemination of pornography was reported. 85.1% of the victims are young women (32.3%) and adults (52.8%). During the mandatory quarantine period, the capacity of the institutions of the justice and security sector to continue providing access to justice to women victims was reduced and, in the same way, they were afraid to go out

^{29/} At the moment, there is not a more recent survey on time use..

^{30/} Evidence-based Citizen Security Information Management Program, supported by USAID and UNDP: <https://infosegura.org/en/>

to report, which has had a significant impact in the reported figures. These services have recently been adapted to continue providing services to Salvadoran women and girls who are victims of violence.

The Online Morbidity System (SIMMOW for its acronym in Spanish), the National Health Services Network, in the period from January to June 2020, registered 258 pregnant girls aged 10 to 14 years, while in ages 15 to 19 there were 6,581 pregnancies (MINSAL Health Establishment Network, June 2020). According to ONUMUJERES, these situations should be understood as results of sexual violence.

Impacts identified due to COVID-19 and storms on employment

The COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal will have an impact on the labor market and the livelihoods of the working population, which can be seen in the short, medium and long term, based on the immediate effects in the loss of work hours and work income.

Between March and June 2020 there is evidence of a loss of 70,427 formal jobs in the private sector, which is equivalent to approximately 7.9% of all workers in the formal sector as of February 2020. The most affected branches of activity are construction (25.3%), real estate activities (15.7%), manufacturing industry (11.6%), agriculture and livestock (11.6%), commerce, restaurants and hotels (10.5%) and professional activities (9.5%). In addition, the average salaries of ISSS con-

tributing workers experienced an average reduction of -6.4% between January and June; the commerce sector being the one with the greatest reduction in salaries (-17.1%), followed by industry (-13.9%) and construction (11.3%) (ISSS, 2020).

Due to the paucity of data, time, and context in which the assessment was conducted (COVID-19 times), it is difficult to assess the impact of the pandemic and tropical storms on informal workers. However, preliminary estimates indicate that the fall in sectorial production may have caused a loss of 89,347,000 workdays among informal workers, equivalent to 487,900 full-time jobs. Consequentially, affected workers could have foregone up to US\$1.861 million in personal income. The sectors where most of the informal economic activity was interrupted are commerce and tourism (33.0%), agriculture (21.0%), construction (15.0%) and manufacturing industries (13.0%).

However, the effects of unemployment and income losses are differentiated, highlighting and deepening existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, with special emphasis on the situation of informal workers, women and young workers, and the older adult population that is still working actively. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO) (2018), 76.2% of all hours of unpaid care work are assumed by women, which is aggravated by confinement measures. Similarly, for 2019, the national unemployment rate was 6.3%, while the youth unemployment rate amounted to 13.4% (DIGESTYC, 2020). This trend has not reversed since the crisis. In addition, young people also tend to be

employed in low-productivity sectors and in the informal sector, for which they face, like women, double inequality.

Likewise, a characteristic of the precariousness of the Salvadoran labor market is that very few people can face long periods of unemployment (or zero income), so many people, faced with unemployment, started informal enterprises. The 2013 Longitudinal Survey of Social Protection indicates that of the unemployed (45.0%) remain unemployed for two years: 38.8% are employed in the informal sector and only 16.1% are able to return to the formal labor market after 24 months.

Microsimulation

Microsimulation techniques were used to evaluate the possible distributional impacts of the economic crisis due to the containment measures of COVID-19. The microsimulation seeks to answer the question of how much income poverty could rise in the face of a GDP contraction with no close antecedents in the Salvadoran economy.

To simulate the macroeconomic shock of the impact of COVID-19, the microdata of the MPHS 2019 were used and five assumptions were established of how household income would be affected by the crisis:

01 An annual contraction of remittances of -2.8%.

02 A 33.3% contraction in the income of independent workers, equivalent

to losing four months of income due to confinement measures.

03 That the loss of formal jobs estimated by the ISSS would imply an increase of 0.8 percentage points (pp) in the unemployment rate, and around 20,422 workers would transition from formality to informality.

04 A 6.4% reduction in the income of workers dependent on the private sector, due to suspensions or other measures adopted by companies.

05 An increase in the prices of the basic food basket of 3.5% in urban areas and 1.9% in rural areas.

The main results of this microsimulation show that these five shocks to household income would imply that the incidence of income poverty in households could go from 22.8% in 2019 to 30.3% in 2020, an increase of 7.5 percentage points, equivalent to 144,993 new households living in poverty, and equivalent to 627,820 new people living in poverty.

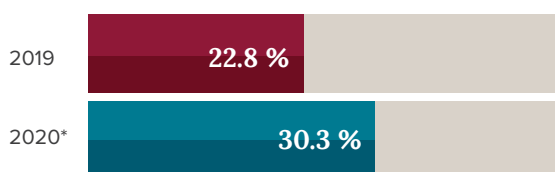
The incidence of extreme poverty would increase by 2.7 percentage points, going from 4.5% in 2019 to 7.2% in 2020, equivalent to 51,750 new households living in extreme poverty and 275,594 new people living in extreme poverty.

When evaluating the sex of the head in poverty in 2020, 37.2% of poor households would have female heads, and 62.8% would have male heads; however, there is no evi-

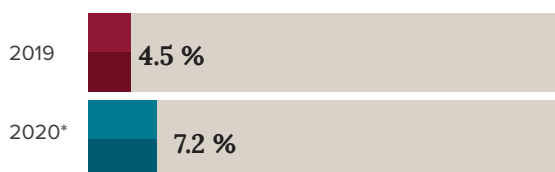
FIGURE 11

Results of the monetary poverty microsimulation

TOTAL POVERTY (HOUSEHOLDS)



EXTREME POVERTY (HOUSEHOLDS)



* Projection

Source and elaboration: DIGESTYC (2020).

dence that poverty incidence rates are differentiated by the sex of the household head.

Finally, the results of this simulation are subject to the performance of the economy in the last semester of the year: If the magnitude of the recovery is high, the results in poverty may be lower, as well as the impact of possible recovery policies.

Macroeconomic impact

The adverse effects on the country have motivated, in the short term, that the policy priorities are oriented to alleviate the con-

tinuous human and health costs, and to mitigate the economic losses of the most vulnerable; and in the medium and long term, the need for governments to reaffirm a credible commitment to promote sustainable public policies and undertake the necessary reforms to reinforce growth prospects when the pandemic is under control and the crisis subsides.

Impact on economic growth 2019-2020

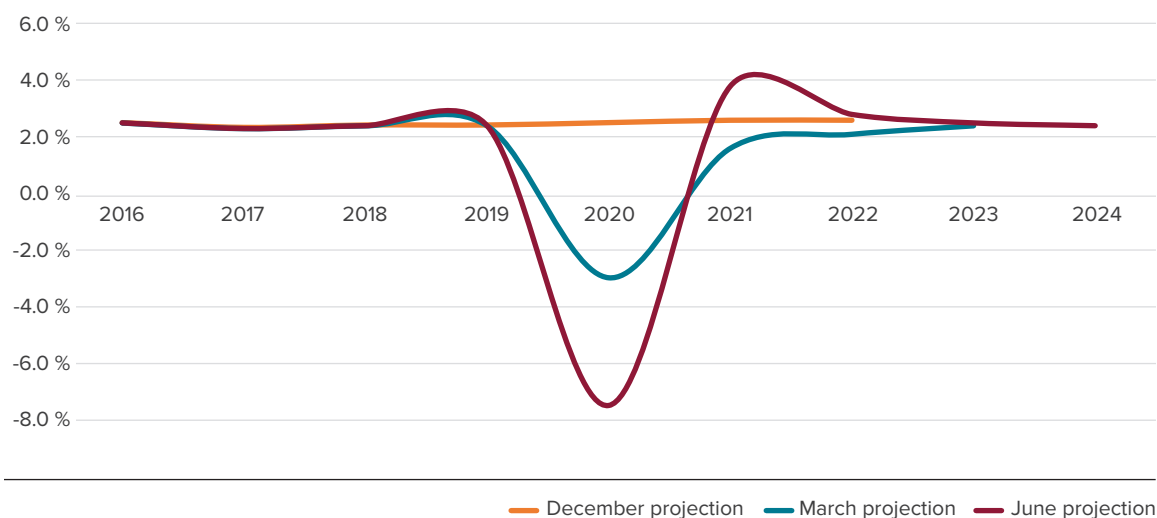
Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its deepening due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, the Salvadoran economy is expected to contract significantly. According to estimates by the BCR, there are various explanatory factors for the downward projection of economic growth in El Salvador, in an estimated range between -6.5% to -8.5%, among which are: The current uncertainty atmosphere regarding the duration of the coronavirus (vaccines), global macroeconomic expectations and those of the main trading partners, and the improvement in the conditions that affect aggregate demand.

Over the months, economic evolution predictions or scenarios have changed from a growth scenario, following the 2019 trend, to an increasingly pronounced decline.

It is important to bear in mind that the ongoing pandemic, in addition to the damage to human health, is also generating a serious deterioration in the macroeconomic conditions of the country, inducing reductions in production and income levels, and, therefore, in consumption and investment expenses

FIGURE 12

December/2019, March/2020 and June/2020 scenarios. Percentage change rate



Source: BCR.

and the export and import capacities of companies, factors that reduce the population’s welfare.

Impact on external sector indicators

The double confluence of domestic lockdown and the international situation leads to a deterioration of the external sector, with a sharp decline in exports and imports and a growth forecast in the trade balance deficit of 11.6%. The same, traditionally offset by the strong remittances sent by Salvadorans abroad, will only be partially moderate, since these have also had a fall, although its trend is estimated not to be so negative.

Exports: El Salvador’s accumulated exports as of August 2020 totaled US\$3,093.3 mil-

lion, decreasing by US\$984.7 million compared to the same period in 2019, with a year-on-year variation of -24.1%. This can be explained by the fact that one of the most important sectors for the external sector, the manufacturing industry, which, including maquila, only exported US\$2,940.8 million, which generates a year-on-year variation of -24.9%, equivalent to US\$975.6 million less compared to the previous year.

Imports: As an effect of the confinement and the fall in industrial, commercial and service activities, a fall in imports is also expected, which, however, will not prevent, as indicated, an increase in the deficit in the trade account.

Remittances: Family remittances received by El Salvador totaled US\$3,635.6 million in





the first eight months of 2020, decreasing by US\$62.7 million compared to the same period in 2019, which is equivalent to -1.7%. Despite the year-on-year drop of -40.0% in April and -18.0% in May, in recent months there are factors that have favored the accelerated recovery of remittances, such as the fact that 15.1% of senders work in essential activities such as health, personal care and cleaning activities, according to the Sixth Survey of Family Remittances, carried out by the BCR in the United States, in 2018.

Inflation: The annual variation rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in August 2020 was -0.3%, two tenths lower than the previous month. The accumulated variation of the CPI throughout 2020 has been -0.4%.

Impact on tax revenue

According to the BCR, the fall in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will be the main responsible for the fall in tax revenue and will increase the fiscal deficit by approximately 4.0% with respect to GDP, which reduces the already limited fiscal space and the indebtedness level increases as a counter-cyclical fiscal policy measure to address the emergency and the reactivation of the economy.

The estimated revenue loss at the close of the fiscal year is estimated at US\$960 million relative to the budget. Total revenue will contract with respect to the budget, from US\$6,371.9 million to US\$5,410.9 million, largely due to the stoppage of productive activity as an effect of COVID-19, which has increased the slowdown of the economy with respect to estimates for the first quarter.

Recovery needs

The recovery needs estimated by the PDNA amount to US\$1,211.6 million, reflecting the interventions required to repair or rebuild infrastructure and physical assets with enhanced measures that are in line with the principles of rebuilding to something better and disaster risk reduction to ensure future resilience.

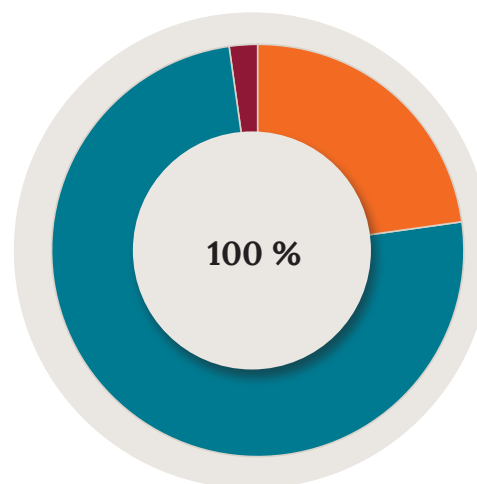
The social sector is the one with the highest percentage of needs to be financed (75.0%),

of which US\$473.3 million are required for education; US\$283.7 million for health; US\$121 for housing; and almost US\$14 million for culture. These are linked to the need to relocate, safe housing and the continuity of support in health and education in the face of the post-COVID-19 reality (health measures, non-face-to-face education that requires technology and equipment). In this sector, additional US\$20 million have also been considered for a bond aimed at reducing the negative impacts on people who fall into poverty.

TABLE 5

Summary of needs per analysis sector

Sector	Needs (Million US\$)
Social	912.79
Health	283.70
Education	473.34
Housing	121.00
Culture	13.85
Social protection*	20.90
Productive	19.17
Agricultural	14.59
Tourism	4.58
Infraestructure	279.65
Transport	277.39
Energy	0.39
Water and Sanitation	1.87
Total in US\$	1,211.61



- 2.0 % Productive sectors
- 23.0 % Infraestructure
- 75.0 % Social

*Health and education bonus for the new poor

In the productive sectors, the storms did not generate greater additional needs, since the Government has been implementing support for the economic reactivation due to COVID-19 for an amount of at least US\$1 billion (includes financing for the informal sector, subsidy for the employment of MSMEs,

payment to private sector suppliers and refund of VAT on exports). The circumstances of small producers in the agricultural sector requires special treatment, since they were affected by tropical storms, as detailed in the sectorial report presented in the second part of this document.

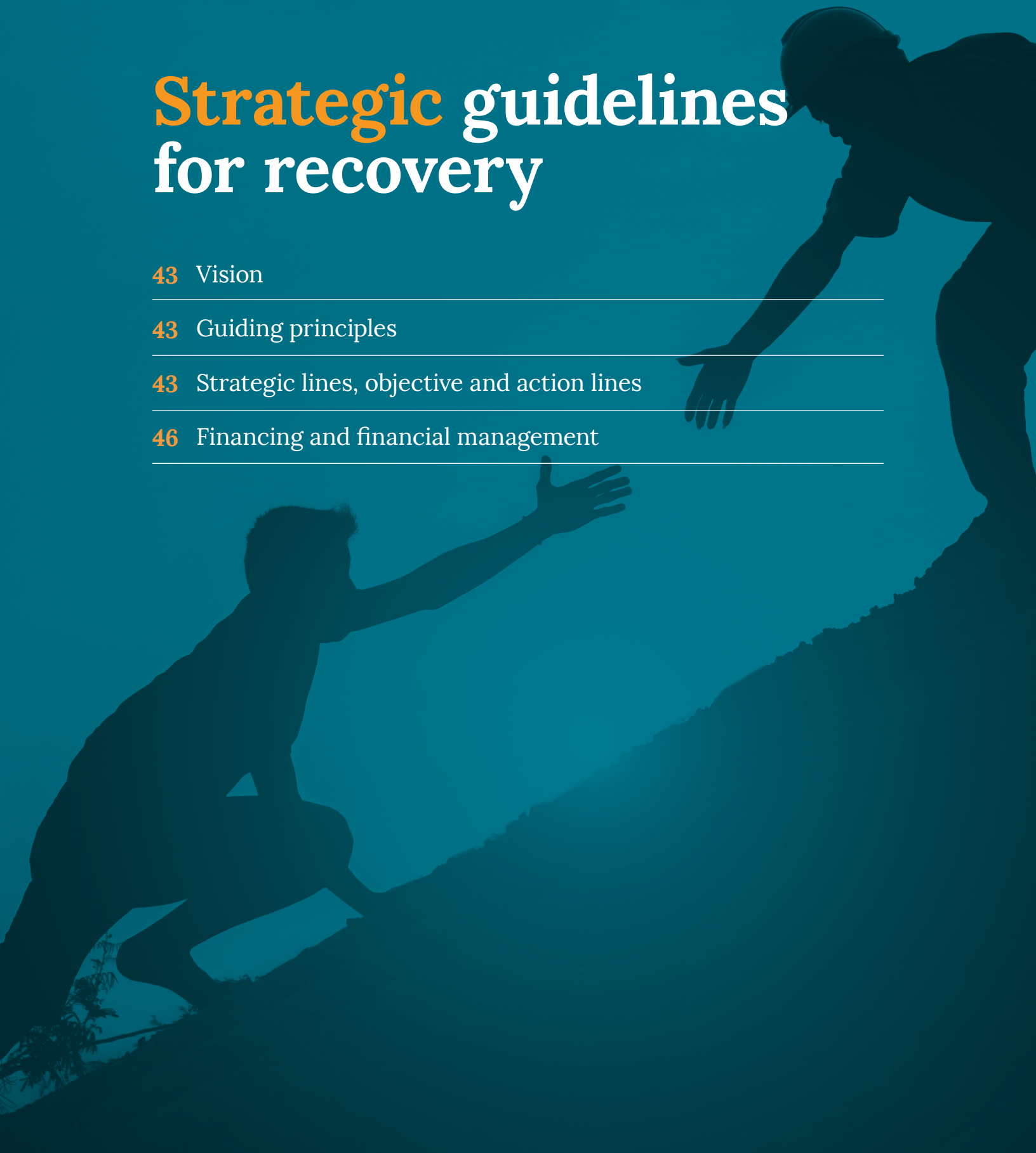
Strategic guidelines for recovery

43 Vision

43 Guiding principles

43 Strategic lines, objective and action lines

46 Financing and financial management



Through a participatory process with the 60 institutional delegates that participated in the assessment, in two consecutive workshops the key elements that will allow the country to advance in the formulation of a comprehensive recovery strategy were discussed and agreed upon.

This is how a vision, four guiding principles and five strategic intervention lines were formulated, in which all the sectorial needs and their cost were grouped. Each of these elements are detailed below.

Vision

The working groups formulated four proposals that included key considerations for recovery, including citizen participation, especially that of the most affected groups: Avoiding risk reconstruction, integration of different levels of government, among others. The consensus proposal for the vision says:

“The recovery after COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal will strengthen resilience, social inclusion and sustainable development according to the 2030 Agenda, speeding up inter-institutional coordination and flexibility, avoiding duplication of functions in risk management and prevention. It will be a participatory and inclusive process, to leverage the cultural diversity of El Salvador, to address the gaps, shortcomings and pre-existing needs in the communities”.

Guiding principles

In the same way, the four principles prioritized by the participants were selected from

among twelve options proposed by the different working groups:

▣ **Social inclusion and Gender equity:**

Take into account both the needs and the differentiated effects of the vulnerable population, including boys, girls and adolescents, youth, elderly people, women, people with disabilities, indigenous and Afro-descendant populations, in order to “leave no one behind.”

▣ **Inter-sectorial and Complementary:**

Promote links with the different government levels at a territorial and sectorial level, to ensure good coordination from a national level to a local level and an efficient recovery process that avoids duplication of interventions.

▣ **Comprehensive risk management:**

Ensure that recovery interventions are aligned with the country’s environmental and territorial ordering, to avoid the construction of vulnerabilities and ensure the construction of resilience.

▣ **Transparency and Accountability:**

Promote transparent resource management and implementation of the strategy, facilitating citizen control of the efficient use of resources.

Strategic lines, objective and action lines

The five selected strategic lines are described below, with their respective objectives and action lines: 1) Governance; 2) Economic recovery; 3) Risk reduction, resilient infrastructure and decent housing; 4) Technology and innovation; and 5) Welfare, protection and social inclusion.



Governance

Strategic objective

Streamline inter-institutional coordination and flexibility, avoiding duplication of functions in risk management and prevention in a participatory and inclusive process.

Action lines

- 01** Strengthening of governance mechanisms and territorial management in El Salvador.
- 02** Strengthening of inter-institutional coordination on emergency and disaster response issues.
- 03** Implementation of public policies aimed at the control and use of land.
- 04** Strengthening of institutional regulatory frameworks.
- 05** Implementation of communication and information dissemination strategies on issues related to risk mitigation and attention at a national level, including training programs in risk assessment, management and administration with an interdisciplinary, multi-threat and multidimensional vision.
- 06** Creation of the systematization of damage assessment, for a coordinated and precise information gathering, with adequate disaggregation per gender, age, etc.
- 07** Facilitate foreign investment and exports in the country as sources for the creation of jobs.
- 08** Facilitate trade, through simplified and clear information and procedure systems to boost the economy, strengthening the capacities of SMEs and MSMEs.



Economic recovery

Strategic objective

Boost the country's economic activities in an inclusive and comprehensive manner, ensuring the sustainable operation of the productive value chains, through the development of human capacities, quality work and the incorporation of new and better technologies that respect the environment.

Action lines

- 01** Ensure the provision of financial and/or material resources for the economic activities that the country demands for its recovery.
- 02** Promote activities that generate national production chains and promote demand.
- 03** Facilitate the universal use of clean energy at affordable costs.
- 04** Expand and strengthen markets and the demand capacity of the population in El Salvador; promote labor markets that include a diverse population, especially vulnerable groups; and facilitate the formalization of the existing informal sector.
- 05** Strengthen technical support to companies, to increase their competitiveness and productivity.

Risk reduction, resilient infrastructure and decent housing



Strategic objective

Avoid the reconstruction of preexisting vulnerabilities of a physical, social and institutional nature. Ensure that investments, which are generally high when it comes to basic social infrastructure and housing, are safe and contribute to risk reduction in the country.

Action lines

- 01 Repair, reconstruction and maintenance of sectorial infrastructure, including service networks.
- 02 Review of the post-disaster care policy for homeless families.
- 03 Development of guidelines for relocation and resettlement of communities located in places of non-mitigable risk.
- 04 Foster resilience from infrastructure planning to operation/functioning.
- 05 Special treatment of cultural heritage.
- 06 Guarantee the provision of basic services and amenities, improving the habitat and guaranteeing its sustainability.
- 07 Special considerations for the access of the most vulnerable families/communities, including the indigenous population, cultural bearers, Afro-descendants, women, girls and boys, the elderly and people with special abilities.
- 08 Promote the comprehensive concept of risk reduction and building resilience for all social and productive sectors, including activities related to the socio-economic aspects of productive sectors, such as agriculture, tourism, formal and informal trade, among others.

Technology and Innovation



Strategic objective

Reduce the digital and connectivity gap by strengthening human capital, facilitating connectivity and access to information, raising awareness and generating an innovation culture to promote human, technological, and social development, in order to make viable the needs for post-pandemic recovery from COVID-19.

Action lines

- 01 Strengthen human capital for the development and use of new technologies, applications, virtual platforms and other tools (ICT).
- 02 Expand the coverage, access and connectivity of the population to networks and digital platforms.
- 03 Implement a technology literacy strategy for students, public and private workers and the community in general.
- 04 Promote innovation as a fundamental pillar for social and productive transformation, through coordinated and multisectorial actions that allow problem-solving through research and development of technologies, among other aspects, such as new materials, adapting production methods and social interactions to COVID-19 processes.



Welfare, protection and social inclusion

Strategic objective

Help the social and human recovery of the population in vulnerable conditions that has been affected by both COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, so that they can have access to basic services, means of subsistence and food security, taking their differentiated needs and impacts into account.

Action lines

- 01** Protect basic health services for the population.
- 02** Guarantee the provision of educational services to the population, especially children and adolescents.
- 03** Protect people and guarantee the enjoyment of rights of the vulnerable population.
- 04** Ensure food security.
- 05** Guarantee other basic public services (transport, water, sanitation and power).

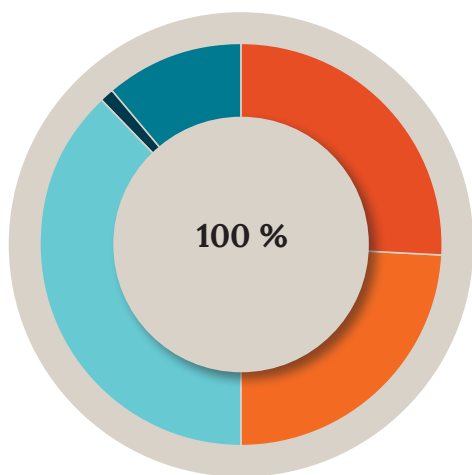
Financing and financial management

Based on the results of the PDNA, five action lines have been determined within the strategy for financing the Recovery and Reconstruction Program of the sectors. The largest item will be allocated to risk reduction, resilient infrastructure and decent housing (38.0%), with the aim of improving the living conditions of people who were affected by the storms and lost their homes.

Recovery implementation needs to be supported by the mobilization of funds and coordination mechanisms that channel the funds to the implementing entities in a timely manner. Recovery can be financed through government funds, international aid, private sector financing, and community contributions. To manage the recovery in a holistic manner, it is recommended that the Government have an effective mechanism for tracking funds budgeted as extra-budgetary, along with a robust public financial management system, which would increase the confidence of potential donors and help mobilize additional funds for recovery.

TABLE 6

Financing needs per strategic line



- **26.0 %** Technology and innovation
- **24.0 %** Economic recovery
- **38.0 %** Risk reduction, resilient infrastructure and decent housing
- **1.0 %** Governance
- **11.0 %** Welfare, protection and social inclusion

Strategic line	Amount (Million US\$)
Economic recovery	289.83
Risk reduction, resilient infrastructure and decent housing	454.25
Governance	14.39
Welfare, Protection and Social inclusion	146.62
Innovation and technology	306.62
Total	1,211.61

Next steps

49 National recovery strategy

49 Institutionalize procedures for the estimation of recovery needs

National recovery strategy

Methodologies such as the Post-Disaster Recovery Needs Assessment (PDNA) provide a solid foundation for quantifying recovery needs and formulating comprehensive recovery strategies. The PDNA offers the opportunity to go beyond estimating the costs required for recovery: It can lead to the formulation of a realistic recovery framework, based on national priorities and capacities.

The vision, guiding principles and the proposal of the five strategic lines of intervention together with their budget are the starting point for the formulation of a solid action plan. Other aspects that the recovery framework promotes is the identification of an entity that leads the recovery process, which may be a line ministry, or an agency created expressly for that purpose.

The governing bodies of recovery in El Salvador can help the Government develop a framework that adopts a programmatic approach to identify priority sectors that are critical to restoring the livelihoods of the population and ensuring the economic reactivation of the country. Such a framework would allow for holistic recovery management, where the activities of government agencies, communities, and non-government entities complement each other under a government-led scheme.

Since a significant portion of recovery activities are carried out by non-governmental entities, an inclusive recovery process would

help avoid duplication of tasks and gaps. For example, certain geographic areas and sectors could be assigned to individual donors, NGOs and implementing partners, in coordination with the recently created national cooperation agency.

The lead entity or agency would oversee the development of the recovery framework and play a critical role in its implementation. The lead agency could also play a central role in coordinating, supervising, and monitoring and evaluating (M&E) the progress of the recovery.

Institutionalize procedures for the estimation of recovery needs

The exercise to estimate recovery needs caused by the overlap of two critical events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal generated great interest among the government technical teams assigned to this process. The motivation that this participatory process has generated should be channeled towards an institutionalization of the procedures based on a methodological adaptation adjusted to the national reality and that responds better to a process of strengthening institutional capacities to respond to different crisis and emergency scenarios than to reactive responses to the crisis, where everything is more urgent, it is carried out in any way whatsoever and without any methodology, among others.

A review of the procedures for recording, handling and processing information can

significantly speed up the process of estimating damages, losses and recovery needs, by having harmonized procedures that reduce the time for these estimates. In the same way, prior agreements for the exchange of information, pre-agreed formats, standardized procedures and memorandums of understanding between the different ministries, can make the difference to optimize these mechanisms. Having well-trained inter-agency and multi-sector teams

can significantly contribute to improving preparedness, needs assessment, recovery planning, and the implementation of comprehensive recovery programs.

A country like El Salvador, which is regularly affected by the impact of various natural hazards, not only related to the climate, but also others of geophysical origin, such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, could institutionalize these efforts.



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Summary

Once the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) was declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) in January 2020, El Salvador dynamically activated containment and response actions to COVID-19. Similarly, when on March 11th, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, the Salvadoran government expeditiously requested the declaration of a state of emergency and exception in the country. This promptness placed the country at the forefront of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that activated measures and concrete actions to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, which gave it the best evaluation in the region.

As of May 31st, 2,395 confirmed cases and 44 deaths had accumulated in El Salvador, figures that present, in comparison with those of other countries, a very low fatality rate (1.8%). At the end of June, in a decreasing fatality context in Central America and strongly affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, the evolution of confirmed cases in El Salvador was increasing: It registered 6,173 cases and 164 deaths. By July, 15,841 cases and 430 deaths were registered.

To carry out this assessment, the main changes experienced in the sector were identified in two periods: The first one was from March to May 2020, which in its entirety can be attributed to the catastrophe caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; the second one, from June to July 2020, in which

the majority of damages and losses are attributed to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, but there is still a strong impact of the pandemic. Therefore, although the two periods help us to identify the impact of each event in a clearer, temporal way, in the sectorial analysis they were also “contaminated” due to the superposition of the phenomena. The results show that the impact of the catastrophic event of the pandemic amounts to around US\$671.6 million, 76.4% for the public sector and 23.6% for families, constituting total losses for the country. On the other hand, health impacts caused by the tropical storms catastrophe total around US\$18.5 million, of which damages correspond to 32.0% (US\$6 million); and the remaining 68.0% to losses, around US\$12.5 million. In total, it is estimated that the joint health effects of the two catastrophes evaluated are around US\$690.07 million.

Once the effects caused by the pandemic and tropical storms have been defined, the recovery needs and the required sector strategy are identified and paid for, to produce a comprehensive sector recovery and improve their resilience capacity. The needs and strategy raised respond to the fundamental objective of the sector, which is to generate sanitary conditions and access to timely and quality health for the population living in El Salvador, as expressed in the Cuscatlán Plan.

To achieve a healthy health sector, and to re-operate and fill the gap generated by catastrophes, it is estimated that around US\$245.2 million will be required in the short term; US\$41.4 million in the medium;



and US\$17.1 million in the long term. This represents 9.3%, 1.6% and 0.6% of the complementary financing resources of the budget and of multilateral sources contemplated in the strategy of the Ministry of Finance (MH) to face COVID-19 measures. (MH, 2020).

Context before tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

The rapid spread and ignorance of the disease took the medical and scientific community, the authorities, and the public by surprise. Once the initial confusion was overcome, important efforts were made by the health systems to control the advance of the pandemic. The latest figures indicate that 23 million people have been infected by the virus, and there have been around 800 thousand deaths in 215 countries.¹

Central America was no exception. Between March and May 2020, it reached 43,252² contagion cases and 1,204 deaths, with an average fatality of 2.8% of deaths of the total confirmed cases of COVID-19. As of May 31st, compared to the group of countries in the re-

gion, El Salvador had one of the lowest fatality rates: 1.84%.

In June, although infections were multiplying in the region, the number of deaths grew to a lesser extent, which resulted in the average fatality rate decreasing slightly (2.55%). However, in that same month, El Salvador increased its fatality rate to 2.66%, slightly exceeding the Central American average (Table 1). In July, the number of confirmed cases continued to grow, and at the end of the month it registered an additional 157.0% to the previous month. Consequently, fatality also increased to 2.71%, higher than the Central American average.

Once the first case appeared³, El Salvador went from a scenario without cases (Chart 1)⁴ to one with community transmission (Scenario 4) during the analysis period. With a slow start between March and May, as of May 31st, 2,395 coronavirus infections and 117 deaths had accumulated in El Salvador. However, the situation was very different on June 30th –after the scourge of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal–, as the figure tripled to 6,173 infections and 239 deaths. By July,

1/ For figures, these portals can be consulted: <https://covid19.gob.sv/> (Government of El Salvador) and <https://covid19.who.int/table> (WHO); worldometers, Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, ourworldindata, Our World in Data (Owid).

2/ The countries considered in the value are: Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic. See COMISCA-SICA, 2020.

3/ For a sequence of facts and policies, see Annex 2.

4/ In order to prepare the necessary strategies and actions, the WHO defined four transmission scenarios for COVID-19: 1. Countries without cases; 2. Countries with one or more cases, imported or detected locally (sporadic cases); 3. Countries experiencing clusters of cases in a common time, geographic location, or exposure (cluster of cases); 4. Countries experiencing widespread outbreaks of local transmission (community transmission). See WHO (2020a).

TABLE 1

COVID-19 cases, deaths, and fatality per country. Central America and the Dominican Republic. Period: May-July 2020

Country	Accumulated as of May 31 st , 2020			Accumulated as of June 30 th , 2020			Accumulated as of July 31 st , 2020		
	I	D	F	I	D	F	I	D	F
Belize	18	2	11.11	24	2	8.33	48	2	4.17
Guatemala	4,607	90	1.95	16,930	727	4.29	47,605	1,835	3.85
El Salvador	2,395	44	1.84	6,173	164	2.66	15,841	430	2.71
Honduras	4,886	199	4.07	18,082	479	2.65	40,460	1,214	3.0
Nicaragua	885	35	3.95	2,014	74	3.67	3,080	116	3.77
Costa Rica	1,022	10	0.98	3,130	15	0.48	16,344	125	0.76
Panama	12,531	326	2.60	31,686	604	1.91	62,223	1,349	2.17
Dom. Republic	16,908	498	2.95	31,816	733	2.30	66,182	1,123	1.70
Central America and the Dominican Republic	43,252	1,204	2.78	109,855	2,798	2.55	251,783	6,194	2.46

(C) Infected (F) Deceased (L) Fatality

Source: Own elaboration, based on data from COMISCA-SICA, 2020.

the number of confirmed cases skyrocketed, reaching 15,841 infected individuals and 430 deaths. The COVID-19 disease was mainly located in the department of San Salvador, with 51.3% of cases by the end of May, 47.7% by the end of June, and 41.4% by the end of July (Charts 1 and 2).

If a review is carried out at a municipal level, by the end of July we see that 22 municipalities did not register any case; 47 municipalities reported between 1 and 3 cases; 61 municipalities, between 4 and 10 cases; 57 municipalities, between 11 and 30 cases; and 75 municipalities reached figures of 31 cases or more cases.

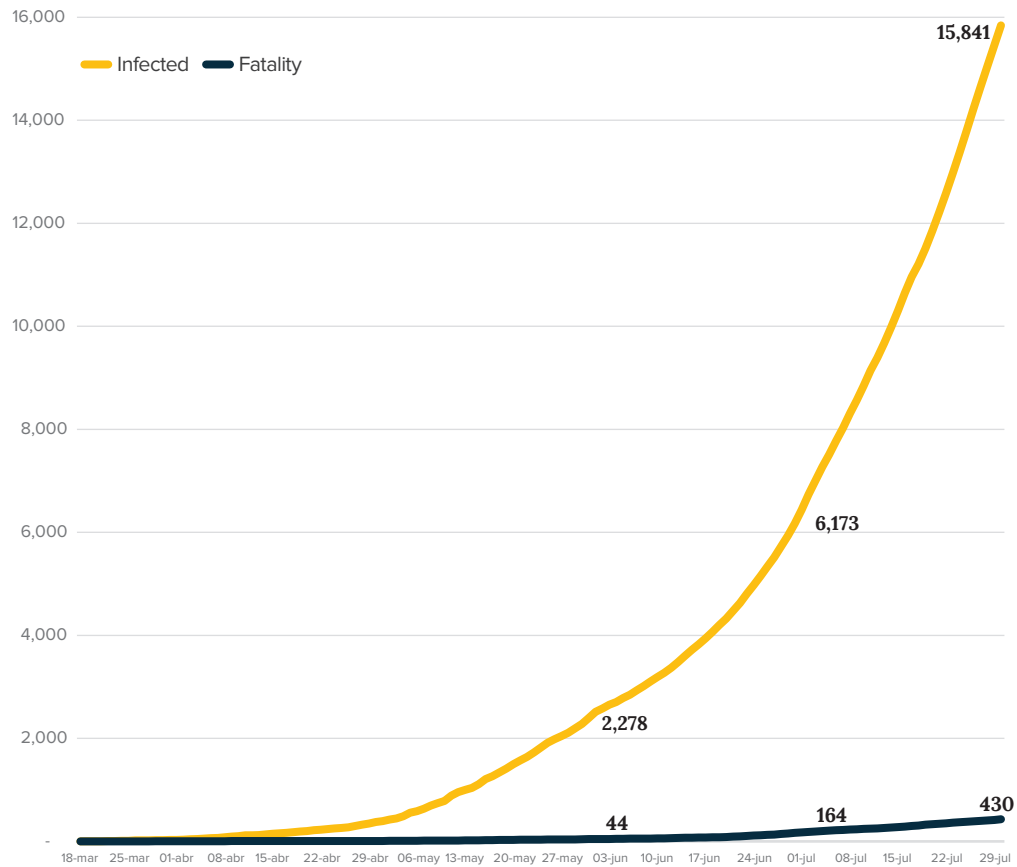
The aforementioned data indicate rates of 350 infections and 6.5 deaths per million inhabitants by the end of May; of 912.4 infections and 24.4 deaths by the end of June; and 2,204.93 infections and 63.56 deaths per million inhabitants by July 31st, 2020. The figures reflect an increase from 117 to 239 and 389 new COVID-19 cases per day by the end of May, June and July, this is more than double in just a few days, and from then on there was an exponential growth that was it would have slowed down only as of August 10th.⁵

^{5/} Although not corresponding to the period of analysis, it is worth mentioning that the most important daily growth figures occurred in the first week of Au-



CHART 1

Number of infected and deceased by COVID-19 in El Salvador, March-July 2020



Source: Own elaboration, based on data from MINSAL.

The characterization of those infected in El Salvador shows that: 47.0% are women and 53.0% are men; the age group between 20

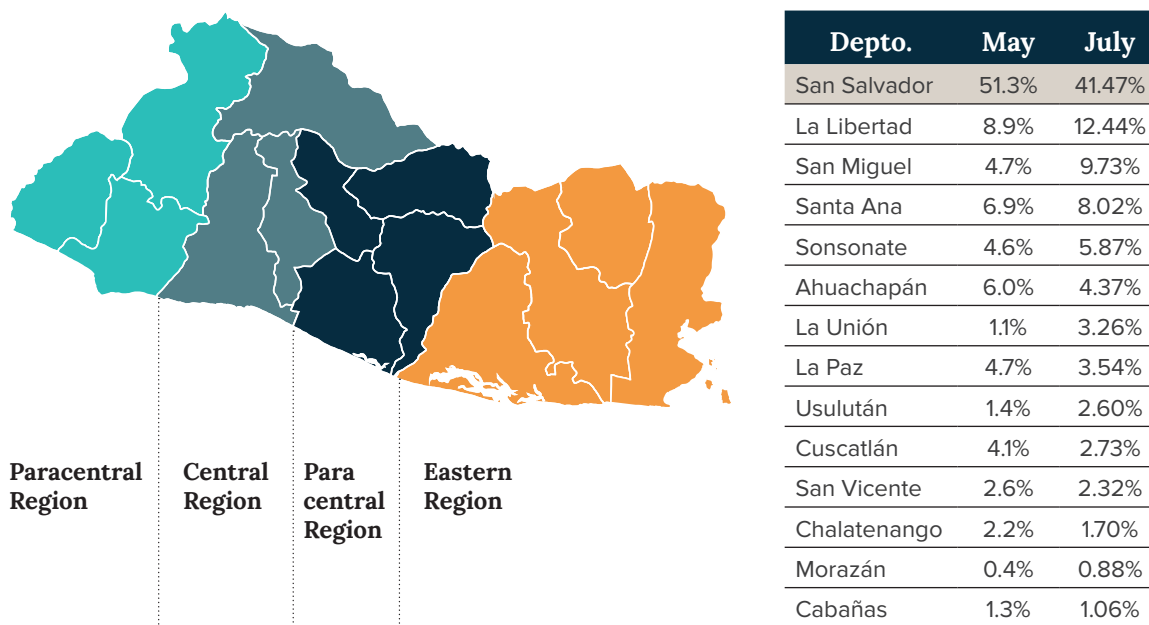
gust. From August 10th onwards, the number of new confirmed infections has always decreased compared to the previous day. However, El Salvador has already exceeded 24,000 cases, due to exponential growth of the contagion of the disease (<https://covid19.gob.sv/>) (<https://covid19.who.int/table>).

and 39 years old showed the highest percentage of infections (41.4%), followed by the group between 40 and 59 (40.3%); and that 89.5% correspond to local cases, while 0.5% to imported cases,⁶ with an important group of imported cases stranded that reaches 10.0%.

⁶/ One third of which comes from the Central American region. See <https://covid19.gob.sv/>

CHART 2

Distribution of COVID-19 cases in El Salvador per department, May-July 2020



Source: Taken from MINSAL (<https://covid19.gob.sv/>). Data prepared based on FUNDAUNGO Statistical Bulletins 5 to 15.

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests for detection of the COVID-19 virus in El Salvador yielded effective results that allowed us to know the scope of the situation: They found that there are 1.08 asymptomatic patients per every stable infected; 1.13 per moderate; almost 5 asymptomatic patients per seriously ill patient; and 11.5 ones per critical patient. El Salvador observes a good performance, compared to twenty other American countries, and is in the first ratings with 4,098 tests per 100,000 inhabitants, but still with a significant gap with respect to the average (10,170).⁷

7/ An average of 10,170 tests per 100,000 inhabitants. It includes the United States, with 21,069 tests

The initial cases and the consequent spread of contagions have grown considerably and are currently reaching a R_0^8 of 1.1 (1–1.2)^{9/10} new infections by infected person. Likewise,

per 100,000 inhabitants; and Canada, with 12,411 per 100,000 inhabitants. However, if El Salvador is compared with the rest of Latin American and Caribbean countries, it is among the best.

8/ The basic reproduction number R_0 is considered as the average number of new cases generated by a given case (base) throughout an infectious process.

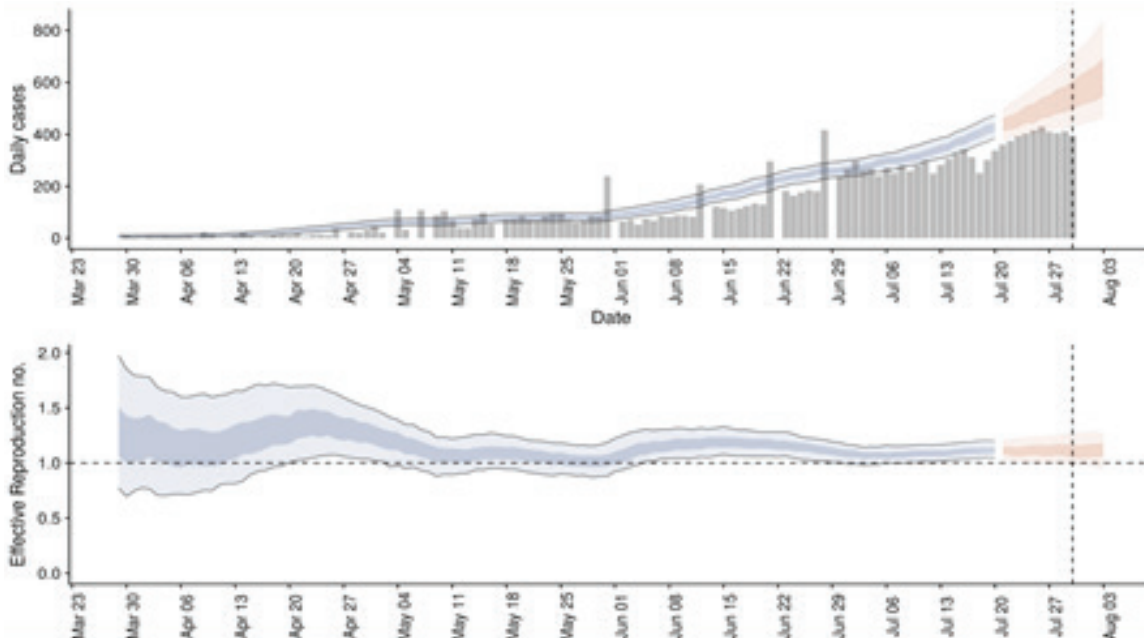
9/ See methodological details at <https://epiforecasts.io/covid/posts/national/el-salvador/>

10/ In a study carried out by FUNDAUNGO, from June 2020, the R_0 is 2.7 infected per COVID-19 carrier, just under three people infected by an infected person. According to this study, as of mid-June the figure tends to fall, with 1.96 + 0.08. The technical de-



C H A R T 3

Confirmed cases, contagion estimates and reproduction number over time, as of July 11th, 2020, with data as of July 30th, 2020



Source: Taken from the Centre for the Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (<https://epiforecasts.io/covid/posts/national/el-salvador/>).

the conclusions of the model that carried out the estimation indicate that, until the flattening point of the curve with the strategies developed by the country, the number of infections will double in an average of 22 days, with a range between 14 and 59 (Chart 3).

The trend projected by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and national studies have been endorsed during July and August, since infections have had a strong growth, which is making a significant dent in health services and the economy of El Salvador, and that to date reach around 3,600 cases and 100 deaths per million inhabitants in the country.

tails of the model can be consulted at <https://www.fundaungo.org.sv/publicaciones-nacionales>.

Impacts identified due to COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

TABLE 2

Summary of the effects on the health sector, in the period from March to July 2020

Daños/Pérdidas

Recursos, infraestructura y activos físicos de salud

Profesionales fallecidos (pérdida de capital humano) y pago a deudos.

Infraestructura y dotación de camas: inversiones, adecuaciones en obra física en salud.

Producción y distribución de bienes y servicios en salud

Recursos curativos destinados a prestaciones COVID-19 (incluye el gasto por atención curativa ambulatoria y hospitalaria).

Recursos de atención integral de salud regulares que se dejaron de realizar por el COVID-19: promoción de la salud, prevención de la enfermedad, curación ambulatoria, de emergencia y hospitalaria (incluye el valor de las atenciones que se dejaron de brindar por parte de los proveedores públicos MINSAL e ISSS a causa del COVID-19).

Valor diferencial entre costo de atención normal y de atención por COVID-19 (uso de recursos adicionales a una prestación estándar).

SEM: Recursos prehospitalarios destinados a prestaciones COVID-19.

Pruebas y recursos de laboratorios.

Medicamentos, insumos y dispositivos médicos.

Manejo hospitalario de fallecidos por COVID-19.

Prestaciones sanitarias en centros de cuarentena.

Donaciones en dinero, especie y servicios realizadas tanto por organismos internacionales como Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados (GAD), empresas privadas y población general, realizadas para apoyar la atención en salud o la promoción de la salud y prevención de la enfermedad.

Recursos que destinó la población para adquirir dispositivos, equipos y materiales de prevención, reparación de su salud y fallecimiento de familiares.

Ventas del sector salud.

Prestaciones sanitarias en albergues para refugiados de las tormentas tropicales Amanda y Cristóbal.

Gobernabilidad del sector salud

Cambios en el empleo sectorial.

Liquidación final a deudos de fallecidos.

Campaña comunicacional y sistemas informáticos.



	COVID-19 (marzo-julio)				Tormentas tropicales Amanda y Cristóbal			
	Daño		Pérdida		Daño		Pérdida	
	Público	Privado	Público	Privado	Público	Privado	Público	Privado
	-	-	78,044,522	-	5,971,930	-	-	-
			3,612,000					
			74,432,522		5,971,930			
	-	-	416,833,414	158,734,773	-	-	12,521,904	-
			64,763,858					
			198,497,669					
			46,235,449					
			3,835,170				2,556,780	
			43,584,255					
			41,645,607					
			50,290					
			9,341,116					
			8,880,000				5,920,000	
				92,812,600				
				65,922,173				
							4,045,124	
	-	-	14,122,412	-	-	-	-	-
			11,509,837					
			64,500					
			2,548,075					

Daños/Pérdidas
Incremento de la vulnerabilidad y riesgos de salud
Reemergencia: Enfermedades producidas como resultado de las catástrofes, especialmente por las tormentas tropicales Amanda y Cristóbal.
Total por subsector
Porcentaje de daños y pérdidas por evento catastrófico
Total por evento catastrófico
Total

In 2019, within the framework of the elections of national authorities, the Cuscatlán Plan was presented,¹¹ which guarantees the right to health of all inhabitants and mentions the National Integrated Health System (SNIS, by its Spanish acronym).¹² The SNIS was legally established in May 2019 and is fully effective with the new government. The instance created, in addition to deepening positive concepts of the old National Health System (NHS), such as the adoption of the fundamentals of Primary Health Care (PHC) and the comprehensive care of services operating in networks, emphasizes aspects of comprehensiveness in function of address-

ing the social determinants of intersectoral health.

The analysis of the effects of the actions and measures carried out by the organizations that belong to the SNIS,¹³ in response to the COVID-19 emergency and the catastrophes caused by the tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, allows us to identify and assess the damages and the losses, as well as the needs that must be satisfied in the short, medium, and long term.¹⁴

To carry out a quantitative and qualitative evaluation, we start by identifying the main

11/ The Cuscatlán Plan, presented by the elected candidate and current president of El Salvador, effectively constitutes the document that establishes the guidelines for the Salvadoran health system and model.

12/ The SNIS was formalized by Decree No. 302 of May 17th, 2019, effective as of November 2019.

13/ To delve into the characteristics of the SNIS and its operation, see Annex 1.

14/ For this purpose, we have considered three terms to assess the needs. The short term refers to the months of September to December 2020; the medium term to years 2021 and 2022; and the long term refers to 2023 and 2024.



	COVID-19 (marzo-julio)				Tormentas tropicales Amanda y Cristóbal			
	Daño		Pérdida		Daño		Pérdida	
	Público	Privado	Público	Privado	Público	Privado	Público	Privado
	-	-	3,840,593	-	-	-	-	-
			3,840,593					
	-	-	512,840,941	158,734,773	5,971,930	-	12,521,904	-
	0%	0%	76.36%	23.64%	32.29%	0%	67.71%	0.00%
	671,575,714				18,493,834			
	97.3%				2.7%			
	690,069,548							

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

changes experienced in the health sector directly caused by disasters. To do this, we analyze the information in two periods: The first analyzes the quarter from March to May 2020, which in its entirety can be attributed to the catastrophe caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; the second period is the two-month period June and July 2020, in which the majority of damages and losses are attributed to tropical storms, but a strong impact of the pandemic still remains.

Therefore, although the two periods help us to identify the impact of each event in a clearer, temporal way, in the sectorial analysis they were also “contaminated” due to the superposition of the phenomena. Therefore, we strongly emphasize that in the end what is sought is to evaluate the impact of each of the events, and of course the sum of the whole. This in particular can be observed in the values and total percent-

ages of the results (Table 2), where it is evidenced that the effects of the pandemic are losses of around US\$671.6 million (76.4% public and 23.6% private); while the catastrophic event due to storms Amanda and Cristóbal reached US\$18.5 million in direct damage to the health sector (32.0%), and losses of 68.0%. The effects of catastrophic events for the health sector between March and July 2020 add up to a total value of US\$690.07 million.

According to the Post-Disaster Assessment Methodology (PDNA), the effects identified are grouped into four components, each of which contains several items that have been disaggregated to facilitate understanding of their scope: 1) Additional costs in resources, infrastructure and physical assets necessary to ensure the supply of services due to the coronavirus pandemic; 2) Description of the effects on the production and distribution of

goods and services in the health sector; 3) Effects on the governance of the sector; and 4) Effects on the increase of vulnerabilities and risks in the sector.

Effects of COVID-19 in the health sector

Additional costs in resources, infrastructure, and physical assets necessary to ensure the supply of services due to the coronavirus pandemic

A Infrastructure (physical capital) (US\$ 74.4 million)

When the containment measures were decreed, the system began to operate in a comprehensive and integrated manner, thus the partnership between the Ministry of Health (MINSAL) and the Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS) guaranteed that the latter would make hospitals and resources available to the system which would guarantee that the population that required care had access to establishments of a systemic rather than institutional nature, for which opera-

tional resources were available from sources other than those of a single institution, in exchange for providing care to patients with different affiliations.

By May 2020, it was estimated that El Salvador had 157 intensive care units (ICU) throughout the public network; around 1.3 ICUs per 1,000 inhabitants (OECD-World Bank, 2020), a figure that, far from the Latin American average (2.1), was clearly insufficient to manage the number of cases that actually occurred. With increasing health pressure, at the end of June it was officially announced that 105 additional ICUs were added, with which the inaugurated national government made its debut, taking direct action on the matter and promoting the incorporation of new hospital areas in the country.

With around 262 ICUs and the progressive incorporation in July of around 400 beds for intermediate and critical care, El Salvador was able to better face its difficulties in providing the services that the population was demanding while the peak of contagion lasted. It is very important to take into account that Hospital El Salvador, an iconic unit due to its magnitude, was visualized early and its construction accelerated in an impressive way, anticipating that at the end

15/ See Annex 2.

16/ It is important to mention that the MINSAL and the ISSS, in addition to the express regulation of the Comprehensive and Integrated Health Network with a specific mandate, maintain a cooperation agreement to provide timely assistance to the insured and uninsured population that started on October 18th, 2002. With this instrument, mutual support is guaranteed nationwide, in the health field, to carry out joint care actions.

17/ The beds, although it is not possible to use all of them entirely, will gradually be incorporated into the care. In addition, strategies will be deployed to set up outstanding teams of professionals led by a head that operates through high technology and telemedicine methods.



of all the construction stages there would be more than 1,200 additional ICUs. Therefore, it can be thought that El Salvador has a priority strategy to improve its health system and advance in access and universal coverage.

To assess the impact of the coronavirus, the valuation of this item takes into account the investments made to contain and cure the disease, for which the figures invested in the Hospital El Salvador between March and July, and MINSAL and ISSS construction and infrastructure authorization are counted. It is important to highlight that MINSAL installed 24 prefabricated modules in 20 hospitals, for 8 beds PER module, remodeled 30 hospitals and built a new unit (La Canoa).

B Professionals deceased (human capital lost) (US\$ 3.61 million)

The main damage caused by this catastrophic event was its incidence in the loss of health professionals who passed away. This constitutes damage due to loss of human capital whose professional training requires longer periods of time than other careers and specializations, and in the Salvadoran case this capital entails a high public investment component. In the short term and moving forward, a factor that can condition the positive effects of the investment made in infrastructure and equipment is the sufficiency of human resources, which is already an important obstacle to overcome by the National Integrated Health System (SNIS).

There are 1.56 doctors and 1.8 nurses per 1,000 inhabitants, figures that are below

the Latin American average, of 2.0 doctors and 2.8 nurses per 1,000 inhabitants. If to the situation raised the loss of human capital that occurred until June 2020 is added, as a result of the coronavirus, which already adds 46 deaths of health professionals,²⁸ as well as the consideration of the time it takes to train a health professional, between 5 and 15 years, the solution is more complex, considering that the eleven higher education institutions that train health professionals and technicians only manage to train an average of 670 doctors, 722 nurses and 1,276 nursing technicians annually (PAHO, 2017).

Description of the effects on the production and distribution of goods and services in the health sector

This component expresses the alterations suffered by the normal activities of the health sector,¹⁹ affecting both the production in terms of the distribution of health services, as well as the consumption of the population.

18/ The number and cost of all deceased professionals was attributed to the coronavirus catastrophe, since, although the presence of professionals who died due to the effects of the storm is not ruled out, this constitutes chance rather than a direct result of exposure to the disease.

19/ The analysis is part of a systemic perspective, this means including all public and private actors. For the Salvadoran case, the approximations are limited by data availability from the sector. Therefore, the analysis permanently describes the scope of each estimated item, as well as the sources from which the information is taken, and the methodological assumptions used to project or estimate a value.

To estimate the total value of component 2, which for health purposes is the largest one, with 82.4% of the total, the following items were taken:

A Curative resources allocated for COVID-19 benefits: Includes spending for curative care of COVID-19 patients (US\$ 64.7 million).²⁰

The estimate of the services provided by the Salvadoran public provision system to address COVID-19 considers both the outpatient and hospital services provided to patients with this disease. In period 1 (March-May), the coronavirus was still an emerging disease, with few cases, for which the value reaches US\$6.1 million. In period 2 (June-July), its strong incidence caused an increase in the value allocated to its cure, which was estimated at US\$58.6 million.

For its assessment, the assumption of three average general consultations per non-hospitalized patient and twelve days of stay per hospitalized patient was used. For each system the estimated average value of the service provided by the institution was used. In the case of the Military Health Command (COSAMI, by its Spanish acronym), the value of the MINSAL was used.

B Regular comprehensive health care resources that stopped due to COVID-19: Health promotion, disease prevention,

outpatient, emergency and hospital care. It includes the value of the public service providers MINSAL and ISSS stopped rendering, due to COVID-19 (US\$ 198.5 million).

During the analysis period, the production of health services underwent important changes, due to the provision not to perform external consultation services in all public and private health facilities due to COVID-19, as well as the authorization to provide certain services only under emergency conditions.

Such measures clearly implied that the SNIS stopped carrying out a large number of health promotion, disease prevention, recovery and rehabilitation care services, which were regularly provided by health establishments. This means that by stopping essential care in sexual and reproductive health, prenatal-neonatal and child health, dental, elective surgeries for hospitalization and others considered strategic, in the return to normality, the consequences of the temporary gap created must be assumed, which will manifest in situations of greater technical, human, and economic complexity, and of course in a delay in the achievement of the proposed results (MINSAL, 2020b).

It should be stated that, after reviewing the figures, it is found that despite the suspension of the provision of outpatient care throughout the network, the public services of the MINSAL and the ISSS did operate, although not at their maximum capacity. This, however, was not enough to stop the drop in attentions, which between March and May 2020 totaled around 2.96 million fewer consultations than in 2019; and for

^{20/} This item includes the MINSAL, ISSS, the Salvadoran Institute for Teacher's Welfare (ISBM), the Military Health Command (COSAMI) and the Solidarity Health Fund (FOSALUD).



the month of July, 5.4 million fewer visits, compared to the same period in 2019. The figures reported by health establishments show that the system as a whole presents a sharp decrease in average production, which is 61.0% of outpatient visits, 46.0% of promotion and 57.0% of prevention than when compared to 2019.

With regard to hospital care, it is clear that by allocating resources to care for COVID-19, regular production is significantly affected. Thus, between March and May 2020, compared to the same period in 2019, a decrease of 1.04 million hospitalizations is observed, which until July totaled 1.87 million less.²¹ The aforementioned figures represent an average decrease of 42.0% in hospitalizations without the need for an ICU, 60.0% with ICU, and 55.6% in pre-hospital care compared to 2019.

The value of the decreases in the production of outpatient and hospital health services registered between March and May 2020 amounts to US\$107.2 million, and between June and July to US\$91.2 million, which gives a total of US\$198.5 million of losses between March and July 2020.

C Differential value between cost of normal care and COVID-19 care (use of resources in addition to a standard benefit) (US\$ 46.2 million).

^{21/} The figure refers to the decrease in hospital care that includes: Hospitalizations without an ICU (83,787), hospitalizations with an ICU (383) and pre-hospital care (1.79 million).

Under the understanding that the average care of a COVID-19 service requires the use of different resources than a normal service, an estimate of the differential value between the two types of care was made.

For this study, we worked under the assumption that the greatest difference in value between regular care and care for COVID-19, both outpatient and inpatient, is attributed to the number of care services and time required for recovery.²² To these medical care items, a value was added for pharmacological treatment and additional tests required during patient evaluations to verify the overcoming of the disease. Specifically, in the estimates for the treatment of COVID-19, an estimate of three general consultations per outpatient and twelve average days of hospitalization was used; as opposed to a regular standard of care of one visit per outpatient and seven days of average hospital stay. Added to this was the use of one PCR test per outpatient and three per inpatient, as well as the value of a pharmacological treatment for the disease.

^{22/} This assumption avoids complications related to the different treatment schemes implemented and the estimation of an average value of the cost of an unprecedented disease and allows to operate in a simplified manner and shows an accurate approximation of the value the disease represents. Later, when better protocols and treatments are available and established, the pertinent adjustments can surely be made, however, the figures used allow the value of a case to be covered in an optimal way.

D Emergency Medical System (EMS). Pre-hospital resources for COVID-19 services (US\$3.83 million).

The value of this item for COVID-19 services is attributed to the period from March to May 2020. For its estimation, a monthly average of 10,653 calls was considered, a figure that was multiplied by the number of months, and an average value of US\$120.00 per ambulance trip and deployment of equipment.

E Laboratory tests and resources (US\$43.5 million).

This item was estimated taking the value of the number of PCR tests performed during the analysis period in the country, at a unit value of US\$165.00. This value would include all the investments made to strengthen public laboratories, and supplies and reagents.

F Medicines, supplies and medical devices (US\$41.6 million).

This item was one of the most necessary ones during the pandemic, considering that El Salvador is a highly importing country. The estimated value based on the health report carried out by the Salvadoran Government and detailed information from MINSAL shows that between March and July 2020, around US\$41,645,255 million were allocated to this sector, of which the fundamental item is bio-safety.

G Hospital management of deaths from COVID-19 (US\$50,290).

With a total of 44 deaths from coronavirus counted as of May 31st in the country, 120 additional ones in June and 266 more in July 2020, the item hospital management of decedents was estimated. For the calculation, the value of a programmed institutional consultation (US\$27.68) was taken into consideration, to which the value of specific inputs required for the provision was added; this resulted in a value of US\$31.5 per case.

Health benefits in Quarantine Centers (US\$9.3 million)

The Salvadoran Government, as a control measure, created what were called Containment Centers (CCs), places in which the population who violated the mobility restriction or who arrived from a trip abroad was held to fulfill a mandatory quarantine, especially those coming from countries with the highest number of infected persons. They operated, not without problems, in convention centers, gyms and rented hotels that were adapted as guarded shelters.

For the estimation of this item in its sanitary aspect, an assessment was carried out that

of essential products to fight COVID-19. In 2018, the 20 countries in the region, for which information is available, together exported around US\$17.5 billion in products considered essential to fight COVID-19, while their imports amounted to about US\$30.3 billion. Since March 2020, however, restrictions on the export of medical and health products have proliferated, through a series of measures that even go through express prohibitions. For a detailed analysis, see ECLAC (2020)

23/ The Latin American and Caribbean region is highly dependent on the production of medicines and other medical and health supplies from industrialized countries, mainly the United States, which was the source of almost a third of total imports in 2018 and constitutes the main supplier of the region



includes food, promotional care, sanitary kits, and a PCR test. The value of 4,016 people confined in 91 CCs was taken into consideration. The number remained constant throughout the months studied, due to the assumption that the exit of a confined person is filled immediately with the entry of another one. In the analysis period, the estimated value is US\$9,341,116 million.

A Provision of health care, promotion or prevention of the disease provided with resources of donations in money, in kind, and services carried out both by international organizations, decentralized autonomous governments (DAG), private companies and the general population (US\$8.8 million).

The events that occurred between March and July 2020 in El Salvador counted with resources from the Government, civil society, companies and international cooperation organizations. The donations were presented in the form of supplies and medical equipment, and other types of resources necessary for the rendering of health services. In this analysis, only the resources obtained between March and May are taken as specific support to attend the COVID-19 pandemic. To estimate the resources allocated to alleviate the catastrophic situations experienced by the pandemic, the figure mentioned in the government report as of June 2020 is taken into account and an apportionment is made for the specific period between March and May.

B Resources that the population of El Salvador allocates for its self-care due to the COVID-19 pandemic (US\$92.8 million).

As mentioned by the Economic Commission

for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (2020), the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to highlighting the large gaps in access to health systems, especially acute in rural and remote areas. The effects on the population's access to goods and services clearly express the inequalities of the health systems.

In the Salvadoran case, the pandemic caused by COVID-19 forced a substantial change in habits. In this section, an estimate of the minimum inputs (US\$3.81) was made that inhabitants would need to provide themselves at least once a month.

C Decrease in net sales in the health sector (US\$65.9 million).

The estimate was made by specialized government units, and corresponds to the sum of the differences, between March and July 2019 and 2020, of the net sales made in the health sector minus the intermediate consumption of entrepreneurs. The impact on the private sector was estimated based on business declarations made to the Ministry of Finance of El Salvador.

Effects on the governance of the sector

The governance of the health sector is in charge of the health authority, in the case of El Salvador, the MINSAL. The items that are recorded in this section refer to the ability to exercise leadership and regulation of the health sector, which is reflected in the incorporation of workers into the generation of sectorial production, as well as in the effective communication of messages and health guidelines that the authority wants to provide to the population as a whole.

A Changes in sectorial employment (US\$11.5 million).

For the estimation of this section, we have taken into consideration that all the contracts made between March and July, both by MINSAL and by ISSS, are due to the needs generated by COVID-19.²⁴ The source of this information refers to official information from each of the aforementioned institutions.

B Settlement of decedent benefits (US\$64.5 million).

This item contemplates a final average value that the institution pays to the relatives of health professionals who have died.

C Communication campaign and computer systems (US\$2.5 million).

This category includes items for MINSAL communication campaigns, telecommunication equipment (SEM), and communications from the ISSS COVID-19 Emergency Plan.

Effects on the increase in vulnerabilities and risks in the sector (US\$ 3.8 million)

In particular, the impact on the health sector in this component values the vulnerabilities and risks of the sector linked to the achievement of some of the goals committed by the country for the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Agenda 2030: “Put an end to epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical dis-

eases, and combat hepatitis, waterborne diseases and other communicable diseases” and “Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including those of family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health in national strategies and programs” (UN, 2015).

For practical purposes, based on the national figures for three iconic diseases (dengue, EDA, ARI), the number of total cases seen per month was assessed, with COVID-19 being attributed to those seen between March and May 2020.

Effects of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal on the Health sector

The economic effects on the health sector in El Salvador, between March and July 2020, caused by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal represented around US\$18.5 million.

To estimate health losses, it must be taken into account that destructive events such as storms commonly aggravate problems, because they are juxtaposed with deficiencies that establishments have prior to the event. However, for practical purposes, identifying the effects and subsequently the needs for recovery is an opportunity to quantify the prioritized implementation of quality investment that ensures good service to the community.

The effects identified are quantified taking into account the following items:

^{24/} The general sectorial variation has not been included in this item, since it is included in the section of the report dedicated to the analysis of Labor in the Salvadoran economy.



1 Destruction of health units (US\$5.9 million).

As a result of the presence of storms Amanda and Cristóbal, the Salvadoran health system, between May 31st and June 8th, 2020, had a destructive impact on the Health Units, which complicated the response capacity to attend to the emerging needs of the population due to the simultaneous presence of catastrophes. It is estimated that damages related to tropical storms to health units amount to around US\$5,971,930, and are located to a greater extent in rural establishments of the most dispersed populations.

2 Health benefits in shelters for refugees from the storms (US\$4.04 million).

In the shelters, an intervention protocol is deployed in various areas, to act in favor of the affected people. In the case of the health sector, in the shelters there is a committee in charge of planning, coordinating and executing health and basic sanitation actions, which include promotion and prevention actions, such as cleaning the shelter and control of water quality. and other actions of social participation and education and communication in health. For the care of illnesses, it coordinates with the Health Units and is in charge of promoting a healthy stay (Ministry of Interior, 2013).

Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal impacted the health sector by requiring emergency and curative care that the health services provided to around 7,886 people in approximately 256 shelters. The situation became more complex than in previous times, not only because of the magnitude of

the storms that reached large dimensions, but also because the social distancing standards imposed by COVID-19 had an impact on accommodating fewer population in shelters, which it had an impact on the need to prepare many more shelters than had been required in previous similar situations. In the midst of the storm, the concern to avoid contagions conditioned the effective response provided by the bodies in charge.

To estimate this item, a costing was carried out that included food, physical and mental health care, prevention and promotion activities, sanitary kits, fumigation and sanitary measures, and PCR tests once.

3 Emergency Medical System (EMS). Pre-hospital Resources for Tropical Storm Benefits (US\$2.55 million).

The value of this item for benefits related to care resulting from the storms is attributed the value of the two-month period June-July 2020. It includes the transfer and stabilization activities to help the population.

4 Health care carried out with donations in money, in kind, and services rendered by international organizations, decentralized autonomous governments (DAG), private companies and the general population (US\$5.9 million).

To estimate this item, the period June to July 2020 was taken into account, when donations were specifically destined to the catastrophic event caused by storms Amanda and Cristóbal.

Contributions of the sector to Human Impact

Health is the complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being that a human being has (WHO, 1946). Therefore, its preservation is multifactorial, also requiring that societies provide health services when this condition needs to be restored.

In El Salvador, human health care and social assistance activities contributed 3.3% of the wealth produced during 2019, with the help of 191,008 direct workers. Total health spending relative to Salvadoran Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018 was 6.9% (4.6% public and 2.3% private). 64.5% of the total spending on health in the country was public spending; and 35.5% private, mainly made up of direct out-of-pocket expenses (29.0%). Per capita spending on health is US\$581 PPP, a figure much lower than the average for the Latin American and Caribbean region (US\$1,026 PPP), which places it in 24th place of the 33 countries included in the analysis (PAHO, 2017; OECD-World Bank, 2020).

In 2016, 1.7% of Salvadoran households spent more than 10.0% of their total income on health care, and less than 0.5% of the population fell into poverty due to their direct health expenditures (OECD-World Bank, 2020).

In the new context, it is foreseeable that the economy, affected by the impact of the coronavirus and coupled with the catastrophe of the storms, will cause a greater proportion of the population to fall into poverty and consequently worsen their health conditions, as it

is precisely associated with multidimensional poverty is found in this dimension with four indicators of deficiencies: Access to sanitation (42.6%), access to drinking water (19.8%), access to health services (9.1%) and food insecurity (17.5%) (DIGESTYC, 2020).

In particular, the breakdown of agricultural production chains and the lack of resources for household food is an issue that will have a direct impact on the nutrition of the population, especially children and girls, which will receive a greater negative burden from the restrictions that experience homes. In this regard, it is estimated that 16.0% of households (309,680) were already in a food insecurity condition by 2019, therefore guaranteeing food and nutritional security constitutes an immediate protection action by the State, as well as implementing National Integrated Health System (SNIS) necessary public policy measures to alleviate the emerging problem, by the national health authority.

It should also be considered that 40.9% of Salvadoran households live in overcrowded conditions, with three or more people per bedroom. The phenomenon then becomes a public health problem, since the coronavirus requires social distancing rules in order to break its contagion cycle. Poverty and poor health go hand in hand, so the best health and economic policy is to prevent the population from being affected in their livelihoods.

Finally, it must be taken into account that the consequences of the disasters analyzed, both due to the slowdown in the provision of services and the conditions suffered, will have a direct impact on the goals set by the country on



the SDGs, such as reducing the mortality in children under five (14.5 x 1,000 live births) and maternal (46 x 1,000 live births); access to sexual and reproductive health services (SRH); and the fight against HIV/AIDS (0.6% adults 14-49) and vector diseases such as malaria and dengue.

Recovery Needs and Strategy

Hand in hand with the effects experienced, the needs to be solved arise directly. Thus, the requirements come from the damages and losses produced both by the COVID-19 pandemic and by storms Amanda and Cristóbal, which allows identifying what needs to be repaired or rebuilt in better conditions, the losses that can and should be compensated, and the needs to reduce or mitigate exposure to health risk.

To carry out this analysis that identifies the recovery needs of the health sector, the objectives and plans established for the sector in multiple official documents from both the Government and MINSAL, as well as guidance documents produced by the World Health Organization (WHO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Additionally, the information has been organized according to the nine pillars established by the WHO for preparation and action on COVID-19,²⁵ which allows generating

comprehensive responses for the health sector and for the country. The origin of the need (parameter), the assessment of the damages and losses incurred, the justifying argument for the need and the pillar to which it belongs, and finally the identification of the needs are systematized (Table 3).

Once the needs have been defined, potential solutions are generated that focus on specific strategies to influence the repair and overcoming of catastrophes (Table 4).

The needs and strategies proposed to satisfy them respond to the fundamental objective of the sector, which is to generate sanitary conditions and timely and quality access to the population living in El Salvador, as expressed in the Cuscatlán Plan and in the policies issued by the MINSAL. To achieve a healthy health sector, it is estimated that around US\$245.18 million will be required in the short term, in order for it to operate again and fill the gap generated by catastrophes. This represents 9.3%, 1.6% and 0.6% of the complementary financing resources of the budget and of multilateral sources contemplated in the strategy of the Ministry of Finance to face COVID-19 measures (Ministry of Finance, 2020).

In the medium term (2021-2022) and long term (2023-2024), the strategies will require US\$41.4 and US\$17.2 million, respectively, for a total of around US\$303.7 million as the necessary value for the recovery of the health sector in El Salvador, due to the effects caused by the catastrophes experienced between March and July 2020. A multi-year budget could provide for an adequate flow of resources.

²⁵/ See the WHO Pillars Platform (OMS), available at <https://covid-19-response.org/>

TABLE 3

Summary of needs in the health sector produced by disasters between March and July 2020

Parámetros	Daños	Pérdidas
Recursos, infraestructura y activos físicos del sector salud	5,971,930	78,044,522.36
Profesionales fallecidos (pérdida de capital humano) y pago a deudos.	-	3,612,000.00
Infraestructura y dotación de camas: inversiones, adecuaciones en obra física en salud.	5,971,930.43	74,432,522.36
Producción y distribución de bienes y servicios en salud	-	379,074,744.53
Recursos curativos destinados a prestaciones COVID-19.	-	64,763,858
Recursos regulares de prestaciones preventivas, de promoción, consulta externa, hospitalización y emergencia que se dejaron de realizar y se destinaron a prestaciones COVID-19.	-	198,497,669
Prestaciones sanitarias en centros de cuarentena.	-	9,341,116
SEM: Recursos destinados a prestaciones COVID-19 y tormentas tropicales Amanda y Cristóbal.	-	6,391,950
Número de pruebas PCR. Recursos laboratoriales que se destinaron al COVID-19 (laboratorios que se dejaron de realizar en el sector).	-	43,584,255



Justificación de las necesidades provenientes del análisis de efectos e impactos	Necesidades
<p>Pilar 7: Manejo de casos Se requiere contar con un número suficiente de recursos humanos, para reponer a quienes se han dado de baja e incrementar el personal de acuerdo a la tasa de crecimiento vegetativo, normas de atención y programas establecidos.</p>	<p>Profesionales de la salud suficientes. Generar capacidad nacional para el funcionamiento del SNIS.</p>
<p>Pilar 7: Manejo de casos Es necesario recuperar los recursos de capital del sector salud, con el fin de contar con la infraestructura necesaria para brindar la atención óptima y comprometida a la población.</p>	<p>Establecimientos suficientes y en condiciones adecuadas para funcionar. Inversiones en camas y equipos.</p>
<p>Pilar 3: Vigilancia, equipos de RR e investigación de casos Pilar 2: Comunicación de riesgos y participación de la comunidad Pilar 6: Prevención y control de infecciones Pilar 7: Manejo de Casos Se requiere una rápida y efectiva detección de casos y rastreo de contactos COVID-19; prácticas de prevención y control de infecciones en comunidades; establecimientos de salud listos para brindar atención requerida; y servicios de salud preparados y efectivos para manejo médico.</p>	<p>Manejo de casos COVID-19 de manera adecuada.</p>
<p>Pilares 3, 6, 7 Pilar 8: Apoyo operativo y aspectos logísticos Pilar 9: Mantenimiento de servicios esenciales de salud durante un brote Para reestablecer servicios de manera óptima se requiere mapear y mejorar la capacidad y el desempeño en la provisión de servicios integrales. Es prioritario acordar con la autoridad económica un presupuesto anual suficiente y que funcione con fluidez.</p>	<p>Manejo de casos del SNIS de manera adecuada. Mantenimiento de los servicios de salud operando.</p>
<p>Pilar 8: Apoyo operativo y aspectos logísticos Pilar 10: Atención psicosocial Se requiere rápida y efectiva respuesta ante casos con riesgo, para evitar ocurrencia de la enfermedad o problema.</p>	<p>Mitigar o erradicar riesgos para evitar incremento o complicaciones de los casos.</p>
<p>Es necesario contar con los servicios de transporte de emergencia y comunicación intersectorial que permitan a la comunidad contar con una red de instituciones que la protejan frente a las contingencias de salud, en este caso, del COVID-19.</p>	<p>Generar procesos expeditos que eviten incremento o complicaciones de los casos.</p>
<p>Pilar 5: Laboratorios nacionales Es necesario contar con los insumos y recursos de apoyo diagnóstico necesario; por tanto, es importante realizar las inversiones en laboratorios que sean necesarios.</p>	<p>"Contar con procesos expeditos para disponer de insumos y recursos de laboratorio. Inversiones en laboratorios públicos.</p>

Summary of needs in the health sector produced by disasters between March and July 2020

Parámetros	Daños	Pérdidas
Manejo de fallecidos.	-	50,290
Donaciones en insumos, dinero, especie y servicios por cooperación internacional, GAD, población y empresas.	-	14,800,000
Medicamentos, insumos y dispositivos médicos (PPE, entre otros).	-	41,645,607
Gobernabilidad del sector salud	-	14,057,911.73
Cambios en el empleo sectorial.	-	11,509,837.17
Campaña comunicacional y sistemas informáticos.	-	2,548,074.56
Incremento de la vulnerabilidad y riesgos del sector salud	-	3,840,593.03
Reemergencia: enfermedades producidas como resultado de las catástrofes, especialmente por las tormentas tropicales Amanda y Cristóbal.	-	3,840,593.03
Total (1)	5,971,930.43	475,017,771.65

(1) La diferencia con el total de US\$ 690,069,548.13 se da porque existen cinco rubros que no generan necesidades ni estrategias: diferencia de valores entre atención normal y de COVID-19; adquisiciones de la población; disminución en las ventas sectoriales; albergues que ya no funcionan para estos eventos evaluados; y



Justificación de las necesidades provenientes del análisis de efectos e impactos	Necesidades
	Laboratorios engranados de manera satisfactoria a los servicios, de forma tal que el manejo de casos del SNIS se realice sin obstáculos.”
<p>Pilar 1: Coordinación, planeación y monitoreo: plataforma de socios Establecer alianzas entre Gobierno nacional y subnacionales.</p>	Generar condiciones sanitarias integrales y confianza de la población.
<p>En el sector salud es importante establecer óptimas distribuciones de recursos y canalizarlos hacia donde se requieran prioritariamente. Las donaciones evitan desembolsos de recursos institucionales, pero no implica que no existe el gasto o que estos recursos se malgasten.</p>	Contar con recursos y tecnología suficientes.
<p>Es necesario contar con los insumos y recursos de apoyo diagnóstico necesarios.</p>	Mantener servicios de salud operando con la calidad adecuada.
<p>Pilar 1: Coordinación, planeación y monitoreo: plataforma de socios Establecer alianzas entre Gobierno nacional, subnacionales, ONG, cooperación externa y sociedad civil, para dinamizar el funcionamiento del sistema de salud.</p>	
<p>Pilar 1: Coordinación, planeación y monitoreo: plataforma de socios Establecer alianzas entre Gobierno nacional, subnacionales, ONG, cooperación externa y sociedad civil, para que los mensajes de salud sean globalizados y apropiados para la comunidad.</p>	"Actualizaciones tecnológicas. Plan comunicacional."
<p>Pilar 1: Coordinación, planeación y monitoreo: plataforma de socios Pilar 2: Comunicación de riesgos y participación de la comunidad Pilar 3: Vigilancia, equipos de RR e investigación de casos Pilar 6: Prevención y control de infecciones Establecer alianzas entre Gobierno nacional, subnacionales, ONG, cooperación externa y sociedad civil, para reducir riesgos y vulnerabilidades futuras.</p>	Tener un plan de acción inmediato y de corto plazo para reducir las vulnerabilidades y riesgos de salud, con una fuerte inserción en la comunidad salvadoreña.
<p>liquidación a familiares de profesionales, que ocurre una sola vez. Estos suman los US\$ 209.08 millones que completan el valor.</p>	

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

TABLE 4

Assessment of strategies for the health sector in the short, medium, and long term

Necesidades	Intervención (estrategia)	2020	2021-2022	2023-2024
Recursos, infraestructura y activos físicos del sector salud		3,000.00	2,945,148.42	3,548,782.02
Profesionales de la salud suficientes. Generar capacidad nacional para el funcionamiento del SNIS.	La autoridad sanitaria nacional debe establecer mesas de trabajo con las universidades formadoras de recursos, y establecer un plan detallado que permita alcanzar la meta de contar con los recursos profesionales que requiere el SNIS.	3,000.00	261,000.00	261,000.00
"Establecimientos suficientes y en condiciones adecuadas para funcionar. Inversiones en camas y equipos."	Hacer una evaluación integral de las necesidades de infraestructura, equipamiento y mobiliario de los proveedores públicos, y establecer un plan maestro sectorial hasta 2030.	0	2,684,148.42	3,287,782.02
Producción y distribución de bienes y servicios en salud		243,903,278.04	21,823,441.37	2,089,789.50
Manejo de casos COVID-19 de manera adecuada.	"Establecimiento y evaluación de mecanismos para una rápida y efectiva detección de casos y rastreo de contactos completo. Establecimiento de prácticas de prevención y control de infecciones en comunidades y establecimientos de salud revisadas y mejoradas, en preparación de atención de pacientes con COVID-19; y para prevenir la transmisión al personal, pacientes, visitantes y comunidad."	33,071,957.61	1,789,789.50	1,789,789.50



Necesidades	Intervención (estrategia)	2020	2021-2022	2023-2024
<p>"Manejo de casos del SNIS de manera adecuada. Mantenimiento de los servicios de salud operando."</p>	<p>"Mapear y mejorar la capacidad y el desempeño en la prestación de servicios prehospitalarios, ambulatorios, de emergencia y hospitalarios, así como los de apoyo diagnóstico, gestión de medicamentos y dotación de EPP para funcionarios del sector salud. Trabajar por objetivos y presupuestos por resultados, metas mensuales y responsables con cargo, nombre y apellido. Realizar la reprogramación presupuestaria de manera urgente."</p>	198,497,668.56	0	0
<p>Generar procesos expeditos que eviten incremento o complicaciones de los casos.</p>	<p>Evaluación rápida del alcance del funcionamiento de los servicios de transporte de emergencia y potenciales debilidades, con el objeto de proceder al fortalecimiento del sistema con unidades o personal adicional.</p>	0	300,000.00	300,000.00
<p>"Contar con procesos expeditos para disponer de insumos y recursos de laboratorio. Inversiones en laboratorios públicos. Laboratorios engranados de manera satisfactoria a los servicios, de forma tal que el manejo de casos del SNIS se realice sin obstáculos."</p>	<p>Identificación e implementación de mecanismos que permitan articular de mejor manera los servicios de apoyo diagnóstico con la prestación de servicios efectiva; en particular, alcance de insumos y conexión inmediata de positivos con el sistema sanitario para su atención.</p>	1,922,250.00	1,922,250.00	0
<p>Generar condiciones sanitarias integrales y confianza de la población.</p>	<p>Plan de acción del Gobierno con las municipalidades.</p>	0	0	0

Valoración de estrategias para el sector salud en el corto, mediano y largo plazo (Continuación)

Necesidades	Intervención (estrategia)	2020	2021-2022	2023-2024
Contar con recursos y tecnología suficientes.	Articular una mesa de trabajo Gobierno-cooperantes-SNIS, para identificar necesidades posibles de solventar a través de donaciones, y establecer prioridades del sistema.	0	7,400,000.00	0
Mantener servicios de salud operando con la calidad adecuada.	Plan de dotación a corto plazo, a través de distintos mecanismos: compras públicas, donaciones, etc.	10,411,401.87	10,411,401.87	0
Gobernabilidad del sector salud		1,274,037.28	12,783,874.45	11,509,837.17
"Profesionales de la salud suficientes. Generar capacidad nacional para el funcionamiento del SNIS."	Refrendar los contratos por el tiempo necesario más allá de la emergencia.	0	11,509,837.17	11,509,837.17
"Sistemas e-salud. Actualizaciones tecnológicas. Plan comunicacional."	"Generar un plan de corto plazo para fortalecer las funciones de gobernanza de las autoridades de salud. Plan y ejecución de actualizaciones tecnológicas. Fortalecimiento de tecnologías de información y comunicación, redes y personal, y prepararse para demandas en diversos sectores y niveles. Actividades de preparación y respuesta."	1,274,037.28	1,274,037.28	0
Incremento de la vulnerabilidad y riesgos del sector salud		-	3,840,593.03	-
Tener un plan de acción inmediato y de corto plazo para reducir las vulnerabilidades y riesgos de salud, con una fuerte inserción en la comunidad salvadoreña.	Generar un plan de acción inmediato y de corto plazo para reducir las vulnerabilidades y riesgos de salud, con fuerte inserción en la comunidad.	0	3,840,593.03	0
Total		245,180,315.32	41,393,057.26	17,148,408.69

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.



TABLE 5

Summary of prioritized and sequenced recovery needs

Necesidades	Intervención (estrategia)	Costo total (2020-2024)	Prioridad
Recursos, infraestructura y activos físicos del sector salud			
"Formar profesionales de la salud suficientes. Generar capacidad nacional para el funcionamiento del SNIS."	"La autoridad sanitaria nacional debe establecer mesas de trabajo con las universidades formadoras de recursos. Realizar un plan detallado que permita alcanzar la meta de contar con los recursos profesionales que requiere el SNIS."	525,000.00	3
"Establecimientos suficientes y en condiciones adecuadas para funcionar. Inversiones en camas y equipos."	Evaluación integral de las necesidades de infraestructura, equipamiento y mobiliario de los proveedores públicos; y establecer un plan maestro sectorial hasta 2030.	5,971,930.43	4
Producción y distribución de bienes y servicios en salud			
Manejo de casos COVID-19 de manera adecuada.	"Establecimiento y evaluación de mecanismos para la rápida y efectiva detección de casos y rastreo de contactos completo.	36,651,536.61	4
	Establecimiento de prácticas de prevención y control de infecciones en comunidades y establecimientos de salud revisadas y mejoradas, en preparación para la atención de pacientes con COVID-19 y para prevenir la transmisión al personal, pacientes, visitantes y comunidad."		
"Manejo de casos del SNIS de manera adecuada. Mantenimiento de los servicios de salud operando."	"Mapear y mejorar la capacidad y el desempeño en la prestación de servicios prehospitalarios, ambulatorios, de emergencia y hospitalarios, así como los de apoyo diagnóstico, gestión de medicamentos y dotación de EPP para funcionarios del sector salud. Trabajar por objetivos y presupuestos por resultados, metas mensuales y responsables con cargo, nombre y apellido. Realizar la reprogramación presupuestaria de manera urgente."	198,497,668.56	4

Necesidades	Intervención (estrategia)	Costo total (2020-2024)	Prioridad
Generar procesos expeditos que eviten incremento o complicaciones de los casos.	Evaluación rápida del alcance del funcionamiento de los servicios de transporte de emergencia y potenciales debilidades, con el objeto de proceder al fortalecimiento del sistema con unidades o personal adicional.	600,000.00	3
"Contar con procesos expeditos para disponer de insumos y recursos de laboratorio. Inversiones en laboratorios públicos. Laboratorios engranados de manera satisfactoria a los servicios, de forma tal que el manejo de casos del SNIS se realice sin obstáculos."	Identificación e implementación de mecanismos que permitan articular de mejor manera los servicios de apoyo diagnóstico con la prestación de servicios efectiva. En particular, alcance de insumos y conexión inmediata de positivos con el sistema sanitario, para su atención.	3,844,500.00	3
Generar condiciones sanitarias integrales y confianza de la población.	Plan de acción del Gobierno con municipalidades.	-	2
Contar con recursos y tecnología suficientes.	Articular una mesa de trabajo Gobierno-cooperantes-SNIS, para identificar necesidades posibles de solventar a través de donaciones, y establecer prioridades del sistema.	7,400,000.00	3
Mantener los servicios de salud operando con la calidad adecuada.	Plan de dotación medicamentos, insumos e implementos de bioseguridad.	20,822,803.73	4
Gobernabilidad del sector salud		12,783,874.45	11,509,837.17
"Contratar profesionales de la salud suficientes. Generar capacidad nacional para el funcionamiento del SNIS."	Refrendar los contratos por el tiempo necesario mas allá de la emergencia.	23,019,674.34	3
"Sistemas e-salud, actualizaciones tecnológicas. Plan comunicacional."	"Generar un plan de corto plazo para fortalecer las funciones de gobernanza de las autoridades de salud. Plan y ejecución de actualizaciones tecnológicas. Fortalecimiento de tecnologías de información y comunicación, redes y personal. Prepararse para demandas de diversos sectores y niveles. Actividades de preparación y respuesta."	2,548,074.56	4



Necesidades	Intervención (estrategia)	Costo total (2020-2024)	Prioridad
Incremento de la vulnerabilidad y riesgos del sector salud			
Tener un plan de acción inmediato y de corto plazo para reducir las vulnerabilidades y los riesgos de salud, con una fuerte inserción en la comunidad salvadoreña.	Generar un plan de acción inmediato y de corto plazo para reducir las vulnerabilidades y riesgos de salud, con fuerte inserción en la comunidad.	3,840,593.03	3
Total		\$303,721,781.26	

Source: Own elaboration of the evaluation team.

Once the strategies were proposed, they were discussed and organized by the SNIS actors in relation to their²⁶ implementation priority in the short, medium, and long term (Table 5).

The implementation of the priorities for the recovery of the health sector requires that these be promoted from the MINSAL, involving the departmental and municipal authorities, to ensure the linkage of the health sector with local development processes.

The process must always have monitoring and assessment mechanisms, so that the mobilization of resources carried out does not

lose focus on the objectives and goals set, as well as the efficiency that must be achieved. The establishment of clear administrative and financial mechanisms for the use of multi-party funds is essential to create confidence and optimize expenses and disbursements.

Finally, it is important to note that the key to achieving a sustained recovery in the health sector is transparency in the allocation and use of resources, the participation of national actors, and a focus on the most vulnerable population.

Sources

26/ The priority criteria used were: Low, medium, high and urgent priority. 1. Low priority: Activities that are desirable, but not essential to the recovery process. 2. Medium priority: Activities that address important aspects of the recovery process but are not urgent or critical. 3. High priority: Activities that are critical to restoring living conditions and restoring the economy. 4. Urgent: Activities that must be carried out immediately, to save lives, prevent further damage or loss, and keep basic services functioning.

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Annexes

Annex 1. Health System of El Salvador

The health system is made up of a²⁷ public and a private sector in terms of its provider function. In the public sector are the Ministry of Health (MINSAL), which covers 75.0% of the Salvadoran population; the Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS) (23.0%); the Salvadoran Institute for Integral Rehabilitation (ISRI, by its Spanish acronym); the Ministry of National Defense regarding the Military Health Battalion (COSAM, by its Spanish acronym) (1.1%); the Salvadoran Institute for Teacher's Welfare (ISBM, by its Spanish acronym) (1.6%); and the Health Solidarity Fund (FOSALUD, by its Spanish acronym). The private sector, for its part, includes for-profit and non-profit institutions²⁸ (SNIS Law, 2019) (PAHO, 2017).

In accordance with the political-administrative division of the country, the organization

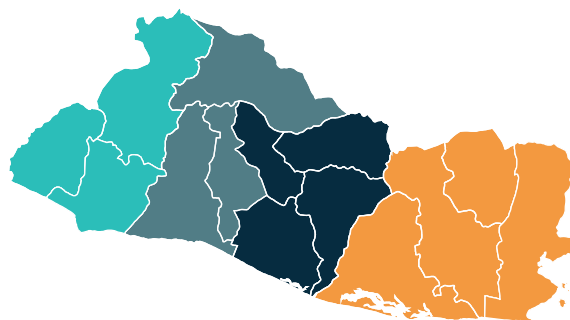
27/ It is important to consider according to the 2019 MPHS that only 14.3% of the Salvadoran population suffered from some cause to receive healthcare. Of this group, around 40% did not attend any service or take any action. 58.5% of the people who sought care went to MINSAL units, 16.4% from the ISSS, 4.6% from Teacher's Welfare and 20.4% from private ones. (Household Survey)

28/ As for the entities that make up the SNIS, in addition to those mentioned as providers, it is also made up of the National Directorate of Medicines (DNM, by its Spanish acronym) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, through the National Directorate of Higher Education. As collaborators of the system are the Ministries of Interior and Territorial Development,

Environment and Natural Resources, Labor and Social Welfare, Agriculture and Livestock, Public Works, Administration of Aqueducts and Sewers, Social Housing Fund, Municipalities and non-governmental organizations authorized for health endeavors.

CHART 4

El Salvador: Political-administrative division



Source: MINSAL, 2020.

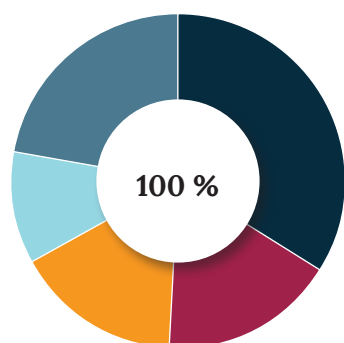
In this territorial structure, MINSAL has 619 health establishments, 30 hospitals, 377 Health Units, 3 emergency care centers, 160 health homes, 1 CIAMIN (Comprehensive Center for Maternal and Child Health Care and Nutrition), 2 clinics, and 46 Rural Health and Nutrition Centers.

The ISSS, for its part, has 92 care units and 245 business clinics. The distribution of care units concentrates 47.0% in the metropolitan region.

ment, Environment and Natural Resources, Labor and Social Welfare, Agriculture and Livestock, Public Works, Administration of Aqueducts and Sewers, Social Housing Fund, Municipalities and non-governmental organizations authorized for health endeavors.

CHART 5

Distribution of Health Units per region



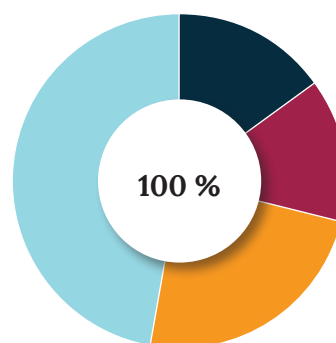
- 34 % ● Western Health Region
- 17 % ● Eastern Health Region
- 16 % ● Central Health Region
- 11 % ● Metropolitan Health Region
- 22 % ● Paracentral Health Region

Source: MINSAL, 2020.

As can be seen in Charts 1 and 2, in the case of MINSAL, each region’s resources show a dispersed distribution, which favors access to services for the entire population. It is different for ISSS, since health care is linked to affiliation, and this takes place to a greater degree in the most populated cities, which

CHART 6

Distribution of Health Units per region



- 15 % ● Western Health Region
- 14 % ● Eastern Health Region
- 24 % ● Central Health Region
- 47 % ● Metropolitan Health Region

Methodological note: The chart includes hospitals, specialty clinics, medical units with and without hospitalization capacity, community clinics, adult male check-up clinics, and day care centers; it does not include business clinics.

Source: ISSS, 2008.

is why there is a concentration of health services in the metropolitan region.

TABLE 6

Distribution of hospital beds, ICUs and clinical laboratories per region in El Salvador

Region	Hospital beds	ICUs	Clinical laboratories
Western Health Region	1,036	3	31
Central Health Region	368	1	25
Metropolitan Health Region	486	0	29
Paracentral Health Region	869	3	50
Eastern Health Region	1,933	7	39
	4,692	14	174

Source: MINSAL, 2020.



Annex 2. Health public policy and government responses to the pandemic

El Salvador is one of the Latin American countries that developed a COVID-19 containment strategy earlier. Thus, in January 2020, it issued the first policies related to stopping the entry of the disease. Sanitation measures at the airport, placement of thermographic cameras at borders and training for the staff of the Medical Emergency System (MES) on the proper use of equipment to mobilize patients, accompanied by drills in February, parallel to constant monitoring on the state of health in the situational rooms.

From there, the central government, from its highest authorities, progressively continued to introduce a series of measures to cope with the crisis. For example, as of March 11th, the following were established: All government offices were alerted to prevent the pandemic; entry ban for any person entering from abroad: Customs sanitary control; suspension of educational activities for 21 days (April 13th); MINSAL and all the institutions were working on research, analysis and prevention of the virus, compliance with protocols by citizens, support to the words of the PAHO representative on the work of the National Crisis Committee and Expanded Cabinet for 47 days (January 23rd).

On March 13th, the quarantine was made explicit for whoever entered the country; the suspension of public events and gatherings that exceed 200 people; prohibition to enter sports facilities; companies were mandated to implement safety and occupational hy-

giene measures, including staff training; and the municipalities are asked to activate local civil protection commissions and support them.

On March 14th, the Legislative Assembly approved the decrees of a state of emergency for 30 days and a state of exception for 15, accompanied by the prohibition of movement of people.

On March 16th, the Expanded Health Cabinet was activated, with daily meetings and monitoring to analyze the situation; the 30-day quarantine was endorsed for those who entered from abroad without privileges and the arrest of those who tried to enter through blind spots; the suspension of public shows and sporting events; the outpatient consultations in 31 national hospitals and all Health Units were also suspended, the approval, by the Legislative Assembly, of the decree of state of emergency and the Law of Temporary Restriction of Concrete Constitutional Rights to Attend the COVID-19 emergency. In parallel, non-emergent public and private dental consultation was suspended; it was ordered not to leave the house only when strictly necessary; any agglomeration of more than 50 people was prohibited, except for work, traffic and bus terminals; it was established that the Duicentros, bars, discos and gyms be closed for at least 14 days; it was ordered to send workers over 60, pregnant women and people with chronic diseases home, and to encourage teleworking; the benefit of prequalification to productive and working capital loans was promoted through Banco Hipotecario to companies that send staff home on a remunerated basis; it was es-

established that the Consumer Ombudsman’s Office should set prices and that hoarding was fined; public transport drivers were ordered to wear a mask and alcohol gel, and sanitize their units three times a day; the construction of the mega Hospital El Salvador was announced; and it was established that the Armed Forces coordinate the logistics of the Containment Centers (CCs).

On March 18th, the first case of coronavirus in El Salvador was confirmed, reason why on March 19th, before the announcement of the Expanded Health Cabinet, the entire population was ordered to stay at home and leave only due to extreme urgency. The next day, the improvement of the conditions of the CCs for quarantine (Wi-Fi, connectivity, sanitation), and the supply of alcohol gel and water to people living on the streets safeguarded in public dormitories, was announced.

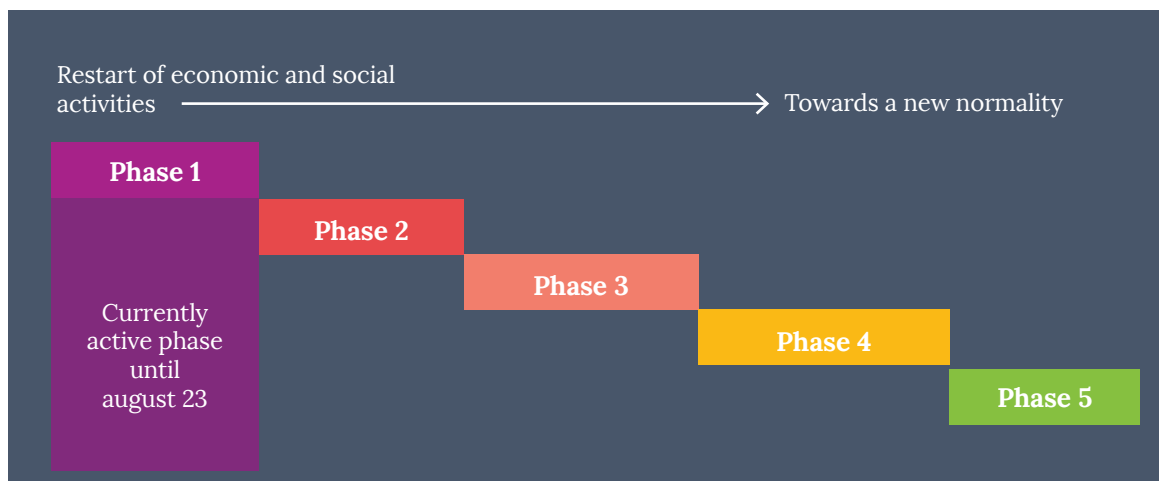
On March 24th, the people who could exceptionally circulate during the mandatory quarantine were defined (one person per family to buy food, public transport, media, restaurant delivery, etc.).

On June 22nd, the first stage of Hospital El Salvador was inaugurated, which made more than a hundred ICUs available to the SNIS, as well as hospital beds for intermediate care. This hospital was dedicated entirely to attend COVID-19 cases. The next stage of the large hospital was delivered in July, and it is planned to complete its delivery shortly.

At the same time, care and distancing measures have been progressively spreading over time. The announced date to move to Phase 2 of deconfinement was August 23rd, 2020.

C H A R T 7

Deconfinement phases in El Salvador, 2020



Source: Government of El Salvador: <https://covid19.gob.sv/reapertura/>



As of August 24th, El Salvador is experiencing another stage, with greater circulation of people and opening of the economic sector. In this phase, government authorities have made recommendations to observe sanitary measures and those established on August 10th in a plan with seven points, which emphasize the safety of people's health.

Annex 3. Members of the assessment team

MINSAL

Salvador Villalobos
Miguel Linares
Natalia Carpio

Carlos Girón
Rosadela Aguilar
Francisco Vargas
Ana María Barrientos
Héctor Ramos

ISSS

Edgar Soto

SECRETARIAT OF TRADE AND INVESTMENTS OF THE PRESIDENCY

Marcela G. Luna

UNDP

Ruth Lucio
Ricardo Zapata
Jeannette Fernández





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Summary

Storms Amanda and Cristóbal directly affected 555 Educational Centers (ECs), which represent 10.8% of Salvadoran ECs. Additionally, during the storms, 145 ECs were designated as shelters, which housed over 4,506 people to whom the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MINEDUCYT, due to its acronym in Spanish) provided nutritional support, psycho-social support, and early childhood care, as well as kits of clothes and household goods. The use of the schools as shelters lasted an average of ten days, causing deterioration and minor damage to the sanitary facilities and spaces used by the sheltered population.

Direct damage to ECs due to storms, damage to ECs used as shelters and loss of food from the School Food and Health Program stored in affected ECs, among others, amounts to US\$5,629,572.

On the other hand, the education sector had to take a series of actions to attend to the immediate needs that arose because of the storms: Cleaning and recovery of schools used as shelters; delivery of food packages to the sheltered population; and activities for psycho-social support and support for early childhood and childhood sheltered in the ECs. The actions implemented by MINEDUCYT in response to the storms was estimated at US\$3,048,307.

On this occasion, both the direct effects of the storms in the ECs, as well as the use of some ECs as shelters, did not affect the right

to education of girls, boys, and adolescents, since March 11th, 2020 the MINEDUCYT face-to-face classes had been suspended¹ due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and since that date the implementation of a multi-platform educational system (internet, TV, radio, and printed materials) had begun, to ensure educational continuity.

To ensure the right to education in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic, the MINEDUCYT generated the “Pedagogical and Management Guidelines for the Educational Continuity of students at all educational levels and modalities”, which considered three phases, to advance in the preparation of materials and learning guides, development and enabling of websites, teacher training in the use of virtual platforms, development of the television program “Aprendamos en casa (Let’s learn at home)”, the delivery of computer equipment to teachers and the development of other actions aimed at establishing a multi-platform educational system, considering the different realities in terms of connectivity, access and use of computer equipment, among others. In general, the MINEDUCYT recorded losses of US\$17,234,142, to establish the basic conditions of the multi-platform educational system. On the other hand, MINEDUCYT, through Decrees 628 and 654 of the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of El Salvador, had to transfer about US\$18 million to the National Administration of Aqueducts and Sewers (ANDA), to ensure its proper functioning due to the pandemic.

¹/ MINEDUCYT (2019). Communication No. 7: “Suspension of classes due to the COVID-19 Emergency”.



In relation to higher education, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the different Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to implement distance education systems that, added to the deterioration of the economic conditions of families and barriers to access and connectivity, caused the dropout of about 16,124 higher education students during the first academic term of 2020. This meant a reduc-

tion of US\$2,856,627 in uncollected payments. On the other hand, HEIs reported losses due to reduced income from the provision of services, which were estimated at US\$13,293,770.

The damages and losses registered for the education sector due to storms Amanda and Cristóbal are detailed in the following table.

TABLE 1

Damages and losses registered for the education sector due to storms Amanda and Cristóbal

Damages / Losses	Damage (in US \$)		Loss (in US \$)	
	Public	Private	Public	Private
COVID-19			40,448,851	11,469,196
Storms	5,629,572		3,048,307	51,550
Total	5,629,572		43,497,158	11,520,746

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

MINEDUCYT, to face the situation caused by COVID-19 and the storms, updated its 2019-2024 Institutional Strategic Plan, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, in which it recognized that over 1.3 million students have been affected by the interruption of face-to-face classes. This has been understood as an immediate and effective response action to offer different options to maintain educational continuity.

To address the above, two of the axes established in the MINEDUCYT strategy are:

i) Educational continuity to ensure the development of learning in the context of a national emergency, and ii) accelerated transition to the digitization of education to put the technologies at the service of learning. One of the most relevant sector needs turned out to be the acquisition of technological devices for students and teachers of the public educational system nationwide, whose estimated cost amounted to 45.3% (US\$214,703,120) of the total sector needs estimated at US\$473,975,314 for the 2020-2024 period.

Context before tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

According to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MINEDUCYT),² 2018 school enrollment amounted to 1,425,425 students at different educational levels.³ Out

of these, 1,207,574 (85.0%) attended public education, and 217,815 students (15.0%) did so in the private sector. Likewise, the teaching staff for 2018 considered 58,077 teachers nationwide (69.19% women and 30.81% men). Out of this total, 45,208 teachers (77.84%) worked in the public sector; 11,590 (19.96%), in the private sector; and 1,279 (2.20%), both in the public and private sectors.⁴

TABLE 2

2020 Detail of educational centers and enrollment per education level, Public sector

Department	Number of Educational Centers	Kindergarten enrollment	Enrollment I term	Enrollment II term	Enrollment III term	Enrollment High School	Total Enrollments
Ahuachapán	281	9,354	18,527	17,118	15,416	6,538	66,953
Santa Ana	457	15,611	26,102	23,487	20,870	10,027	96,097
Sonsonate	326	13,976	24,225	22,340	19,237	8,804	88,582
Chalatenango	412	6,422	9,781	9,142	7,852	4,328	37,525
La Libertad	438	18,051	30,186	29,698	27,634	14,382	119,951
San Salvador	587	35,741	49,172	50,127	47,916	29,767	212,723
Cuscatlán	203	7,916	12,346	11,838	11,249	5,047	48,396
La Paz	313	11,375	17,862	16,543	15,155	8,050	68,985
Cabañas	267	5,091	9,530	8,865	7,040	2,933	33,459
San Vicente	235	6,906	9,762	8,686	7,767	4,932	38,053
Usulután	453	13,186	19,207	17,379	14,992	8,458	73,222
San Miguel	468	14,191	23,394	21,308	18,598	9,500	86,991
Morazán	330	6,536	10,548	9,912	8,575	4,652	40,223
La Unión	375	8,674	13,797	12,241	9,382	4,630	48,724
TOTAL	5,145	173,030	274,439	258,684	231,683	122,048	1,059,884

Source: Own elaboration, based on official information obtained from the MINEDUCYT.

2/ MINEDUCYT (2019). Statistical Bulletin No. 2: 2018 School enrollment.

3/ The educational levels in El Salvador consider: Early education, kindergarten education, basic education (I Cycle), basic education (II Cycle), basic education (III Cycle), secondary education and adult education.

4/ MINEDUCYT (2019). Statistical Bulletin No. 15: Teaching staff 2018.



School education is taught in the existing 6,025 educational centers (ECs) nationwide, of which 5,143 (85.0%) are from the public sector and 882 (15.0%) from the private sector. Most of the ECs, both public and private, are located in rural areas: 3,979 ECs (66.0%), and the remaining 2,046 ones (34.0%) in urban areas.⁵ 80.0% of the ECs in the public sector have piped water supply to the interior of the educational center. The rest is supplied by alternative means: Hauling (from a river, lake, water source), rainwater, public basin, well or tank truck. In relation to the sanitary services available in public ECs, only 22.0% of these have toilets connected to the sewage systems; 61.0% of the ECs have septic tanks; and 26.0% have pit latrines.⁶

TABLE 3

Students enrolled in Higher Education Institutions, semester I-2020

Type of HEIs	Number of HEIs	Enrollment term I-2020
Universities	24	188,863
Specialized Institutes	12	12,654
Technological Institutes	5	1,647
Total	41	203,164

Source: Own elaboration, based on official information obtained from the MINEDUCYT.

⁵/ MINEDUCYT (2019). Statistical Bulletin No. 1: Educational centers, year 2018.

⁶/ MINEDUCYT (2019). Statistical Bulletin No. 19: Utility services in public educational centers, year 2018.

On the other hand, higher education in El Salvador is made up of 41 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), of which 24 correspond to universities (58.6%); 12 to specialized institutes (26.8%); and 5 to technological institutes (14.6%). Of the 41 existing HEIs in the country, 9 (21.9%) are public, and 32 (78.1%) are private. Regarding the higher education student population at the beginning of the I-2020 term, the National Directorate of Higher Education of MINEDUCYT reported a total of 203,164 students, of which 63,233 (31.1%) attended public HEIs and 139,931 (68.9%) students attended private HEIs. The total number of teachers in the different HEIs amounted to 10,589.⁷

For 2020, the budget for the education, science and technology sector was US\$1,039.32, which represents 16.2% of the total budget of the nation. The budget assigned to MINEDUCYT is aligned with the priorities and objectives of the Cuscatlán Plan related to education, science, and technology, which are specified in the 2019-2024 Institutional Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Education (PEI-MINEDUCYT), whose objectives are:

- ▣ Articulate the vision of the Cuscatlán Plan with the educational priorities of the management.
- ▣ Promote the modernization of the educational system to achieve quality and relevance.
- ▣ Incorporate the vision of the SDGs into institutional planning.

⁷/ MINEDUCYT (2019). Results of the 2018 Statistical Information of Higher Education Institutions.

TABLE 4

MINEDUCYT objectives and goals in terms of disaster risk management

Long-term goals (2030)	Five-year goals (2024)
<p>Promote prevention and co-responsibility of the educational community for the protection of the environment, especially in protected natural areas, biosphere reserves, and for the preparation and response to emergencies and/or disasters.</p>	<p>1,000 educational centers in high socio-environmental vulnerability areas carry out prevention, mitigation, environmental improvement, and adaptation to climate change actions. 2,600 educational centers in high socio-environmental vulnerability areas implement school protection plans to help reduce the vulnerability of the educational community to risks.</p>

Source: 2019-2024 Institutional Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MINEDUCYT).

Articulate the work of strategic partners based on institutional planning.

And the strategic priorities defined in the PEI-MINEDUCYT are:

- Quality and meaningful learning throughout the education cycle, with relevant and inclusive pedagogy and curriculum.
- Teacher professionalization, thus materializing the dignity of the teaching profession and learning services.
- Sufficient educational infrastructure, with quality and safety standards that favor learning.
- A school that favors prevention through education for coexistence, inclusion, and diversity.
- A transformed, innovative, and territory-based institution that reaches each school.

In the PEI-MINEDUCYT, environmental risk management is identified as one of the factors linked to education, which is why it is integrat-

ed as a concerted strategy for disaster risk reduction through the “2012-2022 Education Plan for Climate Change and Comprehensive Risk Management”, and with concrete long-term objectives (2030) and five-year goals (2024) in terms of disaster risk reduction, within the strategic priority of “A school that favors prevention through education for coexistence, inclusion and diversity”, within the framework of which the following objective and goals are established.

The 2020 school year began on Monday, January 20th and was scheduled to end on November 13th, however, following to the development of the COVID-19 pandemic, the MINEDUCYT issued various communications. On January 29th, 2020, communication No. 3 “General guidelines aimed at the educational community to prevent the risk of contagion from the coronavirus” was issued”.

8/ MINEDUCYT (2020). 2020 School Calendar: Teacher scheduler.



Exposure of the education sector to natural hazards

To illustrate the risk exposure of the education sector in El Salvador, information from the 2017 MINEDUCYT Observatory is presented below, based on 5,145 educational centers surveyed, which shows the following situation regarding geological and hydrometeorological threats.

↙ **Threats of a geological origin:** 3,339 (69.85%) public educational centers with greater vulnerability to earthquakes (walls, ceilings, and others); 707 (13.74%) public educational centers are exposed to the threat of volcanic eruption and toxic gas emissions; 466 (9.06%) public educational centers nationwide at risk of tsunami (flood, storm surge, high storm surge); 1,956 (38.02%) public educational centers nationwide are vulnerable to landslides/collapses due to slopes or gullies.

↙ **Threat of a hydrometeorological origin:** 865 (16.81%) public educational centers nationwide have greater vulnerability to flooding (due to overflowing of the river or stream, lake, lagoon or generated by the entrance of the sea); 3,269 (63.54%) public educational centers nationwide are susceptible to hurricanes, tropical storms and/or high winds; 1,332 (25.89%) public educational centers are mostly vulnerable to drought.


As a complement to the previous communication, on March 11th, 2020, communication No. 7 was issued: “Suspension of classes due to COVID-19 emergency”, by means of which all educational activities of the public and private sectors were suspended, formal and informal, for a period of 21 days; and the principals, teachers and administrative staff of educational centers were instructed to guide parents and/or guardians on how to continue the learning process from home.


On March 12th, MINEDUCYT delivered the “Pedagogical and management guidelines for the educational continuity of students at all educational levels and modalities”, aimed at teachers to prepare the activities that students would work at home. The portal “COVID-19 Emergency” (<http://www.mined.gob.sv/emergenciacovid19/>) was enabled, with learning and didactic materials for all levels.⁹ Likewise, it was instructed that each higher education institution should prepare attention scenarios for educational continuity.


Subsequently, on April 11th, 2020, in communication No. 9, the “Guidelines for the implementation of the second phase of the educational continuity strategy due to the COVID-19 Emergency” were delivered,

^{9/} Early and preschool education; basic education; third cycle of basic education and secondary education; as well as for the flexible modalities for youth and adults (blended, distance, night and expedite).

in which the suspension of all educational activities in public and private sector institutions, formal and informal, until April 28th, 2020 was set forth. Likewise, the three phases of the educational continuity strategy were established:

 **Phase 1.** Principals and teachers of the educational centers (public and private) prepared learning guides to continue the training process of their students, with the support of parents (March 11th – April 14th, 2020).

 **Phase 2.** It involved the transition from working with the guides towards the integration of various platforms for continuity in the development of the curriculum. In this phase, the MINEDUCYT provided guidance to parents and teachers; provided educational materials and study guides to students and generated educational materials to share on various platforms (April 14th – May 15th, 2020).

 **Phase 3.** Digitization of education: Covers from May 15th, 2020 until the end of the school year. In this phase, teachers were trained to use the Google Classroom platform, to have a tool that would allow the development of students' learning as face-to-face or virtual support.

third phase of the educational continuity strategy due to the COVID-19 Emergency” were established, which defined the educational activities until the return to school. In this phase, the Ministry of Education continues to develop a multi-platform educational system, through which various articulated media will be enabled (television, radio, printed guides, website, and virtual education platform). To reduce the digital gap, various strategies are implemented, such as the provision of technological equipment to public sector teachers and later to students.

On May 25th, 2020, the transmission of the educational television slot “Aprendamos en casa (Let’s learn at home)” began, through Televisión de El Salvador - Channel 10, from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Educational programming provides tools to students, teachers, and family members for cognitive, physical and social-emotional development. On the other hand, and aimed at early and preschool education, MINEDUCYT directed families to tune in to the radio program “Crecer leyendo (Growing up reading)”, from Monday to Friday, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, through the National Radio of El Salvador (96.9 FM).

On May 29th, communication No. 11 was issued: “Guidance for the Departmental Directorates of Education and public and private educational institutions in the face of the yellow alert due to tropical waves in El Salvador”, to take precautions and thus reduce risks to the educational community and to the respective facilities.

On May 24th, in communication No. 10, the “Guidelines for the implementation of the



Impacts identified due to COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

Storms Amanda and Cristóbal (May 30th, 2020)

Direct damage to educational centers

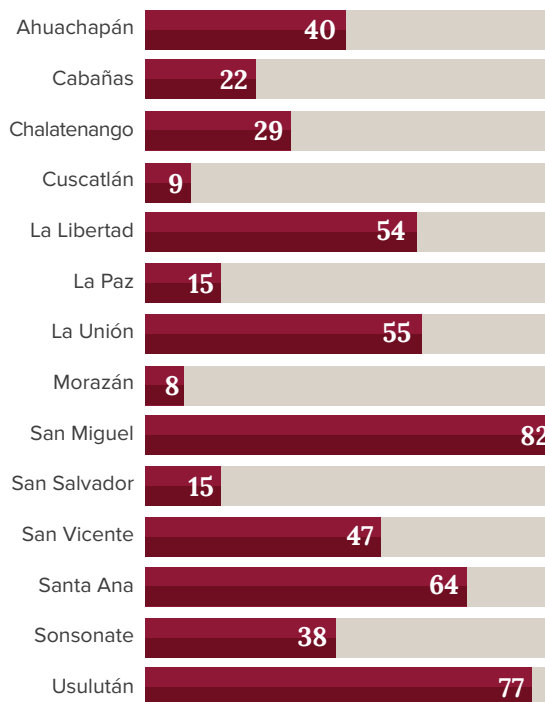
Based on the information provided by MIN-EDUCYT, the evaluation team was able to establish that out of the 5,145 public sector educational centers (ECs) existing in the country, due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, damages were reported in 10.8% of these, which means that 555 ECs presented damages of different categories; 194 ECs had slight damage (35.0%); 220 ECs, moderate damage (40.0%); and 141, serious damages (25.0%).

Based on the information provided by the Departmental Directorates of Education, the type of damage reported in the affected educational centers included, among others: Damage to the roof covering, which caused flooding in classrooms, kitchens, food warehouses of the Food Program and School Health, libraries, computer rooms and health services. Likewise, damage to electrical systems, pipes and septic tanks was reported.

Some ECs presented soil erosion due to the lack of a retaining wall, threatening the stability of the classroom module foundations and cracks due to runoff in the terrain, as well as damage to floors, sidewalks, and sports

CHART 1

Educational centers damaged by the storms per department



Source: "Report on actions carried out by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology during the emergency and declaration of a red alert due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal", MINEDUCYT (2020).

fields. Faced with this situation, the crews of the National Infrastructure Directorate of MINEDUCYT carried out actions to remove debris, repair electrical and sanitary services, as well as cleaning activities, protection of slopes and mitigation activities.

Regarding damages and losses due to the storms in higher education institutions, as well as for school education provided by the private sector, no information was obtained to be included in this report.

Damage to educational centers used as shelters

Early, the Shelter Sectorial Technical Commission (CTSA, by its Spanish acronym), of the General Directorate of Civil Protection, Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters delivered the database of the educational centers identified as potential shelters. In this way, the Ministry of Interior and Territorial Development and the MINEDUCYT agreed on the procedure to dispose of the educational centers and verify their conditions.

The National Directorate of Educational Management (DNGE, by its Spanish acronym) notified the principals of the identified ECs of the willingness to use the educational centers as shelters when required and the criteria for evaluating the facilities. Additionally, the MINEDUCYT developed guidelines for using food from the School Food and Health Program to attend emergency cases in the ECs used as shelters.

In this way, during storms Amanda and Cristóbal, 145 ECs were used as shelters to welcome 4,560 people, who stayed an average of ten days in the educational centers. The use of the ECs as shelters caused deterioration to their infrastructure, furniture, hygienic services, and the consumption of part of the stock of the School Food and Health Program that was in some of these centers.

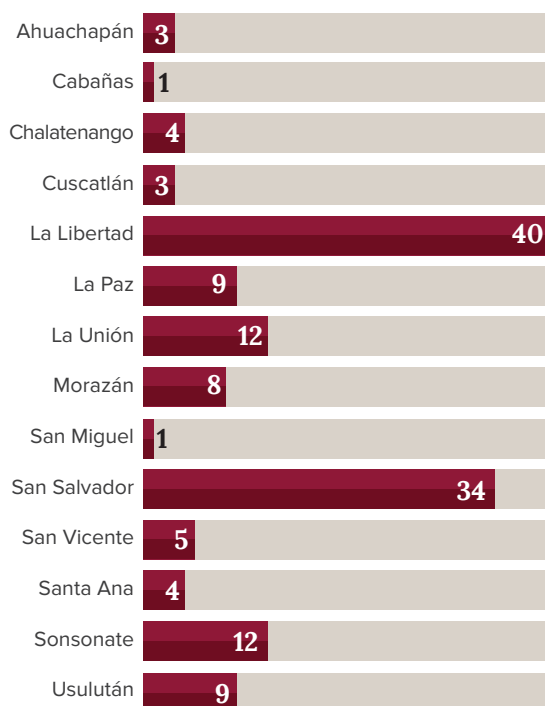
As of August 24th, the use of 11 ECs as shelters was still reported (7 in San Salvador and 4 in La Libertad), with 673 people in their facilities.

Losses

Although at the time of the storms the educational centers (ECs) were not being used due

CHART 2

Educational centers used as shelters during tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal per department



Source: Own elaboration, based on official information obtained from the MINEDUCYT.

to the COVID-19 pandemic, MINEDUCYT undertook a series of actions to meet the needs of the people housed in them:

- ▣ Psychosocial intervention.
- ▣ Mobilize early childhood technical assistants (ATPI, by its Spanish acronym) to attend ECs used as shelters.
- ▣ Delivery of food from the School Food and Health Program, to attend emergencies.
- ▣ Delivery of food, supply packages and



hand cleaning kits, with the support of FUSALMO, FACELA and D'QUISA.

This is how the MINEDUCYT psychosocial care and crisis intervention teams assisted over 1,799 people in 31 prioritized shelters. For their part, the ATPIs of the fourteen Departmental Directorates of Education (DDE, by its Spanish acronym) carried out diagnoses on physical safety and the actions carried out on prevention and protection measures against physical and sexual abuse, attending and giving guidance to girls, boys and adolescents of over 516 families housed.

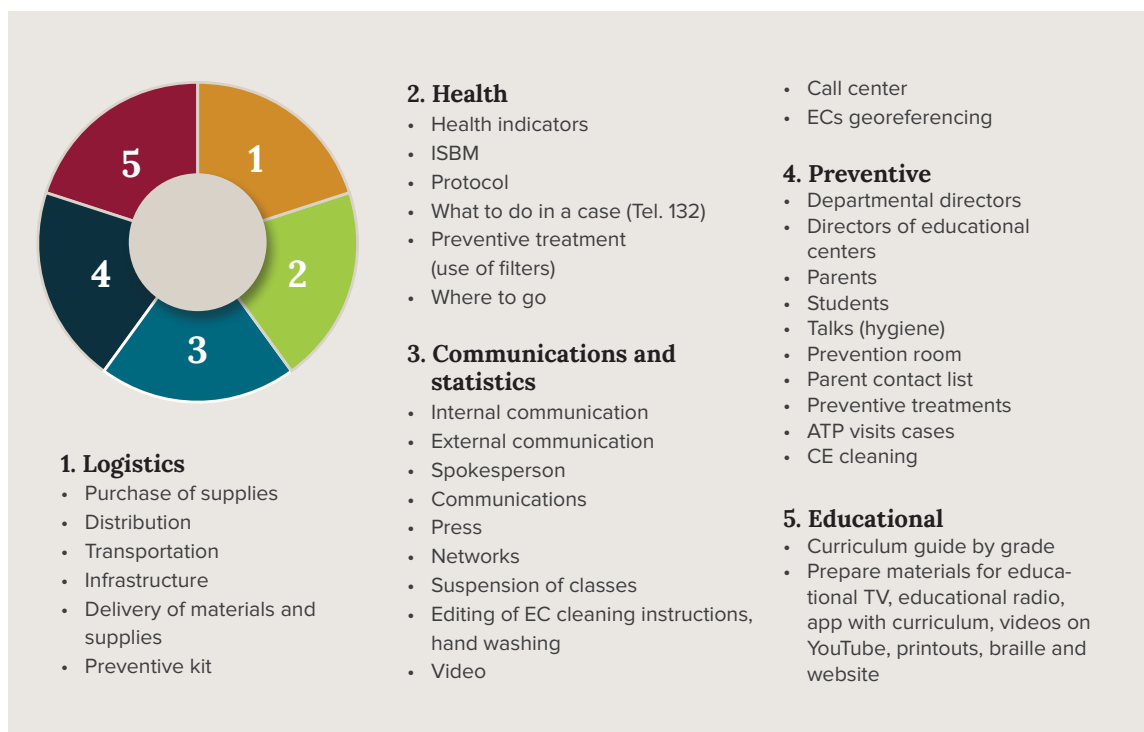
On the other hand, the MINEDUCYT reported the delivery of 94,197 food packages and 1,031 cleaning kits to the population housed in the ECs (clothing, materials, and kitchen supplies).

COVID-19 (March-May/2020)

To respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, MINEDUCYT launched the Institutional Emergency Response Plan and its respective protocol. Faced with the pandemic, it established its specific planning that has allowed an effective response, under the leadership of the

FIGURE 3

Commissions designated



Source: "Report on actions carried out by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology during the emergency and declaration of a red alert due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal", MINEDUCYT (2020).

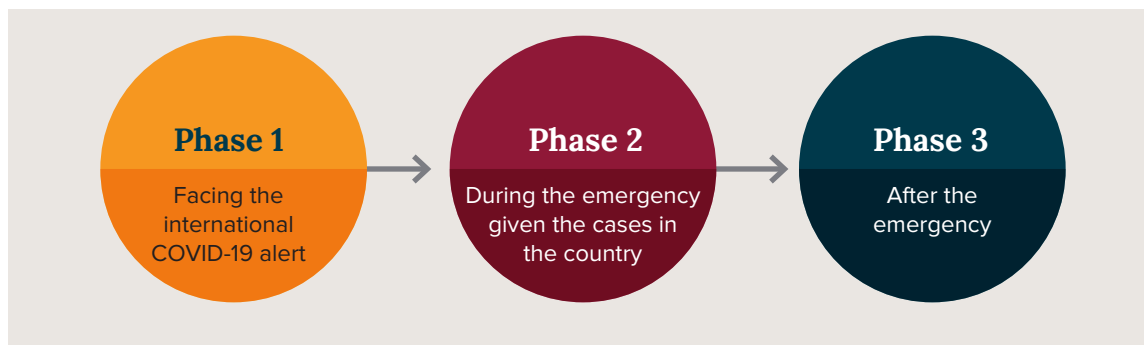
Executive Committee, led by the heads of this ministry and supported by the National Directorate for Prevention and Social Programs. They have coordinated all the institutional actions, both, the Operational Technical Committee, as well as the monitoring, progress, results and reports of the different technical teams, represented by the different National Directorates of Education and their teams of professionals, their links with the Departmental Directorates of Education and educational centers (ECs). Likewise, in March 2020, the National Directorate of Educational Management prepared the Educational Con-

tinuity Plan in an Emergency Situation in¹⁰ the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, aimed at ensuring that the country’s students could develop the expected learning for the 2020 school year.

To enforce the measures, guidelines, and decisions, more than fifteen national and international laws, protocols, codes, decrees and norms have been considered, to protect health, life and the right to education. These efforts have been oriented according to the following phases¹¹ (more information available in Annex 2):

CHART 4

Response phases in the face of the pandemic



Source: “Update of activities carried out by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic (March-August 2020)”, MINEDUCYT.

To ensure educational continuity, within the framework of “Phase 2. During the emergency given the cases in the country”, progress was made in the strategy for the design of the Plan for Educational Continuity, in which the following actions were contemplated:

Phase 1: Containment of the Emergency

Distribution and production of materials to support teaching.

¹⁰/ MINEDUCYT (2020). Plan for Educational Continuity in an Emergency Situation.

¹¹/ MINEDUCYT (2020). Update of the activities carried out by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic (March-August/2020).



Phase 2: Integration of various platforms

Adaptation and prioritization of the national curriculum, improvements in the distribution of materials and introduction of new platforms.

Phase 3: Digitization of Education

Educational continuity and teacher training through Google Classroom.

Phase 4: Return to school

Reconstruction of the social fabric of the school and psychosocial care of the educational community, to spark the joy of learning.

Losses related to the delivery of education sector services

The losses reported by the school education sector have been associated with the preventive actions taken at the beginning of the pandemic for the safety of the educational communities prior to the suspension of classes, and later with the actions carried out for the design and implementation of the plan for the educational continuity, which considered a multi-platform strategy.

On the other hand, several programs in the school education sector had to be modified to meet the new needs and adjust to the context of the pandemic, such as the School Food and Health Program, the School Counseling Program, the Provision of Uniforms, Shoes and School Supplies, as well as the Teacher Training Program, among others.

In relation to higher education, the losses are associated with the reduction in the income

of the different higher education institutions (HEIs), due to both the delay in the payment of fees and their suspension due to the desertion of higher education students, which for the I-2020 term reached an average of 8.8% of initial enrollment. The dropout percentage reported to date by the HEIs ranged from 0.94% (Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas, UCA) to 30.0% (Universidad de Oriente, UNIVO). Another important loss for higher education has been the reduction in income from the sale of services and miscellaneous, since the HEIs are closed and there has been a decrease in the demand for services provided by them.

Based on what was stated by the 27 HEIs that have provided information, according to the requirements of MINEDUCYT and the Higher Education Council (CES, by its Spanish acronym), 23 of them reported a percentage of arrears in the payment of fees, which ranges between 23.0% (Escuela de Comunicación Mónica Herrera) up to 97.0% (Escuela Superior Franciscana ESFE-AGAPE), with an average default rate that by May reached 55.14%. Faced with this situation, the HEIs have taken various actions to mitigate the situation: Eliminate surcharges, adjust the fee according to the place of origin of students, exempt the payment for deferred or extraordinary evaluations, exempt the payment for face-to-face services, offer direct loans to students who were not able to continue paying fees, extension of scholarship plans of some HEIs and design of payment plans.

Some of the actions of the education sector that have caused losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic are detailed below. As soon as

face-to-face classes were suspended in the country's educational centers,¹² an achievement indicators prioritization process was carried out per subject, educational level and per educational modality, to ensure that essential contents were covered during the 2020 school year. Once the achievement indicators had been prioritized, the MINEDUCYT began to generate the materials (printed, digital and audiovisual) to implement a multi-platform teaching model that, among other actions, included:

- ▣ Design, reproduction, and delivery of 1,632,408 learning guides¹³ for 300,000 students with connectivity difficulties or lack of access to electricity.
- ▣ Creation of the site www.mined.gob.sv/emergenciacovid19 to host academic content and guidelines for the educational community (pedagogical guidelines for teachers and guidance for parents).
- ▣ Start of the program “Aprendamos en casa (Let’s learn at home)”, through Channel 10, which began in May 2020 and reached an audience of 1.6 million people.
- ▣ Launch of the radio show “Crecer leyendo (Growing up reading)” for girls and boys in early childhood.

^{12/} MINEDUCYT (2020). Ministerial Communication No. 7 year, 2020: Suspension of classes due to the COVID-19 Emergency.

^{13/} Fourteen learning guides have been designed per subject, from nursery school 4, 5, and 6 years old, 1st grade, to eleventh grade. They are available on the MINEDUCYT website: <http://www.mined.gob.sv/emergenciacovid19/>

- ▣ Production of 91 audiovisual materials to support educational continuity.

To ensure the application and potential of distance education and the actions described above, the MINEDUCYT conducted online training for 30,266 teachers from the public and private sectors on the Google Classroom platform, to facilitate learning in educational continuity. This was complemented with the delivery of 9,000 computers to teachers with vulnerable health conditions, to support educational continuity through teleworking.

Considering connectivity and availability of technological equipment limitations, specific projects were designed to support educational continuity, such as “La educación más cerca de ti (Education closer to you)”, which consists of mobile classrooms, through which it is expected to serve over 24,000 girls and boys in early childhood, in seven municipalities of the country. Within this same project is, in planning and management, the acquisition of 14 classroom trucks to support educational continuity, connectivity and development of other strategic support programs for the education of students.

Simultaneously, MINEDUCYT carried out programs for educational continuity and was forced to adapt its psychosocial care and school counseling programs, due to both the restrictions imposed by confinement and the mental health situation of the members of the educational communities. To achieve this, psychosocial educational contents were developed in virtual formats, installation of online counseling and the re-



spective training of psychosocial staff, as well as the production and dissemination of scripts for television programs, in the educational strip “Consejería Escolar (School Counseling)” on Channel 10, to strengthen life skills and family life.

Along with the above, a series of virtual activities for the promotion and prevention of social risks have been carried out, such as a series of webinars on managing emotions, feelings, and self-care practices, in which 9,128 teachers, students, and parents have participated; training 3,560 teachers on issues of coexistence, prevention of violence and social risks; as well as the training of 81 teachers in psycho-pedagogical tools through “Soy música (I am Music)”.

It is worth mentioning that information was obtained that over 9,000 girls, boys and adolescents from the private school sector have migrated to public education so far after the pandemic. On the other hand, although exact figures are not yet available, it is recognized that there will be a significant dropout due to the situation caused by the pandemic in vulnerable families, coupled with the lack of connectivity and difficulty of access to other educational resources that the MINEDUCYT has made available to ensure educational continuity. This will increase the number of 396,883 people belonging to the school population who were already outside the educational system.

On the other hand, with regard to higher education imparted by the different Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), even though it was not possible to quantify the expens-

es, there is evidence that they have had to invest resources in the enabling of online platforms; servers with the capacity to serve a large number of students; Cloud space to host class recordings and study materials; and acquisition of technological equipment and software to remotely access servers and equipment used for programs that students must use. Likewise, several HEIs reported having started or strengthened their teacher training and certification programs in the management of virtual learning environments, as well as the provision of personalized advice to teachers via email, telephone, or social networks.

HEIs have also had to incur expenses to comply with what the health protocols require: Foot baths, alcohol gel and masks, and in staff transport due to the non-functioning of public transport. In addition to the investment expenses detailed above, HEIs have experienced losses in their income due to delays in the payment of their students' fees, and the reduction in the provision of services and other miscellaneous (parking payment, consumption in cafeterias, etc.).

In governance and ability to offer services

For the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MINEDUCYT activated the institutional teams: the Executive Committee (heads and the National Directorate for Prevention and

14/ MINEDUCYT (2019). Statistical Bulletin No. 24: “Percentage of the population outside the educational system, year 2018”..

Social Programs), the Operational Technical Committee (responsible for activating, conducting and reporting the progress of the response to the pandemic and the actions carried out through the technical teams) and the different technical teams,¹⁵ as well as the operation of the situation room, pursuant to the provisions of the “Action Protocol of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, in the event of an emergency or disaster”.

Within this framework, training was carried out for teams at central and departmental levels of the MINEDUCYT, as well as for representatives of private schools, on specific guidelines for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, in coordination with the MINSAL.

In the course of the development of the pandemic and the decisions that were made at nationwide, the MINEDUCYT generated and released a series of ministerial¹⁶ communications to formalize guidelines and regulations for action in the face of the pandemic.

Likewise, on June 5th, 2020, the Education Cluster was established, within the framework of the Humanitarian Country Team, which brings together representatives of different national directorates of the MINEDUCYT, NGOs and UN agencies, to pro-

vide an efficient and effective support to the Ministry of Education in the process of response and recovery of the sector in the face of the emergency of COVID-19 and tropical storm Amanda. In the Cluster dynamic, in a coordinated manner, school education has been supported in various topics: Teacher training in Google Classroom, printing of learning guides, connectivity for teachers and students, delivery of technological tools for students and teachers, and strengthening of socio-emotional attention to students and families in the most vulnerable areas.

It should be noted that, through decrees No. 628 and No. 654 of the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of El Salvador, the MINEDUCYT transferred about 18 million dollars to the National Administration of Aqueducts and Sewers (ANDA, by its Spanish acronym) to ensure its proper functioning due to the pandemic.

Vulnerabilities and risk in the Sector

Despite all the efforts made by the MINEDUCYT to ensure educational continuity under a multi-platform system, the pandemic will increase exclusion and school backwardness, which in many cases will end with school dropouts, which could be irreversible if measures are not taken in this regard. There is international evidence indicating that the longer education is interrupted, the more likely it is that the most vulnerable population will abandon their education.

One of the groups susceptible to dropping out of school, due to non-face-to-face teach-

15/ Finance team; Administration and Logistics; Emergency Education team; Prevention team; Communications and Statistics team; Health team; Resource Management team; and Follow-up team.

16/ <https://www.mined.gob.sv/descargas/category/1342-circulares-2020.html>



ing, is that of families who lack or have difficulties with internet connectivity or having the necessary devices. Furthermore, vulnerability and overcrowding conditions at home can have significant impacts on students' mental health, frustration, and intra-family violence.

On the other hand, in the framework of the pandemic and in the face of an upcoming safe return to educational centers and high-

er education institutions, it is necessary to implement a series of actions that ensure the provision of water, sanitation and safe food services, as well such as adjustments in its infrastructure and provision of inputs and special equipment. Although some of these actions had already been advanced before the suspension of classes, most still need to be finalized to make a safe return to classes possible, both in school and higher education.

Summary table of damages and losses in the sector

TABLE 5

Detail of damage and loss reported

Detail of damage and loss reported	COVID-19 (March-May 2020)		Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal (May-July 2020)			
	Losses		Damages		Losses	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Damage to Education Centers (ECs) due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal.			5,371,662			
Damage to education centers due to their use as shelters.			255,360			
Cleaning and recovery of education centers used as shelters.					638,400	
Food packages delivered to the sheltered population.					2,354,925	
Delivery of kit to the population housed in ECs (clothing, materials, and kitchen supplies).						51,550
Psychosocial support and support for early childhood among the population housed in ECs.					54,982	
School education						
Enhanced school counseling		113,925				

Detail of damage and loss reported	COVID-19 (March-May 2020)		Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal (May-July 2020)			
	Losses		Damages		Losses	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Preparation, printing and distribution of learning guides, audiovisual materials, web portal, educational continuity, and actions to implement a multimodal educational system.	863,700					
Teacher training through Google Classroom.	1,513,300					
Delivery of computer equipment to teachers.	10,800,000					
"Aprendamos en casa (Let's learn at home)" Program, on Channel 10.	2,600,000					
Receipt of donations in kind or services for the Education Cluster.		1,343,217				
Higher education						
Loss of income from the provision of services and miscellaneous.	5,856,153	7,437,617				
Loss of income due to student dropouts.	168,264	2,688,362				
Others						
Transfer for the operation of ANDA.	18,000,000					
Savings due to reduction of utility bills (January-May).	-388,357					
Supplies for the prevention of COVID-19.	921,865					
Total	40,448,850	11,469,196	5,629,572		3,048,307	51,550

Annex 3 presents some of the assumptions used to estimate the cost of damages and losses presented above.

Source: Own elaboration, based on official information obtained from the MINEDUCYT.



Cross-cutting issues

The teaching staff in El Salvador shows that 69.2% (40,183) of teachers nationwide are women, who during the pandemic have had to combine their role as a teacher in these adverse situations with their family life, often as head of household, and their personal life. Other working women have not been oblivious to this same situation, who have had to dedicate time and attention to the care and education of their children from the moment they stopped going to school due to the suspension of face-to-face classes.

Contributions of the sector to Human Impact

Some considerations from the education sector will be described below in relation to the human impact that tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal have had, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Student dropout

Due to internet connectivity limitations, as well as the lack of technological devices to follow the online learning offered, it is expected that during the 2020 academic period there will be school dropouts in higher education.

During the I-2020 term, 16,131 students have dropped out (May/2020) from higher education institutions. Regarding school education, to date it was not possible to make

estimates. It will be possible to know this information once the school year ends, scheduled for November 2020.

Student desertion increases the risk of child labor, violence within the home, teen pregnancy, early unions, joining gangs, or other negative coping mechanisms.

Food Safety

The modifications in the School Food and Health Program, which sought to focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable families, implied that although this program now benefits students and their families from the targeted population, at the same time it ceased to benefit 371,251 students who, according to the data obtained from the targeting, were identified as those who least needed it.

Recovery Needs and Strategy

The MINEDUCYT, to face the situation caused by COVID-19 and the storms, updated its 2019-2024 Institutional Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, in which it recognized that over 1.3 million students have been affected by the interruption of face-to-face classes. This has been understood as an immediate and effective response action to offer different options that enable educational continuity, considering the existing digital gap and the adverse conditions for the development of curricular content by teachers.

The educational continuity strategy designed by the MINEDUCYT is oriented along six axes:

- 01** Prevent and inform, to take care of the health of the entire educational community and the technical staff of MINEDUCYT.
- 02** Educational continuity, to ensure the development of learning in the context of a national emergency.
- 03** Accelerated transition to the digitization of education, to put technologies at the service of learning.
- 04** Inclusion and pedagogical diversity, to generate higher levels of equity and overcome the technological gap.
- 05** Design of a diagnostic test for all basic subjects and grades, to know the level of learning achievement of students after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 06** Modification of the graduate test for high school students, to measure learning achievements.

To guarantee educational continuity, the MINEDUCYT prioritizes four areas of action:

- ↘** Curricular prioritization and design of materials (printed and audiovisual).
- ↘** Teacher training in Google Classroom.
- ↘** Provision of technological equipment and connectivity to teachers and students.
- ↘** Psychosocial care for the educational community during the emergency and when returning to school.

Educational continuity has been planned considering the following phases: Phase 1: Containment of the emergency; Phase 2: Integration of various platforms; Phase 3: Digi-

tization of education; and Phase 4: Return to school.

To implement the educational continuity strategy, it is necessary to ensure some essential preconditions that ensure its viability:

- I** Availability of printed and digital educational materials, accessible through MINEDUCYT virtual platforms.
- II** Availability, access and use of technology by teachers, students, and family group to support the student body.
- III** Existing connectivity at home and schools, for teachers and students.
- IV** Computer system capacity, for teacher training using Google Classroom.
- V** Transitory and exceptional provisions for the acquisition of materials, equipment, and resources necessary for educational continuity.
- VI** Equity approach: Alternatives for students with special needs, early childhood education girls and boys, and students without internet and television access.
- VII** Assurance of the School Food and Health Program (PASE, by its Spanish acronym) to families of students during a national emergency.

The previous strategy requires expanding the number and use of computers, as well as facilitating connectivity for teachers and students. To this end, needs for over US\$214 million have been considered, to acquire technological devices for students and teachers of the public educational system at the national level, to contribute to closing the digital gap in teaching and learning opportunities.



On the other hand, the multi-platform learning system considers the delivery to the students of new pedagogical material developed within the framework of this strategy. The preparation, printing and distribution of these materials would be delivered within the framework of the current Uniforms, Shoes and School Supplies Program. It is expected to gradually cover the delivery of pedagogical materials for all subjects and school levels.

Likewise, the blended education model requires adjusting in the School Food and Health Program, to ensure the feeding of students who attend and those who do not attend school, which would imply increasing the school snack ration from 120 to 160 days in a phased manner, together with the strategy to strengthen food security in the communities of students in public educational centers.

The suspension of educational services also has serious consequences in the short, medium, and long term for students and teachers, so the opening of the ECs must be done safely and respecting health protocols within the framework of COVID-19, adopting reasonable measures to protect the entire educational community. In this line of work, the MINEDUCYT is working with its allies to facilitate appropriate strategies to reopen schools during COVID-19. It will also be essential to repair educational centers damaged by storms Amanda and Cristóbal, as well as those that were used as shelters

TABLE 6

Justification of needs generated by the tropical storms and the COVID-19 pandemic in the Education sector

Parameters	Damages (in US\$)	Losses (in US\$)	Justification of the needs arising from the analysis of effects and impacts
Tropical storms			
Damages in education centers (ECs).	5,374,212		Have the ECs available for the return to classes.
Deterioration of ECs used as shelters.	255,360		Have the ECs available for the return to classes.
COVID-19			
Acquisition of supplies for the prevention of COVID-19, prior to the suspension of classes.		921,865	For the safe return to classes, ECs and the MINEDUCYT units must be adequate to comply with the conditions of sanitary security, basic services and protection supplies.
Implementation of a multimodal educational system.		17,120,217	It is expected that for 2021 and years to come, the school education will be given under a multimodal system of blended education.
Teacher training and support.			To make the curricular adaptation and the multimodal education system viable, teachers must have the knowledge and skills to implement them, as well as to promote and enforce health protocols within the classrooms and the EC.
Preparation of printed and audiovisual materials for the operation of the multimodal education system.			For the operation of the multimodal education system, it is necessary to adapt the existing printed teaching and learning material, as well as to prepare audiovisual material that is available on different platforms (internet, television, radio).
Technological devices for students and teachers of the public educational system, nationwide.			Much of the success of the multimodal education system depends on the possibility for teachers and students to have internet connectivity and have technological devices.



Needs

Repair of the ECs damaged by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal (includes utility services, equipment, etc.).

Repair of ECs used as shelters (includes utility services, equipment, etc.).
Improvement of the ECs that function as shelters, nationwide.

Adequacy of the physical infrastructure of MINEDUCYT and the ECs for sanitary security and social distancing conditions, water and sanitation services and protection supplies.

Increase the coverage of mobile classrooms.

Google Classroom training.
Teacher training for the accelerated modality.
Identification of teacher good practices.
Teacher training for the return to school, sanitary protocols.
Teacher training for the recovery of learning, psychosocial care and socio-emotional learning.
Teacher training for curricular updating and the multimodal educational system.
Curricular transformation of initial teacher training for the multimodal educational system.
Implementation of initial teacher training programs for the multimodal educational system.

Preparation, printing, and distribution of educational guides.
Preparation, printing and distribution of textbooks, methodological guides, and exercise books for all levels.
Design of a diagnostic test for all subjects and grades, with the support of other units.
Preparation and editing of educational continuity guides.
Teleclasses and other productions of the educational television strip (Channel 10).
Radioclasses.
Design of multimedia websites for educational continuity.
Design of multimedia websites for teacher training.
Learning objects and multimedia products for virtual education and teacher training.

Acquisition of technological devices for students and teachers of the public educational system, nationwide.

Parameters	Damages (in US\$)	Losses (in US\$)	Justification of the needs arising from the analysis of effects and impacts
Adaptation of the School Food and Health Program.			Due to the face-to-face system, the feeding days for the students of the public system should be increased, as well as the delivery of the food packages to the families of the educational communities.
Modification of the School Counseling Program.		113,925	Protection of the mental health of students, teachers, mothers, fathers, and family references, from a prevention, promotion and care approach.
Complement the Program for the Provision of Uniforms, Shoes and School supplies.			Within the framework of the multimodal blended education system strategy, this program must provide various textbooks, workbooks, and other educational materials.
Implement a safe return and institutional strengthening plan.			The return to blended classes under a multi-platform modality, requires that the different departments of the MINEDUCYT, its staff, teachers and the educational community know and actively participate in this process.

Recovery and Prioritization Needs Summary table of initiatives and recovery costs in the short, medium, and long term

The following table shows the details of the costs associated with the needs generated by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, and by the COVID-19 pandemic, in the education sector. All the data is aligned to, in one way or another, establish a blended multi-platform educational system for the coming years.

TABLE 7

Justification of needs generated by the tropical storms and the COVID-19 pandemic in the Education sector

Intervention	Total cost (in US\$)
Tropical storms	
Repair of educational centers damaged by the storms (includes utility services, equipment, etc.).	14,856,427
Repair of educational centers used as shelters (includes utility services, equipment, etc.).	638,400
Improvement of educational centers that function as shelters in emergency conditions, nationwide.	16,675,000



Needs

Increase the school snack rations, from 120 to 160 days, in a phased manner.
Expand the Food and Garden Education Program.

Strengthen the operation of the School Councils in the fourteen Departmental Directorates of Education.

Delivery of textbooks of basic subjects, to continue providing curricular supports to students.

Develop the actions provided for in the Safe Return and Institutional Strengthening Plan.
Prepare/update the ECs School Protection Plans.

Source: Own elaboration, based on official information obtained from the MINEDUCYT.

2020 (in US\$)	2021-2022 (in US\$)	2023-2024 (in US\$)	Priority (1 to 4)	Description
	14,856,427		3	
	638,400		3	
	16,675,000		2	

Intervention	Total cost (in US\$)
COVID-19	
Infrastructure and supplies	
Acquisition, equipment, and implementation of mobile classrooms, to support learning modalities at a national level.	3,370,209
Enabling and improving water and sanitation systems in educational centers, nationwide.	24,260,000
Improvement of spaces and equipment for serving the public, and administrative support for the MINEDUCYT units and installation of sanitation and biosafety systems in schools, nationwide.	8,445,130
Back to School Program	
Return to school and institutional strengthening.	25,424,244
Prepare/update School Protection Plans of Educational centers	2,700,000
School Food and Health Program	
Adaptation of the School Food and Health Program and strengthening of the Food Education and Gardens Program.	57,281,275
School Counseling Program: Protection of the mental health of students, teachers, mothers, fathers, and family references, from a prevention, promotion, care, restoration and protection approach.	5,600,165
Program for the Provision of Uniforms, Shoes and School supplies to students and public education centers.	22,238,844
Teacher training and support	
Teacher training for the use of the multimodal educational system (Google Classroom, Linux, curriculum update, accelerated education, health protocols and psychosocial support).	4,980,000
Identification of teacher good practices.	515,000
Curricular transformation of initial teacher training for the multimodal educational system.	4,900,000
Educational continuity	
Preparation, printing, and distribution of educational guides.	15,530,000
Design of a diagnostic test for all subjects and grades, with the support of other units.	1,950,000
Teleclasses, productions of the educational television strip and radio classes.	24,850,000
Design of multimedia websites for educational continuity and teacher training.	2,300,000
Acquisition of technological devices for students and teachers of the public educational system, nationwide.	214,703,120



2020 (in US\$)	2021-2022 (in US\$)	2023-2024 (in US\$)	Priority (1 to 4)	Description
	3,370,209		2	
	24,260,000		4	
	8,445,130		4	
	25,424,244		2	
	1,350,000	1,350,000		
9,281,275	16,000,000	32,000,000	2	
	2,159,275	3,440,890	2	
	7,412,948	14,825,896	3	
570,000	3,140,00	1,270,00	3	
115,000	200,000	200,000	1	
	1,700,000	3,200,000	1	
1,350,000	12,380,000	1,800,000	3	
850,000	1,100,000		2	
1,050,000	11,900,000	11,900,000	3	
460,000	920,000	920,000	3	
	214,703,120		4	

Intervention	Total cost (in US\$)
Higher education	
Curriculum adaptation in higher education in the face of the 'new reality' represented by COVID-19; and support to HEIs in the design of teaching and learning according to the multimodal system in higher education.	757,500
Financial support (student scholarships, HEI subsidies, etc.), to ensure the continuity of the formation of the higher-level student community.	18,000,000
Support in ensuring connectivity (equipment and connection) to students and teachers, and training for the use of virtual teaching.	4,000,000
TOTAL	473,975,314

Recommendations for its implementation

From an institutional perspective, for MINEDUCYT the implementation of recovery actions for educational services must be aligned with the axes and areas of actions of the educational continuity strategy that are established in the 2019-2024 Institutional Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, which have been previously submitted.

To facilitate the above, it is advisable to continue with the operation of the designated commissions (health, communications and statistics, preventive, educational and logistical) that are considered in the Institutional Emergency Response Plan, the same ones that have functioned from the beginning of the pandemic. The lessons learned during this period, including those related to tropical storms, could contribute to the formalization of said response plan, as well as strengthen the work of the Department of Risk Management and Climate Change, which increases

the resilience of the education sector in El Salvador.

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2020 (in US\$)	2021-2022 (in US\$)	2023-2024 (in US\$)	Priority (1 to 4)	Description
	477,500	280,000	2	
	5,400,000	12,600,000	3	
	2,000,000	2,000,000	4	
13,676,275	374,755,334	85,786,786		

Source: Own elaboration, based on official information obtained from the MINEDUCYT.

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Annexes

Annex 1. Procedure to use food from the School Food and Health Program, to attend emergency cases in educational centers used as official shelters

In an emergency situation, where an official educational center has been named or activated as an Official Shelter, the products of the School Food and Health Program stored in said educational centers may be used, following the guidelines below:

- ▾ A DELIVERY CERTIFICATE of the food must be drafted, which should detail the quantities of each of the products that are delivered.
- ▾ The certificate must be signed by the representative of the School Board of Directors (CDE, by its Spanish acronym) and the person in charge of the Official Shelter appointed by the Civil Protection authorities.
- ▾ The certificate must be sent within the next 24 hours to the corresponding Departmental Directorate of Education, where it must be signed, to endorse the procedure and acknowledge the delivery.
- ▾ Each Departmental Directorate must send a copy of the DELIVERY CERTIFICATE to the headquarters of the Management of Food and School Health, to notify said delivery.
- ▾ The director or representative of the CDE must leave a written record in the records and inventory controls kept by each educational center, detailing the respective transaction for each product. Keep a copy of the DELIVERY CERTIFICATE, for subsequent audits.



Annex 2. Actions planned by the MINEDUCYT for the different phases of the emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic

PHASE 1

Response to the international COVID-19 alert

A. General actions in response to the pandemic

Strategies	Activities
Planning.	1. Adjustment of the Institutional Emergency Response Plan, aimed at the attention of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Intra- and inter-institutional coordination.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activation of institutional teams in response to the emergency: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Executive Committee (heads and the National Directorate of Prevention and Social Programs). B. Operational Technical Committee (responsible for activating, leading, and reporting the progress of the response to the pandemic and the actions carried out through the technical teams). C. Technical teams: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Finance, administration, and logistics team. b) Emergency education team. c) Prevention team. d) Communications and statistics team. e) Healthcare team. f) Resource management team. g) Follow-up team. 2. Training for teams at central and departmental levels on specific guidelines for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, in coordination with the MINSAL. 3. Training for members of Private Schools on specific guidelines for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, in coordination with MINSAL.
Follow-up on the implementation of actions to attend the COVID-19 pandemic.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Executive Committee and Technical Operational Committee meetings, to monitor the progress of the actions carried out by the technical teams. 2. Documentation of the meetings through minutes and attendance lists. 3. Systematization of the response experience to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Implementation of the emergency response plan and protocol.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activation of the situation room. 2. Attention to inter-institutional calls and meetings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. National Civil Protection Commission. B. Sectorial Health Commissions and shelters. C. Expanded Health Cabinet.

A. General actions in response to the pandemic

Strategies	Activities
Communication on health promotion.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generation and dissemination of ministerial communications, to formalize guidelines and regulations for action in the face of the pandemic. 2. Design and validation of guidance and educational material associated with prevention measures (use of a mask, hand washing, etc.), according to MINSAL guidelines, through the Expanded Health Cabinet. 3. Preparation of informative capsules and recommendations on prevention, to spread: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) In social networks, oriented to the educational community and the general public. B) Via intranet, as an educational alternative for the institution's staff. 4. Interviews in the media (television, radio, social networks), to inform the population about the measures taken by the MINEDUCYT and the educational continuity process.
Attention to other emergencies parallel to the attention to the COVID-19 pandemic.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In January, over 2,000 schools had a water shortage. 2. Between January and February, more than 1,500 ECs were alerted by two seismic swarms: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) In the municipalities of Mercedes Umaña, Berlin and Alegría. B) In the northwestern area of San Salvador 3. In February, alert, and follow-up to 67 educational centers that suffered increased activity of the Chaparrastique volcano in San Miguel. 4. In April, follow-up on the educational community affected by the heat wave in the country. 5. At the end of May and in the first days of June, tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal damaged more than 555 educational centers, some of which were used as shelters or temporary shelters. 6. Opening of 142 educational centers used as shelters or temporary shelters during the emergencies of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. 7. Visit of the Minister of Education to different shelters, to verify their conditions and needs. 8. Delivery of recreational material to girls and boys located in shelters. 9. Psychosocial care for 1,749 sheltered people. 10. Preparation of guidelines for the use of food, to attend emergency cases in centers used as shelters. 11. Management of FOPROMID resources to the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Finance, to repair more than 200 educational centers affected by the storms.



A. General actions in response to the pandemic

Strategies	Activities
Support to other institutions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provision of 500 educational centers nationwide, to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in the storage and delivery of agricultural packages.2. Support to the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, providing technical staff, drivers, and national vehicles, to collaborate in the various activities that the Vice Ministry of Transportation required to cover, associated with the attention of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHASE 1

Response to the international COVID-19 alert

B. Management of resources and cooperation

Strategies	Activities
Management of financial resources and technical assistance.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Management of resources through:<ol style="list-style-type: none">A) World Bank.B) IDB/Japan Cooperation Fund.2. Activation of the Education Cluster, in which more than 40 governmental, non-governmental (national and international) and cooperating institutions participate.3. Activation of the Global Education Alliance (GEA).4. Management of resources from the Fund for Civil Protection, Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters, for the repair of educational centers, promoting health aspects associated with the prevention of contagion risks.

PHASE 2

During the emergency given the COVID-19 cases in the country

A. Educational continuity

Strategies	Activities
Suspension of face-to-face classes nationwide.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Consultations for decision-making related to the suspension of face-to-face classes.2. Communication to the educational community of the country, of the suspension of classes at a national level and for all educational levels and modalities, and the mechanisms for educational continuity.

A. Educational continuity

Strategies	Activities
Design of the Plan for Educational Continuity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determination of four phases for educational continuity: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) Phase 1: Containment of the Emergency. Distribution and production of materials to support teaching. B) Phase 2: Integration of various platforms. Adaptation and prioritization of the national curriculum, improvements in the distribution of materials and introduction of new platforms. C) Phase 3: Digitization of education. Educational continuity and teacher training through Google Classroom. D) Fase 4: Return to school. Reconstruction of the social fabric of the school and psychosocial care of the educational community, to spark “The joy of learning”.
Prioritization of educational content.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A prioritization process of the educational content per subject, educational level and per educational modality was developed.
Articulación de diferentes plataformas para la continuidad educativa.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and delivery of 1,632,408 learning guides for 300,000 students with connectivity difficulties or lack of access to electricity, representing an investment of US\$335,000. 2. Creation of the microsite www.mined.gob.sv/emergenciacovid19, to host academic content and guidance to the educational community, which contains: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) Pedagogical guidelines for teachers. B) Guidelines for parents. C) Over 1,000 sites published and incorporated for special education and socio-emotional development for three educational levels. D) Learning guides for students, per educational level, grade, subject and week of study. E) Link to “Let’s learn at home”, broadcast on Channel 10, from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm. F) Virtual library of Salvadoran literature. G) Guidelines for socio-emotional care. 3. Teleclasses since May 2020 (“Let’s learn at home”), achieving an audience of 1.6 million people, which allow educational continuity. 4. Edition and transmission of more than 250 programs through teleclasses. 5. Incorporation of the “Teaching life” section. 6. Incorporation in the television production of the project “I am music” (socio-emotional expression through music).. 7. Incorporation on television of Salvadoran Sign Language (LESSA), English, early childhood and prenatal information projected for September. 8. Production of 91 audiovisual materials to support educational continuity.



A. Educational continuity

Strategies	Activities
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Incorporation of physical and artistic education subjects for educational continuity. 10. Preparation of a sports program, coordinated with INDES. 11. Planned for the month of September: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) The online student karate (kata) championship coordinated with INDES and the Karate Federation. B) A virtual basketball event, in coordination with INDES and the Basketball Federation. 12. Printing and territorial delivery of educational guides to students who do not have connectivity or electricity. 13. Incorporation of sites corresponding to the three educational levels, achieving a total of 145 weekly sites, for a total of 725 sites to date, including special education, socio-emotional development, and Nahuatl Cradle. 14. Launch of the radio show “Crecer leyendo (Growing up reading)” for girls and boys in early childhood.
Activation of a call center.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reception and handling of 5,990 telephone calls, 12,723 WhatsApp inquiries and 100 emails of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) Queries related to educational continuity. B) Consultations and demand for services from the public. C) Attention of cases of violation of rights.
Continuous teacher training.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Online training for 30,266 teachers from the public and private sectors, on the Google Classroom platform, to facilitate learning in educational continuity. 2. Planning of the second call for the Google Classroom training, which includes more than 8 thousand teachers from the private sector. 3. This was complemented with the delivery of 9,000 computers to teachers with vulnerable health conditions, to support educational continuity through teleworking.
Identification and award of good practices.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A recognition was given to the educational continuity good practices and pedagogical experiences implemented by eleven Salvadoran teachers in the face of the COVID-19 emergency.
Design of projects in support of educational continuity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design of the project “Education closer to you” (mobile classrooms): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) In process, initial implementation of a classroom bus and a classroom truck. B) In process, installation of seven mobile folding modules to attend over 24,000 early childhood girls and boys, in seven municipalities of the country. C) Regarding planning and management, the acquisition of 14 classroom trucks to support educational continuity, connectivity, and development of other strategic support programs for the education of students.

PHASE 2

During the emergency given the COVID-19 cases in the country

B. School counseling

Strategies	Activities
Design of strategies for psychosocial care.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of psychosocial educational content in virtual formats: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Online school counseling. Diploma in School Coexistence. Prevention of violence and social risks. Psychological first aid. Guidance in the framework of the pandemic. Educational games.
Psychosocial and psychological care.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Online counseling facility, psychosocial staff training; attention to 110 cases. 721 psychological care, crisis care, psychological first aid attentions in fourteen departments.
Dissemination of psychosocial care measures.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20 interviews to disseminate measures through different media. Production and dissemination television program scripts, in the educational strip "School Counseling", on Channel 10, to strengthen skills for life and family life.
Promotion and prevention of social risks online.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Self-care webinar (management of emotions, feelings, and self-care practices), in which 9,128 teachers, students, mothers and fathers participated. Training of 3,560 teachers on coexistence, prevention of violence and social risk issues. Training of 2,128 mothers, fathers and family references on positive parenting guidelines or methods and the importance of participation and involvement in the education of their daughters and sons. Training of 81 teachers in psycho-pedagogical tools: "I am music".

PHASE 2

During the emergency given the COVID-19 cases in the country

C. Social programs

Strategies	Activities
School food and nutrition.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of food packages for students. In Phase I: 410,929 students from 2,427 educational centers located in 136 municipalities with the highest poverty and malnutrition indicators.



C. Social programs

Strategies	Activities
	<p>Food packages consist of: Milk, red beans, rice, raw sugar, fortified drinks, Biofortik, vegetable oil, and breakfast cereal.</p> <p>The delivery process involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Definition of the beneficiary population (targeting by prioritizing municipalities). B) Modification of product contracts, to speed up deliveries. C) Modification of transport contracts, to make direct deliveries. D) Change of the packaging of some products to have smaller portions. E) Hiring company for packaging. F) Acquisition of plastic bags for packaging and strapping to stow on pallets. G) Definition of the types of packages according to availability and expiration dates. H) Design of document for food dispatch, for package delivery modality. I) Preparation of delivery protocol to families, considering compliance with sanitary measures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. In process: Delivery of 212,000 food packages for students from 1,223 families from 61 municipalities, from the 14 departments. 3. Conduction of diploma courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) "Food and nutrition education in the school environment", training 4,000 teachers and principals of 2,000 educational centers. B) Diploma "Cultivating school gardens and productive skills", with 2,000 teachers from 500 educational centers.
Food safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adaptation of the strategy "Cultivating school gardens and productive skills", with the participation of 720 educational centers, to develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) 21,600 family gardens, with the participation of the same number of students and family members. B) 5,000 vertical urban gardens, to benefit the same number of students and their families from 100 educational centers.
School package.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sending Ministerial Communication No. 7 to educational centers for principals of educational centers and contracted providers, in order not to receive or deliver goods (shoes and first uniform). 2. Payment to school package providers from March to date, for an amount of US\$17,524,070.00 3. Management of executive agreements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Executive Agreement No. 15-0396: "Transitional and exception provisions for payment to suppliers", dated April 1st, 2020, to authorize departmental auxiliary payers to receive documents for payment of supplies, shoes and first uniform to suppliers, electronically, by signing an affidavit

C. Social programs

Strategies

Activities

- B) Executive Agreement No. 15-0431: “Third amendment to Agreement 15-1973: ‘Instructions for the acquisition of goods and services for school packages of public educational centers and payment to suppliers’”, dated June 18th, 2020.
- 4. Management for the acquisition of 2 million cloth masks, for 100% of the students of public educational centers when they return to school. .

PHASE 2

During the emergency given the COVID-19 cases in the country

D. Preparation for return to school and return to normality

Strategies

Activities

- | | |
|---|--|
| Design and guidance for the implementation of the “Return to face-to-face work protocol.” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design of the “Return to face-to-face work protocol”. 2. Technical validation and approval of the “Return to face-to-face work protocol”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) National heads and principals. B) Health and Logistics Team (activated in the COVID-19 emergency). C) Ministry of Health. D) Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. 3. Training for the implementation of the “Return to face-to-face work protocol”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) National principals and MINEDUCYT staff. B) Departmental Educational Directors. C) Occupational Safety and Health Committee. 4. Training for the Occupational Safety and Health Committee on “The role of the Occupational Safety and Health Committees in the prevention of hygiene risks.” 5. Allocation of institutional resources for the purchase of supplies aimed at implementing sanitation and biosecurity measures for facilities. 6. Development of eight days of disinfection at institutional facilities, coordinated with the Green Cross. |
|---|--|



D. Preparation for return to school and return to normality

Strategies	Activities
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Coordination with the MINSAL for the development of six days to take 290 COVID-19 screening tests to the central office staff, physically active during the social distancing period. 8. Delivery to the staff of a minimum kit for the implementation of sanitary and biosafety measures.
<p>Design of the plan “The joy of going back to school.”</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design of the “The joy of going back to school” plan, its sanitary protocol and biosecurity measures, in four stages: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) Diagnosis, sanitation and basic maintenance. B) Educational management, planning for psychosocial and pedagogical intervention. C) Psychosocial care. D) Educational continuity. <p>Additionally, the plan contains several specific protocols:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Measures for the sanitation and hygiene of educational centers. b) Specific measures for early childhood care and education programs. c) Protocol for the implementation of sanitary measures in higher education institutions. 2. Determination and announcement of educational continuity and end of the school year by different media. 3. Request for technical consultation to the MINSAL: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) For the “The joy of going back to school” plan and its protocols. B) Models and type of masks planned to be given to students.

Annex 3. Assumptions and estimates used to estimate the costs of damages and losses presented above

- I** Cost of the loss due to food packages from the School Food and Health Program delivered to families housed in the ECs due to storms Amanda and Cristóbal
 - According to the MINEDUCYT Directorate of Infrastructure, 145 educational centers (ECs) were used as shelters, in which 4,560 people were housed, who stayed an average of ten days in the EC.
 - MINEDUCYT reported the delivery of 94,197 food packages, whose unit value was estimated at US\$25.00.
- II** Cost of food stock loss in ECs affected by storms (floods, roof blasting, etc.)
 - The MINEDUCYT estimated that, due to the damages in the 555 educational centers reported as damaged, 15,000 food rations were lost, the individual value of which was estimated at US\$0.17.
- III** Characterization of damage to ECs
 - Based on the information provided by MINEDUCYT, the “estimated amount”/“enrollment” ratio was used to measure the level of damage.
 - Based on the ratio above, it ranges from US\$4.02 per student to US\$3,210 per student.
 - In this way, the following damage levels were defined:
 - Minor damage: US\$4.02/student to US\$99.00/student.
 - Moderate damage: US\$100.00/student to US\$299.00/student.
 - Serious damage: More than US\$300.00/student.
- IV** Damages and losses (cleaning and repairs) in ECs used as shelters
 - Cleaning and repairs in ECs used as shelters was estimated based on the number of people housed, for an individual cost of US\$140.00.
 - Damage from the use of ECs as shelters was estimated at 60.0% of cleaning and repair costs.
- V** Foregone income due to HEI dropouts
 - For the HEIs that reported the dropout percentage during the I-2020 term, the loss was estimated using the value of the average annual cost of each HEI, which was reported by the MINEDUCYT National Directorate of Higher Education.
 - In the case of HEIs that did not provide information on the dropout rate, one was assumed, a national average dropout rate of 8.8%, calculated according to the dropout reported by other HEIs.
- VI** Foregone income of HEIs (from sales of services and other miscellaneous)
 - Based on the information recorded in the document “Results of statistical information of Higher Education Institutions, 2018”, for all HEIs income is



detailed per different item, including: “Income from sales of services” and “Income from other sources”. The

loss was estimated based on these annual revenues, which reflect a reduction of 60.0%.





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Context and Baseline

Introduction

This section is based on the information generated through the 2019 Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS), taking those indicators from the 2017 survey as reference, in order to counteract data limitations, compare them or when not all the updated information was available. Similarly, it seeks to identify the situation prior to March 2020, the month in which the health crisis was declared due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This situation generated the prelude to vulnerability to the housing sector in the face of the impact produced by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, in late May and early June 2020, which left behind losses due to floods and landslides in different areas of the country.

The emergency due to the increase in the virus contagion curve in El Salvador and the measures adopted through the different regulatory provisions related to the prevention and protection against the virus led to the creation of a economic fragility situation in Salvadoran families, especially in those with low income and dependent conditions, to a great extent temporary jobs, without benefits or formalities. These conditions mentioned above are typical of homes and families located in precarious and informal settlements, where they do not have utility services, had no controls in the construction processes of their homes and much less a vision of the risk to which they are permanently exposed. The entirety of the aforementioned situational framework reveals

the crisis lived in first instance due to the pandemic, when contagion control measures were not achieved, such as physical distancing, hygiene control due to lack of water, among others, thus generating a permanent overcrowding coexistence that facilitated the acceleration of the spread of the virus.

The overlap of critical events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal were a negative combination that contributed to the worsening of the conditions of the most vulnerable families and their habitat, which was already under pressure and stress due to the pandemic, increasing the risk of thousands of families nationwide due to flooding caused by the storms. This, in addition to generating socioeconomic vulnerability in families located in overcrowded informal neighborhoods, can also generate other vulnerability parameters, such as physical vulnerability due to inadequate construction typologies and the use of fragile materials employed in these areas, but especially due to inadequate territorial planning. It is complex to face various recurring situations related to natural phenomena such as tropical storms and similar events. The effects produced by the storms caused many families nationwide to be left homeless and without belongings, thus having to move to shelters to protect themselves from such events but generating vulnerability to the contagion crisis by COVID-19.

In the 2019-2024 Government Plan, called Cuscatlán Plan, in its Axis 6: Housing and Urban Development, it is established that



access to adequate, dignified and quality housing is a basic condition for human development. Therefore, it is a top priority to know what the weaknesses of the sector are, to generate action lines and immediate work, to guarantee compliance with said axis.

According to the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Leilani Farha, “Housing has become the front-line defense against the coronavirus. Home has never been a matter of life and death before.” It is not the same to face the pandemic in a home with adequate materials and spaces, utility services within reach and assured possession, than to live in a house in overcrowded conditions, where the deterioration of the materials does not provide the necessary protection and due to the lack utility services cannot be met with adequate sanitation measures.




Legal and institutional framework

Through Executive Decree No. 1, published in the Official Gazette No. 101, Volume 423, of June 2nd, 2019, reforms to the Internal Regulations of the Executive Branch are established, including the creation of the Ministry of Housing, a leading institution of the housing issue in El Salvador.

The Ministry of Housing, along with the institutions of the sector, such as the Social Housing Fund (FSV, by its Spanish acronym), the National Popular Housing Fund (FONAVIPO, by its Spanish acronym) and the Property Legalization Institute (ILP, by its Spanish acronym), work in an articulated way through of the Housing and Habitat System coordinat-

ing intersectorial actions, to provide a more effective response to the housing problem in the country. This allows the development of comprehensive interventions in housing and habitat projects, guaranteeing access to adequate housing for the people who need it most.

The housing system in El Salvador has a regulatory framework, within which the following can be highlighted:

- 
National Housing and Habitat Policy (PNVH, by its Spanish acronym, 2015): It is the most recent public policy document prepared by the former Vice Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (VMVDU, by its Spanish acronym), which sets out the objectives, strategic lines and cross-cutting themes to transform the State’s action in terms of housing and habitat. As a public policy document, it is strategic and indicative, not normative. The dual recognition of housing as a human right and as an element of economic development stands out.
- 
Urban Planning and Construction Law (LUC, by its Spanish acronym, 1951) and its regulations: It is the law that protects the work of the VMVDU in terms of urban development and granting of permits.
- 
Territorial Planning and Development Law (LODT, by its Spanish acronym, 2011): It is the law that regulates the competences and instruments in the area of land use planning in the country and the powers of various instances, particularly municipalities and the National Council for Territorial Planning and Development (CNODT, by its Spanish acronym).

▾ **Special Law on Land Division into Lots (LL, by its Spanish acronym, 2012):** It is a special law to facilitate the legal and urban regularization of subdivisions in the country, which grants special powers to the Ministry of Housing on the subject and facilitates the coordination of various related institutions.

▾ **Executive Decree No. 16, dated February 27th, 1991, creation of the Property Legalization Institute (ILP):** It is the presidential decree that creates the ILP as the entity in charge of providing legal security on land ownership to families with scarce economic resources; provide technical assistance to the Government of the Republic and other public and private institutions of a national and international nature, in relation to said issue; and develop real estate legalization programs in order to ensure landholding to low-income families in an agile, efficient, safe and low-cost manner.

Characterization of the Housing stock

In 2015, the housing stock in El Salvador was 1,530,265 homes. The quantitative deficit of the existing stock was 17.67% and the qualitative one, 82.33%.¹ There are several interventions that have helped reduce this deficit, including: Financing mechanisms promoted by the State, the production of peri-urban

land by land division companies, legalization of landholding, housing programs promoted by NGOs, and private sector participation in promoting self-construction in two-thirds of the homes.

According to the 2019 MPHS, the number of houses has risen to 1.94 million, of which 95.7% are independent houses; 1.1% are in condominiums; 1.3% in small room at inns; and 0.9% in small rooms at homes. Regarding ownership, 51.7% are owners; 21.5% live for free; and 13.2% are tenants. In the urban area, 49.5% are owners and 19.5% are tenants. In rural areas, the majority are owners: 55.5%, and only 2.4% are tenants.

Construction Materials²

Concrete or soil mixed walls are the ones that predominate nationwide, 77.1%; followed by adobe walls, 12.4%; 6.8% metallic foil; and the remaining 3.7% of homes have bahareque, wood, straw or palm walls, or waste materials. Per geographical area, the variations in the construction materials of the house are quite marked. In the urban area, 87.6% of the walls are concrete or soil mixed; in rural areas, this proportion is 59.1%. In the case of adobe walls, in the urban area 6.1% of dwellings have those; and 23.2% in rural areas.

Regarding the roof construction material, families nationwide live in homes with metal

^{1/} Report on Housing in Central America (2015) prepared by the INCAE Business School Latin American Center for Competitiveness and Sustainable Development (CLACDS, by its Spanish acronym).

^{2/} Data obtained from the 2019 Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS), p. 40.



Concrete block walls with reinforced concrete columns



Adobe walls



Bahareque walls

sheet roof (49.1%), asbestos sheet or cement fiber (27.0%), or with a roof made of clay or cement tiles (20.5%). The predominant floor material, nationwide, is cement brick (37.5%), followed by cement (25.7%), ceramic brick (22.3%) and earth (14.2%).

For this analysis, and considering the housing typology established in the national Multipurpose Household Survey, the materials classification is used according to the following detail:

- ▣ **Typology 1:** Block or brick .
- ▣ **Typology 2:** Wood and metal sheet.
- ▣ **Typology 3:** Construction on land .
- ▣ **Typology 4:** Other systems

Overcrowding³

Households in El Salvador shelter 3.6 people on average. Women represent 37.0% of the heads of household (2017). Overcrowding is a basic indicator when evaluating the quality of life in homes, as its occupants may be more exposed to domestic violence, family disintegration, abuse and sexual violence, poor school performance, among others.

Overcrowding is measured as the percentage of families that live in dwellings with three or more people per exclusive bedroom (rooms intended exclusively for sleeping). In rural areas, 55.2% of households live in this situation, while in urban areas this percentage is 31.9%.

³/ 2019 MPHS, p. 41.

Access to utility services⁴

Regarding the provision of utility services, 96.3% of households in urban areas have access to drinking water versus 78.4% in rural areas. The provision of sanitation and electric power at a national level is almost total: 98.4% and 97.6%, respectively; while at a rural level it is reduced to 96.3% and 95.2%, respectively.

Cooking fuel⁵

88.6% of households nationwide use liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to cook, followed by the usage of firewood 7.7%. In urban areas, 93.5% use LPG, while only 2.4% use firewood. In rural areas, on the other hand, 80.2% use LPG and 16.9% firewood.

Financing aspects

There are two fundamental public agents for financing housing in the country. On the one hand, the Social Housing Fund (FSV) acts as an autonomous mortgage credit entity for families who wish to purchase a home under favorable conditions. To this end, the Fund has various programs traditionally aimed at workers in the formal sector that can prove fixed and permanent income. On the other hand, FONAVIPO is also an autonomous entity that operates as a second-tier bank, channeling funds to private financial entities

that in turn must place loans among families with incomes of up to four minimum wages (MW), especially for home improvement and land acquisition. Additionally, FONAVIPO administers the Special Contribution Fund (FEC, by its Spanish acronym) with which the State provides non-refundable contributions (subsidies) to families for home improvements.

The housing profile in El Salvador prepared by UN-Habitat in 2013 indicated that there is a diverse offer of financial products for housing construction, acquisition, improvement, and expansion. There are ten private banks, two state-owned, five cooperatives, two savings and loans cooperatives, nine public institutions and over 100 cooperatives. In 2011, the mortgage portfolio represented 13.8% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or US\$2.19 million. It is estimated that remittances from foreign migrants allocate US\$390 million annually to housing.

Construction sector

In 2013, this sector contributed 46.0% of the country's investment and 6.7% of direct jobs. However, eight out of ten jobs are informal. University education in the sector is concentrated in civil engineering and architecture, with 5,300 students (3.6% of university students in the country). The housing issue is addressed in nine architectural and seven engineering programs. At a technical level, formal training in the sector is scarce: Just 360 students compared to 130,000 jobs in the industry.

^{4/} Table 0, 2019 MPHS, p. 72.

^{5/} 2019 MPHS, p. 46.



Effects of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal in the national territory

According to the consolidated information from the reports by the Ministry of Housing and the Directorate of Civil Protection, the total of homes affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal is 23,855 housing units nationwide (less than 2.0% nationally), which generated a geographical, urban and rural, precarious and formal, differentiated impact. In order to analyze the effects of the storms in the housing sector, the Ministry of Housing considered the physical impact on the housing unit, classifying it into three damage levels, according to information gathered by Ministry of Housing technicians.

▾ **Severe or serious:** Homes with total loss or whose infrastructure has been affected between 80.0% and 100.0% of its built area; or because they are located in areas with high risks that cannot be mitigated, which makes them uninhabitable.

▾ **Moderate:** Homes that present between 79.0% and 50.0% damage to their built area, in which part of the home can continue to be used.

▾ **Minor:** Homes that present damage between 49.0% and 5.0% to their built area, that require materials or minimal repairs or improvement.

Under these parameters, it is observed that the most affected departments were Sonsonate, San Salvador, and La Paz, totaling 12,242 homes that have suffered various levels of damage. With an affectionation of 3,597 homes, the department of Sonsonate represents 13.9%; while 3,902 homes were affected in the department of San Salvador, representing 15.08%, and it is the department with the highest number of homes with severe damage; on the other hand, in the department of La Paz there were 4,743 damaged homes, representing 18.34%.

The highest concentration of homes with severe damage (1,841) takes place in San Salvador, which shows that the combination of heavy rains on an exposed vulnerable environment can generate significant effects on the population.

TABLE 1

Departments with homes most affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

Sonsonate: 3,597 damaged homes (13.9%)	San Salvador: 3,902 damaged homes (15.08%)	La Paz: 4,743 damaged homes (18.34%)
Severe Damage: 389 (11.0%)	Severe Damage: 1,841 (47.0%)	Severe Damage: 339 (7.0%)
Moderate Damage: 1,045 (29.0%)	Moderate Damage: 223 (23.0%)	Moderate Damage: 837 (18.0%)
Minor Damage: 2,163 (60.0%)	Minor Damage: 1,135 (29.0%)	Minor Damage: 3,567 (75.0%)

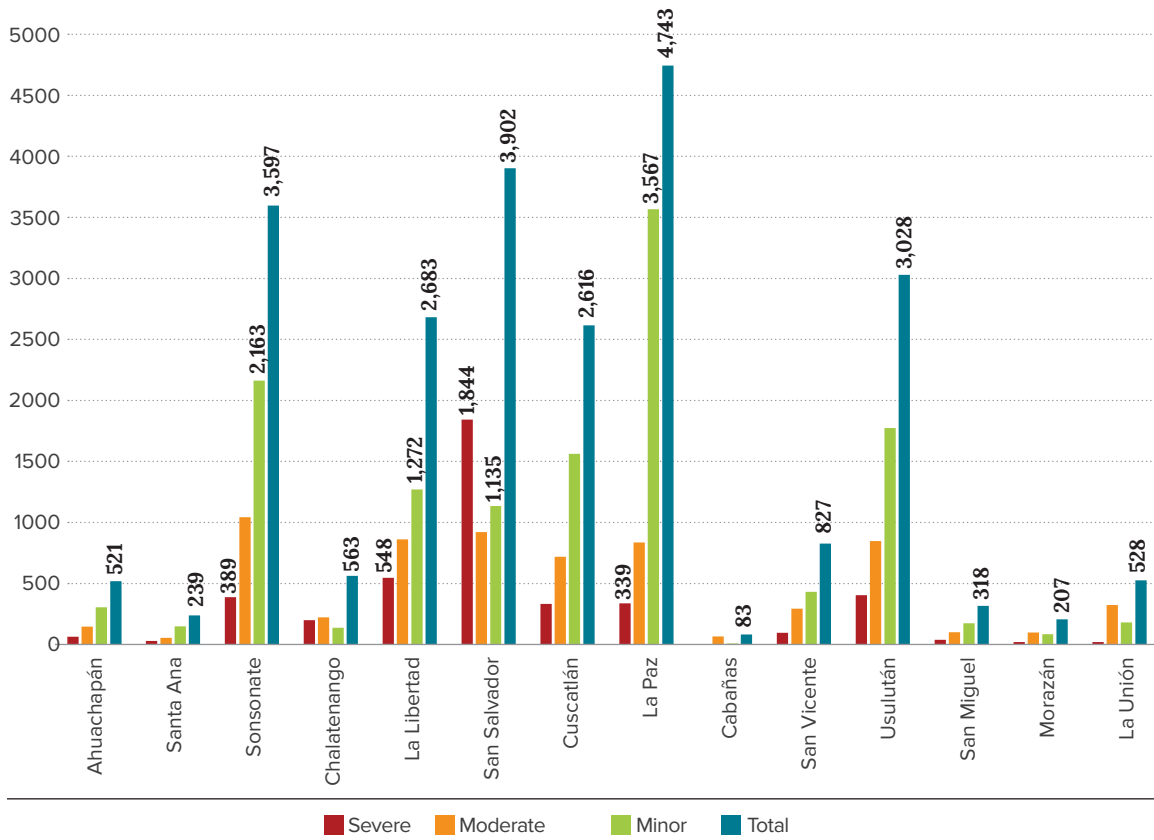
Source: Own elaboration.

The location of informal settlements in high-risk areas, high urban density, poor quality construction processes and precarious housing, the lack of planning and use of appropriate land

create a high-risk environment. It should be noted that the largest number of homes affected is in La Paz, with a total of 4,734, of which slightly over 3,500 show minor impacts.

CHART 1

El Salvador: Impact of damage caused by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, per department, June 2020



Source: Own elaboration.

According to the PDNA methodology, the value of the damage is estimated as the repairing or replacing cost of the affected home according to its pre-disaster status. To this end, the construction systems suggested in

the 2019 MPHS were considered, grouping them per department and according to the above-mentioned three levels of affectation. The new construction costs with said material suggested by the Ministry of Housing were



used, using a weighting for reconstruction or repair according to the type of damage presented. Table 2 summarizes the percentages of the total cost per construction typology used according to the three levels of damage studied, while Table 3 refers to the departments that presented the highest economic values, which are again San Salvador, Sonsonate and La Paz.

Table 2 represents the affectation costs per construction typology, taking the unit cost of the housing unit as base data according to its materiality (gray row), and the damage level to the house generated by the storms; this is assigned an affectation percentage (orange column). With these data we proceeded to estimate the damage costs per material and level of affectation.

TABLE 2

Cost estimate for repair or reconstruction, according to the damage level and construction type (in US\$)

Damage classification	Damage % estimate	Average To be used	Costs per construction type, per damage level			
			Typology 1	Typology 2	Typology 3	Typology 4
			12,000.00	3,500.00	8,700.00	300.00
Severe Damage	45.0-100.0 %	0.725	8,700.00	2,537.50	6,307.50	217.50
Moderate Damage	20.0-40.0 %	0.3	3,600.00	1,050.00	2,610.00	90.00
Minor Damage	10.0-15.0 %	0.125	1,500.00	437.50	1,087.50	37.50

Source: Own elaboration.

Another item considered in the damage estimation in the housing sector was the content of or appliances inside the houses. For costing purposes, a minimum cost was assumed to cover a kitchenette, kitchen utensils and mattresses for an average amount of US\$300.00, which was applied to 50.0% of all types of housing that presented severe affectations, totaling US\$657,600.00.

Regarding losses in the housing sector, the amounts for uncollected rent by tenants or homeowners were considered. To estimate the number of tenants, the provisions of the 2019 MPHS were taken into account: 13.2%

are tenants nationwide; this percentage was applied to the total number of houses with severe damage, and a rent amount of US\$50.00 multiplied by three months without payment, which totals US\$43,401.60.

There were also additional costs that the national government had to absorb. Some families lost their legal documentation. It was estimated that 10.0% of families whose homes suffered severe damage were affected under this condition. An amount for the legalization and obtaining of legal documents of US\$450.00 per family was established, which generated a total cost of US\$197,280.00.

TABLE 3

El Salvador: Estimated damage to homes caused by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, per department, June 2020

Department	Affected homes	Estimated damage to homes (in US\$)
La Paz	4,743	8,082,455.00
San Salvador	3,902	15,056,432.50
Sonsonate	3,597	7,432,932.50
Usulután	3,028	6,606,207.50
La Libertad	2,683	6,997,505.00
Cuscatlan	2,616	5,604,550.00
Santa Ana	239	628,297.50
San Vicente	827	1,837,637.50
Chalatenango	563	1,970,132.50
La Unión	528	1,171,049.10
Ahuachapán	521	1,154,742.50
San Miguel	318	699,620.00
Morazán	207	487,560.00
Cabañas	83	215,347.50

Source: Own elaboration.

These costs have been verified with the entities that provided the service to users.⁶

As for the families that had an economic income through some type of neighborhood trade, it was estimated that in a percentage of the most severely affected homes, work tools were lost, which did not allow them to generate income. 10.0% of the total of homes with severe damage in all typologies was considered, multiplied by an approximate

income of US\$300.00 per month for a total of three months, a sum that amounts to US\$394,560.00.

It is worth mentioning that the FSV also provided assistance with insurance coverage to the homes that are under their system. A total of 401 cases have been processed and US\$142,667.71 has been disbursed as damage insurance, that is, US\$365.00 was granted per household. At the moment, 127 more cases affected by Storm Amanda are in the process of preparing the damage budget. In the case of the Cristóbal storm, there were no cases of insurance procedures.

^{6/} Inspections carried out by the technical staff of the National Housing System.



From this institution, attention has also been given to the Response and Economic Relief Plan in the face of the National Emergency against COVID-19, promoted by the Government. The FSV authorized as of March 23rd, 2020 the “Policy Manual to face breaches and contractual obligations generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.” In these policies, the following was established in the scope: “The temporary policy will be applied automatically to all Fund clients, given the decrease in the economic activity that generates their income, loss of employment and other affectations that imply difficulties for the formal repayment of their loan obligations, derived from the reduction in the payment capacity and, therefore, they cannot make payments of the corresponding installments for the months of March, April, May and June, 2020”. This policy was accepted by 77,403 families that have a FSV loan, which represented a value of US\$19.73 million in deferred installments; this has benefited 325,092 people, whose installments were deferred until the maturity of the loan or had a payment installment restructuring until the end of the term,

and in turn their credit score was maintained. In addition, a total of 73 debt insurance procedures have been attended, for an amount of US\$658,686.20, in attention to cases of people who have unfortunately died of COVID-19 or were suspected of COVID-19.

On the other hand, care in shelters is considered as part of the benefits to the population. According to data from the Ministry of the Interior, through the General Directorate of Civil Protection, care for sheltered families included food, mats, blankets, personal cleaning kits, medicines and drinking water, estimating a State investment of US\$3,707,204.00. It should be noted that this amount is not doubled by the estimated costs in the health sector, which correspond only to that sector. Likewise, through FON-AVIPO, 27,567 families were cared for with the delivery of solidarity food baskets.

The above is summarized in Table 4, where the costs corresponding to the damages and losses left by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal are shown

TABLE 4

Summary of damages and losses generated by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal in El Salvador

	Affectation level	No. of households	Unit price (in US\$)	Damage (in US\$)	Loss (in US\$)	Public (in US\$)	Private (in US\$)
Type 1: Block or brick	Severe	2,737	8,700	23,811,900			
Type 1: Block or brick	Moderate	4,128	3,600	14,860,800			
Type 1: Block or brick	Minor	8,168	1,500	12,252,000			
Type 2: Wood and metal sheet, solid wood or precast materials	Severe	932	2,538	2,364,950			
Type 2: Wood and metal sheet, solid wood or precast materials	Moderate	1,405	1,050	1,475,250			
Type 2: Wood and metal sheet, solid wood or precast materials	Minor	2,773	438	1,213,188			
Type 3: Construction on land	Severe	130	6,308	819,975			
Type 3: Construction on land	Moderate	186	2,610	485,460			
Type 3: Construction on land	Minor	366	1,088	398,025			
Type 4: Other systems, without columns	Severe	585	218	127,238			
Type 4: Other systems, without columns	Moderate	836	90	75,240			
Type 4: Other systems, without columns	Minor	1,609	38	60,444			
Totally or partially destroyed appliances (50.0% of homes with severe damage)	Severe	2192	300	657,600			
Uncollected rent	Severe	289	150		43,402		43,402
Foregone income in productive households	1.0% severe	438	900		394,560		394,560
Replacement of legal documents	Severe	438	450		197,280	197,280	
Damage insurance for homes served by the FSV		401			142,668	142,668	
Shelters (data provided by Civil Protection)					3,707,207	3,707,207	
TOTAL		23,855		58,602,069	4,485,116	4,047,155	437,962

Source: Own elaboration.



In terms of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is worth mentioning that there is no damage to infrastructure or physical assets, only losses and additional costs are generated. Below

are the estimated losses in the housing sector due to COVID-19, which correspond only to the public sector.

TABLE 5

Summary of estimated losses in the housing sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic

	Description	House-holds	Losses (in US\$)	Public (in US\$)
Default in payment of housing financing	Monthly installments	77,403	19,730,000	19,730,000
Application of debt insurance to FSV housing financing, due to death from COVID-19		73	658,686	658,686
	TOTAL	77,476	20,388,686	20,388,686

Source: Own elaboration.

Table 6 shows the summary of damages and losses associated with the two events in the housing sector. Total damages amount to US\$58,602,069 all associated with Storms Amanda and Cristóbal. The total exchange losses correspond to

US\$24,873,803, 82% of the total losses related to COVID-19 and only 18% associated with the Storms. Likewise, 98% of the losses impact the public sector, while 100% of the damages generated by the storms impact the private sector.

TABLE 6

Consolidated table of damages and losses caused to housing in El Salvador by COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

Damages/losses	COVID-19 (March-May 2020)		Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal (May-July 2020)			
	Losses due to COVID-19		Damage due to Amanda/ Cristóbal		Losses due to Amanda/ Cristóbal	
	Public (in US\$)	Private (in US\$)	Public (in US\$)	Private (in US\$)	Public (in US\$)	Private (in US\$)
Damage to homes				57,944,469		
Damaged appliances				657,600		
Uncollected rent						43,402
Foregone income in productive households						394,560
Home damage insurance (FSV)					142,668	
Replacement of legal documents					197,280	
Temporary housing through shelters					3,707,207	
Default in payment of housing financing	19,730,000					
Compensation for the death of the homeowner	658,686					
Total	20,388,686			58,602,069	4,047,155	437,962

Source: Own elaboration.

Impact of Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

The large size of Cristóbal affected the entire national territory, mainly in the coastal area. In combination with Amanda, Cristóbal caused almost a week of devastating rains in El Salvador. As already mentioned, the

total number of homes with effects ranging from minor to severe is 23,855 housing units; the total number of affected families is estimated to be 71,119; and a repair or reconstruction cost for these housing units of US\$58,602,069 is projected. Undoubtedly, the quality of life of people has been affected, since the daily development of their activities had to be modified. This situation becomes even more complex if we take into



account that the health emergency generated by the COVID-19 pandemic has not ended, and it is necessary to have a home not only for the performance of telework and remote study activities, but also and above all, for protection and security.

According to the General Directorate of Civil Protection (DGP, by its Spanish acronym), at the highest peak of the humanitarian response, almost 11,000 people were sheltered in the second week of June, and between 8,500 and 6,500 between June 12th and July 13th.

The abundant rains resulting from storms Amanda and Cristóbal caused landslides, floods, damaged ecosystems, overflowing rivers, land subsidence, material damages, the death of 30 people and 10 more missing.⁷ The most emblematic case is that of 7 members of the Melara Salamanca family in the municipality of Santo Tomás, department of San Salvador.

The location of many homes in non-mitigable risk areas requires the relocation of many families to safer areas. These processes are generally complex due to their social implications, such as rupture of the social structure, distance from work centers, uncertainty about the quality of and access to utility services and other social benefits. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that these processes be comprehensive, that ensure

community participation in planning their environment and guarantee the strengthening of support networks and social protection programs with a gender-inclusive perspective and inclusion of various groups, such as young people, women heads of households, the elderly, indigenous population and people with special needs.

The resettlement processes must also include new conditions to address the 'new normal' following the impact of COVID-19, which has forced the creation of urban design innovations, in addition to reviewing and rethinking the zoning and architectural program of a house to avoid overcrowding, criteria that have already been implemented in the Bretaña Project, the first resettlements of families affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal.

Needs

The PDNA methodology proposes that recovery needs be identified taking into account the effects and impacts of the disaster. According to the process followed in the analysis, the needs originate from three main sources: 1) The repair and reconstruction of physical assets in improved conditions, to prevent similar events from affecting them again. The idea is to introduce elements to reduce vulnerability to multiple threats; 2) Needs also originate from those losses and additional costs that must be compensated or covered; and 3) The needs must also be aligned to the reduction of the human impact generated in the sector, as well as the programs and projects that are expected to

^{7/} According to the situation report issued by the DGPC at 11:00 am on June 14th, 2020.

be implemented for an adequate recovery of the sector, including capacity building aspects.

The implications of both tropical storms and the pandemic show that the most affected families are those that live in areas with great exposure to various natural hazards, in highly vulnerable construction environments, in precarious human settlements, where their housing conditions does not meet risk-reduction criteria and, therefore, are not resilient.

Based on the above, the study suggests that the **resettlement of families whose homes suffered severe damage, or the existence of precarious and inadequate housing should be considered**. The basis for the analysis is the 4,345 homes that suffered severe damage, most of which were in high-risk areas, and therefore should not be rebuilt in those areas. In addition, this criterion included those homes with low-quality construction systems and that also require resettlement. This resource estimate includes the unit cost of the home with a 10% increase 10.0% for improvements to enhance the current quality. For typology 4, as there are no habitability conditions, the home improvement is taken to a higher level, considering the cost of the new type 2 home. These costs include construction works for houses and collective spaces.

Regarding the **improvements of houses with moderate damages**, the improvement is proposed in typology 2 and 3 houses that presented moderate damages, understanding these as physical damages on 35.0% of

the house, which allows its repair keeping the same type of construction system, granting an improvement weighting of 5.0% for housing with type 3, and raising the level of construction condition for type 2.

Regarding the **improvement of houses with minor damages**, improvement is proposed in typology 1, 2 and 3 houses that presented minor damages, understanding these as physical damages on 5.0% of the house, which allows its repair keeping the same type of construction system, giving an improvement weighting of 2.5%.

However, additional actions are required for the State to develop habitability conditions. Within them, **property legalization processes are required**. With the assistance of the Property Legalization Institute, a contribution of US\$400.00 per family is provided by the State. It is assumed that for this item only 25.0% of homes with severe damage will require this support.

Any **resettlement process requires prior social impact studies and interdisciplinary teams to conduct the process**. To this end, 5.0% of the resettlement budget is contemplated to hire a team called the Executing Unit. For the **conduction of training and rise of awareness on reconstruction processes** for affected families, social teams will be provided by the Ministry of Housing and FON-AVIPO, for which only operating costs are estimated, considering at least three workshops per family, at a cost of US\$75.00.

On the other hand, the need for the **formulation of the Housing and Habitat Law, and**



updating of the Urbanism and Construction Law, is identified, a process for which the hiring of a technical team and the entire socialization process that entails is required, as well as the creation of **territorial planning instruments** that guarantee adequate urban and rural development.

Regarding the **acquisition of land for resettlement**, having the data of homes with severe damage that are located in high-risk areas, it is necessary to have at least 20 plots of land in which the maximum number of homes to be settled is 200 families, considering US\$5,000 as a base per family to purchase the land. The State also plans to continue with the **formulation of a support program for women heads of households** in the resettlement process. For this, it is necessary to have specialists and develop training processes for women heads of households. According to statistical data from the call center and technical inspections carried out by the Ministry of Housing, the majority of the female population has assumed the role of head of household.

National Program for Sustainable Urban Development nationwide. The objective of this program is to create the tools that streamline national urban planning processes, their follow-up and monitoring from the Ministry of Housing.

The project includes the following components:

- ▾ Geoportals platform and update of the Urban Development Atlas.
- ▾ Design and implementation of web ap-



plications for the publication of dynamic maps based on thematic cartography of the Urban Development Plans (e-Geo-DUR).

- ▾ Follow-up and monitoring system for the implementation of the Urban and Rural Development Plans (land use component and investment component).

The above faces great challenges, due to the budgetary thresholds the Housing System has, however, it is proposed to address the problem in phases, in the following periods:

T A B L A 7

Summary of needs to solve problems in housing from urban and rural planning standpoint

Needs	Damage / need amount (in US\$)	Priority level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Repair and improvement of homes with minor damage	15,084,361	4				
Development of Studies for Resettlements	8,636,994	4				
Resettlement of families with severe damage to their home or lack of adequate housing	20,000,000	4				
Resettlement of families with severe damage to their home or lack of adequate housing	57,579,963	4				
Repair or reconstruction of homes with moderate damage	19,064,073	3				
Training and awareness of the reconstruction processes for affected families (Social Promoter MIVI)	100,000	2				
Mutual aid training program with an emphasis on female heads of household	160,000	2				
Land legalization	197,280	1				
Formulation of the Housing and Habitat Law and updating of the Urban Planning and Construction Law	250,000	1				
National Program for Sustainable Urban Development nationwide	218,100	2				
Total	121,290,770					

Source: Own elaboration.

Strategies

01 Review and update of the institutional and legal framework in Housing Policy

Implementation modality:

1.1 Updating and modernization of the Urbanism and Construction Law.

1.2 Development of a preliminary draft of the Housing and Habitat Law that will become an incentive legal instrument for real estate developers to see an investment opportunity in this housing niche.



02 Resilient and sustainable housing repair and reconstruction

- a. Sustainable housing.
- b. Community programs for local reactivation.
- c. Collective housing.

Implementation modality:

- 2.1 Formulation and execution of sustainable housing programs at a national level, promoting the use of regional guidelines for sustainable housing in Central America and the Caribbean (pre-investment contracting and execution of works).⁸
- 2.2 Provide housing access loans which are part of the extraordinary assets of the FSV, so that families can access financing for these, and social interest projects supported by the FSV.
- 2.3 Development of housing improvement programs through the contracting of pre-investment designs and contracting of construction companies for the execution of works.
- 2.4. Strengthening of the Community Development Unit.
- 2.5 Planning and execution of program workshops that facilitate access to mutual aid housing, with an emphasis on female heads of household.

03 Financial support for families affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

Action modality:

- 3.1. Execution of the Contribution Program through FONAVIPO, FSV or some other institution.

04 Relocation Plan

- a. Close to their work and study areas.
- b. Development of relocation studies.
- c. Hiring consultants for resettlement studies.

Action modality:

- 4.1 Strengthening of the Property Legalization Institute.
- 4.2 Acquisition of state lands, through agreements with local governments and/or acquisition of private lands.

05 Territory Planning

- a. Development of plans and regulatory documents that guide the country towards an orderly and sustainable development of the territory.

Action modality:

- 5.1 Hiring of technical assistance specialized in geotechnology, for the creation of tools that allow streamline urban planning processes, their follow-up and monitoring.

^{8/} Regional guidelines for sustainable housing applicable in Central America, issued by the Central American Council of Ministers of Housing and Human Settlements (CCVAH, by its Spanish acronym).

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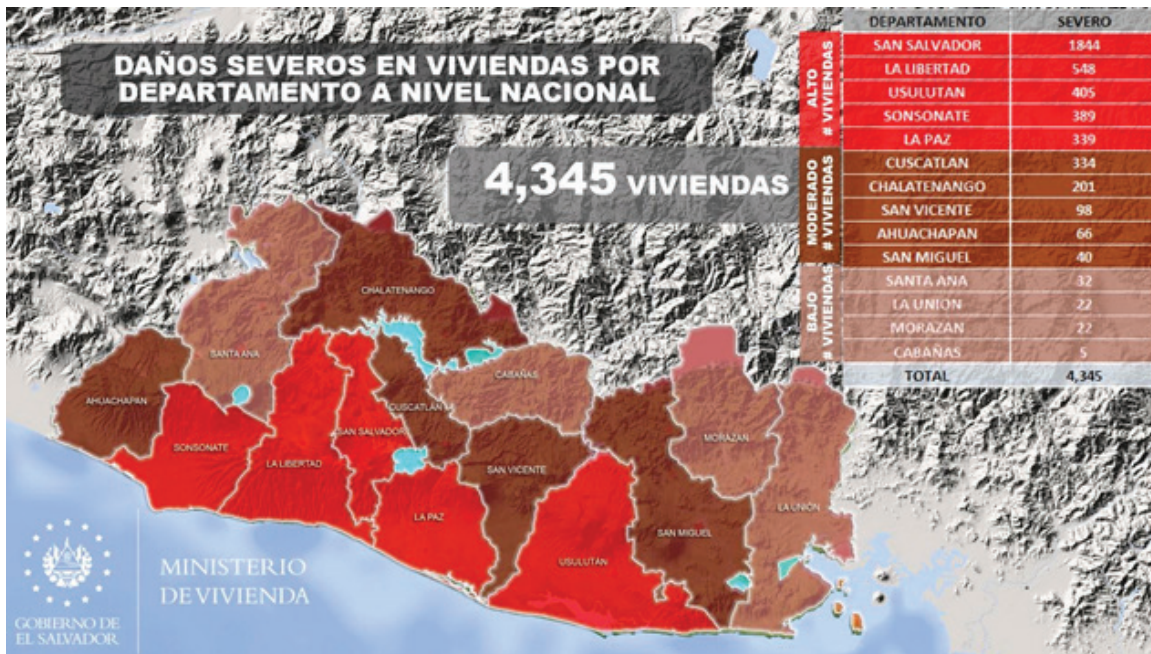
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Annexes

M A P 1

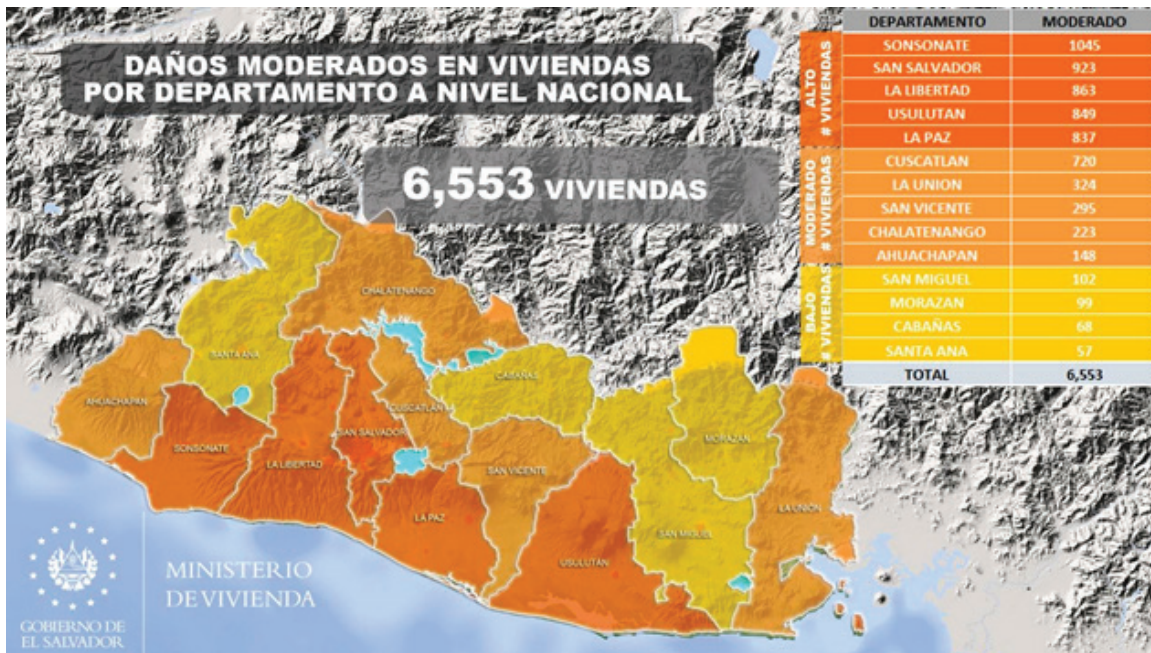
Severe damage to homes, per department, nationwide



Source: Own elaboration.

M A P 2

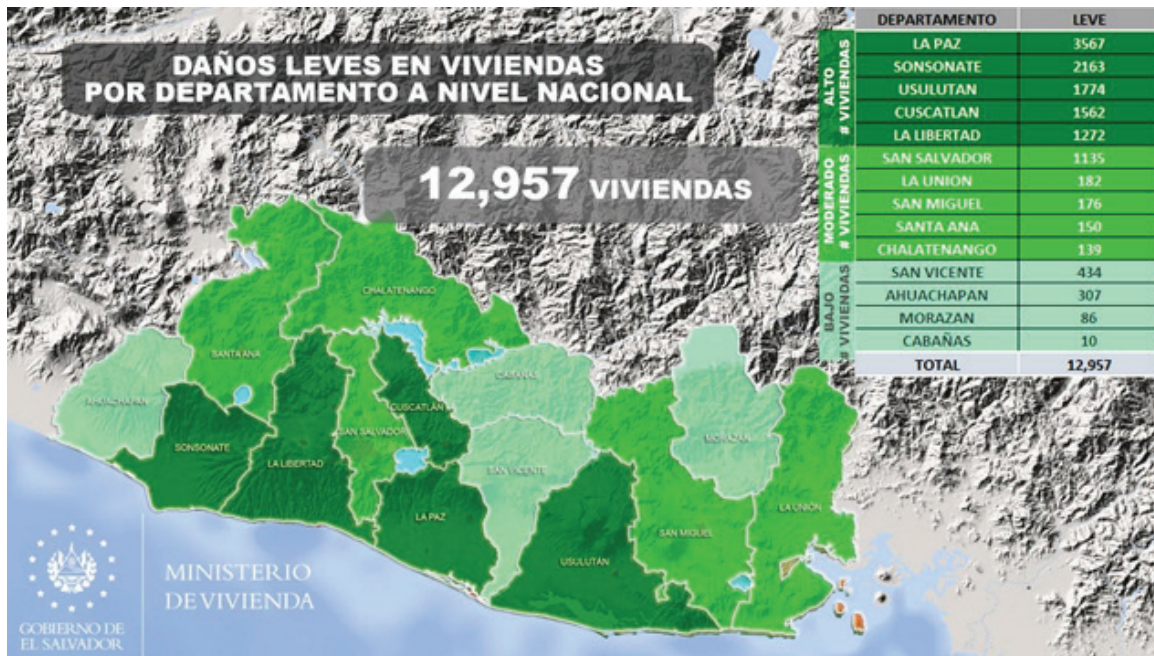
Moderate damage to homes, per department, nationwide



Source: Own elaboration.

M A P 3

Minor damage to homes, per department, nationwide



Source: Own elaboration.

M A P 4

Cost of damage to housing infrastructure nationwide due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

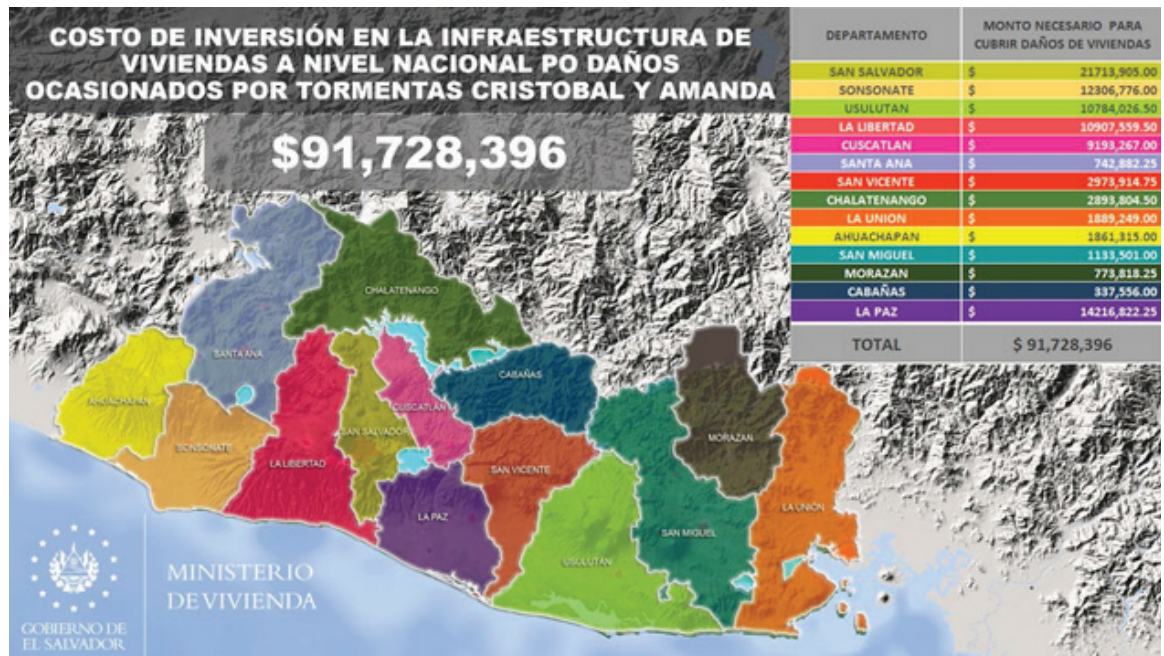


Source: Own elaboration.



M A P 5

Investment cost in housing infrastructure nationwide, due to damages caused by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal



Source: Own elaboration.



Sectorial Report: Culture

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Summary

The impact of the pandemic on the cultural institutions can be reflected in the budget of the Ministry of Culture of El Salvador,¹ which, on the one hand, has been cut to address the country's health emergency (US\$1,000,000; 4.2%); and, on the other, it has lost its own income of US\$313,335.59² from March to May 2020.³ The Ministry of Culture estimates an additional loss of US\$1,723,849.71 due to the closure of the cultural public spaces under its administration, due to sanitary measures and/or for repair and maintenance, until October when these will be open to the public again.⁴

The loss of own income, which is allocated to the Special Activities Fund (FAES, by its Spanish acronym), has affected the management of the cultural infrastructure at a human-labor level, in the payment of wages for professional services for part of the support and reinforcement staff in activities aimed at the provision of special services in the National Directorate of Cultural Heritage (in the National Palace, 17 guides⁵ were left without income, so the National Directorate of Arts had to temporarily suspend service agreements). Also, given the health emergency, the Ministry of Culture reported that it had to incur extraordinary expenses, such as disinfection and biosafety costs, to date, amounting to US\$168,058.17.⁶

In addition to the effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (loss of own income), the infrastructure and tangible and intangible cultural heritage of El Salvador have also been strongly affected by storms Amanda and Cristóbal. The cultural infrastructure – which includes cultural institutions, the national network of museums, cultural parks, parks and archaeological sites, theaters and rehearsal venues, artistic training centers and cultural industries – has suffered damage that, after inspecting and evaluating heritage buildings and properties/sites, the Ministry of Culture has estimated at US\$1,963,373.07, total amount equivalent to damages and repair costs.

1/ The budget of the Ministry of Culture for 2020 was US\$23,455,850.00.

2/ See Excel, Folder 1, Final Report: 170920. CLT damage and loss estimate (tab 2)..

3/ This amount has been calculated based on the average income received from these sites in the last three years. Included in this loss are the expenses incurred to provide support for the emergency to indigenous communities (March-May: 1,200 bags; US\$60,000) and to artists. In total, 3,700 families from various cultural artistic sectors have benefited with the early emergency bonus. About 10,730 food packages were delivered in the first phase in rural and urban areas, through Social Welfare and the Office of the First Lady.

4/ The reopening of spaces is expected in October, if sanitary conditions allow it. In November, for that matter, Joya de Cerén. To this amount the costs incurred (and projected for the months of October and November) for the distribution of food bags and sanitary kits to ICH carriers and artists have been added. From March to September, 5,237 support packages were distributed to culture carriers and indigenous communities.

5/ Folder 1 is attached. Cultural institutions, p. 3: National Palace, guides' income

6/ Folder 1 is attached. Cultural institutions, p. 4, March-Sept.: Biosafety expenses (shown in pink).



On the other hand, communities with cultural heritage have been the most affected by the health-economic crisis and by the passing of the storms, since these have left them in a situation of great vulnerability: The inter-generational transmission of their practices is being seriously affected. The cancellation of the community festivities –patron saint festivities– has led to the loss of jobs and income related to this sector and has pushed these communities to abandon their traditional activities to survive. Many of these carriers are dedicated to the manufacture of accessories linked to the prevention of the pandemic (manufacturing of masks and hygiene items), sale of food, cultivation for their own consumption or underemployment in masonry work, electricity, kitchen, delivery services, among others.

The artisan sector is one of the most affected. In El Salvador, workshops are generally managed by older adults, who since March have reported the complete cessation of artisan productive activity and, consequently, the total loss of their income. In addition, damage to artisan workshops and loss of raw material for production due to storms are reported. The cessation of activity also puts the transmission of artisan knowledge and techniques at risk.

On the other hand, and even more serious, the inter-generational transmission of practices, such as verbal traditions and ancestral knowledge of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, are being seriously affected by COVID-19. The death of the elderly implies the non-transmission and loss of these traditions, their native language and

cultural elements which are important for the community. To date, in self-determined indigenous territories and in municipalities with vulnerable Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), 4,232 cases of COVID-19 and 258 deaths of culture carriers have been reported (150 elderly in the municipality of Izalco and 85 in Nahuizalco).⁷ Damage to houses, destruction of traditional crops and a rupture of traditional production chains were also reported due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal.

The cultural-artistic sector is also in a precarious situation due to the slowdown of its activities, which generated a rupture in the entire production chain, as it is characterized by being informal, due to the intermittent work. Artists do not have health coverage or a social protection system. The paralysis of the sector has meant the loss of jobs and income for these workers, without the possibility of receiving unemployment benefits or access to “formal” aid policies. This lack of employment has left the sector in a critical situation: Artists and their families have been unable to acquire essential goods and services.

Faced with this situation, the Ministry of Culture has identified the needs regarding the care of the communities (culture carriers, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, and artists) and the rehabilitation of

^{7/} It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage (see tab 1) 5. ICH-Multicultural PI: Analysis and impact.

the cultural infrastructure for the reactivation of the sector.

Context before the Storms

Context of the cultural sector before COVID-19

The Ministry of Culture of El Salvador⁸ is the State entity in charge of ensuring the conservation, promotion and dissemination of the culture of El Salvador. Likewise, it is the governing body in matters of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants and promotes multiculturalism. The Ministry of Culture is also in charge of safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage, cultural expressions, and manifestations; to promote and disseminate the creation of cultural and artistic products; to support and promote Salvadoran creative and cultural industries; and to manage, protect and set up the cultural infrastructure owned by the State. Locally, the 161 Culture and Coexistence Centers oversee developing artistic and cultural activities in the territories. From June 2019 to March 2020, the Culture Centers directly served 376,396.00 people.

Part of the cultural infrastructure of El Salvador is made up of:⁹

^{8/} Created in 2018. It is attached in Folder 1. Ministry of Culture: 1. 2019-2020 Work Report.

^{9/} Several cultural festivals have been held and 200 artistic workshops have been given on different artistic disciplines.

National Monuments

El Salvador has 47 buildings and sites with cultural value declared “National Monuments”.¹⁰ Among them, the National Palace stands out, which from July 5, 2019 to March 8, 2020 welcomed 105,246 visitors, since the opening hours were extended to the public on Fridays and Saturdays until 10:00 pm, and on Sundays until 6:00 pm.

National Museum Network

El Salvador has four national museums: National Museum of Anthropology “Dr. David J. Guzmán” (MUNA, by its Spanish acronym), which houses and exhibits the anthropological, archaeological and historical legacy of El Salvador; two Regional Museums: Museo Regional de Occidente, in the department of Santa Ana, which does not have a permanent exhibition and is sustained by temporary exhibitions, and Museo Regional de Oriente, in the department of San Miguel, which houses archaeological collections from that region; and the Natural History Museum of El Salvador (MUHNES, by its Spanish acronym), which houses a series of collections such as mineralogy, botany, paleontology and others. These four museums, between June 2019 and March 2020, welcomed 71,454 people.

Tangible Cultural Heritage

The National Palace, the former Presidential Palace and the archaeological parks. The National Palace has two “National Monu-

^{10/} It is attached in Folder 1. Ministry of Culture: 2-List of National Monuments.



ment” declarations, the Salón Azul (Blue Hall) and the entire property. The General Archive of the Nation has been housed in its building since its foundation. The former Presidential Palace has the San Jacinto Exhibition Hall. The Joya de Cerén Archaeological Park has been declared Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Cultural Parks

The Ministry of Culture has three cultural parks: Parque Infantil de Diversiones (Children’s Amusement Park), Parque Zoológico Nacional (the National Zoological Park) and Parque Saburo Hirao (the Saburo Hirao Park), where educational and recreational services are provided to the general population. From June 2019 to March 2020, these three parks welcomed 260,224 people.

Parks and Archaeological Sites

In El Salvador there is an Archaeological Atlas with over 600 registered sites. Of these, ten are owned by the State: (1) Joya de Cerén Archaeological Park¹¹ (department of La Libertad), inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1993; (2) San Andrés Archaeological Park (department of La Libertad); (3) Tazumal Archaeological Park (department of Santa Ana); (4) Casa Blanca Archaeological Park (department of Santa Ana); (5) Cihuatán Archaeological Park (department of San Salvador); (6) Cara Sucia Archaeological Site (department of Ahuachapán); (7) Ci-

udad Vieja Archaeological Site (department of San Salvador), which is part of the Tentative List for World Heritage of El Salvador; (8) Gruta del Espíritu Santo Archaeological Site (department of Morazán); (9) Las Marías Archaeological Site (department of La Libertad); and (10) Tehuacán Archaeological Site (department of San Vicente).

Theaters and Rehearsal Venues

There are four theaters under the administration of the Ministry of Culture: Teatro Presidente, with a capacity of 1,400 seats; San Salvador National Theater, with a capacity of 550 seats; Santa Ana National Theater, with 700 seats; and Francisco Gavidia National Theater in San Miguel, with a capacity of 350 seats.

Its objective is to ensure the development of adequate spaces to carry out art performances, exhibitions, book presentations and other cultural events or artistic productions; likewise, formulate and manage benefit projects for the theaters and artists that perform there.

Art Training Centers

The Ministry of Culture promotes artistic training through the National Arts Center (CENAR, by its Spanish acronym), the National School of Dance and the System of Youth Choirs and Orchestras, which offer training services in music, theater, visual and dance schools, in addition to a free social prevention program for children and young people in vulnerable conditions. In 2019, CENAR served 886 students, the National Dance School 745, and the Choir System 600.

^{11/} Site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, under the name “Joya de Cerén Archaeological Site”.

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICP)

The objective of this area is to formulate, manage and monitor actions to safeguard the the nation's intangible cultural heritage, through educational and investigative processes for its assessment and dissemination, with the participation of communities, culture carriers, organizations, interested citizens, institutions and/or municipalities, articulating and talking with local and national actors to safeguard the ICH. There is a national inventory with 59¹² documented elements; 23 of these have been declared Cultural Assets. As of 2013,¹³ declarations are carried out through free, prior and informed consultations, including the carriers' vision and establishing safeguarding commitments with local and national actors. In addition, the population is served through lectures and training workshops on the national ICH, for their awareness and knowledge.

Multiculturalism: Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants

Multiculturalism is in charge of governing the indigenous and Afro-descendant issue,¹⁴

which in coordination with the rest of the State entities executes plans and programs for the promotion and restoration of the rights of indigenous peoples. The recognized indigenous peoples in El Salvador are Nahua, Lenca and Cacaopera, but the existence of other groups is not ruled out. There are nine self-determined indigenous territories (IT)¹⁵⁻¹⁶ in the same number of municipalities: (1) Panchimalco;¹⁷ (2) Tacuba;¹⁸ (3) Izalco; (4) Nahuizalco; (5) Cuisnahuat; (6) Santo Domingo de Guzmán;¹⁹ (7) Cacaopera;²⁰ (8) Conchagua; and (9) Yucuaiquín.²¹ In addition, there are 119 municipalities with indigenous and Afro-descendant cultural expressions or presence in the departments of Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Ahuachapán, Chalatenango, San Salvador, La Libertad, Cuscatlán, Cabañas, La Paz, Usulután, San Miguel, Morazán and La Unión. It is noteworthy that in the Nahua territory of the western and central regions of the country, in 2013, only 193 Nahua-speakers were identified.²²

^{12/} An oral tradition; five elements of performing arts; twenty-eight for social uses, rituals, and festive acts; two knowledge pieces and uses related to nature and the universe; ten traditional craft techniques; and thirteen historical memorial sites. It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage, 1. National Inventory List.

^{13/} In 2012, the Salvadoran State ratified the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH and the approach to ICH management at a national level was reformulated.

^{14/} In the areas of compensation of rights, organization; free, prior and informed consultation; and cultural expressions; as ancestral knowledge, dances, crafts, language, orality, celebrations, gastronomy, agriculture, commemorations, among others.

^{15/} It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2- List of Indigenous Territories.

^{16/} Eight municipalities with Municipal Ordinances on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, agreed between the community and the municipal mayors; and a territory with Declaration of Territory with Indigenous Population by the Legislative Assembly, also in consensus between the population and the mayor's office.

^{17/} Department of San Salvador.

^{18/} Department of Ahuachapán.

^{19/} Department of Sonsonate.

^{20/} Department of Morazán.

^{21/} Department of La Unión.

^{22/} Data obtained in the 2013 Bonus to Nahua-speakers, delivered by the then Directorate of Indigenous Peoples. It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage, 3- 2013, Nahua-speakers Bonus.



Cultural Industries

The Ministry of Culture is preparing its Culture Satellite Account (to date, data is being collected on all cultural sectors, production, and employment). The first report of this process determined that, in 2018, the annual expenditure of Salvadoran households on books and magazines amounted to US\$395,781.43. Regarding the audiovisual sector, the annual expenditure of Salvadoran households on movie tickets for the same year was US\$608,387.²³

The Ministry of Culture has a directory of 707²⁴ independent artists in the specialties of performing arts, music, dance, visual arts, independent training schools, film, and audiovisuals. In addition, the Ministry has the Directorate of Printing and Publications (DPI, by its Spanish acronym) in its organization chart.

Effects of the Pandemic (March to May 2020)

Effects on Governance

The impact of the pandemic on cultural institutions is reflected in the budget of the Ministry of Culture,²⁵ which, on the one hand, has been cut to address the country's health emergency (US\$1,000,000; 4.2%); and, on the

other, from March to May 2020 it has lost its own income amounting to US\$313,335.59.²⁶ This amount has been calculated based on the average income received during the last three years at the sites managed by the Ministry. Included in this loss are the expenses incurred to provide support for the emergency to indigenous communities (March-May: 1,200 bags;²⁷ US\$60,000) and to artists. In total, 3,700 families from various cultural artistic sectors benefited. With the early emergency bonus, in the first phase about 10,730²⁸ food packages were delivered in rural and urban areas, through the Social Welfare Program and the Office of the First Lady of the Republic.

The loss of own income, which is allocated to the Special Activities Fund, has affected the management of the cultural infrastructure at a human-labor level, in the payment of staff salaries (in the National Palace, 17 guides²⁹ were left without income; the National Directorate of Arts had to suspend service agreements). Also, given the health emergency, the Ministry of Culture reported that it had to incur extraordinary expenses, such as disinfection and biosafety costs, to date, amounting to US\$168,058.17.³⁰

23/ On this basis, a monthly consumption amounting to US\$50,698 is calculated. It is attached in Folder 8: Cultural Industries, 1. ANTEL Fund for Artists, where this information is detailed.

24/ It is attached in Folder 8: Creative Industries: 1- List of DGA Artists 09-18-19.

25/ The budget of the Ministry of Culture for 2020 was US\$23,455,850.00

26/ See Excel, Folder 1: Final Report: 09/17/20, CLT damage and loss estimate (tab 2)..

27/ Food packages and sanitary kits. It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage: 4- Mar-Oct, Distribution of food bags to ICH and IT.

28/ It is attached in Folder 8: Cultural industries: 3- Support, costs, artists.

29/ It is attached in Folder 1: Cultural Institutions, 3- National Palace, guides' income.

30/ It is attached in Folder 1: Cultural Institutions, 4- Mar-Sep., Biosafety expenses (in color pink)

Effects on access to Culture

The cultural sector was one of the first ones affected by the pandemic. Shows, concerts, artistic activities in general were suspended, and cultural spaces (museums, theaters, National Palace, archaeological parks and cultural parks) were closed as of March 14, 2020. To guarantee access to culture, the Ministry of Culture adapted its cultural offer, providing virtual programming, ad hoc to the physical distancing situation, as part of meeting one of the requirements of the bio-safety protocol. A digital cultural agenda was made available, with 140 online contents and a varied cultural offer.³¹

Although the Ministry of Culture has made an effort to guarantee access to culture, the digital gap in the country has limited it. An example of this is artistic training, which has lost half³² of its students due to this gap: CENAR has gone from serving 886 face-to-face students to only 433 online; the National School of Dance has gone from 745 to 383; and the System of Youth Choirs and Orchestras, from 600 students to 332.

Effects on Intangible Cultural Heritage

ICH has also been interrupted because of sanitary measures. From March to May 2020, 47 patron saint festivities were suspended³³

throughout the country, and other important festivities such as Holy Week and the Day of the Cross nationwide, the procession of Las Palmas in Panchimalco, the Fireballs in Nejapa, the Farolitos in Ahuachapán, among others. These cancellations have also led to great losses in local economies, which unfortunately have not been fully quantified; just in two cases: (1) San Salvador patron saint festivity, which, based on 2015 earnings, its cancellation is estimated at a loss of at least US\$14 million;³⁴ and (2) Festivity of La Recuerdo or the Fireballs, in the municipality of Nejapa, where the commune reports that forewent US\$647.10 in municipal fees for the sale of stalls, also affecting the vendors of the fair.

Communities linked to historical memory cultural assets³⁵ had to cancel their social, religious, and cultural activities; while some commemorations were held following biosecurity protocols, with few attendants or through virtual platforms.

It is important to highlight that the artisan sector has been strongly hit by the complete cessation of productive activity, reporting

31/ Literature, film, music, dance content and virtual visits to museums, theaters and archaeological parks were proposed.

32/ Folder 6 is attached: Artistic training centers: 1- Student dropouts in Artistic Training Centers.

33/ It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage: (see tab 3) 5- ICH-Multicultural, PI Analysis, impact.

34/ <https://www.facebook.com/AlcaldiaDeSanSalvador/photos/a.174699075880059/1159630547386902/?type=3&theater>

35/ In the ICH National Inventory there are 17 historical memorial sites declared as Cultural Assets, as part of the symbolic reparation measures to the civilian population victims of serious human rights violations that occurred in the context of the Salvadoran armed conflict (1980-1992).



TABLE 1

Loss estimate for artisans³⁶ (March–September 2020, in US\$)

Panchimalco: 35 artisans (300.00/month)	Izalco: 30 artisans (800.00/month)	Nahuizalco: 22 artisans (500.00/month)	Santo Domingo de Guzman: 644 artisans (450.00/month)	Quezaltepeque: 21 workshops (20,000.00/month); 458 artisans (1,200.00/month)	Cacaopera: 200 hammock artisans (44.00/month) *March–October	San Sebastián: 110 artisans (600.00/month) *March–October
73,500. ⁰⁰	168,000. ⁰⁰	77,000. ⁰⁰	2,028,600. ⁰⁰	6,787,200. ⁰⁰	70,400. ⁰⁰	480,000. ⁰⁰
TOTAL: 9,684,700.⁰⁰						

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

foregone income;³⁷ this is in addition to other previous risk situations, such as the difficulty of settling into cultural consumption habits and the little transmission to young generations due to the minimal monetary retribution that this economic activity entails, among others.

Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities

Even more serious is the inter-generational transmission of practices, such as verbal traditions and ancestral knowledge of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, are being seriously affected by COVID-19. The death of the elderly implies the non-transmission and loss of these traditions, their native language and cultural elements which are important for the community. To date, in

self-determined indigenous territories and in municipalities with vulnerable Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), 4,232 cases of COVID-19 and 258 deaths of culture carriers have been reported (150 elderly in the municipality of Izalco and 85 in Nahuizalco).³⁸

In addition to indigenous territories, 32 national elements of the ICH inventory have been pointed out at possible risk,³⁹ as they are in the territories most affected by the pandemic. 35 ICH practices that are in a vulnerability situation have also been identified, such as crafts.⁴⁰

At the same time as the announcement of deaths due to the pandemic, culture carriers

^{36/} The numbers of artisans are approximations. There is no national census of artisans that allows certainty in the quantities, so the losses could be greater.

^{37/} It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage: (see tab 1) 5- ICH-Multicultural, PI Analysis, impact.

^{38/} It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage: (see tab 1) 5- ICH-Multicultural, PI Analysis, impact.

^{39/} 28 of these practices are found in indigenous territories. Only three elements have protection measures, as they have been declared Cultural Assets.

^{40/} These practices are not part of the National ICH Inventory of El Salvador.

ers also reported: (1) Loss of income due to the non-sale of handicrafts; (2) Cancellation of holidays and loss of jobs related to the sector; and (3) Suspension in the traditional production chain due to the lack of raw materials (stopped crops, border closures or loss of perishable materials) or due to increases in their prices. Food security problems are reported in several communities due to the cessation of economic activities. To survive, many culture carriers have ceased their traditional activities to dedicate to the manufacture of accessories linked to the prevention of the pandemic (manufacture of masks, hygiene items), sale of daily food, cultivation for their own consumption or underemployment in masonry work, electricity, kitchen, among others. Faced with this situation, the Ministry of Culture distributed 5,407 family food packages and 1,360 sanitary kits⁴¹ (as of September) in indigenous territories.

It is imperative to safeguard the livelihood and knowledge linked to the populations that represent the multiculturalism of the country, by ensuring their human development by strengthening their capacities and giving them a dignified life. In other words, the actions in favor of the communities must be multisectoral and multilevel, to retain the knowledge passed down generation after generation.

^{41/} It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage: 4- Mar-Oct, Distribution of food bags to ICH and IT.

Cultural Industries

The break in the cultural-artistic sector generated a rupture in the entire production chain: The cancellation of a show, a concert or a film production led to the cancellation of the artists' contracts, of technical services, and so on. Unfortunately, we cannot quantify the losses in this sector, since there is still no data on its production or on employment, mostly informal (the Culture Satellite Account is in the process of being prepared). Faced with the health emergency, the Ministry of Culture conducted a survey⁴² of the sector, which provided some qualitative data on its situation. 53 micro and small cultural enterprises with activity in different sectors responded to the survey.⁴³ The data indicate that the population that is regularly excluded from other areas, such as LGBT population, disabled or elderly individuals, works in this sector. Between March and May 2020, a 79.9% reduction in sales was perceived. The survey showed that, in May, there was a 67.57% decrease in employment in the sector; while in activity and sales, those surveyed answered that they are at minimum levels due to the effects of the pandemic. Likewise, it was evidenced that only 47.4% of the employees are registered as taxpayers; only 40.0% of the companies in the sector

^{42/} "Research on the situation of companies and people in the cultural sector against COVID-19". It is attached in Folder 8: Cultural Industries: 4- Cultural Companies Survey-1 and 5- Cultural Companies Survey-2.

^{43/} 46.0% of creative industries (design, photography, advertising, music, publishing, audiovisuals, cinematography); 25.0% of art companies (plastic, visual and/or performing); 8.0% of cultural heritage.



declare taxes (VAT); and only 3.0% of employees are affiliated with a pension fund, demonstrating the low level of social protection in the sector.

The Ministry of Culture, in support of independent artists, organized roundtables⁴⁴ in which 216 artists⁴⁵ from different art branches participated. In these roundtables, informality and the intermittency of these jobs were identified as the main problems. Artists do not have health coverage or a social protection system. The paralysis of the sector has meant the loss of jobs and income for these workers, without the possibility of receiving unemployment benefits or access to “formal” aid policies. This lack of employment has left the sector in a critical situation: Artists and their families have been unable to acquire essential goods and services. Faced with this situation, the Ministry of Culture has granted them food packages,⁴⁶ as part of the Health Emergency Program promoted by President Nayib Bukele.⁴⁷ Similarly, twelve webinars⁴⁸ have been developed to encourage and pro-

mote knowledge of the economic reactivation processes for the sector, with the active participation of 850 artists and arts entrepreneurs.⁴⁹

The Project for the Reactivation of the Cultural Sector in El Salvador will also be carried out, to stimulate creative, artistic and cultural initiatives slowed down by the COVID-19 pandemic, with financing from the Special Fund Resources of the Privatization Hailing ANTEL (FANTEL, by its Spanish acronym)⁵⁰/ Artistic and Cultural Entrepreneurship.⁵¹ The foregoing was analyzed by virtue of the external losses through a sample of 62 artists and companies that had stage spaces programmed in national theaters and that

44/ The dialogue tables were organized per artistic specialty: Performing arts, music and audiovisuals. It is attached in folder 8: Cultural industries: 7- UNDP State Report, p. 2, Dialogue tables.

45/ They represent 30.0% of the totality of artists identified within the directory mentioned in chapter 2.

46/ As of September 2020, 10,730 food packages have been delivered. It is attached in Folder 8: Cultural Industries: 10- Delivery of packages to artists, Ministry of Culture.

47/ Following instructions from the Office of the First Lady, Gabriela de Bukele.

48/ It is attached in Folder 8: Cultural Industries: 6-List of 2020 webinars.

49/ 302 people from the artistic sector have participated in training courses to strengthen capacities, such as Google Classroom for Education, MSEs in public procurement and associativity as a result of the inter-institutional coordination carried out with CONAMYPE and the Secretariat of Innovation of the Presidency.

50/ It is attached in Folder 8: Cultural industries: 7- ANTEL Fund for artists.

51/ It seeks to strengthen the creative cultural sector through a specific fund for the promotion of projects and spaces dedicated to art and culture activities, with productive, labor, economic and research projections, benefiting art and culture workers, through the support given to independent, non-governmental, associative or private entities, also promoting a culture of solidarity, peace, resilience and recovery through five support lines: Artistic education proposals; artistic-cultural projects and undertakings of exhibition, documentation and programming; artistic proposals and expressions (virtual supports); scenic artistic proposals (creation and programming); and incentives for audiovisual artists.

between March and May had an average monthly loss of US\$329,099.50,⁵² product of the cancellation of artistic shows and cancellation of the productions that do not come in from regular ticket office.

Effects due to the Storms

In addition to the effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, El Salvador's cultural infrastructure and cultural heritage were also heavily affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. The cultural infrastructure recorded damages for US\$1,963,373.07. The Ministry of Culture estimated an additional loss of US\$1,723,849.71 due to the closure of its infrastructure, due to sanitary measures and/or repairs, cleaning, disinfection, and maintenance, until October 2020.⁵³

The buildings and heritage properties/sites owned by the Ministry of Culture have been duly inspected and evaluated. The damages caused by tropical storms have been determined and quantified, and the repairs costs detailed below have been estimated (see the map in Annexes).

52/ It is attached in Folder 8: Cultural industries: 8-Mar-Nov, Private losses in the Artistic sector.

53/ The reopening of spaces is expected in October, if sanitary conditions allow it. In November, for that matter, Joya de Cerén. To this amount the costs incurred (and projected for the months of October and November) for the distribution of food bags and sanitary kits to ICH carriers and artists have been added. From March to September, 5,237 support packages were distributed to culture carriers and indigenous communities.

Cultural Institutions

The National Palace, in which the General Archive of the Nation (AGN, by its Spanish acronym) has been housed since its foundation, has been one of the historical buildings most affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, since the leaks have damaged several rooms, causing humidity problems to its walls, which have wall paintings; and the humidity still remains. The wooden doors were also affected by the leaks. Likewise, some AGN documents that were located in the aforementioned areas showed damage, specifically due to the flooding in one of the building's basements. These areas and spaces require intervention for their conservation and restoration. Damage to the National Palace infrastructure due to tropical storms was estimated at US\$229,750.00;⁵⁴ while in the AGN they amount to US\$50,000.00.⁵⁵ Considerable damage caused by seepage and flooding was also reported in the Culture Centers, for an amount of US\$400,000.00.⁵⁶

National Museum Network

In Museo Regional de Oriente, leaks were reported that damaged the ceilings,

54/ See p. 5. It is attached in Folder 1: Cultural institutions: 5- Final report of damages due to tropical storm Amanda in the infrastructure of the Ministry of Culture.

55/ Attached to Folder 1: Cultural Institutions: 8-General Archive: Damaged Document Restoration Project, Sept.

56/ It is attached in Folder 1: Cultural Institutions: 9- Report of impact to Culture Centers, v2; and 11- Information on the impacted Culture Centers.



dropped ceilings and walls. It is necessary to repair the roof, change the dropped ceiling and adapt some spaces; to this end, the repair costs amount to US\$17,000.00.⁵⁷ Minor damage was reported in the rest of the museums.

Cultural Parks⁵⁸

In the case of cultural parks, the National Zoological Park was most affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. A large portion of over 30 m of the perimeter wall of the park collapsed due to the overflow of the Matalapa River. Tree falls were also reported, causing damage to the primary electrical wiring and the metal structure of some of the enclosures that house different animal species. These damages were estimated at US\$159,500.00.⁵⁹

In Parque Infantil de Diversiones, the fall of high-rise trees damaged the Monument to the Homeland Heroes and the bronze sculpture of an eagle collapsed, of which some of its parts were fragmented, so it will also require intervention through a proper restoration process. The access bridge metal structure from the gardens to the playground was also damaged. For all this, the repair

work was estimated at US\$40,500.00.⁶⁰ These spaces constitute a priority for the reactivation of the sector, since they are the ones that generate the most income for the Ministry of Culture.

Parks and Archaeological Sites⁶¹

In the case of archaeological sites and parks, it is worth noting that, despite the vast archaeological wealth that the country possesses, most are privately owned. This situation makes Salvadoran archaeology vulnerable, since when natural events occur, they cause flooding in the properties where the archaeological sites are located, and these floods in many cases give rise to looting. Of the ten sites and parks owned by the State, it was reported that the San Andrés Archaeological Park was one of the most affected, as a result of the overflowing of the Sucio River. The Amphitheater area, one of the lowest ones, was affected by the strong current of the river's waters, which entered the park through that area. The current also caused damage to the Obraje de Añil, one of the best-preserved works from the colonial era in El Salvador, leaving sediment of mud and garbage in its path. In this area, the strong current of the river also collapsed the retaining wall that protects one of the

57/ It is attached in Folder 2: Museums: 1- Museo Regional de Oriente, costs and repairs; and 2- Museo Regional de Occidente, costs and intervention 2020.

58/ It is attached in Folder 3: Cultural Parks: Documents 1 and 2 on the damage to these parks.

59/ It is attached in Folder 3: Cultural Parks: 2- Zoo, intervention costs 2020.

60/ Folder 3 is attached: Cultural Parks: 1- Parque Infantil de Diversiones, intervention cost and damages 2020.

61/ It is attached in Folder 4: Archaeological Sites: Documents on the intervention to the sites.

basins that make up the Obraje, completely flooding it with earth, garbage, and water. The cafeteria area and the small artisan shops that sell their products to visitors was also flooded. Damages were calculated at US\$781,000.00.⁶²

In the Joya de Cerén Archaeological Park, a World Heritage Site, the Ministry of Culture determined that the storms affected the boundaries of the complexes that protect archaeological structures. Slope mitigation and stabilization works were performed for an amount of US\$18,448.50.⁶³

Theaters and Rehearsal Venues

Leaks were reported at the Presidente Theater and the San Salvador National Theater, the former being most damaged. As a result of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, the problems worsened, causing the gutters to collapse. Due to the leak, walls, ceilings, and bathrooms were damaged. It is considered necessary to repair and renew the infrastructure and structure of the stage. The damages amount to US\$139,567.57.⁶⁴ In the case of the San Salvador National Theater, waterproofing of the roofs is required, since

leaks have been detected in the cabin area, at a cost of US\$31,295.00.⁶⁵

On the other hand, due to the leaks caused by the storms, at the headquarters of the National Folkloric Ballet⁶⁶ it is necessary to rebuild the classrooms and replace the equipment in the rooms (mirrors, bars, etc.) The administrative management changing rooms and cubicles will also have to be rebuilt, remodeling the batteries in the bathrooms, repairing the drainage gutters, repairing the roofs, and waterproofing them, and filling the cracks that aggravated because of the rains. For this project US\$50,000.00 are required.

At the headquarters of the National Dance Company and the National Ballet of El Salvador, leaks were reported in the dance hall ceiling and wall, in the bathrooms on the first floor and in the bathrooms located at the end of the building, which are used by dancers. Repair costs were estimated at US\$10,000.00.⁶⁷ Minor damage was reported at the Santa Ana National Theater and at the Francisco Gavidia National Theater in San Miguel.⁶⁸

62/ It is attached in Folder 4: Archaeological Sites and Parks: 1- San Andrés, intervention cost and damages 2020.

63/ It is noteworthy that the site was already being intervened before the storm. It is attached in Folder 4: Archaeological Sites and Parks: 2- Joya de Cerén Project.

64/ It is attached in Folder 5: Theaters: 1- Presidente Theater, impact, and costs.

65/ It is attached in Folder 5: Theaters: 2- San Salvador National Theater, impact, and costs.

66/ It is attached in Folder 5: Theaters: 5- Headquarters of the National Folkloric Ballet, impact, and costs.

67/ It is attached in Folder 5: Theaters: 6- Headquarters of the National Dance and Ballet Company, impact, and costs.

68/ is attached in Folder 5: Theaters: 3- Santa Ana National Theater, impact, and costs; and 4- Francisco Gavidia National Theater in San Miguel, impact, and costs.



Art Training Centers

The System of Youth Choirs and Orchestras and the School of Dance were most affected. The former presents a large number of leaks in different rooms in the building, in the dropped ceilings and walls; likewise, rainfall damage is reported in several instruments, which will have to be replaced. These damages amount to US\$8,740.00.⁶⁹ In the case of the Dance School, due to the damage caused by the rains, the building has suffered some damage: A leak in Room 2, a warehouse damaged by leaks in the roof, damp walls, and damaged gutters and drains. The total intervention cost is US\$8,000.00.⁷⁰

Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants

Living heritage was also strongly affected by the storms (see the map in Annexes). Seven departments have been identified with critical cultural practices, hit by the health-economic crisis and which also reported material damage from storms Amanda and Cristóbal in the municipalities of San Salvador and Panchimalco (IT); Tacuba (IT);⁷¹ Izalco, Nahuizalco⁷², Cuisnahuat and Santo Domingo de Guzmán (the

four ITs);⁷³ Quezaltepeque (IT);⁷⁴ Cacaopera (IT);⁷⁵ Conchagua (IT); San Alejo (Afro-descendant territory); Yucuaiquín (IT);⁷⁶ and San Sebastián.⁷⁷ In these, the following is reported:⁷⁸

(1) Damage to homes (a total of 504 houses of cultural carriers affected in 14 municipalities; see photos in Annexes);⁷⁹ (2) Destruction or damage to road infrastructure, access problems to communities; (3) Damage to utility services; (4) Damages in artisan workshops and loss of materials for production; (5) In most municipalities, in rural areas, loss of traditional crops is reported (a total of approximately 1,174 crops destroyed).⁸⁰

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, serious food security problems continue to be reported in these communities. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to quantify the costs of these destructions.

Based on a project that was carried out in 2017 to safeguard the ICH and rescue the

^{69/} It is attached in Folder 6: Artistic Training Centers: 4- Choir System, impact.

^{70/} It is attached in Folder 6: Artistic Training Centers: 3- National School of Dance, impact, and costs.

^{71/} Department of San Salvador.

^{72/} Department of Ahuachapán.

^{73/} Department of Sonsonate.

^{74/} Department of La Libertad.

^{75/} Department of Morazán.

^{76/} Department of La Unión.

^{77/} Department of San Vicente.

^{78/} It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage (see tab 1): 5- ICH-Multiculturalism, PI analysis, impact; and (end of document) 5- ICH, inventory, and impact on vulnerable ICH.

^{79/} It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage: (see tab 1) 5- ICH-Multiculturalism, PI analysis, impact; (end of document) Photos, impact; and 5- ICH, inventory, and impact on vulnerable ICH.

^{80/} Department of San Vicente.

TABLE 2

Summary table of Damages and Losses in the sector (in US\$)

Damages/Losses	COVID-19 pandemic		Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal		Loss due to closures and pandemic	
	Foregone Income (Mar-May/2020)		Tropical storm damage		Loss (Jun-Oct/2020)	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Cultural Institutions	35,528.72	-	683,920.00	-	227,369.45	-
Museums	18,000.00	-	19,026.00	-	40,220.00	-
Cultural Parks	58,350.00	-	201,105.00	-	96,150.00	-
Archaeological Sites and Parks	37,670.00	-	799,448.50	-	85,415.00	-
Theaters and Rehearsal Venues	63,346.87	-	232,362.57	-	113,562.16	-
Art Training Centers	33,630.00	-	20,490.00	-	58,010.00	-
Intangible Cultural Heritage and Multiculturalism	60,000.00	4,121,100.00	1,901.00	There is damage to centers and workshops.	738,333.10	19,563,600.00
Cultural industries	6,810.00	5,886,519.65	5,120.00	-	364,790.00	2,867,254.49
Total	313,335.59	10,007,619.65	1,963,373.07	There is damage to centers and workshops.	1,723,849.71	22,430,854.49

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

language,⁸¹ a loss was estimated up to October, due to the pandemic (death of carriers) and destruction due to tropical storms, in indigenous and Afro-descendant communities (ten territories), for US\$430,000.00. The project cost US\$43,500 for one municipality.

^{81/} It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage: 7- 2017 UNESCO Project, budget for the project carried out in Santo Domingo de Guzmán for the safeguarding of the Nahuatl language.

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

In regards to the ICH, the monuments and declared memorial sites were not seriously affected by storms Amanda and Cristóbal, with the exception of the Monument to Memory and Truth, located in Cuscatlán Park, in San Salvador, which had some damage to its infrastructure, in addition to those it already had (it has not been possible to quantify); and the Monument to the Victims



of the La Quesera Massacre, in the municipality of Jiquilisco (Usulután), where the damages were quantified at US\$1,901.00, according to information provided by community referents.⁸²

Cultural Industries

There is no data on the impact of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal on the cultural industries of El Salvador, which, as seen above, are also in a critical situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Culture, through dialogue tables, has not been reported losses due to tropical storms. The central problem in this sector is due to physical distancing and lack of work.

The Ministry of Culture, Directorate of Printing and Publications (DPI) reported a loss of US\$4,000.00 in editorial product stored in its Editorial Warehouse,⁸³ due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. Likewise, it reported damage due to considerable water leaks in the first and second levels of its administrative areas, for an amount of US\$1,120.00.⁸⁴

82/ It is attached in Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage: 10- La Quesera, impact.

83/ It is attached in Folder 8: Cultural Industries: 9- Directorate of Publications and Prints, project to robust the conditions of editorial storage of the DPI; and 10- Project to robust the editorial storage conditions of the DPI.

84/ It is attached in Folder 1: Cultural Institutions: 5- Final damages report due to tropical storm Amanda in the infrastructure of the Ministry of Culture.

Human Impact

The cultural artists sector and the culture-carrying communities (indigenous and Afro-descendant) are the hardest hit by the health-economic crisis and by the damage of storms Amanda and Cristóbal. The impact caused on these populations, on their living conditions and means of subsistence, is quite high.

The cultural-artistic sector, which is characterized by being informal and by the intermittent work, is in great vulnerability. Most of the artists do not have health coverage or a social protection system. The paralysis of the sector has meant the loss of jobs and income for these workers, without the possibility of receiving unemployment benefits or access to “formal” aid policies. This lack of employment has left the sector in a critical situation: Artists and their families have been unable to acquire essential goods and services.

Regarding cultural carrier communities, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, the inter-generational transmission of their practices is being seriously affected by COVID-19 and tropical storms: The death of the elderly implies the non-transmission and loss of traditions, including their own native language.

The cancellation of the community festivities –patron saint festivities– has led to the loss of jobs and income related to this sector and has pushed these communities to abandon their traditional activities to survive. Many of these carriers dedicate to the manufacture of accessories linked to the prevention of the pandemic (manufacturing of masks and

hygiene items), sale of food, cultivation for their own consumption or underemployment in masonry work, electricity, kitchen, delivery services, among others.

The artisan sector is one of the most affected. Production techniques and transmission of knowledge are also at risk. In El Salvador, workshops are generally managed by older adults, who since March have reported the complete cessation of artisan productive activity and, consequently, the total loss of their income. In addition, damage to artisan workshops and loss of raw materials for production are reported due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. In the rural areas of most municipalities where these practices are found, the loss of traditional crops is reported; and food security problems in several communities, due to the cessation of economic activities.

It is imperative to safeguard the livelihood and knowledge linked to the populations that represent multiculturalism in the country, by ensuring their human development by strengthening their capacities and giving them a dignified life. In other words, the actions in favor of the communities must be multisectoral and multilevel, to retain the knowledge passed down generation after generation.

Recovery Needs and Strategy

As has been evidenced through this report, the populations hardest hit by the health-eco-

nomics crisis and by storms Amanda and Cristóbal have been culture carriers, indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, and artists. In this sense, the Ministry of Culture has identified the priority needs around these communities:

- 1 **Safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage:** It is considered essential to be able to restore the traditional production chain and promote its inter-generational transmission, to ensure the safeguarding of these traditional techniques and knowledge. To this end, the following has been defined: (1) The need to guarantee food security for cultural carriers who have lost all income; (2) Support with the repair of historical memorial sites declared as cultural assets; (3) Support the reactivation and safeguarding of the ICH (inventory) of the artisan communities of the municipalities of Panchimalco, Izalco, Nahuizalco, Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Quezaltepeque, Cacaopera, San Sebastián, Yucuaiquín and San Alejo (some of these practices are supported by populations in vulnerable conditions, such as indigenous people), and others declared as cultural assets; and (4) It is necessary to strengthen the safeguarding capacities of the ICH in the western region, eastern region and central region, to carry out these safeguarding programs.
- 2 **Safeguarding of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples for their identity construction:** Investment in social development in the communities is considered essential, ensuring their food



security, as well as support for the construction and repair of decent housing infrastructure and support for the restoration of traditional crops. The safekeeping of these cultures is at great risk, due to the various factors caused by the pandemic and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. For these communities, the following have been identified: (1) Safekeeping the Nahuat language in the western region (Sonsonate); (2) Inventory and development of a ICH program on intercultural bilingual education (in Tacuba, Izalco, Nahuizalco, Cuisnahuat, and Santo Domingo de Guzmán), with the objective of strengthening and protecting the native language and traditions of these communities; (3) Identification and safekeeping of the ICH in indigenous communities in the nine self-determined territories (Panchimalco, Tacuba, Izalco, Nahuizalco, Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Cacaopera, Conchagua, Yucuaiquín and Cuisnahuat) and in Afro-descendant territories; (4) Identification of El Salvador identities and strengthening of community identity for those that have not yet self-determined.

3 Support for the formalization and economic reactivation of the artistic and cultural sector:

For the cultural-artistic sector, the Ministry of Culture has pointed out the following activities: (1) Cultural management training program for the artistic and cultural sector, to promote innovation technological and formalization as a measure to alleviate the digital gap; promote the reactivation and formalization of this sector, sharing knowl-

edge that enhances cultural management and national artistic productions, to allow the dissemination, circulation, access and consumption of national artistic products, to foster the creative and cultural industries of the country ; (2) Support for the formalization policy of the artistic sector of El Salvador to provide more protection to this population, through the elaboration of a public policy proposal that allows the formalization of the artistic sector, through a professional consultancy promoted from the Ministry of Culture and in coordination with other government institutions, to provide opportunities for sustainable political, social and economic appreciation and recognition to the sector; (3) Promotion of the Salvadoran creative industries market for economic reactivation, by creating a space for the visibility, promotion and professionalization of the Salvadoran artistic sector, through a cultural market platform promoted by the Ministry of Culture; and (4) Encouragement for the creation of the Satellite Account of El Salvador, which will make the contributions of the cultural-artistic sector to the economy itself visible and design public policies accordingly.

Regarding cultural infrastructure, and due to the current situation, for the Ministry of Culture it is essential to be able to rehabilitate these spaces, to guarantee the reopening and reactivation of the sector. The National Palace, the Presidente Theater, Parque Infantil de Diversiones, the National Zoological Park, the Joya de Cerén Archaeological Park (World Heritage Site), the San Andrés

Archaeological Park and the National Museum of Anthropology “Dr. David J. Guzmán” have been identified as priorities, due to the income they generate and the population they serve. The cultural infrastructure that needs repair is annexed. In the medium term, and once the priority venues have

been rehabilitated, it is considered necessary to carry out a mapping of the cultural infrastructure, to perform an evaluation and a general risk management plan.

Recovery and Prioritization Needs

TABLE 3

Summary table of initiatives and recovery costs in the short, medium and long term (in US\$)

Intervention	Short Term*	Medium Term*	Long Term*	Priority (1 to 5)	Description	Cost
Guarantee food safety for cultural carriers (Nov-Dec/2020).	x			1-Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).	Need to ensure food security for cultural carriers who have lost all income.	113,100.00
Support for the repair of crops, centers and workshops of culture carriers: 504 centers (US\$500.00/center); a retaining wall (US\$800.00/wall; 1,174 carriers reported damage to their crops (US\$600.00/crop).	x			1-Safeguarding of the ICH.	Repair of traditional crops, centers and workshops of culture carriers, so that these activities last.	252,800.00
Support for the repair of historical memorial sites declared as cultural assets (La Quesera).	x			1-Safeguarding of the ICH.	Repair of historical memorial sites declared as cultural assets.	1,901.00
Reactivation and safeguarding of ICH in artisan communities.	x			1-Safeguarding of the ICH.	Communities of artisans most affected in the municipalities of Panchimalco, Izalco, Nahuizalco, Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Quezaltepeque, Cacaopera, San Sebastián and San Alejo.	9,684,700.00



Intervention	Short Term*	Medium Term*	Long Term*	Priority (1 to 5)	Description	Cost
Strengthening of El Salvador's capacities to safeguard the ICH (western region, eastern region, and central region).	x			1-Safeguarding of the ICH.	Strengthen safeguard capacities of the ICH in the western region, eastern region and central region; necessary to perform these safeguard programs.	51,000.00
Safeguarding of the Nahuatl language - western region (Sonsonate): (1) Inventory; and (2) ICH and intercultural bilingual education (five municipalities).	x			2- Safeguarding of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, for their identity construction.	Safeguarding the Nahuatl language, in danger of disappearing.	225,000.00
Identification and safeguarding of ICH in indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in ten territories (five departments).	x			2- Safeguarding of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, for their identity construction.	Inventory and development of an ICH and intercultural bilingual education program.	450,000.00
Identification of El Salvador identities, and identity strengthening.	x	x		2- Safeguarding of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, for their identity construction.	Identification of El Salvador identities, and identity strengthening of the communities that have not yet self-determined.	100,000.00
Training program in cultural management of the artistic and cultural sector, to promote technological innovation and formalization.	x			3- Support for the formalization and economic reactivation of the artistic and cultural sector.	Training in cultural management of the artistic and cultural sector, to promote technological innovation and formalization.	88,000.00
Support for the sector's formalization policy artistic of El Salvador		x		3- Support for the formalization and economic reactivation of the artistic and cultural sector.	Generation of a public policy proposal for the formalization of the artistic sector, to create opportunities for political, social and economic appreciation and recognition to the sector in a sustainable manner.	94,000.00

Summary table of initiatives and recovery costs in the short, medium and long term (in US\$)

Intervention	Short Term*	Medium Term*	Long Term*	Priority (1 to 5)	Description	Cost
Promotion of the Salvadoran creative industries market.		x		3- Support for the formalization and economic reactivation of the artistic and cultural sector.	Generation of a space for the visibility, promotion and professionalization of the Salvadoran artistic sector, through a cultural market platform promoted by the Ministry of Culture.	71,390.00
Encouragement for the creation of the Satellite Culture Account in El Salvador.		x	x	3- Support for the formalization and economic reactivation of the artistic and cultural sector.		Undetermined cost.
Rehabilitation of the cultural infrastructure of El Salvador (see Annexes: List of the cultural infrastructure that needs to be rehabilitated).	x			4-Rehabilitation of the cultural infrastructure of El Salvador.	Necessary for the reactivation of the sector.	1,961,472.07
Evaluation Mission, Risk Management Plan and Mapping of Cultural Infrastructure.		x	x	4-Rehabilitation of the cultural infrastructure of El Salvador.	Necessary for risk management.	50,000.00

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

Recommendations for its implementation

As mentioned in the needs table, to carry out the safeguard activities of the intangible cultural heritage, it is considered necessary, first

and foremost, to strengthen the local capacities of the western, eastern and the central regions, according to the ICH safeguarding basic principles: participation, inventory, identification of identity diversity and transmission.



For the implementation of these activities, the full participation of the culture carriers, indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, and artists will have to be ensured.

Sources

Ministry of Culture of El Salvador:

1 See Folder 1: Cultural Institutions

- › Work Report, June 2019-May 2020.
- › Financial projection of the Special Activities Fund income,
- › Fiscal year 2020.
- › List of National Monuments of El Salvador.
- › National Palace guides' cessation of income.
- › Impact report to Culture Centers.
- › Delivery of packages to artists.
- › UNDP Status Report (p. 2): Artists Dialogue Tables.

2 See Folder 2: Museums

- › Museo Regional de Oriente: costs and repairs.
- › Museo Regional de Occidente: costs and intervention.

3 See Folder 3: Cultural Parks

- › Parque Infantil de Diversiones: Cost of damage intervention 2020.
- › National Zoological Park: Costs and intervention 2020.

4 See Folder 4: Archaeological Sites and Parks

- › Joya de Cerén Project.

- › San Andrés Archaeological Park: Cost and damage intervention 2020.

5 See Folder 5: Theaters and Rehearsal venues

- › Presidente Theater: Impact and costs.
- › San Salvador National Theater: Impact and costs.
- › Santa Ana National Theater: Impact and costs.
- › Francisco Gavidia National Theater in San Miguel: Impact and costs.
- › Headquarters of the National Folkloric Ballet: Impact and costs.
- › Headquarters of the National Dance and Ballet Company: Impact and costs.
- › 09/07/20: Theaters and Artistic training centers: Losses.
- › Symphony Orchestra and National Dance Company: Estimate of foregone income.
- › Theaters: Estimate of foregone income.
- › Theaters: Number of people welcomed between June/2019-March/2020.
- › 09/06/20: Theaters 2020: Events canceled due to the pandemic.

6 See Folder 6: Artistic Training Centers

- › Student dropouts in artistic training centers.
- › Artistic training centers: Budget not received by MICULTURA.
- › National School of Dance: Impact and costs.

- › CENAR: Impacts and costs.
- › Choir System: Impact.

7 See Folder 7: Intangible Cultural Heritage and Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples

- › ICH: List of the National Inventory-Carriers.
- › ICH: List of indigenous and Afro-descendant municipalities.
- › 2013: Bonus for Nahua-speakers.
- › Mar-Oct.: Distribution of food bags to ICH and IT.
- › ICH: Inventory and impact on vulnerable ICH.
- › OCH-Multiculturalism PI, analysis and involvement.
- › UNESCO 2017 Project: Budget.
- › La Quesera: Impact.
- › UNESCO 2017 Project: Budget.
- › ICH-Multiculturalism PI: Analysis and impact.

- › ICH: Mayor's Office of Nejapa, impact.
- › San Salvador patron saint festivities: Losses estimate.

8 See Folder 8: Creative Industries

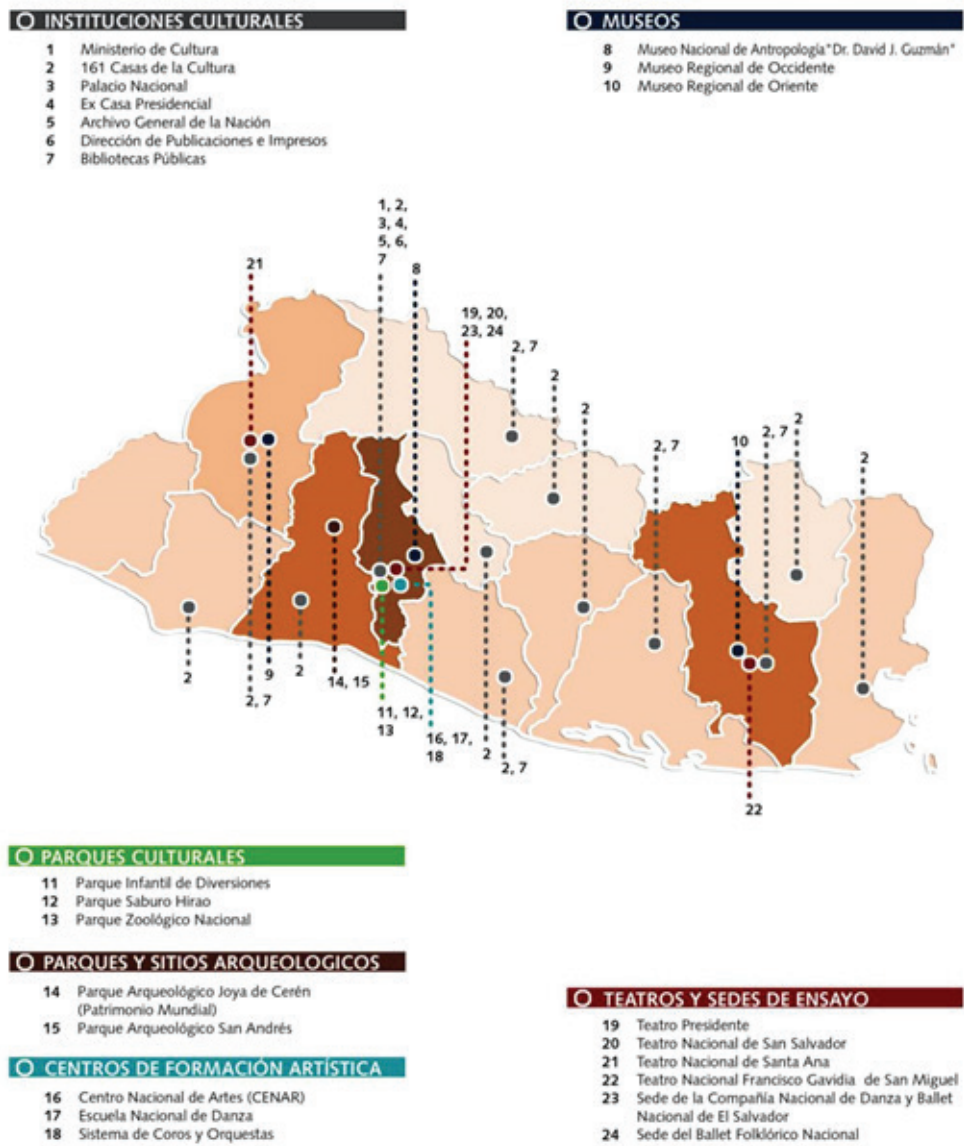
- › List of DGA artists: 09-18-19.
- › List of artist support packages.
- › Support, costs, artists.
- › Cultural Companies Survey 1.
- › Cultural Companies Survey 2.
- › List of 2020 webinars .
- › ANTEL Fund for artists.
- › Mar-Nov: PRIVATE losses in the artistic sector.
- › Directorate of Printing and Publications: Project to strengthen the editorial storage conditions of the DPI.
- › Analysis of the results of the Cultural Companies and MSEs Survey.



Annexes

FIGURE A1

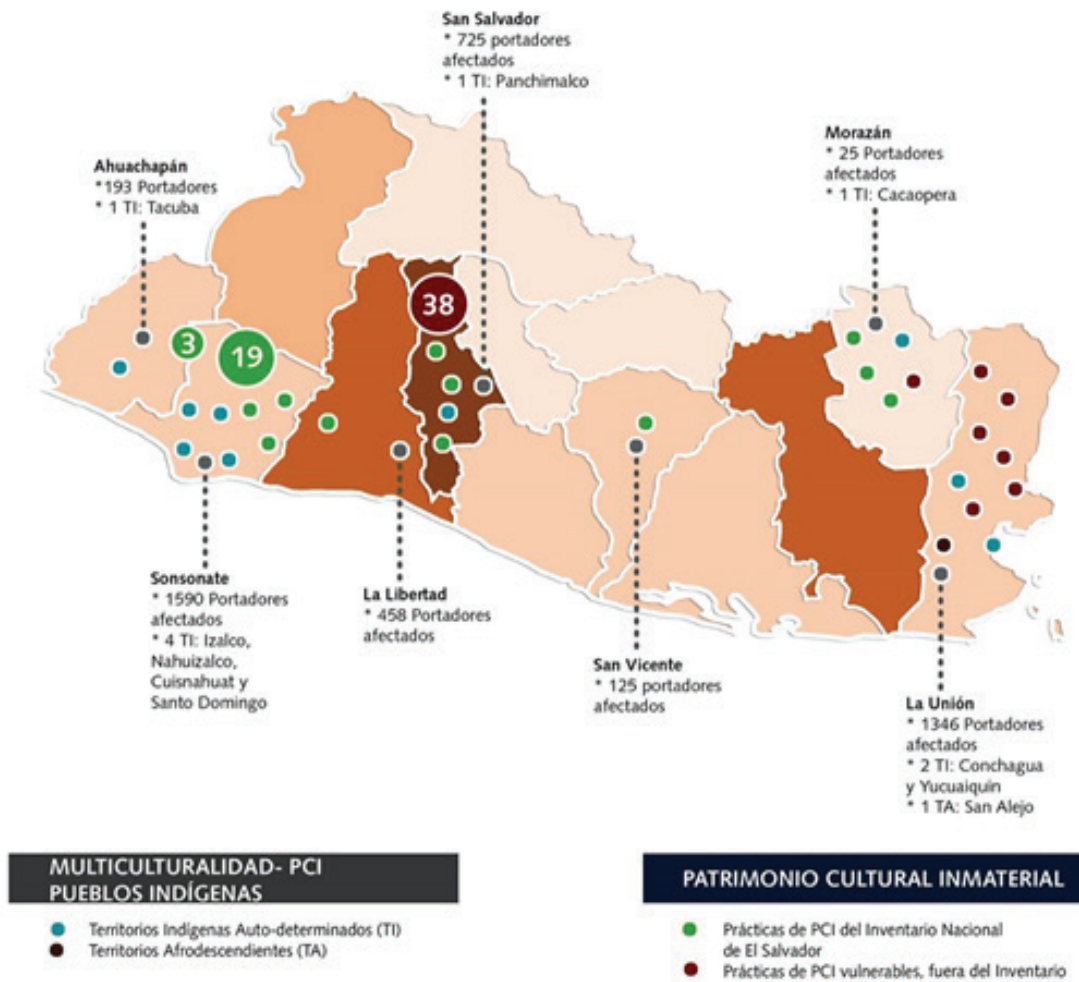
Afectaciones a la infraestructura cultural de El Salvador



Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

FIGURE A2

Afectaciones en el patrimonio cultural inmaterial de El Salvador



Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.



Image 1: Roof made of plastic bags on an adobe brick structure, in Cusamaluco, Nahuizalco, Sonsonate.



Image 2: Board of the Nahua Pipil Council of Cusamaluco, Nahizalco, Sonsonate, shows how far the water entered to their adobe home during storms Amanda and Cristóbal.



Image 3: Interior of a house in Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Sonsonate.

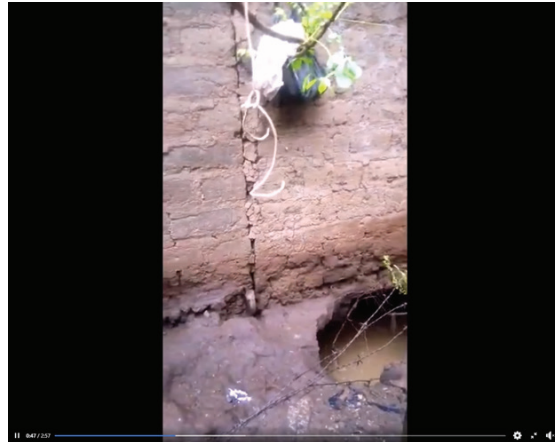


Image 4: Hole made by the rains of Storm Amanda in Ms. Anastasia's house, a Nahua-speaker from Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Sonsonate.

Image 5: Mudslide falls on houses in Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Sonsonate.

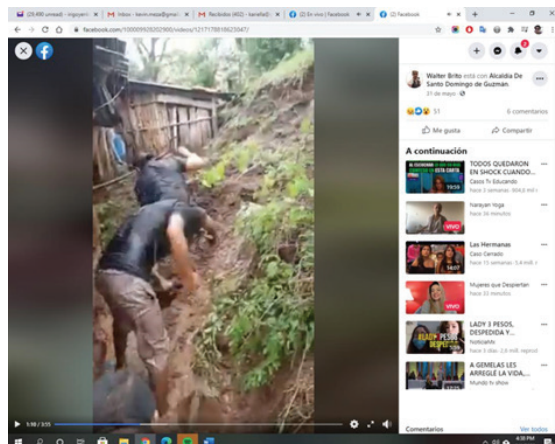




Image 6: House on the edge of the precipice, in Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Sonsonate.



Image 7: Damages in Cuisnahuat, Sonsonate.



Image 8: Destroyed access to the community, road from Yayantique to Yucuaiquín.



Image 9: Conditions of houses made of metal sheets, Nahuizalco, Sonsonate.



TABLE A1

Cultural infrastructure in need of repair after tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

Rehabilitation of the cultural infrastructure of El Salvador	Repair Costs (in US\$)
Ministry Of Culture (Infrastructure)	3,700.00
161 Culture Centers	400,000.00
National Palace	229,750.00
Former Presidential Palace	80.00
General Archive of The Nation	50,000.00
Public Libraries	390.00
National Museum of Anthropology "Dr. David J.guzmán "	1,550.00
Museo Regional de Occidente	476.00
Museo Regional de Oriente	17,000.00
Parque Infantil de Diversiones	40,500.00
Saburo Hirao Park	1,105.00
National Zoological Park	159,500.00
Joya De Cerén Archaeological Park (HH)	18,448.50
San Andrés Archaeological Park	781,000.00
Presidente Theater	139,567.57
San Salvador National Theater	31,295.00
Santa Ana National Theater	1,000.00
Francisco Gavidia National Theater in San Miguel	500.00
Headquarters of The National Dance Company and National Ballet of El Salvador	10,000.00
Headquarters o The National Folkloric Ballet	50,000.00
National Art Center	3,750.00
National School of Dance	8,000.00
Youth Choir and Orchestra System	8,740.00
Directorate of Printing and Publications (Infrastructure)	1,120.00
Directorate of Printing and Publications (Loss of Editorial Products Due To Non-Sales And Tropical Storms Amanda And Cristóbal)	4,000.00
Subtotal	1,961,472.07

Source: Elaboración propia con datos proporcionados por el Ministerio de Cultura.



Sectorial Report: Productive Sectors



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Tourism *Pages 218-231*



Industry, Commerce and
Services *Pages 232-241*





Sectorial Report: Agriculture

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Summary

The agriculture, livestock, fishing and forestry sector in El Salvador is in a vulnerable position to natural and economic disasters, and plagued by structural deficiencies such as low productivity, weak links with industry, limited access to financing and high food dependency on imports. This put the subsistence of producers and access to food for the general population at risk, being exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, due to limitations in the national and international transport of products, as well as by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, which caused damage to productive structures, plantations, and land stability.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG, due to its acronym in Spanish) has taken proactive actions to counteract these effects, including the acquisition of food baskets to deliver to the population, the management of actions and special provisions for the supply of basic grains and the monitoring of the prices of basic products to prevent uncontrolled inflation; in addition to maintaining essential services to support the sector during the emergency. Additionally, epidemiological control and surveillance activities have been pursued for the Central American locust, which can cause great damage if the uncontrolled reproduction of this pest is not prevented.

In this context, the MAG, through the Division of Agricultural Statistics (DGEA, due to its acronym in Spanish), studied and evaluated the status of the productive sectors in light of the conditions caused by the last

rains, which occurred mainly in the coastal and volcanic strip of the country between the May 29th and June 6th, 2020. The affected areas were delimited from the map of the Environmental Observatory of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN, due to its acronym in Spanish). Likewise, the operational units of the MAG, such as the National Center for Agricultural and Forestry Technology (CENTA, due to its acronym in Spanish), the General Directorate of Forest Watersheds and Irrigation Management (DGFCR, due to its acronym in Spanish), the General Directorate of Livestock (DGG, due to its acronym in Spanish), the General Directorate of Plant Health (DGSV, due to its acronym in Spanish) and the General Directorate for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CENDEPESCA, due to its acronym in Spanish), provided information compiled by each of their technical experts in the territories. The estimate of damages and losses as a consequence of these climatic events was calculated through the PDNA methodology (Post-Disaster Damage Assessment), with technical support from the United Nations and in coordination with the Secretariat of Trade and Investments (SCI, due to its acronym in Spanish) of the Presidency of the Republic of El Salvador.

According to the study, the results of damages amount to US\$8.4 million, and losses to US\$69.7 million, totaling US\$78.1 million in the sector. Of that total, 67.7% corresponds to losses and damages due to storms Amanda and Cristóbal, and the remaining 32.3% to the pandemic, covering agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, and fishing. The products most affected by the storms were vegeta-



bles, with losses of over US\$17 million; and coffee, with US\$15 million in losses and damages of US\$6.3 million in crops. There was also a US\$1 million loss in infrastructure; basic grains had losses of US\$6.5 million; and fruits, with over US\$3 million. Despite the fact that our country is affected by the measures to contain the pandemic, the greatest losses in the agricultural sector were caused by the storms; although some of the effects of a pandemic can only be observed in the medium term or at the end of the agricultural season, during the harvest season, therefore, it is not possible to take them into consideration in this study.

It is important to bear in mind that the study of damages and losses was carried out through surveys of the agricultural sector only in areas with excess rainfall. It is also necessary to consider that they do not include livestock production data, specifically the production of eggs, meat and dairy.

The total recovery cost due to storms and the effects of the pandemic up to this moment is estimated at US\$14,592,456, of which 75.6% refers to interventions in the agriculture sub-sector; 12.4% to risk reduction and vulnerability; 9.5% for fishing and aquaculture; 2.2% for livestock; 0.2% for governance; and 0.1% for the environment. Of the US\$14,592,456 equivalent to the total recovery cost, 42.8% is needed in the short term and 57.2% in the medium term. In the short term, the recovery focus is aimed at the reactivation of agriculture and livestock through the provision of inputs and equipment, infrastructure repairs and distribution of productive assets such as livestock. These activities are also accompa-

nied by cash-for-work interventions, which will make it possible to provide economic resources to the inhabitants of the most affected regions. In the medium term, perennial crops, agro-industrial crops and irrigation structures will be rehabilitated.

Thanks to this, the main challenges for agricultural development are known, which requires creating the necessary conditions to promote competitiveness and productivity in value chains; the need to channel financial resources to the agricultural sector, mainly towards profitable productive activities, adapting availability and financing conditions for producers; increase investment in productive infrastructure and support to the sector; strengthen technology generation and transfer services to production units; use of information and communication technologies; facilitate the improvement of the business climate to attract investment in agriculture and territories; in addition to adapting production processes to new conditions of climatic variability with sustainable and environmentally-friendly agricultural practices. These aspects could increase the competitiveness in the sector and reinforce the internal cohesion of the agricultural value chains, in coordination with the Government and for the benefit of food security.

Context

Context and sectorial analysis before the tropical storms

Relative to the total of the sector in 2017, fish production and aquaculture, and the production of wood, cereals, and legumes,

showed an increase. On the contrary, the participation of the cultivation of coffee, sugar cane, production of beef and milk, and production of poultry and eggs fell in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the sector. Agricultural production is mainly carried out in small-scale productive units oriented towards self-sufficiency, except for income crops, such as coffee, sugar cane, sesame, and some fruits, which are widely marketed (BCR, 2020).

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the new government of President Nayib Bukele maintained positive expectations regarding the investment climate in the country and in the agricultural sector, thus generating a dialogue with all productive sectors to agree on actions that would invigorate the sector. In addition, the aim was to promote competitiveness and profitability of the productive chains, improvement of food security and a greater link between agricultural production and agribusiness. With the emergency and effects of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, it became necessary to focus resources and efforts on attending to the sector, to mitigate its economic and social effects on the vulnerable population.

The agricultural sector already showed structural problems as a result of the absence of coherent policies that would tackle the main causes, such as low productivity and investment, low use of technology and research, high levels of insecurity in the field, weak links with the industry and value addition, bias in the sector's policies towards activities with low added value and a subsistence economy, impact of remittanc-

es on productive activities, limited access to financing, high food dependency, high levels of commercial intermediation, as well as changes in the international trade structure. These challenges are coupled with the effects of climate change, where there have been floods due to tropical storms or lack of rain due to drought.

On the other hand, the flying locust is an endemic pest in El Salvador that in its gregarious and migratory status has caused great losses in national agricultural production in the past, including an episode of public calamity in 1956. Given the current and forecast conditions for the climate in the world, which make up the so-called climate change (high temperatures and abnormal rainfall patterns), various experts agree on the need to maintain epidemiological surveillance of the flying locust, given that its biology is closely linked to climate and there is a high risk of large outbreaks.

In this context, the 2019-2024 National Agricultural Policy was prepared through a broad consultation process among the main actors of the agricultural sector, which aims to "contribute to the development of a profitable, innovative, competitive, inclusive and sustainable agricultural sector, by means of an agile, modern and articulated public institution with the productive and agro-industrial sector". Within this framework, the MAG 2019-2024 Institutional Strategic Plan was also developed, which guides the execution of actions in favor of the sector.

Faced with the national state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and due



to the limitation of free movement to avoid massive contagion, it was necessary for the Government to adopt measures to guarantee the food supply of people in vulnerable situations, such as facilitating passage through customs for imported products; prioritize the operation of cargo transportation (shipping, air and land); enable the production and marketing of essential goods and services for the population; suspension of payment for basic services such as water and power; and delivery of a US\$300.00 bonus to compensate for the lack of income during the crisis to the families that were directly affected, through the Ministry of the Economy. In this similar sense, the emergency caused by COVID-19 has forced all work fronts and resources of the MAG and the Government to focus on attending to the food security of the population and counteracting the effects of the pandemic, carrying out different actions aimed at supporting the agricultural sector and families in a vulnerable condition, among which are mentioned:

- 1 Strengthen and continue the delivery of agricultural packages to support the production of basic grains to 400 thousand producers registered in the Official Register, each receiving 22 pounds of certified H-59 corn seed and 100 pounds of 16-20-0 fertilizer, always taking social distancing measures into account.
- 2 The MAG, as part of the Executive Branch of the Government of El Salvador and as a member of the National System for Civil Protection, Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters, coordinates the purchase of food baskets and sup-

TABLE 1

Volume of agricultural and livestock production of sub-sectors, 2018-2019

Product	Volume	Unit
Basic grains	908,668.76	Tons
Fruits	407,005.35	Tons
Vegetables	255,249.47	Tons
Sugarcane	6,694,678.60	Tons
Milk	403,915.00	Thousand liters
Beef	18,350.70	Thousand kilograms
Eggs	1,261,000.00	Thousands of eggs
Chicken meat	1,443,054.00	Thousands of kilograms
Coffee beans	43,318.80	Tons

Source: 2018-2019 Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics (DGEA/MAG).

ports the logistics for their distribution to the population.

- 3 Coordination with the Consumer Ombudsman's Office for the determination of maximum commercialization prices of the basic basket through Decree 37, applied to products such as beans, rice, corn, powdered milk, eggs; fruits (banana, banana and orange); vegetables (onion, green chili, tomato, potato, cabbage, chayote and garlic); and fats (margarine, oil and butter).
- 4 Monitor the basic grains prices in local markets and warn of increases that exceed the maximums established by the Consumer Ombudsman's Office.
- 5 Manage special provisions for the supply of basic grains, to meet food needs during the emergency period.

- 6 Establishment of temporary restriction for red bean exports.
- 7 Facilitate shortage quotas for the industry, within the framework of white corn, yellow corn and rough rice marketing agreements.
- 8 State purchases of basic grains, for the definition of a strategic reserve that guarantees the national supply and the stabilization of prices in the national market.
- 9 Monitoring and early pest control actions to prevent the advance of the Central American locust and the destruction of crops.

Effects identified due to COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

The Pandemic

The agricultural sector received the mandate to support food security for the population by ensuring availability and access to basic agricultural products; facilitate and enable the marketing of essential agricultural products during the emergency; avoid speculative increases in prices of agricultural products; maintain MAG essential services and technical support to producers during the emergency; and supporting vulnerable families in the country through the delivery of food, due to the effects of the storms and the fall in income due to the pandemic. The pandemic and the measures taken by the Government to control it had

the following direct effects on the activities and production of the sector, according to MARN and MAG:

Crops: Almost only commercial productive units use inputs and temporary labor, so there was a lack of it during the period of mobility restrictions. A slight reduction in crop yield is expected, mainly due to the lack of paid foreign labor, compared to self-consumption productive units that use almost no inputs, but only family labor. The MAG cannot quantify this effect, but only in the harvest period. Some agricultural export products, such as fruits, could not leave the country due to lack of transport or reduced demand in the short term, but were made available to the domestic market. Some products lost access to the local market, especially products bought by the hospitality industry. The losses in sales recorded by the BCR, between March and May, are quantified at US\$21,145,800

Livestock: In general, it was little affected by mobility restrictions. Some commercial production units suffered from the lack of inputs (animal feed, medicines, etc.) and access to veterinary services, resulting in a reduction in the performance of livestock/finishing poultry and productivity in livestock products (milk, eggs, etc.) , but it affected only a small number of the productive units. Losses product of the pandemic are estimated at US\$1,000,000. There were no disease outbreaks in livestock and poultry, which did not require veterinary assistance.

Fishing: Reduced fishing trip activity in marine and commercial fishing during the re-



striction period resulted in a lack of production and corresponding income, evaluating losses at US\$1,527,200.

Aquaculture: Lack of inputs (animal feed, among others), resulting in a slight reduction in productivity in aquaculture.

Forestry: According to the BCR calculations, the losses recorded in this sub-sector are US\$16,250.

Environment: Due to the closure of natural parks, in response to the pandemic, the lack of income is estimated at US\$103,796.

Employment: Low mobility prevented the temporary paid workforce from continuing their activities throughout the agricultural cycle. Losses in revenue were estimated at US\$1,430,886.

Changes/losses in governance and decision-making processes: Additional workload and new way of working for ministry staff and other institutions to respond to new needs caused by the pandemic, with less access to the households of the sector and a new work environment (telecommuting, social distancing, etc.). Even with the need for face-to-face work, there was an increased risk of being infected during work activities (as of August 2020, 20.0% of MAG employees were directly affected by COVID-19). In addition, it has worked with less capacity since the majority of MAG and CENTA employees are over 60 years of age or have chronic diseases.

Higher risks and vulnerabilities: Higher level of possibility of outbreaks or epidem-

ics in livestock, or pests and diseases in crops, due to less access to drugs, vaccines or pesticides, and assistance from providers of veterinary services or agricultural extension.

Due to the low maintenance levels of certain rural infrastructures (irrigation systems, roads, bridges, barriers, etc.), due to lack of available temporary labor or inability to do the required work, it is considered that these infrastructures were already more vulnerable and were further affected during tropical storms.

Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

For the analysis of the effects caused by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, the following mainly affected departments were taken into account: Sonsonate, La Libertad, Usulután, Santa Ana, San Vicente, Morazán and San Miguel, which according to the final report of the Tropical storms reviewed by the Ministry of the Environment (Annex 1) suffered the following losses:

Crops. In total, it is estimated that around 18,900 families of self-sufficient agricultural production units, 120 families with agro-industrial products and 8 sugarcane producers were affected. Damage to irrigation infrastructures (canals and shelters), irrigation equipment, and facilities such as mesh houses and other equipment amount to US\$17,460.

10,678 ha of basic grains were also totally or partially affected. The estimated loss in

basic grains amounts to US\$6,538,784 and represents the following percentages of national production: corn, 0.75%; beans, 0.27%; rice, 5.0%; and sorghum, 0.3%. The losses of the 1,591 ha of affected vegetables are estimated at US\$17,122,620, which are: tomato, 19.1%; squash, 16.4%; sweet chili, 13.1%; watermelon, 9.9%; and the rest is distributed among fourteen vegetables more.

Regarding fruit trees, where 635 ha were affected, the losses amount to US\$3,169,705, with the following distribution: banana, 77.3%; avocado, 14.8%; papaya, 3.7%; and the rest is divided among nine other types of fruit trees, including cocoa. Damages are estimated at US\$462,791 for the banana production areas (140 ha) and papaya (0.9 ha) destroyed.

Coffee losses are estimated at US\$15,000,000, between devastated coffee (2,100 ha) and affected one (6,000 ha); in addition to US\$6,311,991 in damage due to devastated coffee, and US\$1,000,000 in infrastructure. To prevent further losses in coffee cultivation, pesticides should be applied to protect plantations from rust, as it is caused by high humidity after storms. For sugarcane, the main export product after coffee, a total loss of US\$42,062.00 is estimated, for 85.5 ha affected; and a damage of US\$1,427 for the 1.5 ha that were completely destroyed. Other agro-industrial products are peanuts and sesame, with losses of US\$19,135 in 17.2 ha affected; and the 45.5 ha of corn seed production, with losses of US\$200,000.

Livestock. The death of cattle (138) and birds (3,450) is estimated at a damage value of

US\$99,950, in addition to the losses in the eggs not obtained, valued at US\$38,640. Damage to infrastructure (stables and hen houses) amounts to US\$5,400. The value of the forage lost by the affected grasslands is US\$140,181.

Fishing and Aquaculture. Based on the report “Impact on aquaculture by the Tropical storm”, by the Center for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CENDEPESCA/MAG, due to its acronym in Spanish), about 10,935 traditional fishermen were affected, as well as 1,800 continental fishermen and 1,317 crews of the 36 shrimp boats. Damage to aquaculture infrastructure (ponds and cages partially or totally destroyed) is estimated at US\$505,600. In fishing, two vessels were swept away and ten suffered moderate damage worth US\$15,000. Losses in fish production are estimated at US\$1,653,070 for the days during the storms that it was not possible to go out fishing. Losses in aquaculture production were estimated at US\$45,000 for damaged ponds and destroyed cages. The additional cost to remove accumulated sediment in water channels and aquaculture ponds is estimated at US\$527,250.

Forestry. At the time of this evaluation, there were no data related to this sub-sector.

Environment. Damage to infrastructure (booths, fences, information center) and equipment (computers) affected is estimated at about US\$15,200.

All sub-sectors together

Governance. For this item, there were no ad-



ditional costs to include, because the costs for evaluating the effects of storms were already budgeted as part of the regular activities of the MAG and the MARN.

Greater risks and vulnerabilities. An increased risk of rust is expected in coffee crops.

In summary, according to the information compiled by the General Directorate of Agricultural Economy (DGEA) and the other institutions (CENDEPESCA, CSC), as well as the statistics of the Central Reserve Bank (BCR), the costs are estimated at US\$78.16 million, of which 89.2% is equivalent to losses and 10.8% to damages. Out of the total, 90.9% corresponds to total effects on agriculture;

5.5% to fishing and aquaculture; 1.8% to employment; 1.6% to livestock; and 0.2% to the environment. Overall, 67.7% occurred due to the effects of tropical storms and 32.3% to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The total value of the aforementioned effects (pandemic + storms) represents around 5.82% of the 2019 Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (AGDP).

Gender. The productive unit in this sector includes all active members of the household, there are no specific affected aspects related to one gender or the other. In surveys, the productive unit is always taken as a whole, without a break down by gender, even though there is a work division in the tasks.

TABLE 2

Summary table of Damages and Losses in the sector (Million US\$)

Damages/losses	COVID-19 (March-May 2020)		Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal (May-July 2020)			
	Loss		Damage		Loss	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Agriculture	-	21,145,802	-	7,793,669	-	42,092,306
Livestock	-	1,000,000	-	105,350	-	178,821
Fishing/Aquaculture	-	1,527,198	145,000	375,600	-	2,225,320
Forestry	-	16,250	-	-	-	-
Environment	103,796	-	15,200	-	-	-
Governance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employment (temporary paid labor)	-	1,430,886	-	-	-	-
Risk/vulnerability reduction	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	103,796	25,120,136	160,200	8,274,619	-	44,496,447

Source: Own elaboration with data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Contributions of the sector to Human and Macroeconomic Impact

The production contribution in the agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing industry to national production was 4.9% in 2018, and had a reduction compared to the 5.4% reached in 2017 (BCR, 2020). However, the true contribution of agriculture to the economy must include its multiplier effects, recognizing the interdependence with the food sector and agribusiness. According to a study by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA, due to its acronym in Spanish), this contribution is higher than that reported, in a range of 3 to 11 times more (IICA, 2004). The trade balance of the agricultural sector remains in deficit, showing a progressive increase in imports from 2018 to the current year. Exports remain relatively constant, reflecting a slight growth of 5.32% in the first semester of 2020 compared to the same period of 2019 (Annexes, Chart 1). According to the Agricultural Survey on Sowing Expectations of Basic Grains 2019-2020, prepared by the DGEA/MAG, weather expectations were favorable at the beginning of the agricultural season, and small producers had expanded the crop areas and production levels. A recovery in basic grain production was expected if the rainy conditions remained stable, which did not happen. Preliminary data from the 2020-2021 survey indicate that the production of basic grains would show a slight increase in white corn, red beans and sorghum, while rice would continue on a downward trend. With this, there is a production expectation of 861,825 tons of corn; 113,398

tons of red beans; 104,326 tons of sorghum; and 27,215 tons of rough rice. In the case of fishing, aquaculture and livestock, it is not possible to access production statistics until its effects are seen in the medium term, but production is expected to decrease under the effects of tropical storms and the pandemic.

The percentage of vulnerable households could increase in the medium term due to the reduction in income, especially for family members who are mainly engaged in temporary labor in agriculture, livestock or fishing. This sector employed 15.26% of the economically active population (EAP) in 2019, which is made up of 3,104,867 people. However, migration from the countryside to the city and the aging of the rural population, mostly dedicated to agricultural work, could harm the living conditions of these people. 41.0% of producers are over 40 years old, and 18.0% of them are over 60 years old, according to the 2019 Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). At a multidimensional level, taking into account aspects such as education, housing conditions, work, food security and habitat quality, the incidence of poverty was 46.0% of households in rural areas in 2019, with 16.0% of the households nationwide suffering from food insecurity (DIGESTYC, 2020a). In addition, it is estimated that over 70.0% of food in Central America comes from family farming (FAO, 2012), so the loss of jobs due to the pandemic and the lack of production due to the effects of the storms would be causing an increase in agricultural food insecurity, added to increases in the prices of basic foods.

As of June 2020, the monthly cost per family of the basic food basket in the urban area



was US\$211.44, 0.77% higher than the cost in May and almost 6.0% higher than the cost in January of the same year (DIGESTYC, 2020b). In rural areas, this cost was US\$151.81, an increase of 4.0% compared to January of this year (Annexes, Charts 2 and 3). This increase was also reflected in the consumer and wholesale prices of basic grains per quintal published by the General Directorate of Agricultural Economics (DGEA/MAG). Starting on March 18th at the maximum price reached on June 18th, the wholesale price per quintal of national 1st class rice increased by 20.0%, while the imported price increased by 16.0%. This change is more drastic in the national red and black beans, with increases of 65.0% and 66.0%, respectively. Price behavior in the national market for fruits and vegetables has increased from March to June, with an increase of up to 8.0% on average. Price fluctuation is due to the fall in demand, which also causes a fall in production and an increase in price in subsequent periods. In the poultry sector, the price of eggs increased, reaching a maximum of US\$4.30 per carton (30 units) before stabilizing. Chicken meat has had a minimal variation in its price, unlike the prices of beef, without variation in the evaluated period. Dairy consumption has plummeted, with a drop of up to 50.0% in milk bottle prices.

Remittances are an important financial contribution for families in rural areas. The influx of family remittances experienced a strong increase in July, equivalent to 14.1% growth compared to the same month of 2019. This is notable compared to its pronounced fall in April, almost 35.0% lower than the amount

received in March of this year (Annexes, Chart 4). Family remittances received by El Salvador totaled US\$3,076,300 in the first seven months of 2020, a 4.7% drop compared to the same period in 2019 (Annexes, Chart 4). On the other hand, drastic changes in the climate have affected large-scale agriculture in the past, with falls in the growth of the sector that respond to prolonged periods of drought or floods (Annexes, Chart 5). Although coffee production has decreased, from an environmental perspective, the surface of coffee forests provides an alternative to deforestation, constitutes an obstacle against greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming and promotes biodiversity, by establishing agroforestry systems with other cultivated species (PRISMA, 1999).

Recovery Needs and Strategy

In general, given that a large part of the population depends on agricultural, livestock or fishing/aquaculture livelihoods for food or income, or both, this sector should be prioritized during recovery to reduce the assistance period to the basic food basket from the Government and to increase/reactivate production in the affected households.

The total recovery cost is estimated at US\$14,592,456, where 75.6% refers to interventions in the agriculture subsector; 12.4% to risk and vulnerability reduction; 9.5% to fishing and aquaculture; 2.2% to livestock; 0.2% to governance; and 0.1% to the environment.

TABLE 3

Summary table of storm recovery needs and costs (in US\$)

Recovery needs from storms	Damages	Losses	Needs
Agriculture			
Basic grains	-	6,538,784	528,681
Vegetables	-	17,122,620	537,855
Fruit trees	462,791	3,169,705	587,784
Agro-industrial and corn seed production	-	219,135	21,524
Sugarcane	1,427	42,062	1,812
Coffee	6,311,991	15,000,000	8,016,229
Infrastructure/Coffee equipment	1,000,000	-	1,320,000
Irrigation infrastructure/equipment	7,560	-	9,979
Infrastructures/other equipment	9,900	-	13,068
Livestock			
Animals	99,950	38,640	129,935
Pasture	-	140,181	182,235
Livestock infrastructure	5,400	-	7,128
Fishing/Aquaculture			
Damaged/razed boats	15,000	1,653,070	19,800
Damaged ponds	312,600	15,000	412,632
Damaged/razed cages	179,000	30,000	236,280
Damage to offices/aquaculture infrastructure	14,000	-	18,480
Sediments in channels and ponds	-	527,250	695,970
Forestry	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Employment			
Paid temporary labor	-	1,430,886	-
Environment			
Equipment and infrastructure damage	15,200	103,796	20,064
Governance			
Institutionalize the PDNA in the MAG/MARN	-	-	10,000
Surveys methodology due to the impact on the agricultural sector due to natural disasters	-	-	15,000
Risk/vulnerability reduction			
Early warning system for climate change	-	-	50,000
Prevention of coffee rust	-	-	1,758,000
Total	8,434,819	46,031,129	14,592,456

Source: Own elaboration with data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture.



Recovery and prioritization needs

The classification of segmented interventions implementation was made under three main criteria: 1) Taking into account the agricultural calendar; 2) Prioritizing activities that assist a large number of affected families; and 3) Speed with which rehabilitation/repair work can be done to achieve results.

In the short term, the focus is on the reactivation of agriculture, fishing, and livestock through the supply of inputs, with the repair of slightly damaged fishing boats, and the distribution of livestock. In addition, greenhouses will be set up for the devastated coffee/fruit trees. Basic equipment such as chainsaws will be provided to speed up the clearing of the grounds from debris and fallen trees. These activities are also accompanied by interventions in the cash-for-work

modality, especially regarding the removal of sediments. In addition, it will be necessary to replace and repair partially damaged infrastructure and equipment. Risk reduction and governance interventions are also carried out at this stage.

In the medium term, perennial crops, agro-industrial crops, and irrigation structures will be rehabilitated. The totally destroyed infrastructure will also be replaced during this period, and the distribution of forage to animals, the removal of sediments and the replanting of the destroyed coffee/fruit trees will continue.

Of the US\$14,592,456 of total recovery costs, 42.8% is needed in the short term, and 57.2% in the medium term (Table 4). Interventions were prioritized based on the aforementioned criteria.

TABLE 4

Summary table of initiatives and recovery costs in the short, medium and long term (Million US\$)

Interventions	Short term	Medium term	Priority (1-5)	Description	Total cost
Agriculture					
Replanting of basic grains/vegetables	537,855	528,489	1	Distribution of seed and input packages (plus greenhouses for perennial crops and coffee, and replanting)	1,066,344
Replanting of perennial/coffee crops	1,603,200	7,000,812	2		8,604,012
Replanting of agro-industrial crops	-	23,300	3		23,300
Rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure	6,000	4,000	4	Repair and rehabilitation	10,000
Rehabilitation of infrastructure/equipment (including coffee)	1,333,100	-	5		1,333,100

**Summary table of initiatives and recovery costs in the short, medium and long term
(Million US\$)**

Interventions	Short term	Medium term	Priority (1-5)	Description	Total cost
Livestock					
Animal replacement	129,900	-	1	Animal replacement	129,935
Forage delivery	91,100	91,100	2	Forage distribution	182,235
Rehabilitation of livestock infrastructure	7,100	-	3	Repair and rehabilitation	7,128
Fishing/Aquaculture					
Rehabilitation/replacement of damaged/razed vessels	14,900	5,000	1	Repair and rehabilitation	19,800
Rehabilitation of damaged ponds	309,500	103,200	2		412,600
Rehabilitation/replacement of damaged/razed cages	177,200	59,100	3		236,300
Rehabilitation of Aquaculture infrastructure	4,600	13,900	4		18,500
Sediments in channels and ponds	174,000	522,000	5	Sediment removal	696,000
Environment					
Rehabilitation of infrastructure	20,100		1	Repair and rehabilitation	20,100
Governance					
Institutionalize the PDNA in the MAG	10,000	-	1	Institutional work/training	10,000
Surveys methodology due to the impact on the agricultural sector due to natural disasters	15,000	-	2		15,000
Risk/vulnerability reduction					
Early warning system for climate change	50,000	-	1	Equipment/training	50,000
Prevention of rust in coffee crops affected by tropical storms	1,758,000	-	2	Distribution of inputs	1,758,000
Total	6,241,555	8,350,901			14,592,456

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.



Recovery Strategy

The objective of the recovery strategy is “to reactivate, in the shortest possible time, the productive units of all the sub-sectors of the affected agriculture sector, to increase self-sufficiency, generate surpluses for commercialization and contribute to the supply of national and international markets with local products, rebuilding better, ultimately obtaining a more sustainable and resilient sector in the face of future events and facing climate change challenges”.

At the same time, during the reconstruction, the following aspects will be taken into account, to the greatest extent possible: Technological modernization; use of improved varieties; support for the transition to a “green” economy; adaptation to certifications on emissions and production without pesticides/hormones, etc., as well as finding out alternatives to the effects of the pandemic (reduced mobility, lack of transport, etc.) with a special focus on a better functioning of the value chains, marketing and logistics of the sector in the face of the ‘new normal’.



In order to take the recovery process as an opportunity to increase the country’s food self-sufficiency and improve the sector’s production efficiency in a sustainable way, its interventions should be aligned to the sector’s reactivation and transformation policy, based on the following activities defined before the reported events:

- ▾ Support the reactivation of the productive activities of each sub-sector, while

ensuring the availability of food and the national self-sufficiency of basic agricultural products.

- ▾ Strengthen the operational capacities of the MAG, technical support staff and productive irrigation infrastructure, and equipment to expand technical-productive assistance countrywide.
- ▾ Development and promotion of the use of new mobile technological applications related to early warning information systems; productive and business technical assistance; and mobile agricultural market intelligence.
- ▾ Capacity development in new business models based on distance marketing, through new information and communication technologies that encourage internal trade and promote business opportunities between the agricultural sector and other sectors part of the national economy.
- ▾ Promote sustainable disaster risk reduction with a reduction in deforestation and erosion, and the establishment of a monitoring and early warning system in the MAG.
- ▾ Strengthen capacities in new financial technologies, which would allow them to access official financing (rural credit).
- ▾ Support for strengthening and promoting internal cohesion of the identified agricultural value chains, and for the adaptation and transfer of technologies that generate added value to agricultural production (agricultural technology park).
- ▾ Promote and support projects, programs, and actions to foster innovation and technological development, the reconversion

and productive diversification of agricultural producers, and the dissemination of sustainable and environmentally friendly production technologies.

-  Support the modernization and capacity building of the Roberto Quiñónez National School of Agriculture (ENA, due to its acronym in Spanish) and CENTA, to meet the needs and training of specialized resources for the development of the agricultural sector.
-  Infrastructure modernization to support the agricultural sector.

It is noteworthy that it is of utmost importance to integrate the recovery strategy of damages and losses due to the pandemic and storms within a broader productive transformation and sustainable reactivation strategy of the agricultural sector to correct structural failures and revitalize the agricultural sector, contributing to the takeoff of the Salvadoran economy. In this sense, the MAG prepared, at the end of 2019, in a broad consultation process with the sector's actors, the National Agricultural Policy, the roadmap for the development of the sector, whose main objective is to "contribute to the development of a profitable, innovative, competitive, inclusive and sustainable agricultural sector, by means of an agile, modern public institution, articulated with the productive and agro-industrial sector"; and the 2019-2024 Institutional Strategic Plan, which constitutes the basis for the measurement and analysis of each of the achievements that contribute to achieving the specific objectives of the Policy.

The recovery strategy will also consider the effects of climate change, since the two

storms are symptoms thereof, due to their severity associated with the oceanic temperature above the normal average. The National Office for Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) predict that 2020 will be a record year for high temperatures. The two storms generated a very high level of humidity in the soils, and with the cyclonic season being so active, it will generate additional risk and vulnerability, which could appear in the form of increased erosion or new landslides with the rains to come. Added to this is the high probability, according to the WMO, that La Niña phenomenon will occur in 2020, with climatic consequences that would further increase the risk.

Actors

The recovery process will be led and coordinated by the MAG and its corresponding institutions, but it counts, for the implementation of the activities, with the support of other actors (NGOs and international organizations such as FAO), including those from the private sector, to reinforce the nexus that allows long-term private investment in the sector, as well as the existing associations/cooperatives of farmers and fishermen.

Financing

The MAG has a general budget to support the normal activities of the 2019-2024 Institutional Strategic Plan, among which are technical assistance, support for the sowing of basic grains, modernization of production methods, among others. It is important to highlight that the MAG does not have an emergency fund available in this budget



to cover the effects of these events. The Government cannot allocate additional resources to a specific fund to cover the recovery costs generated from the pandemic emergency and storm damage, given that the economic situation of the country's budget is under strong fiscal pressure from all sectors and ministries, a situation that is complicated by the drop in tax collection. Therefore, the support of different cooperation and financing sources is required to meet the recovery needs, which add up to

just over US\$14.59 million in total (around US\$6.24 million to be used in the first year, and some US\$8.35 million within the next two to three years).

Interventions implementation modalities

According to the already mentioned recovery activities, the implementation modality varies between deliveries in kind, cash transfers, cash-for-work and services offered by the MAG and the MARN employees (Table 5).

TABLE 5

Implementation modalities of recovery interventions




Implementation	Activity Recovery
In kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of basic grain seed packages and inputs. • Distribution of coffee plants and perennial crops. • Delivery of pesticides and other supplies for the control of coffee rust. • Financing for the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructures, cages and other aquaculture infrastructures. • Acquisition and transport of chickens for aviaries. • Assistance in the transport of forage to farmers.
Monetary transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of vouchers for the acquisition of fruit plants, vegetables, sugarcane and other agro-industrial crops. • Reimbursement of expenses for the repair of minor infrastructure for coffee, live-stock, aviaries and aquaculture ponds. • Delivery of vouchers for the acquisition of livestock animals. • Reimbursement of forage acquisition expenses. • Delivery of financing for the rehabilitation of public infrastructures of the MARN. • Bonus for the purchase of damaged fishing vessels.
Money-for-work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sediment removal in channels and aquaculture ponds. • Cleaning of coffee plantation trails.
Public services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalization of the PDNA in the MAG. • Surveys methodology due to the impact on the agricultural sector due to natural disasters. • Establishment of an early warning system.

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

Monitoring and assessment

Monitoring and assessment are essential to ensure that the objectives of the different plans that are executed based on the strategy demanded by the double impact of COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal are met. In addition, it is vitally important that the required actions are effectively implemented within the established deadlines and that the interventions generate the expected results, in this case, the full recovery of the damages and losses suffered by the agricultural sector.

In this sense, monitoring and assessment objectives are the following:

-  Systematically, periodically, and objectively measure the results.
-  Generate reports with reliable information for decision-making that help to correct long-term problems in the sector.
-  Contribute to transparency.

Communication

Communication campaigns are carried out through institutional networks: website and social networks; on the other hand, traditional media require the collaboration of the Presidential Palace. The main objective is that the information is known to producers and the general public, this being the same for both entities. To achieve a better reach of the communication, technicians are used to bring newsletters to community leaders.

Currently, the General Directorate of Communications of the MAG has a high-scope system, where, based on the producer's in-

formation, the points of delivery of the inputs are established, specifying the requirements and security measures to make him a creditor of the corresponding benefit.

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Annexes

Annex 1. Note on the methodology used

- 1 The MAG conducted a survey that is presented in the Report of Damage to crops due to excess rainfall, Storm E-2, Amanda, El Salvador, from May 29th to June 6th, 2020.

Technical Survey Form

Objective

Evaluate the degree of impact on agricultural and livestock production in delimited areas with excess rainfall.

Sample design

- ▾ **Universe:** Composed of the producers that make up the area of influence corresponding to the western region of Ahuachapán, Sonsonate, Santa Ana; as well as in the central region the department of Chalatenango and San Salvador; and in the southern area of the departments of La Libertad, San Vicente, La Paz, Usulután, San Miguel, Morazán and La Unión.
- ▾ **Sample size:** Made up of 384 producers.
- ▾ **Sampling error:** 5.0 %.
- ▾ **Confidence Interval:** 95.0 %.
- ▾ **Heterogeneity:** P=50.0 %, Q=50.0 %

- ▾ **Sampling type:** Unknown population.

Field work

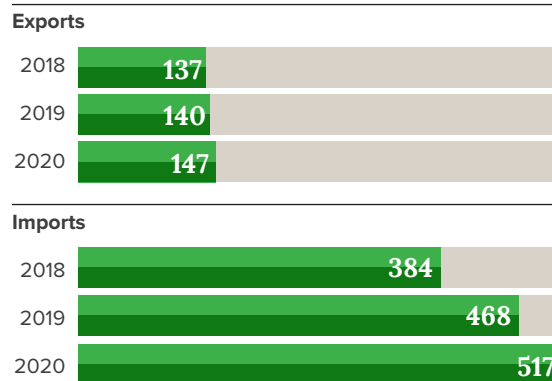
- ▾ **Data collection instrument:** A report card was drawn up to collect the information according to the objectives set in the investigation.
- ▾ **Field Research:** The collection of field information was carried out through home visits and interviews with producers, prioritizing the leaders of the territories, communities or producers' associations, for which the technical staff of the DGEA visited the areas with greater impact in the 60 municipalities delimited and, in turn, declared with a red alert. This work was supervised by the field coordinators who were designated for this task, guaranteeing the quality of the information collected
- ▾ **Quality control and data processing:** The data collected in the field was subjected to a review and criticism process and processed electronically in the capture system developed for it. Finally, the database was cleaned up and tables were drawn up for the final report.

2 In addition, MARN and CENDEPESCA, CSC and the MAG DGFCR contacted their agents, who made a survey of the damages and losses registered in their respective work areas. These data were included in their respective reports and considered in this process.

3 Losses due to the pandemic were calculated based on the variation in sales of 2019 and 2020 in the corresponding sub-sectors, between the months of March to May, published by the BCR. For the following months (June/July), the storm loss estimates also include pandemic data.

CHART 1

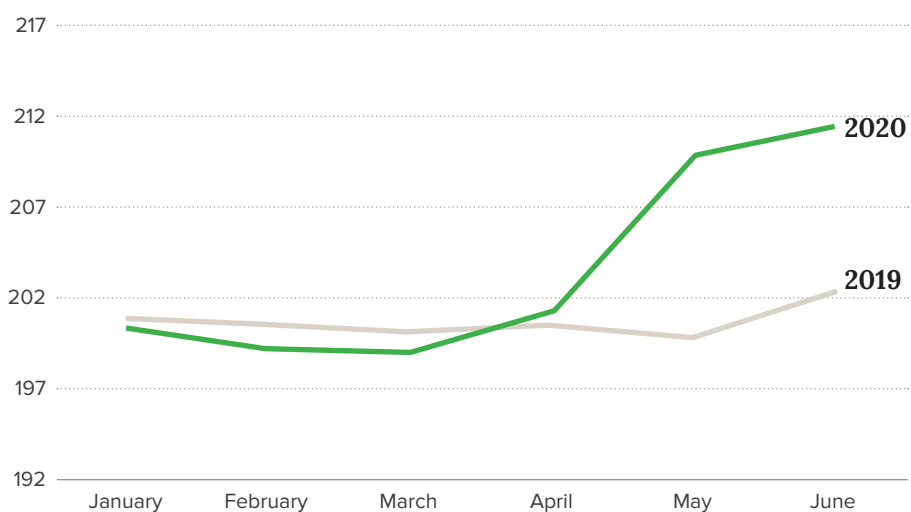
El Salvador: 2018-2020 Exports and Imports of the agricultural sector in the first semester (Million US\$)



Source: Own elaboration, based on official BCR data: Chapters 1 to 10 of the Central American Tariff System (SAC, due to its acronym in Spanish).

CHART 2

El Salvador: Monthly family cost of the basic urban food basket, January to June 2019-2020 (in US\$)

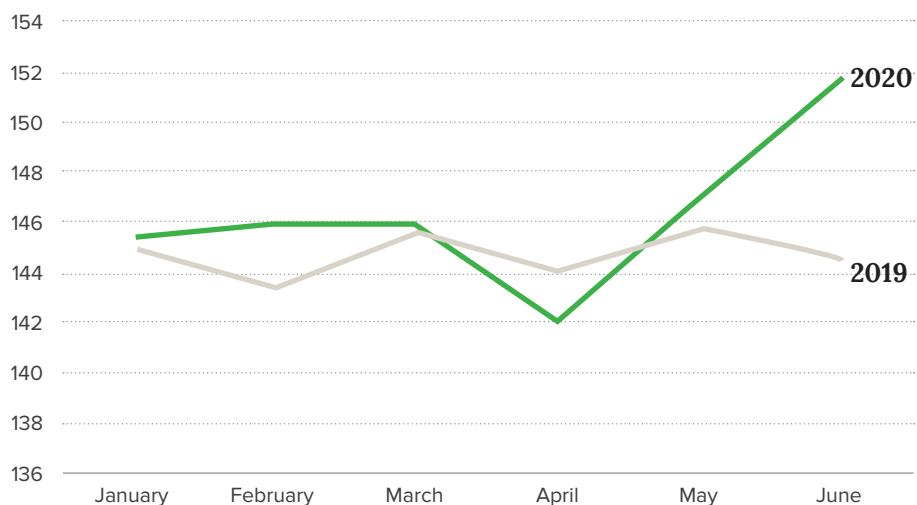


Source: Own elaboration, with data from DIGESTYC.



CHART 3

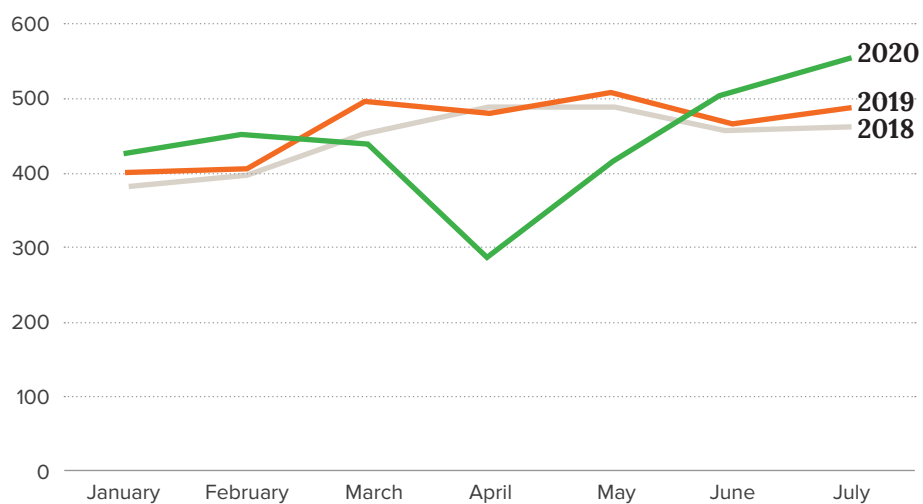
El Salvador: Monthly family cost of the basic rural food basket, January to June 2019-2020 (in US\$)



Source: Own elaboration, with data from DIGESTYC.

CHART 4

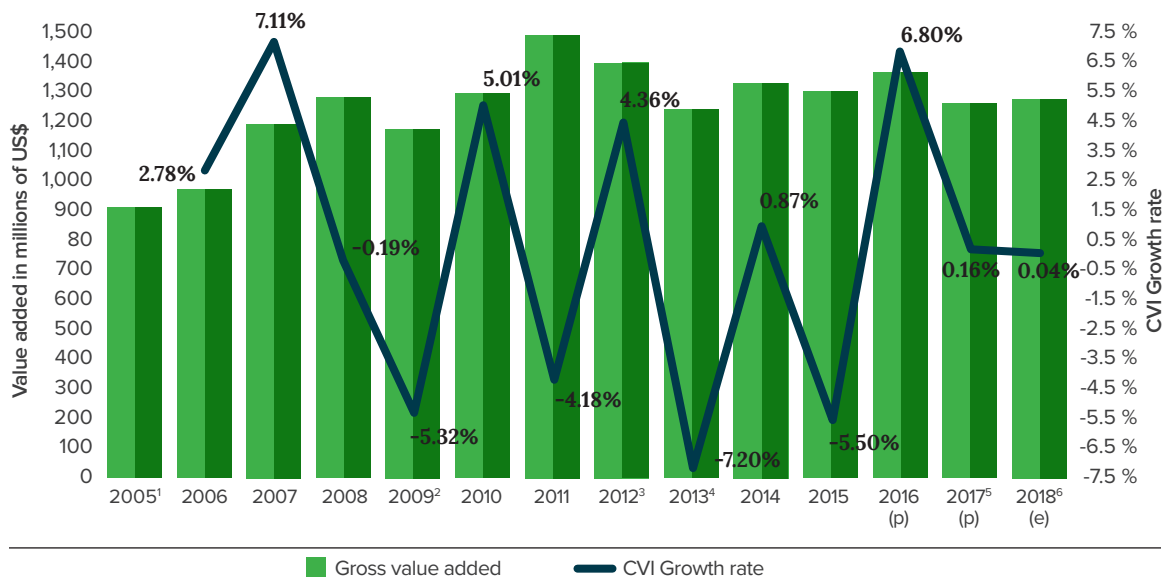
El Salvador: Remittances received per month (Million US\$)



Source: Own elaboration, with data from DIGESTYC.

CHART 5

El Salvador: Value added at current prices and growth rate of the Chained Volume Index of agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fishing (Million US\$ and percentage)



- 1/ Hurricane Adrian, Storm Stan
- 2/ El Niño, storm Ida
- 3/ El Niño, severe droughts

- 4/ Droughts, coffee rust
- 5/ Pests, price contraction
- 6/ Droughts

Source: BCR, System of National Accounts of El Salvador (SCNES, due to its acronym in Spanish): Main results of the agricultural sector and the Product Input Matrix of El Salvador, 2019.





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Summary

The tourism sector has had incredibly significant losses due to the effect of the closure of borders and the confinement caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as of March 2020, and of the population protection measures determined by the Government. In addition to this was the partially assessed infrastructure damage from storms Amanda and Cristóbal. In addition to the damage to the physical infrastructure that is valued herein, there would be environmental damage (in the forest cover, in the erosion of beaches and in the habitat due to landslides and collapses).

The short-term effects require the repair and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure and economic losses from COVID-19, which will last beyond the period under analysis. This will require loan and fiscal measures to support the sector, as well as a “reinvention” process of the provision of tourist services and the promotion of the tourist heritage that the country has given its natural and cultural wealth. As stated in the Cuscatlán Plan, before the pandemic the country had significant international recognition for its beaches, which it was hoped to enhance with the emblematic Surf City project, and the expansion and modernization of coastal connectivity through a new international airport and a coastal train.

In the recovery of the sector, an important public-private partnership is proposed, with important innovations and technological changes, to make the sector more competitive and safer for visitors. At first, it will seek

to revitalize national tourism to, on that basis, enhance international tourism, in a regional perspective with the rest of Central American countries. Adventure tourism, marine sports and culture are a potential to be reinforced and promoted in the new world scenario

Context before tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

Internationally, the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) estimated that the H1N1 virus had a global economic impact of between US\$45,000-55,000 million, and the recovery time of the sector took an average of 19.4 months. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the WTTC has stated that the tourism sector loses one million daily jobs around the world.

The impact of the current crisis on the tourism industry is being experienced in numerous ways; an example of the above is that, for the aviation industry, the pandemic situation is unprecedented, since it has completely paralyzed its operation. The forecast of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), considering the scenario in which air operations could resume on June 1st, indicates an impact of US\$314 billion worldwide, which is equivalent to a decrease in revenue of 55.0%, comparing 2019 and 2020.

The tourism sector in El Salvador is of great importance to the economy, with a contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



TABLE 1

Main industry benchmarks

Concept	Units	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Growth
Incoming tourism	People	1,972,854	2,051,653	2,246,618	2,535,661	2,638,549	4.1 %
Tourists (Over-night visitors)	People	1,401,598	1,433,613	1,556,069	1,677,292	1,765,581	5.3 %
Excursionists	People	571,256	618,040	690,550	858,369	872,968	1.7 %
Main tourist markets							
Total	People	1,401,598	1,433,613	1,556,069	1,677,292	1,765,581	5.3 %
Central America	People	805,634	827,865	898,652	961,266	967,173	0.6 %
North America	People	505,078	507,299	548,541	606,745	681,072	12.3 %
South America	People	44,991	45,879	50,901	50,646	46,187	-8.8 %
Europe	People	30,223	32,723	39,652	41,361	52,864	27.8 %
Rest of the World	People	15,672	19,848	18,323	17,275	18,284	5.8 %
Main outbound countries							
Total	People	1,401,598	1,433,613	1,556,069	1,677,292	1,765,581	5.3 %
Guatemala	People	530,531	524,758	558,371	605,823	612,331	1.1 %
Honduras	People	202,339	220,582	250,131	263,162	273,588	4.0 %
Nicaragua	People	28,262	29,027	30,711	38,845	29,817	-23.2 %
Costa Rica	People	28,737	33,424	41,669	36,112	36,653	1.5 %
United States	People	447,628	452,329	477,257	540,174	600,254	11.1 %
Mexico	People	32,654	31,383	40,848	37,100	52,186	40.7 %
Canada	People	24,796	23,587	30,436	29,470	28,633	-2.8 %
Germany	People	3,532	3,398	4,966	4,485	4,260	-5.0 %
Spain	People	8,565	9,288	16,040	13,229	15,134	14.4 %
Other countries	People	94,554	105,837	105,640	108,891	112,726	3.5 %
Arrivals per means of transportation							
Total	People	1,401,598	1,433,613	1,556,069	1,677,292	1,765,581	5.3 %
By Air	People	598,805	615,844	642,476	727,385	772,876	6.3 %
By Land	People	802,793	817,769	913,333	949,907	992,705	4.5 %
By Sea	People	0	0	260	0	0	
Number of people on Cruises*	People	686	1,105	7,209	2,917	7,693	163.7 %
Number of passenger ships*		3	4	8	4	9	125.0 %

Concept	Units	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Growth
Salvadorans traveling abroad		1,617,626	1,803,744	1,870,936	1,788,218	1,898,918	6.2 %
Accommodation**							
Hotels		465	465	465	578	578	
Rooms	HA	9,261	9,261	9,261	9,518	9,518	
Bed places	HA	16,660	16,660	16,660	16,740	16,740	
Occupancy Rate***	%	65.7	61.9	63.1	60.8	57.8	
Average stay	Nights	2.9	2.6	1.9	2.1	2.1	
Economic aspects of tourism							
Total income from Tourism	US\$	1,169,454,328	1,183,434,176	1,265,090,472	1,532,612,867	1,761,243,802	14.9 %
Income from tourists (with overnight stay)	US\$	1,121,334,098	1,136,994,652	1,209,836,414	1,460,746,910	1,671,856,154	14.5 %
Income from excursionists (without overnight stay)	US\$	48,120,230	46,439,524	55,254,058	71,865,957	89,387,648	24.4 %
Gross Domestic Product 1/	Millions US\$	23,438.2	24,191.4	24,979.2	26,117.4	27,022.6	
Tourism/GDP Ratio	%	5.0 %	4.89 %	5.1 %	5.9 %	6.5 %	

1/ Preliminary GDP (BCR and CORSATUR). For the 2009-2019 occupancy data and average stay in hotels: DATA TUR EI Salvador.

* / 2009-2016 are passengers; and 2017-2019 are cruise passengers (CEPA and DGME).

** / International visitor arrivals, Survey of International Visitor Counts 2009-2019 (CORSATUR; AARALDI; IT CORNER; SPSS S.A. de C.V.).

*** / Occupancy rate and average stay in hotels correspond to the Greater San Salvador area.

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

of around 5.9% and the generation of 300 thousand direct and indirect jobs. Year 2019 closed with a total of 2,638,550 visitors. During the first quarter of 2020, the arrival of 479,177 visitors was registered, which generated US\$391.5 million. The estimated projection for 2020 was 2,823,247 visitors;

however, as a result of the pandemic, which forced the suspension of tourist activities to this date as part of the impact of COVID-19, a reduction of 73.8% in visitor arrivals and 72.1% less in the inflow of foreign exchange is estimated. Since the tourism sector is seasonal, the industry leverages the holiday pe-



riods established annually in the countries to generate income; however, during the pandemic, two of the three annual holiday periods in El Salvador coincided, significantly affecting the flow of visitors and tourism spending.

It is estimated that in the country there are 3,418 tourist companies, of which 55.0% correspond to micro-enterprises; 23.0% to small enterprises; 12.0% to medium enterprises; and 10.0% to large enterprises. According to studies carried out by the Salvadoran Tourism Corporation (CORSAATUR, by its Spanish acronym), during March 2020 and as a consequence of the COVID -19 pandemic, more than 80.0% of tourism companies declared that they had a negative impact on income, employment or liquidity , and loss of the raw material acquired for the operation of their businesses. In addition to this, and considering that it was one of the first sectors to have a total closure of its activities, it will also be one of the last ones to implement its reactivation; however, the resilience of the sector projects a favorable recovery.

Effects identified due to COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, from May 31st to June 6th, 2020 El Salvador was affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, which represented a new

challenge for the tourism sector, which was already inoperative, to which the damage caused to public and private tourism infrastructure due to the intensity of the rainfall is added.

Infrastructure level effects were experienced: Damage to access to tourist sites and deterioration in public and private establishments. No new provisions in the sector were considered due to the storms, since because of the preventive measures adopted by the pandemic there was a total closure of the activity of the tourism sector.

At a public tourism infrastructure level, the recreational parks owned by the Salvadoran Tourism Institute (ISTU, by its Spanish acronym) were strongly affected by the storms. The affected parks and the estimated amounts of damage are detailed below, which, in total, amount to US\$4,578,000:

- ▾ **Los Chorros Water Park:** The main damages have occurred in the pools, because of landslides, collapses and landslides; there has also been severe damage to the pipes and the water source structure. Estimated amount of damages: US\$2,000,000.
- ▾ **Amapulapa Water Park:** As a result of the heavy rainfall, 600 meters of the perimeter wall that provides the security of the property suffered serious damage. Estimated amount of damages: US\$250,000.
- ▾ **Balboa Natural Park:** Damage to the power lines and park infrastructure, for an estimated amount of US\$93,000.
- ▾ **Costa del Sol Water Park, Toma de Quezaltepeque, Atecozol, Altos de la**

TABLE 2

Summary table of Damages and Losses in the sector (Million US\$)

Damages / losses	COVID-19 (March-May 2020)		Tropical Storms Amanda and Cristóbal (May-July 2020)			
	Loss		Damage		Loss	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Damage to physical infrastructure			2,366,000	2,212,000		
Los Chorros Water Park			2,000,000			
Amapulapa Water Park			250,000			
Balboa Natural Park			93,000			
Costa del Sol Water Park, Toma de Quezaltepeque, Atecozol, Altos de la Cueva and Walter Thilo Deininger			23,000			
Losses in private infrastructure				2,212,000		
Land and pipeline transportation		-3,443,291				1,976,268
Water transportation		-575,967				-439,379
Air transportation		-41,848,616				-35,348,092
Deposit and complementary transportation activities		-13,599,444				-10,079,152
Post and courier services		6,713				9,777
Accommodation		25,835,362				19,917,542
Food and beverage service		118,499,925				84,732,840
Travel agencies, tour operators and other reservation services activities		6,588,978				4,371,173
Building and landscape service activities (gardens, green areas)		13,282				9,665
Games and gambling activities		7,574,394				5,272,607
Total		217,972,547	2,366,000	2,212,000		158,165,074

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.



Cueva and Walter Thilo Deininger: Damage to existing infrastructure in the parks, for an amount of US\$23,000.

With regard to private infrastructure, through the survey carried out by the Tourist Attention Centers located in the territory, damage and flooding were recorded in their facilities, due to the overflows generated as a result of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, which are assigned an estimated value based on furniture, equipment and merchandise.

Contributions of the sector to Human Impact

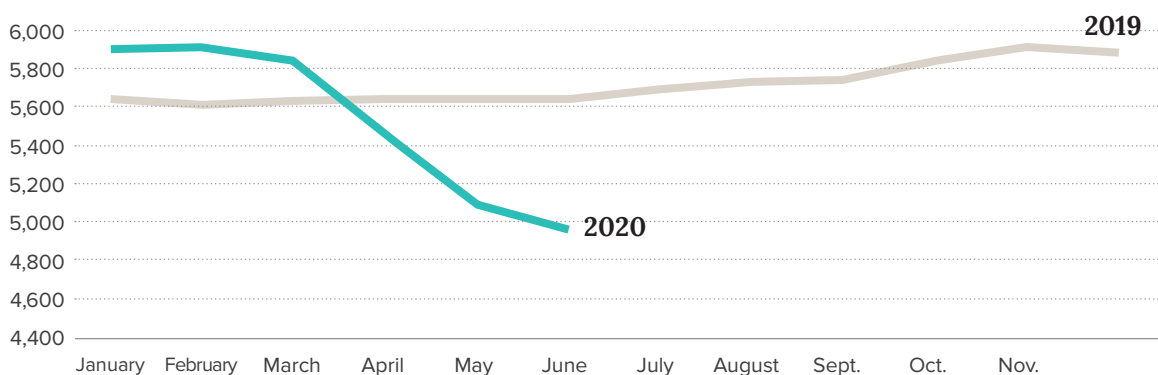
The tourism sector is one of the most heavily impacted in this context, it has already been forced to completely close operations

since the beginning of the pandemic, as a result of the preventive measures adopted by the countries, which included airport and border closures. In addition, it is expected to be one the latest to recover, since it is one of the last ones to be activated in the reopening. According to a study carried out by CORSATUR, in March 2020, over 80.0% of tourism companies declared that it would have a negative impact on income, employment or liquidity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is estimated that during the pandemic the tourism sector lost approximately 44.0% of jobs; roughly 132 thousand, from a base of 300 thousand direct and indirect jobs.

Based on information from the Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS, by its Spanish acronym), a significant drop in formal employment in the tourism sector is identified.

CHART 1

Fall in formal employment in the tourism sector



Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

Recovery Needs and Strategy

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has prioritized the issue of the sector's recovery, due to its enormous social importance and since it is an economic engine, since it provides a notable contribution to the GDP, stimulates employability, business opportunities, development and economic growth, contributes to the reduction of poverty, in addition to the revitalization of the rest of the economic sectors. It has been urged not only to recover from this unprecedented challenge generated by COVID-19 and the passage of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal through the country, but also to return to tourist activity in an enhanced manner, incorporating the development of skills, in particular digital skills; from the creation of crisis management mechanisms and strategies; to market understanding, to re-establish confidence and thus stimulate demand. In this context, it is a priority to place tourism at the center of national policies, promoting strategic measures and actions for the recovery and strengthening of the sector.

The foregoing reaffirms the need to set out effective strategies for the recovery and reactivation of the tourism industry, since there is a real need to promote the resilience of the sector, so that it is reactivated in a sustainable way. Tourism was one of the industries that presented the greatest losses and one of the last to reactivate, but it is also the one with the greatest potential for recovery, to position itself again as an essential part

of the national economy, taking advantage of the unique opportunity to reconfigure the sector and guaranteeing its growth in an orderly, inclusive and sustainable way.

The reactivation and recovery of the post-COVID-19 tourism sector will require a new tourism model in El Salvador: More sustainable and socioeconomically more profitable. It requires greater efficiency in public spending and greater public-private cooperation. Therefore, its recovery will face challenges:

- A** Limited mobility of national and foreign tourists.
- B** Intangibility of what is offered and sold. Each day represents a 100% loss in sales.
- C** The recovery of tourist confidence will be gradual and will begin locally until reaching the foreign visitor, offering health security at the destination.
- D** The entry of visitors will depend on the opening of borders and that they remain open until a cure is found.
- E** The non-existence of a vaccine creates uncertainty for national and foreign tourists, which may overshadow their interest in traveling.
- F** The probability that the budget of national and foreign tourists has been reduced or is null, since the closure worldwide has forced people to prioritize their expenses or to use their funds for survival.
- G** Lower purchasing power in a high unemployment context.

High-impact crises require equal proportion measures and responsiveness. Therefore,



a roadmap for the sector has been developed, which includes intervention areas to accelerate the recovery in tourism: Economic, regulation, promotional and institutional.

To achieve a comprehensive approach, communication has been maintained with various representatives of the sector and the needs that both, associations representing the private sector and natural and legal persons providing tourism services, have stated:

- 1 Access to seed capital or non-reimbursable funds, to generate liquidity, be able to withstand the crisis and sustain employees for longer.
- 2 Access to financing with soft loans.
- 3 Preparation of biosafety protocols applicable per category in each tourist service nationwide.
- 4 Maintenance and improvement of the tourist infrastructure.
- 5 Strengthening the capacities of human resources in the sector, to implement temporary measures during reactivation.
- 6 Promotion for the positioning of the country and recovery of the confidence of national and foreign tourists, to generate domestic and international tourism.
- 7 Constant communication of the steps to follow during the reactivation and recovery stages.

The implementation of the Strategic Roadmap will imply an intense selective work per item, and requires a holistic intervention to give a response to the value chain that not

only ensures the reactivation, but also enhances the recovery of the tourism sector.

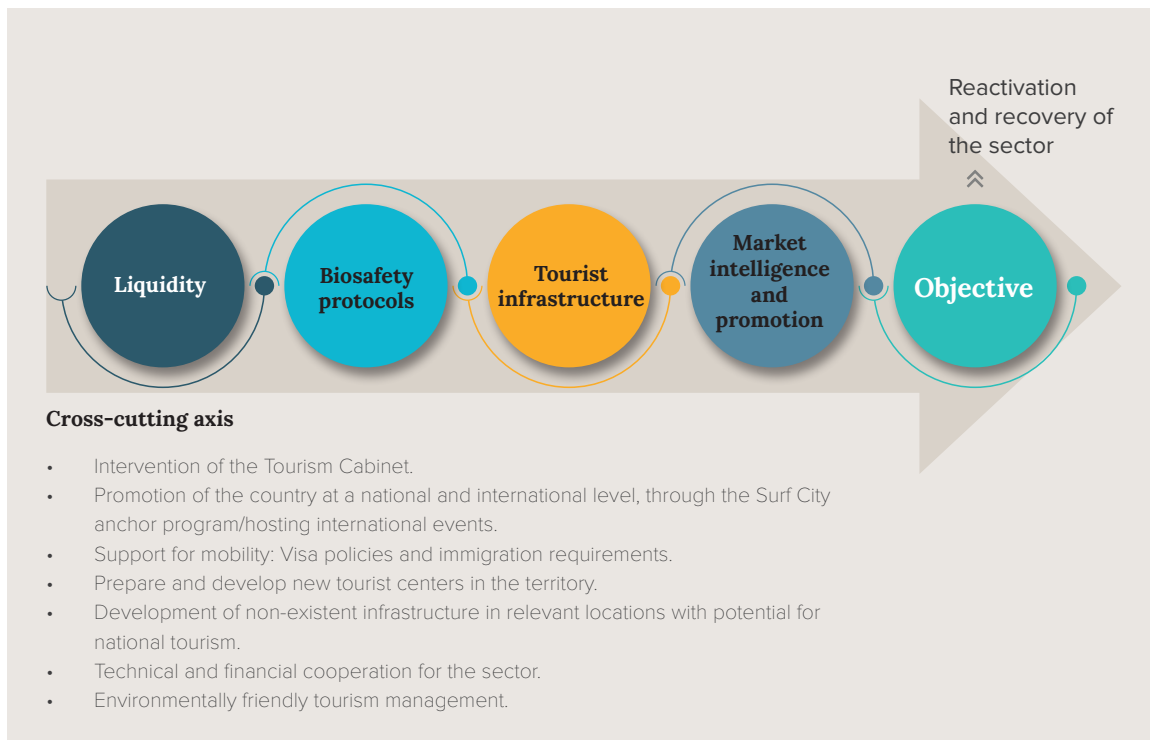
In response to these needs, after the assessment, the plan is based on the introduction of four pillars to stimulate recovery, these being: Liquidity, biosafety protocols, tourism infrastructure, and market intelligence and promotion.

Liquidity

With the aim of having tourism companies with the capacity to meet their debt payment obligations in the short term, and to adapt their operations to the demands and requirements of the 'new normal', the following actions have been taken:

- ↘ Inter-institutional coordination to provide tourism companies with information on national public bank financing and access to cooperation from international organizations.
- ↘ Top-of-the-line information about the trust grant and links on public banking.
- ↘ Exemption from paying the special contribution for the promotion of tourism for three months.
- ↘ Deferral of the income tax payment (ISR, by its Spanish acronym) to natural and legal persons in the sector.
- ↘ Contracting of accommodation facilities such as quarantine and rest centers to be used by the Salvadoran population that had been stranded abroad.
- ↘ Non-refundable funds, through the Matching Grants Program, for municipalities of the departments of La Libertad, Usulután, San Miguel, and La Unión.

IMAGE 1

Strategic Roadmap for the tourism sector

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

Biosafety protocols

- Joint preparation, with the Salvadoran Organization for Standardization (OSN, by its Spanish acronym), the Ministry of Health (MINSAL, by its Spanish acronym) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MTPS, by its Spanish acronym), of biosafety protocols for each of the sectors and sub-sectors of the tourism chain, which will serve as a starting point for all tourism companies to safely restart operations.

Training of human resources in the sector in the implementation of the biosafety

protocols and technical standards in the industry, crisis management, flexibility and adaptation of tourism businesses, information technology, among others, which are deemed necessary knowledge for the reactivation stage and recovery of the sector.

- Support from each sub-sector in the implementation of the corresponding biosafety protocols and technical standards.

Management with World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) authorities, the Central American Tourism Promotion Agency (CATA), the Inter-American Development



Bank (IDB), the OSN, among other institutions, in the search proactive cooperation to train companies and their human resources for this new stage that the tourism sector will face.

Tourism infrastructure

It is necessary to keep tourist infrastructures in optimal conditions, so it is essential to recover the public and private infrastructure damaged by the passage of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. It is also important to implement the corresponding biosecurity protocols and monitor the repair and construction conditions of the tourist infrastructure based on new post-COVID-19 parameters. This line includes, among others, the following actions:

- ▾ Reconstruct the tourism infrastructure of the Salvadoran Tourism Corporation (CORSATUR, by its Spanish acronym) and the Salvadoran Tourism Institute (ISTU) that was affected by the passage of the storms.
- ▾ Maintain its own tourism infrastructure (CORSATUR and ISTU).
- ▾ Continue with the Rescue Plan, which consists of transforming tourist infrastructure under a new competitiveness vision at the destination, providing it with biosecurity protocols and technical standards, so that quality tourist services are offered to national and foreign tourists.
- ▾ Promote those spaces and its own infrastructure that promote nature tourism, tourism in protected natural areas, adventure tourism and rural tourism as the main trend in the reactivation and recov-

ery stage, attending to small and reliable circles of coexistence.






- ▾ Train the human resources of the Ministry of Tourism (MITUR), CORSATUR and ISTU, and the tenants of CORSATUR buildings and ISTU parks, in the implementation of the relevant biosafety protocols and technical standards.
- ▾ Implement the corresponding biosafety protocols and technical standards.
- ▾ Guarantee the supply of inputs for the daily disinfection of each establishment owned or managed by the ISTU and CORSATUR, respecting input quantities and technical requirements established in the biosafety protocols and technical standards.

Market intelligence and promotion


The reactivation stage demands creating and processing new information for decision-making, having new parameters to measure potential clients and, therefore, planning with a new approach. The promotion of the country with safe destinations and communication with tourist service companies are included in this line of action. This pillar includes, among others, the following actions:

- ▾ Updating the universe of natural and legal persons that offer tourist services nationwide.
- ▾ Conduct market research studies during and after COVID-19, which will be the basis for the following actions: Campaigns and training.
- ▾ Develop and execute a multifocal marketing strategy that includes a campaign

to promote domestic tourism and allows to regain the level of confidence at a national and international level.

-  Develop and administer a platform with travel advice content, up-to-date and quality information for local and foreign users who will seek safe destinations.
-  Develop and promote a travel advisory platform that has up-to-date and quality information for users (national or foreign) looking for safe destinations.
-  Promote free webinars conducted by institutions specialized in tourism at an international level.
-  Launch a promotion and dissemination campaign for the tourism sector to communicate actions, promote domestic tourism and regain the confidence of national and foreign tourists. Promote the transition conventional to the reactivation stage.
-  Promote, prior to its opening, the exhaustive disinfection of each establishment or means of tourist transport. Likewise, publicize and encourage the implementation of biosafety technical standards and pro-

ocols by companies that provide tourist services.

-  Promote the adoption of new technologies in tourism service provider companies.
- Encourage registration in the National Tourism Registry (RNT, by its Spanish acronym) in the new universe of companies nationwide.
- Dissemination of recommendations and relevant information issued by leading international organizations in tourism. Promotion and approach of the Salvadoran tourist services companies to benefits provided by said instances. For example: COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Technical Assistance Program, recently launched by the World Tourism Organization

Sources

- CORSATUR, BCR and ISSS Reports, 2019-2020.
- MITUR, CORSATUR and ISTU Reports, 2020





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Summary

The industry, commerce and services sectors represented 23.8%, 12.5% and 57.8%, respectively, of the added value in 2019, and together they agglomerated over 90.0% of the country's productive activity. According to data from the Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS) 2019, the commerce sector employed 31.0% of workers; the services sector, 30.9%; and industry, including construction, 21.7% of the total people employed.

In 2019, El Salvador closed with a growth rate of 2.4%. In the first quarter of the year, a slowdown in economic activity was observed, registering an annual growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 0.83%. This result is mainly attributed to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected world economies since December 2019, and directly to El Salvador since March 2020. At a productive sectors level, positive growth has been maintained, explained by the dynamism of different sectors: Financial (10.5%), Construction (4.0%), and Trade and vehicle repair (2.0%). The activities that showed a decrease were the manufacturing industry, professional activities, accommodation and meals, and transportation, among others, affected by changes in the dynamics of global and national supply and demand for goods and services, given the impact of COVID-19.

A structural problem that the Salvadoran economy presents is high informality. According to the 2019 MPHS, with data for the urban area, the informality rate per branch of

economic activity was 55.4% in commerce, 45.5% for industry, while services had a rate of 23.8%. Informality is one of the sectors that is facing the most difficulties in the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the adoption of measures necessary to contain it, which began in March 2020, as well as changes in national demand.

This document presents a sectorial analysis of the industry, commerce, and services, starting with a context prior to the tropical storms, which incorporates the impact of COVID-19. Subsequently, to approximate the effects of the pandemic in the sector, the information on monthly net sales is detailed from data from the Ministry of Finance (MH, due to its acronym in Spanish), which between March and April 2020 reflected an average reduction of 21.6% compared to 2019, and a reduction of 23.3% between May and July 2020 compared to 2019. This information makes it possible to determine the monthly behavior of each economic sector.

Finally, the recovery needs identified per areas of attention are presented and the main measures that the Government has implemented in the framework of the pandemic are described, prioritizing vulnerable groups and the sustainability of jobs and companies, the stability of the family economy, and the promotion of food security, among others. This will enable households and businesses to be equipped to alleviate the effects of both the pandemic and storms, and gradually adapt to the conditions of the 'new normal'



Context before Tropical Storms Amanda and Cristóbal

En In the last two quarters of 2019, El Salvador managed to achieve growth rates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 2.9% and 2.8%, in contrast to the first two quarters of the year, in which the economy grew below 2.0%. This result allowed to close 2019 with a growth rate of 2.4%. However, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were present in mid-March, generating significant impacts on the Salvadoran economy, in addition to the impact of storms Amanda and Cristóbal, in late May and early June 2020.

Given the arrival of the pandemic in the country, the Salvadoran economy suffered a slowdown in its growth rate, showing a rate of 0.8% in a seasonally adjusted series for the first quarter of 2020. Most sectors experienced a decline in economic activity. The industry presented a drop in added value of 2.9% compared to the same period of the previous year. Professional, scientific, and technical activities registered a drop of 8.7%. Artistic, entertainment and recreational activities decreased by 7.4%. While accommodation and food service activities fell 5.8%.

On its part, the Economic Activity Chained Index (IVAE, due to its acronym in Spanish), which indicates the trajectory of economic activity in the short term, showed a year-on-year drop of 4.2% as of March. This contraction deepened in April and May, with a year-on-year reduction of 18.5% and

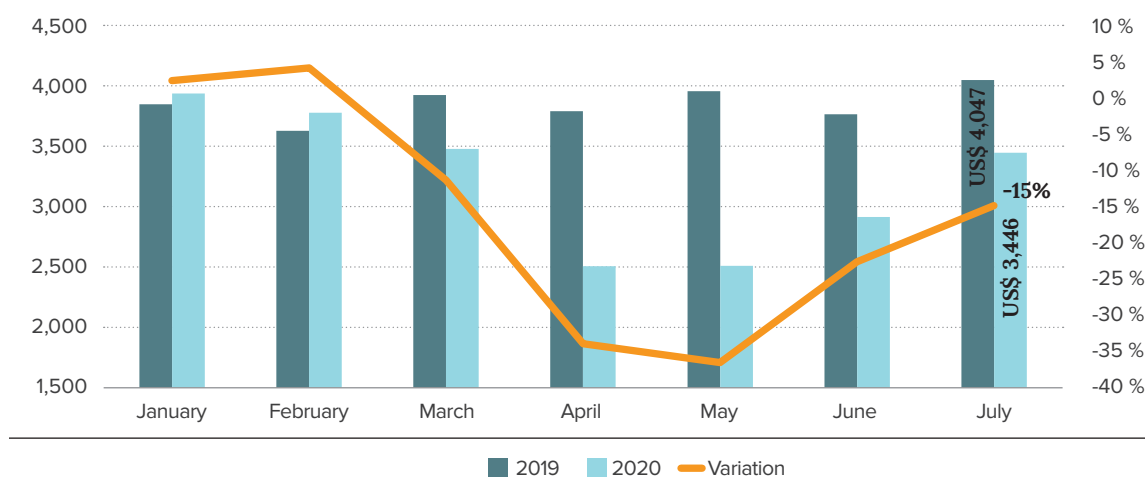
21.0%, respectively. In accordance with the above, as of March, the crisis generated by COVID-19 had already affected the activities that contribute approximately 20.0% of the total added value and that generate almost 30.0% of total jobs.

Likewise, the importance of the maquila industry should be highlighted. Since 1990, the country has promoted this activity within free export zones, in order to attract foreign investment to the country, generate jobs and foreign exchange, as well as supply inputs to other industries in various economic sectors. Before the pandemic, that is, to February 2020, total maquila exports grew 10.8% compared to the same period of the previous year; and they were directed mainly to the United States (85.0%). However, in March, April and May they have experienced lower levels of exports, with negative year-on-year rates of 32.9%, 91.9% and 92.1%.

An additional consideration is the important participation of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in these sectors. According to the 2017 National Survey on Micro and Small Businesses, by the National Commission of Micro and Small Businesses (CONAMYPE, due to its acronym in Spanish), 51.8% are dedicated to commerce, 32.26% to services, and 15.37% to industry. However, since it is a sector with a high degree of informality (74.8%), it has been difficult to identify the income of this segment of the economy.

CHART 1

2019-2020 Total net sales (in millions of US\$ and year-on-year percentage change)



Source: Own elaboration, based on official data from the Ministry of Finance.

Effects identified due to COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

In general terms, the industry, commerce and services sectors have been negatively impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. According to the data on net sales, these have registered a year-on-year drop of 22.6% between March and July. However, the data corresponding to the losses in infrastructure due to the storms have not been possible to estimate, since to date the companies have not accounted for them.

To identify the effects of COVID-19 in the industry, commerce and services sectors, an

analysis was carried out of the evolution of net sales¹ registered by the Ministry of Finance between January and July 2020, compared to the same period of the previous year (Chart 1). This made it possible to determine the drop in monthly sales since the emergency declaration due to the pandemic and storms; furthermore, it facilitated the identification of the accumulated loss value in the period, taking the 2019 months as a baseline.

From the results obtained, the industry (without maquila) registered a fall of US\$213.2 million (-24.4%) in the period from March to April; from May to July, the contraction was US\$289.5 million (-22.5%). In the case of

¹/ Net sales are defined as gross sales minus intermediate costs.



TABLE 1

Net sales per Economic sector (Million US\$)

Sector	2019		2020	
	March-April	May-July	March-April	May-July
Industry	874	1,288	661	999
Maquila	804	1,217	610	910
Commerce	2,990	4,656	2,253	3,652
Services	2,384	3,671	2,003	2,747
Total	7,052	10,833	5,528	8,308

Source: Own elaboration, based on official data from the Ministry of Finance.

the maquila, the results show that between March and April the drop in net sales was US\$193.3 million (-24.1%); while the greatest drop in percentage terms is observed in the second period, from May to July, with an accumulated loss of US\$307.2 million (-25.2%).

Commerce, according to the data obtained, has been the sector with the greatest losses: for the period of March and April, the fall in net sales was US\$737.0 million; while

from May to July the fall deepened, reaching US\$1,004.1 million. This implies a reduction in sales of 24.6% and 21.6%, respectively. Meanwhile, services showed a drop in the value of net sales of US\$380.7 million in the period from March to April, that is, a contraction of 16.0% compared to the same period of the previous year; while in the months of May to June the fall reached US\$924.4 million, which represents a contraction of 25.2% in the value of sales (Table 1 and Table 2).

TABLE 2

Variation in net sales per Economic sector (Million US\$ and percentage)

Sector	Absolute Variations		Relative Variations	
	March-April	May-July	March-April	May-July
Industry	-213	-290	-24.4 %	-22.5 %
Maquila	-193	-307	-24.1 %	-25.2 %
Commerce	-737	-1,004	-24.6 %	-21.6 %
Services	-381	-924	-16.0 %	-25.2 %
Total	-1,524	-2,525	-21.6 %	-23.3 %

Source: Own elaboration, based on official data from the Ministry of Finance.

Contributions of the sector to Human Impact

Company closures that occurred since March 2020 in the industry, commerce and services sectors affected employment levels. This is particularly serious in terms of economic and human impact, given the high number of micro and small businesses, and workers and informal activities in the country. The closure particularly affected those activities with a high degree of vulnerability, low investment, and savings capacity, and with poor access to formal banking.

Recovery Needs and Strategy

In the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, the Government of El Salvador implemented measures to mitigate the adverse effects and minimize the economic and social impact, mainly on households with a higher degree of vulnerability. The measures to provide comprehensive care were classified according to response objectives to the health and economic crisis, which are summarized in interventions for the economic income of vulnerable households, food security, price stability and product supply, employment sustainability and business adaptation to the ‘new normal’ (Table 3).

TABLE 3

Relief and response measures in response to the emergency caused by COVID-19 in El Salvador

Care area	Implemented measures
Economic income of vulnerable households (poverty and informality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moratoriums on the payment of Income Tax (ISR, due to its acronym in Spanish) without interest or penalties, and tax advance payments. • Moratorium on non-productive loans and access to financial solutions under favorable conditions. • Moratorium on payment of water, power and telecommunications services. • Continuous supply of drinking water, power, and telecommunications services while the emergency lasts. • Delivery of food packages to Salvadoran households. • Compensation bonus of US\$300.00 for households in vulnerable conditions. • Bonus of US\$150.00 for all the people working in Government institutions who work on the front line during the crisis. • Elimination and discounts on the cost of sending remittances from the United States, Australia, Canada, France, Spain and the United Kingdom, during May and June.
Sustainability of jobs and companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moratoriums for the payment of water, power and telecommunications services. • Moratoriums for the payment of income tax, without interest or penalties. • Exemption for three months of the special contribution to Tourism.



Care area	Implemented measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moratorium on productive loans. • Banco Hipotecario has created a special emerging credit line for working capital. • US\$360 million to grant soft loans for the reactivation of companies. • US\$100 million for productive financing of the informal sector. • US\$140 million as a subsidy for MSME employment (50% payroll for up to two months). • US\$100 million for the payment of exporters, VAT refund. • US\$300 million for the payment of State obligations towards private sector providers. • Ensure job stability for formal jobs in the private sector.
Family economy, price stability and supply of basic products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market surveillance (prices and inventories), to avoid speculation. • Pricing of essential products. • Temporary restriction on the export and re-export of red beans. • Temporary exemption from the payment of import duties (DAI, for its acronym in Spanish) and value added taxes (VAT) for the acquisition of corn, beans and rice, and qualification of quotas. • Temporary elimination of the Central American Import Tariff for essential foods, medicines for respiratory diseases, and hygiene and cleaning products. • Assurance of the flow of goods at borders and facilitation of procedures remotely.
Food Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US\$30 million for the supply of basic grains, to meet food needs during the pandemic. • Delivery of food packages to Salvadoran households. • 30.0% increase in the delivery of basic grains packages (corn and beans). • Sustainable agricultural transformation plan for food security.
Promoting adaptation to change in business dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of teleworking. • Strengthening companies to join e-commerce platforms. • Streamlining and digitizing investment procedures. • Programming of productive chains authorized to operate. • Biosafety protocols and certification for companies.

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

The recovery needs are multiple in terms of companies' adaptation to the conditions of economic and social opening; and, due to storms, the repair of damages and replacement of destroyed inventories. Likewise, it will be necessary to recapitalize the companies with greater fragility and, in addition, carry out campaigns to attract demand and

reestablish the value chains that were affected by both events.

In line with the above, complementary strategic lines have been identified that would allow the recovery and transition to the new reality.

TABLE 4

Strategic lines and needs of productive sectors

Strategic lines	Needs of the productive sectors (industry, commerce and services)
Economic Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Generate economic/non-fiscal incentives for micro and small businesses, to alleviate the effects of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal and the COVID-19 pandemic. b) Create lines of credit with soft conditions, to capitalize companies and promote economic recovery. Currently, around US\$460 million in loans are being promoted for the formal and informal sectors. c) Access to seed capital or non-reimbursable funds, to encourage MSEs to maintain their operation and thus allow job creation. d) Accompanying programs to explore new market niches. e) Strengthen the regulatory framework to promote, encourage, and simplify investment and trade process. a) Technical support to companies in their adaptation to the 'new normal': financial management, modernization of the business and the business model, among others.
Resilient infrastructure and Decent housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review, repair and maintenance of road infrastructure. b) Investment in logistics infrastructure. c) Streamlining procedures for the acquisition and/or construction of a home.
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Create a system for registering damage to private infrastructure, in the event of claims. b) Strengthen the generation of timely statistics for decision making. c) Strengthen inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and with the private sector.
Health, protection and social inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Adapt the industry, commerce, and services sectors, so that they comply with the minimum biosafety standards and risk management. b) Subsidy program for companies to maintain employment, which would amount to US\$140 million (Trust for the Economic Recovery of Salvadoran Companies, FIREMPRESA, due to its acronym in Spanish). c) Promote positive discrimination against women, to reduce gender gaps.
Innovation and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promote the adoption of electronic commerce by companies and enterprises, as well as tools that promote the digitization and modernization of business models. b) Promote training platforms to prepare human capital for new business requirements, mainly for the development of digital skills. c) Continue promoting the use of renewable energies, which allow reducing business costs and contributing to environmental sustainability.

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.



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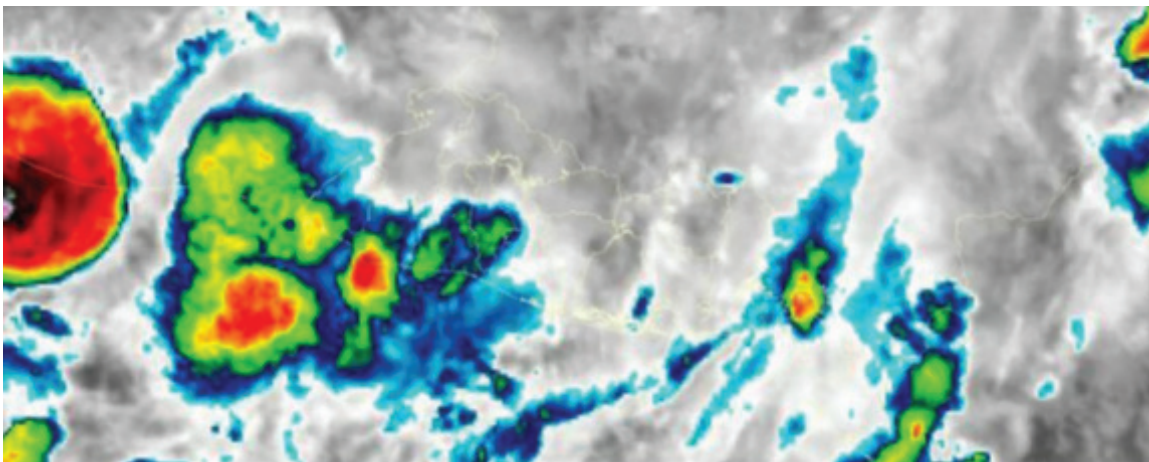
Summary

On March 30th, 2020, the low pressure located southwest of the coasts of El Salvador and southern Guatemala became Tropical Storm 2-E. However, on May 31st, Amanda was reclassified as tropical storm, entering Salvadoran territory that same morning. There were effects on both the national road network and the rainwater drainage system and slopes in general.

The remnants of Storm Amanda, on June 2nd, 2020, were located south of the Gulf of Mexico (Atlantic Ocean) and strengthened to tropical depression 3. That same day it was reclassified as a tropical storm Cristóbal and generated abundant humidity and rainfall over the Salvadoran territory. The highest accumulation of rain recorded until June 5th, 2020 was at the Conchagua volcano, in the department of La Unión, with 1,017.0 mm of rain recorded.

IMAGE 1

Satellite image of the start of Storm Amanda



Source: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

The effects on the road network ranged from impact due to slopes (landslides or gullies), which led to partial interruptions in vehicle flow, to impact on access to bridges, flooding on streets due to obstruction of the drainage system, among others.

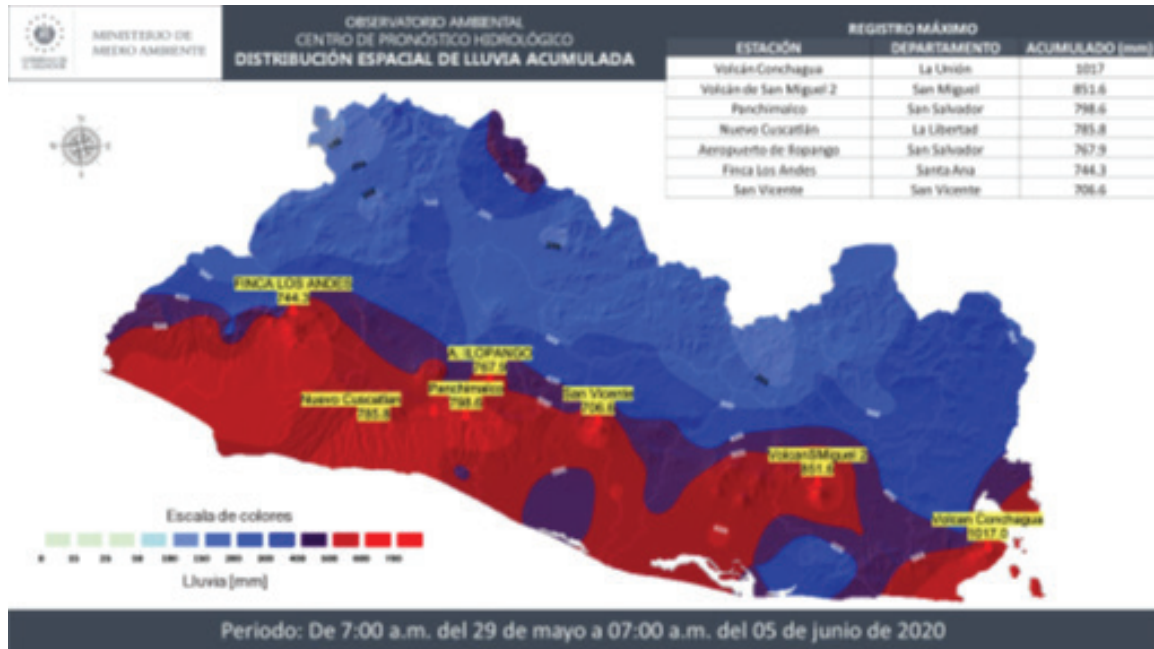
The damage to the drainage system led in many cases to interruptions of free vehicular traffic. These effects were mainly due

to the dragging of garbage and the consequent obstruction of pipes. Likewise, some elements were undermined, such as passage works (vaults), leaving different structures vulnerable. A large number of impacts were also recorded on slopes, which produced landslides and the formation or increase in the size of some gullies, which affected roads and homes located in vulnerable areas.



IMAGEN 2

Map of accumulated rainfall during storms Amanda and Cristóbal



Source: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Based on the above, there is a need to intervene in four strategic lines for recovery: Non-municipal national road network, rain-water drainage, retention works and attending gullies in vulnerable areas.

Context before tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cargo and passenger transport sector was considerably affected, given that both the public and private sectors were forced to remain in quarantine, directly affecting their demand. The normal flow of people was re-

duced due to the restriction measures imposed at that time, while the needs to obtain goods through services (delivery) increased considerably.

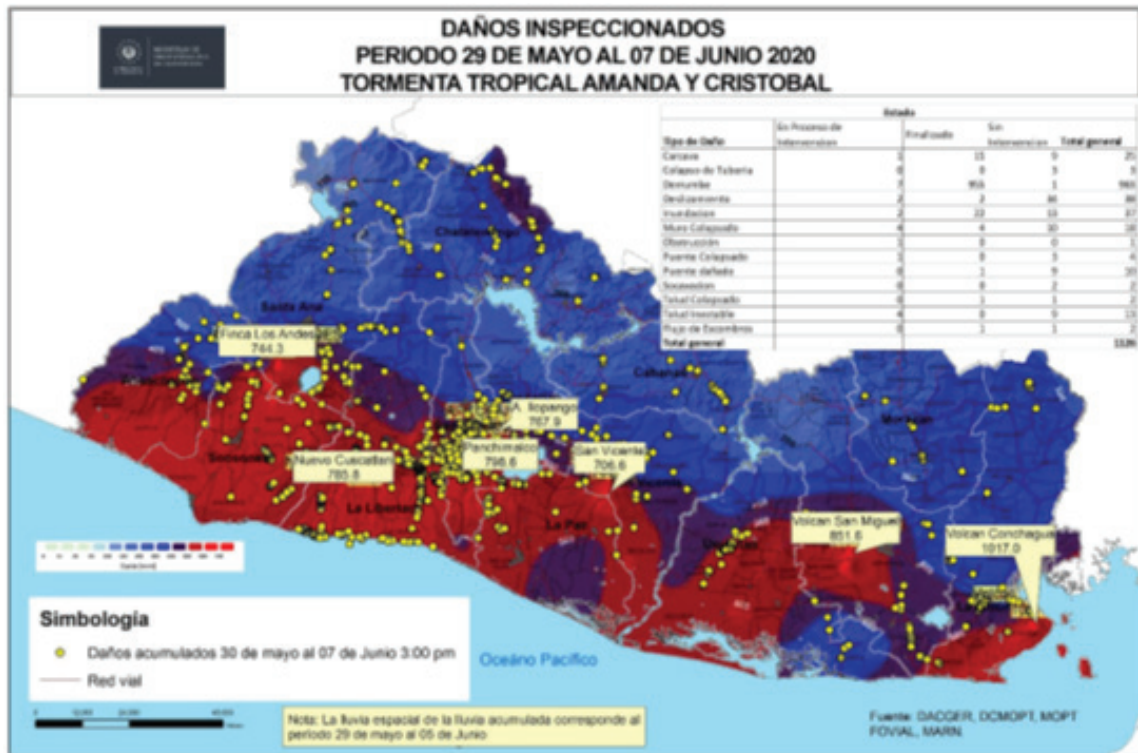
The arrival of the hydrometeorological phenomena Amanda and Cristóbal affected the passenger transport sector with less impact than normally expected. Regarding road infrastructure, the effect of the tropical storms and the damage these produced was such that the interruption of vehicular traffic occurred in short periods, and only some traffic arteries were closed for prolonged periods. However, there was an impact in terms of the demand for State resources to attend the road network, to keep it in optimal conditions for use.

Regarding the rainwater drainage network, its condition prior to Tropical Storm Amanda corresponds to a system in need of capacity improvements as well as its structural integrity, due to climate change. With the arrival of the tropical storm, many sectors collapsed due to lack of capacity and obstruction due to the accumulation of garbage and plant material (branches and trunks), once again, highlighting the need to pay attention to their operation.

Regarding gullies, there have been high-risk and densely populated areas for some time now, whose soils are characterized by being white chalky earth, which already presented problems. With the arrival of the hydrometeorological phenomenon, the situation worsened in many of these sectors, once again showing the need to intervene in a comprehensive way due to the gullies problem. Likewise, new gullies produced, and the collapse of many retention works that did not show any stability problems in the past were recorded.

IMAGE 3

Overlap of damage recorded in the national road network of El Salvador



Source: Directorate of Adaptation to Climate Change and Strategic Risk Management (DACGER).

Effects identified due to COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

The COVID-19 pandemic does not cause material damage to road infrastructure, so we will focus on the damage caused by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal.

The effects on the transportation sector, which are the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (MOPT, due to its acronym in Spanish) and the El Salvador Road Conservation Fund (FOVIAL, due to its acronym in Spanish) in terms of infrastructure, are related to the ef-

fects on the road sector, specifically with regard to flooded roads, landslides and gullies that affect connectivity. During the storms, three routes were affected the most:

- 1 Opico-Quezaltepeque route, RN07W route, LD San Salvador-Dv Quezaltepeque section, where there was a gully that interrupted vehicular traffic in both directions for approximately a month.
- 2 Paso El Sillero work, SAL 44N route, Tonacatepeque-Animas, SAL04N, where the abutment of the bridge was affected, interrupting the vehicular passage for three months.
- 3 RN02E, San Salvador-Soyapango section, which was interrupted for approximately two months.

TABLE 1

Summary table of Damages and Losses in the sector (Million US\$)

Components	Units	Total	Damage	Losses	Sector	
					Public	Private
Road network and Land transport						
Road network and Land transport	US\$	20,524,903.0	19,274,765.2	1,250,137.8	20,524,903.0	
Losses due to traffic interruption						
Heavy cargo traffic	US\$	662,439.7		662,439.7	662,439.7	
Passenger traffic	US\$	513,015.6		513,015.6	513,015.6	
Light cargo traffic (pick-up and private vehicle)	US\$	1,511,198.4		1,511,198.4	1,511,198.4	
Water and air transport (see Tourism Sector Report)						
Airports						

Components	Units	Total	Damage	Losses	Sector	
					Public	Private
Telecommunications and Support services sector (net losses due to COVID-19, March-May 2020)						
Warehousing and Support activities for transportation	US\$	17,667,506.9		17,667,506.9		17,667,506.9
Postal and Courier activities	US\$	3,835,849.4		3,835,849.4		3,835,849.4
Income reduction in the Autonomous Executive Port Commission (CEPA, due to its acronym in Spanish) due to COVID-19, March-May 2020						
Aeronautical	US\$	5,417,131.5		5,417,131.5	5,417,131.5	
Leases	US\$	2,897,359.9		2,897,359.9	2,897,359.9	
Cargo terminal	US\$	698,317.0		698,317.0	698,317.0	
Parking income	US\$	426,349.9		426,349.9	426,349.9	
Other income	US\$	246,268.5		246,268.5	246,268.5	
Ilopango	US\$	43,639.4		43,639.4	43,639.4	
Non-operational	US\$	82,727.5		82,727.5	82,727.5	
Total	US\$	54,526,706.7	19,274,765.2	35,251,941.4	30,336,696.7	24,190,010.0

* The data has been quantified based on the cost of attending to the damages to restore connectivity. However, there are damages registered due to an inadequate functioning of the rainwater drainage network, the collapse of walls, an increase in the dimensions of gullies or the appearance of new ones whose costs were not reflected during the event, as they would correspond to a subsequent intervention.

** Operating costs are those provided by the consultancy, which do not include fuel costs. To determine this, an average of US\$2.5/gallon of diesel and US\$2.75/gallon of gasoline was taken. The other costs were provided by FOVIAL, in accordance with the different contracts with the companies in charge of providing maintenance to the road network under its jurisdiction.

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

Contributions of the sector to Human Impact

Regarding human impact indicators, such as living conditions, livelihoods, gender equality,

poverty and food security and social inclusion, the transport/infrastructure sector has a particularly important impact on these indicators.

It is known that the transport sector is one of the fundamental axes of the economy of any

country for the mobilization of products and services, therefore, with regard to maintaining road connectivity, it guarantees the economic activity of any region. This has a direct impact on human activity, so the effects of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal directly affected road connectivity. Regarding the rainwater drainage network, since it directly affects the road network, it also affects the previous human impact indicators.

On the other hand, the gullies issue has a high human impact, since in all cases they represent a high-risk condition that directly affects human life and material goods such as housing, and in some cases they also threaten road connectivity. The retention works indicated in this report refer mainly to those that directly

affected homes, which therefore represents a high human impact.

Recovery Needs and Strategy

Recommendations for its implementation

- 1 Search for financing with multilateral banks, since COVID-19 has possibly consumed most of the resources from the collection of taxes and contributions.
- 2 Search for financing for a multisectoral loan since it will foster the search for cooperation if several sectors come together in its management.

TABLE 2

Recovery Needs and Strategies

Item	Disaster impact	Recovery needs	
		Restore pre-disaster conditions	Rebuild Better (in US\$)
State Road Network	It is necessary to intervene slopes, gullies, drainage and passage works within framework of the right of way, to carry out repairs and minimize the risk in the trafficability of the road.		172,971,215.84
Recovery and drainage improvements	It is necessary to intervene in vaults, passage works and other drains, specifically rainwater (A.LL.) in communities and neighborhoods.		
Intervention in retention works	Intervention in retention works in communities and neighborhoods is necessary to minimize the risk of housing collapse that affects human life and property.		30,251,000.00
Gully repair intervention	Intervention in gullies in communities and neighborhoods is necessary to minimize the risk of housing collapse that affects human life and property.		72,122,100.00
Total infrastructure and assets			275,344,315.84

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

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Summary

The national energy sector. Actions in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

Since the beginning of January 2020, the Government of El Salvador began to take actions to try to prevent COVID-19 from spreading quickly among the population. One of the main measures taken was the ban on flights from countries in which the virus had already become an epidemic.

Later, during the first two weeks of March 2020, due to the advance of COVID-19, already declared a pandemic, more actions and alert declarations began to be intensified, which concluded with the request for the “Declaration of national emergency and partial state of exception”, which was approved by the Legislative Assembly through Legislative Decrees 593-2020 and 594-2020.

Among other measures, at the request of the President of the Republic, the Legislative Assembly approved, through Legislative Decree 601-2020, the Transitory Law to Defer the Payment of Water, Electric Power and Telecommunications Service Bills (telephone, cable and internet). Through this law, the payment of the power service bill of the users affected in their economic income by the COVID-19 pandemic was frozen for three months, deferring the payment for said service in 24 successive installments. In addition, mechanisms were created so that the Government and service providers could

carry out bridge financing in the event of the eventual breakdown of the payment chain in the Wholesale Electricity Market.

The President of the Republic, exceptionally and demonstrating the virtues of an excellent statesman, managed and approved a series of economic measures to favor citizens who were affected in their income, in the face of the forced interruption of their daily work.

The pandemic situation was aggravated by the force of nature. During the period between May 29th and June 7th, 2020, El Salvador was affected by two tropical storms, Amanda and Cristóbal. This situation is detailed as follows:

- ▾ **Amanda:** From May 29th to the 31st, 2020. During this period there was rainfall between 74-517 mm in the national territory, with the greatest impact in the eastern zone.
- ▾ **Cristóbal:** From June 1st to the 7th, 2020. During that period there were rainfall between 137-1,089.1 mm, the greatest impact being in the eastern zone.
- ▾ The National Energy Council (CNE, due to its acronym in Spanish) requested information on both storms from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN, due to its acronym in Spanish), in order to assess their impacts on El Salvador’s energy infrastructure.

Faced with this situation, on the same day that the state of emergency and state of exception were declared, the CNE took the initiative to carry out actions in the energy



sector, which were considered essential to support and promote the measures that the health sector public, the Ministry of Economy and the president of the Republic himself would take.

The actions taken include:

- ▾ Given the projection parameters that the Ministry of Health and the President of the Republic indicated, which stated that said emergency could last several months, the CNE warned that in order to face it, it was essential to guarantee the operation of the electricity market in such a way that they could minimize electric power service interruptions through their efforts along with the actors of the electric sector, so that they have a better prevention in the administration of the emergency and assure the population in general that they would be provided this vital service.
- ▾ Guaranteeing that there were no unjustified increases in fuel prices, having the regulatory tools that would allow to act immediately and with agile and effective procedures.
- ▾ On March 14th, 2020 (date of declaration of the national emergency by the Legislative Assembly), the CNE, in coordination with the board of directors of the Transactions Unit (TU), the administrator and operator of the Wholesale Electricity Market, requested a call for an urgent meeting in which it managed the direct participation of the General Superintendent of Electricity and Telecommunications, in order to expedite any decision that was necessary.

- ▾ On May 17th, 2020, the TU board of directors approved a new acting way under a special protocol for the national emergency, taking the necessary measures for the Electricity Market to guarantee its operation.

Context before Tropical Storms Amanda and Cristóbal

The National Energy Council (CNE) carried out an evaluation of the current 2010-2024 National Energy Policy (PEN, due to its acronym in Spanish), based on the results of the evaluation, and currently working on its reformulation, in order for it to function as a public policy instrument aligned with the immediate requirements of national economic reactivation, long-term sustainable development needs and challenges still existing in the energy sector.

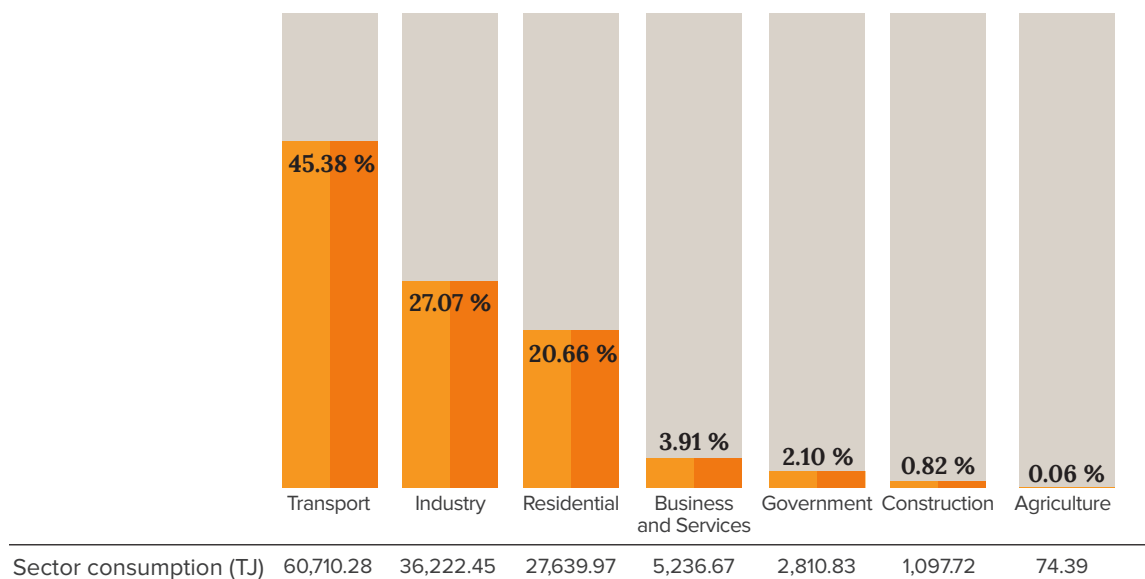
The new 2020-2050 PEN envisages the use of resources, technologies and modern, efficient and cost-effective infrastructure to supply, transform, transport and consume energy, under the principles of sustainability, innovation, respect for the environment, sector participation, equity and protection to end users.

To face the challenges that a national economic reactivation implies, the new National Energy Policy promotes five strategic axes:

- 1 **Regulatory modernization.** Guaranteeing an efficient, updated, and modern

FIGURE 1

National sectorial energy consumption, 2019



Source: Own elaboration by the assessment team, based on official statistics from the CNE.

regulatory-normative body and sector governance as the strategic bases for the success in the implementation of any strategy, program and initiative of the sector.

2 Sustainable energy supply. The aim is to guarantee a quality energy supply, accessible to the entire population, equitable, at reasonable prices, which promotes carbon neutrality and catalyzes territorial development. To this end, the deployment of renewable energies, the use of new technologies and investment in modern and innovative infrastructure are the cornerstones that will support the economic reactivation of the country.

3 Efficient power consumption. Consolidating the energy-saving and efficiency culture is the perfect complement to sus-

tainable energy supply, since this guarantees a rational and coherent use of the energy provided to end users; therefore, it is committed to education for its consumption, to promoting incentives for the use of more efficient technologies and the implementation of energy management systems.

4 Research, development, and innovation. Continuous improvement within the sector will help maintain an energy system adaptable to the evolution of technological, social, economic, and environmental conditions to which it must respond. Therefore, research, development and technical and scientific innovation within the sector are encouraged.

5 Energy security and integration. Energy is a strategic asset of the country; there-



fore, ensuring national energy security is a priority of the State. Actions within the sector are promoted to achieve resilience to climate change, respond to national emergency conditions, optimize the energy matrix, reduce dependence on oil and integrate into regional energy markets, as a management tool for national energy security and the attraction of economic benefits to the country.

It is possible to group the national energy consumption into seven large sectors: Transportation, industry, residential, commerce and services, construction, government, and agriculture. The official data of the National Energy Balance corresponding to 2019, published by the CNE,¹ show that the sectors with the highest energy consumption are transportation, industry and residential, with 45.38%, 27.07% and 20.66%, respectively; that is, 93.11% of the national energy consumption.

Effects identified due to COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

In the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Energy Council (CNE) proceeded to identify the aspects that could prevent electricity and fuel services from

being uninterrupted, safe and efficient, through the steps taken in the Wholesale Electricity Market.

This analysis reflected the following:

- ▾ The need for electric power generators that work with fuel oil or bunker fuels to have sufficient inventories during the emergency was noted to guarantee their production.
- ▾ Monitor that fuel costs do not present unjustified increases.
- ▾ Electric power generation projects in construction phases, such as EDP's natural gas and VENTUS's wind resource, will not suffer delays.
- ▾ The Presidency prepared and managed the approval of Executive Decree No. 15-2020, which orders extraordinary measures to guarantee the supply of electric power and fuel and regulates that the CNE coordinates compliance with them.

As a result of these actions, among other aspects, this was achieved:

- ▾ That the thermal generators that work with fuel oil must increase their inventories of stored fuel, which guaranteed that the electricity supply would not suffer any outages.
- ▾ That the generation projects did not have significant delays. It was arranged that VENTUS imported the parts that make up the wind farm and to bring its specialized foreign technical personnel who worked on the EDP project to the country, in order not to stop its construction.

¹/ Official website for energy statistics of the CNE: http://estadisticas.cne.gob.sv/?page_id=182

It is important to highlight that, in conjunction with the General Superintendency of Electricity and Telecommunications (SIGET, due to its acronym in Spanish), the Development Bank of El Salvador (BANDESAL, due to its acronym in Spanish) and the Executive Hydroelectric Commission of the Lempa River (CEL, due to its acronym in Spanish), the financing mechanisms for the deferred payment of the electric power bills of citizens affected by said pandemic were monitored, through negotiations with two multilateral financial organizations: the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

and the World Bank, verifying that it was the Electricity Market itself that assumed the costs of said deferred payment.

In summary, the CNE, during the declaration of National Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, from its role as rector of energy sector policies, carried out permanent activities, monitoring and guaranteeing that the sector remained operating and guaranteeing basic energy services for the population, and mainly for health entities

Summary table of damages and losses in the sector

TABLE 1

Summary of damages and losses in the electricity sector (in US\$)

Energy/ Hydrocarbons	COVID-19 (March-June 2020)		Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal (May-June 2020)			
	Loss		Damage		Loss	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Damage detail						
Poles, towers, insulators				48,449.9		
Grid transformers/regulators				77,585.8		
Medium voltage line				67,037.2		
Meters/fuses				116,786.1		
Low-voltage line				76,286.8		
Loss detail						
Non-revenue energy	6,879,646	52,920,354			437,168	3,362,832
Subtotal	6,879,646	52,920,354		386,145.9	437,168	3,362,832

a/ Data obtained from electric power distribution companies (AES, DELSUR, EDESAL and B&D). Electric power generators (hydro, photovoltaic, geothermal, and thermal). Electric Power Transmission Company (ETESAL), and Transactions Unit (UT).



Energy/ Hydrocarbons	Loss		Damage		Loss	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Losses in the public sector due to the lack of collections due to COVID-19						
Detail of hydrocarbon losses^b						
VAT ^c	23,888,130.27	16,250	-	-	-	-
FOVIAL ^d	9,329,137.00	16,250	-	-	-	-
CONTRANS ^e	4,664,568.50	16,250	-	-	-	-
FEFE ^f	4,847,580.03	16,250	-	-	-	-
IEC ^g	1,237,601.32	-	15,200	-	-	-
Subtotal	43,967,017.1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	50,846,663.1	52,920,354	386,145.9	437,168	3,362,832	

b/ Data provided by the Directorate of Hydrocarbons and Mines (DHM, due to its acronym in Spanish), from MINEC.

c/ Property tax.

d/ Tax on Road Conservation Fund.

e/ Special Tax for the Stabilization of the Public Service Collective Passenger Transport Rates.

f/ Stabilization and Economic Development Fund.

g/ Special Tax on Fuels.

Note: In the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are no damages based on the concept defined by the coordinating team-UNDP, therefore they are classified as losses.

Source: Own elaboration by the assessment team, based on official statistics from the CNE.

Sectors affected

Electrical sector

The information presented in this report is based on the reports that were requested from the distribution companies (AES, DELSUR, EDESAL and B&D) generators (hydro, photovoltaic, geothermal, and thermal). These reports contain information about the losses and damages caused by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, and the impact of COVID-19. Damage is understood as: The economic impact (US\$) due to the effect of tropical storms Amada and Cristóbal in the energy sector; and as losses: the

amount that was not collected due to sales or energy transactions.

In the above amounts, the transactions of the National and Regional Electricity Market of electric power were considered. In the case of non-revenue energy, the profile of the 2019 demand curve was used versus the 2020 demand behavior. It is important to highlight that the prices of the international oil market affect the prices of electric power.

Hydrocarbons sector

In the hydrocarbons sector, petroleum products, we are strictly importers of this resource,

so the economic impact is reflected in the different taxes that the central government stopped receiving in the case of fuels (gasoline and diesel). According to own estimates, these can amount around US\$43 million. This reduction was the result of the low demand for gasoline and diesel consumption.

According to estimates, the oil bill that Salvadorans pay for all the hydrocarbons used, if we compare 2019 with the baseline typified for COVID-19, the impact amounts to an approximate of US\$311 million that were not spent on the purchase of the resource and, consequently, oil products that were not injected into the national economy, which may show a relative economic slowdown.

Cross-cutting effects

Regarding the issue of the electric power subsidy, the Ministry of Economy (MINEC), CEL, SIGET and CNE established that the coverage criterion was 1-105 kWh, which resulted in an average benefit for 950 thousand families. The subsidized amount was fixed at an amount of US\$5.00 per benefited user. There is a procedure to review the user database with subsidies, which is carried out according to their semester average, applying changes in the user database benefited in January and July of each respective year. The subsidy amount for electric power budgeted for the 2019 period was calculated at US\$64 million, including pumping systems, the sum of which amounts to 7.1 million. The current beneficiary base has been revised, improved and modernized, to avoid errors of exclusion of families.

The monthly average of homes nationwide registered for May 2020 was 932,259, and for pumping systems 522. This represents a cost to the state of US\$4,437,709.08 and US\$662,003.86, respectively.

In the case of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, the two main distributors in the country (Grupo AES and DELSUR) reported that 750 people made up the emergency care brigades; in addition, they reported 17,599 damage report calls.

Contributions of the sector to Human Impact

The effect identified in the electricity sector due to the pandemic is synthesized in the loss of energy not provided due to low demand, which amounted to approximately US\$59 million. This amount is uncollectible for the sector; therefore, the central government was affected in its income by not receiving the same amounts as in normal conditions of Value Added Tax (VAT) on electric power transactions.

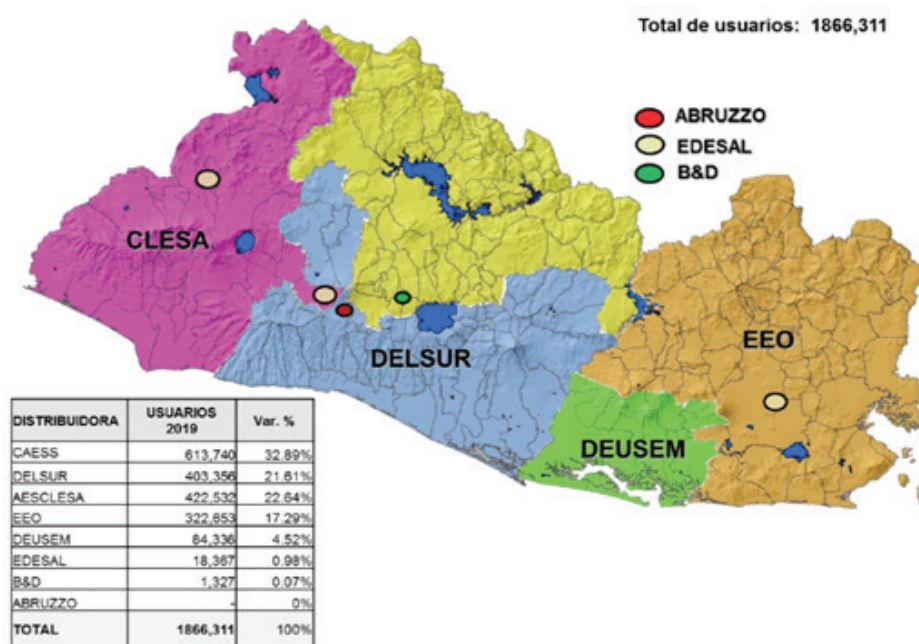
The impact of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal typified in damages amounts to US\$386,146 and in losses to US\$3.8 million by both, the public and private sectors. Below is a map of the geographic² coverage of the eight private companies in charge of the distribution of electric power that supply res-

²/ *Statistical Bulletin*, SIGET 2019, Chart No. 29: <https://www.siget.gob.sv/estadisticas-electricidad/>



FIGURE 2

Distribution companies in El Salvador and number of clients



Source: Elaboración propia, con información de las empresas distribuidoras.

idential customers, customers with medium demand and customers with high demand.

According to the damage reports from the distributors, Grupo AES, the dominant distribution company, reported 521,680 users affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. Only in the greater San Salvador area, 12,915 damage claims are reported. The second largest distributor, DELSUR, reported 428,899 affected users. The rest of the distributors only report financial damages.

Impact on employment

According to figures provided by the Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS, due to

its acronym in Spanish),³ the activities that have been most affected by the pandemic are the manufacturing industry, commerce, restaurants and hotels; and the services sector, which is immersed in the production sector (see Annexes).

The World Bank projects a 3.8% Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for El Salvador by 2021. Meanwhile, for 2020, according to their perspectives, it determines a fall in GDP at a rate of -5.4%, as would happen in the rest of the world.

³/ Transparency Portal: <https://www.transparencia.gob.sv/institutions/iss/ documents/estadisticas>

TABLE 2

Recovery Needs and Strategy (US\$ Million)

Parameters	Damages	Losses	Justification of the needs arising from the analysis of effects and impacts	Needs
Detailed list of damages				
Poles, towers, insulators	48,449.90		It will be defined by each distribution company, with due consultation to the governmental institutions of the sector.	Poles, towers, insulators, distribution transformers, cables for medium and low voltages, meters and fuses
Grid transformers/regulators	77,585.80			
Medium voltage line	67,037.20			
Meters/fuses	116,786.10			
Low-voltage line	76,286.80			
Detailed list of losses				
Non-revenue energy		63,600,000.0	Uncollectible	
Total	386,145.90	63,600,000.0		

Note: The justifications for the needs arising from the effects and impacts of the previous detail will be defined by each affected distribution company in due time. The CNE will ensure, together with the other government institutions involved in the sector, that this financial recovery does not abruptly impact the economy of the end users.

Source: Own elaboration by the assessment team, based on official statistics from the CNE.

Recovery Needs and Strategy

Recovery and prioritization needs

Regarding recovery and prioritization needs, these were remedied in the same emergency of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal by the electric power distribution companies. Due to the peculiarity of the electricity sector, the prioritization of the recovery of the amounts invested will have to be carried out in consensus with the government institutions involved in the sector, in the short and medium term.

The CNE, between 2018 and 2019, carried out a consultancy with the support of the IDB called “Dialogue for the modernization of electricity distribution for El Salvador”, where the representatives of the distributors and their counterpart from the CNE signed a deed of commitment⁴ to carry out

^{4/} Signed by: Executive Secretary of the CNE, General Superintendent of Electricity and Communications, Superintendent of Competition, President of the Consumer Ombudsman’s Office, General Manager of Distribuidora DELSUR, Executive President of AES-El Salvador, CEO of EDESAL; in San Salvador, on January 17th, 2018.



the previous initiative, with which it was intended to perform a diagnosis of the current distribution situation; and detect and agree on the needs of the subsector in the short, medium and long terms, with the aim of landing on a completely modern and digitized system.

Conclusions

- ▾ The precipitation caused by the cyclonic systems Amanda and Cristóbal represent more than 50.0% of the average rainfall for the whole year (approximately 1,875 mm). These precipitation numbers in such a short period of time give rise to the supersaturation of the land, generation of gullies and landslides in regions with unstable soils, flooding of flat lands and overflowing of rivers with short courses and gentle slopes.
- ▾ Despite the fact that 39 of the 46 large electricity generators are within the areas with the highest rainfall, during the period of storms Amanda and Cristóbal they did not report significant damage or that could compromise electric power supply in the country. They only reported damage to the electric power distribution companies for a total amount of US\$386,145.90, not considering the costs associated with paying compensation to users.
- ▾ Photovoltaic generators located on plains and near rivers, as well as fuel service stations located in urban areas with a history of flooding are the infrastructures with the greatest direct impact due to the storm phenomenon. The former was also affected by the reduction in power

generation due to lack of solar resources; however, no major damage to infrastructure has been reported.

- ▾ Losses due to energy not supplied in the baseline defined for COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal for the entire energy sector are classified as uncollectible, both in the private and public sectors.

Recommendations

- ▾ Given the incidence of natural phenomena such as storms, earthquakes, cyclones, etc., it is recommended to carry out a preventive vulnerability plan; update the documents that may be available from previous studies; or update existing plans, in order to act with greater emphasis on prevention. The same document should include mitigation/adaptation plans for greater resilience in face of natural emergencies.

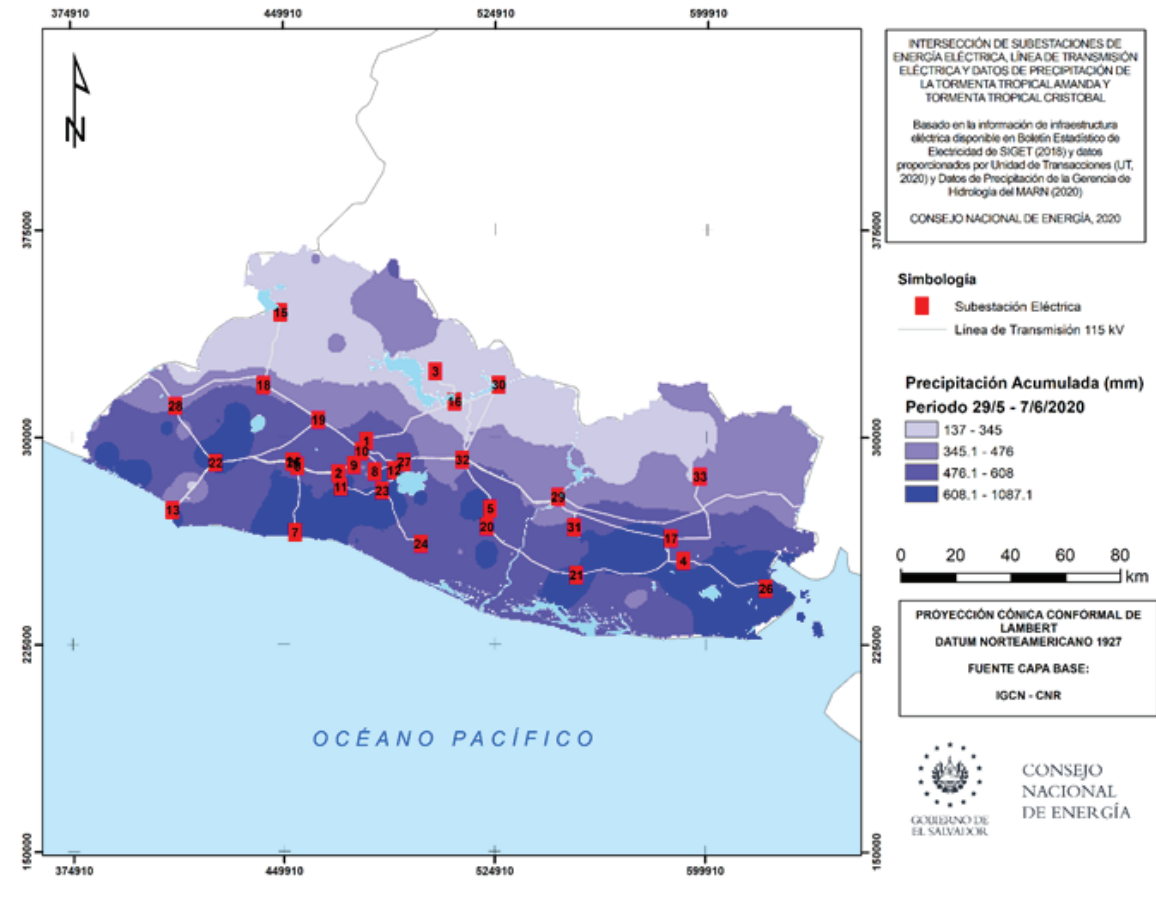
Sources

- SIGET Statistical Bulletins.
- Unpublished report on the analysis of the impact on energy infrastructure of El Salvador, June 16th, 2020, carried out by the CNE.
- Statistics of the Electricity Market monitored by the CNE.
- Georeference information on the CNE system.
- Damage report from the distributors: Grupo AES-El Salvador, DELSUR, EDESAL and B&D.

annexes

FIGURE A1

Generators affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

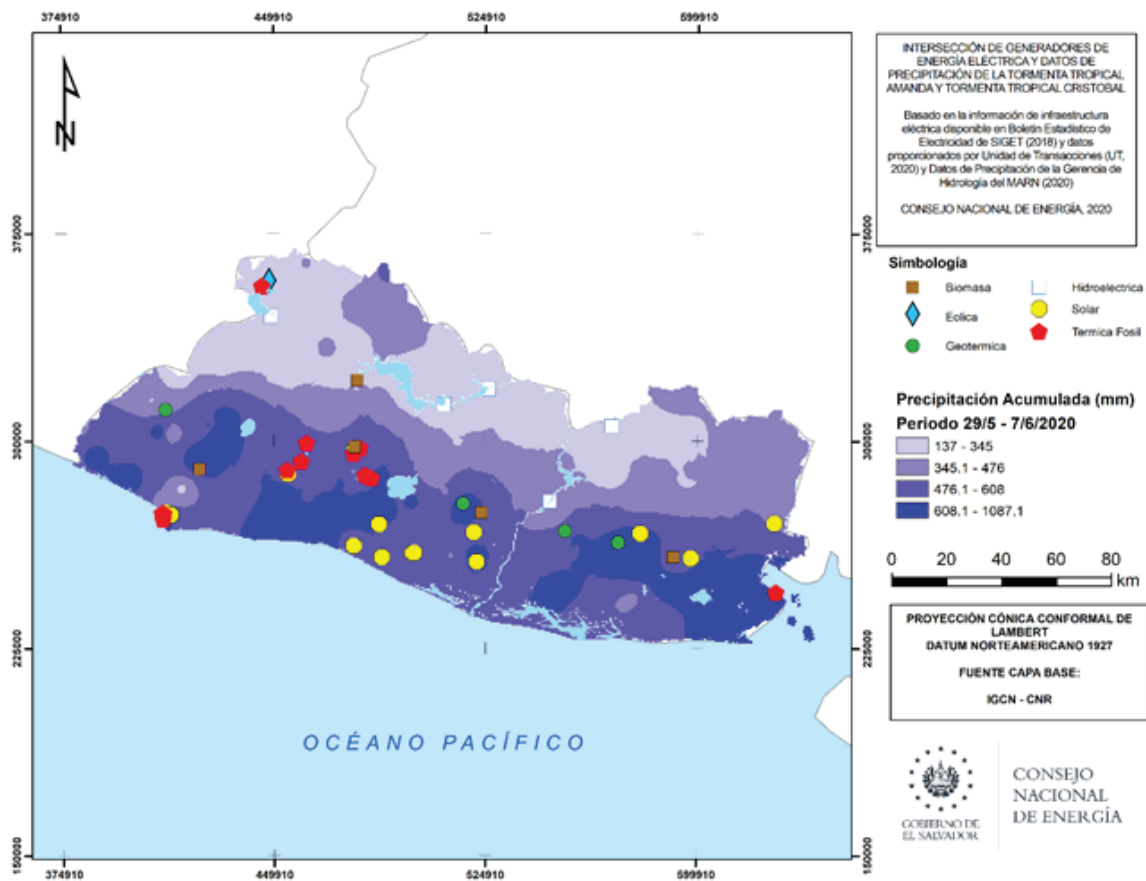


Source: National Energy Council (2020).



FIGURE A2

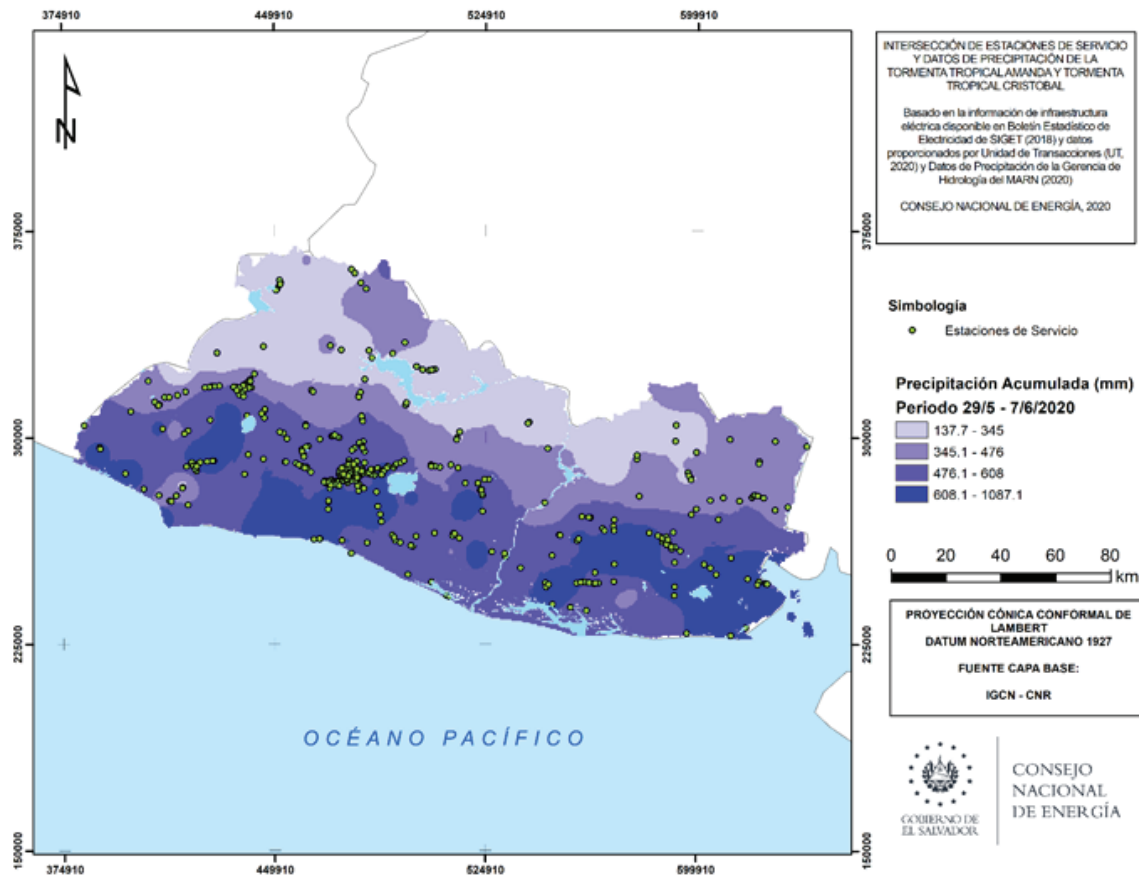
Electrical substations and transmission lines affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal



Source: National Energy Council (2020).

FIGURE A3

Service stations affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

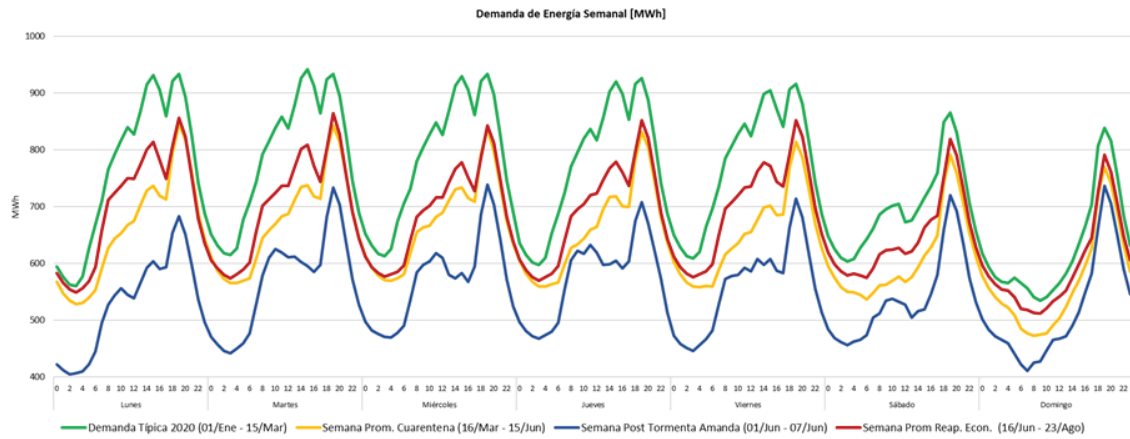


Source: National Energy Council (2020).



FIGURE A4

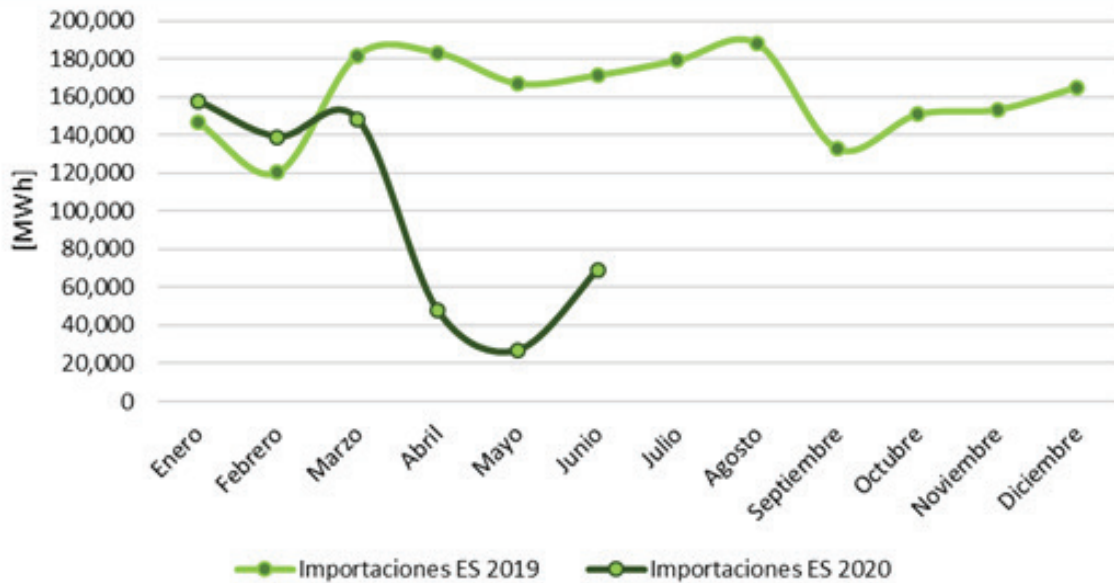
Weekly energy demand curve



Source: National Energy Council (2020).

FIGURE A5

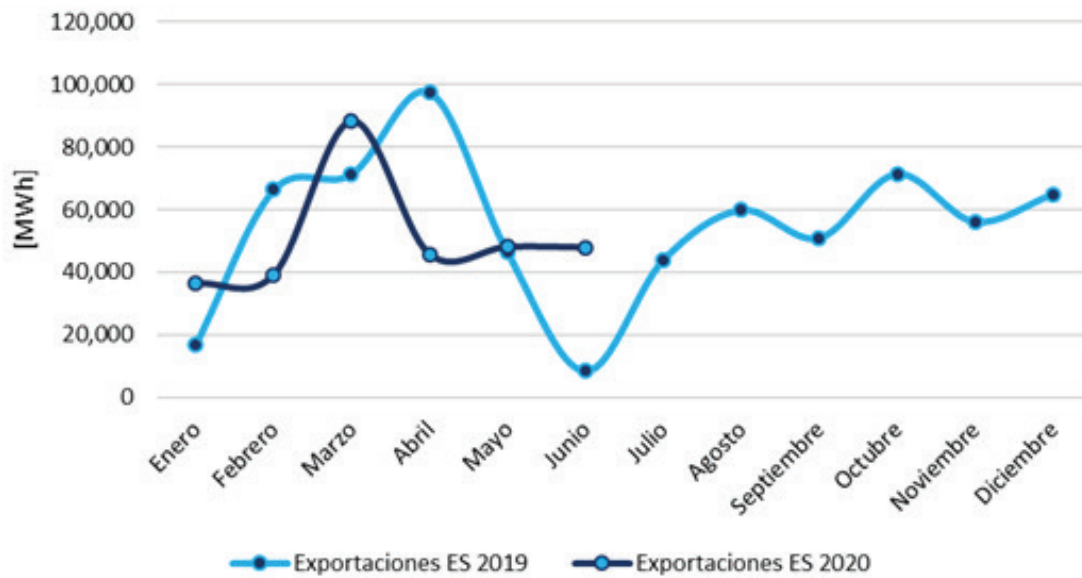
Imports of electric power from El Salvador



Source: Own elaboration by the assessment team, based on information from the National Energy Council (2020).

FIGURE A5

Exports of electric power from El Salvador



Source: Own elaboration by the assessment team, based on information from the National Energy Council (2020).

Photographs related to the emergence of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal



Emergencies attended during the passage of storms Amanda and Cristóbal (AES and DELSUR).



Business Activities

Cifras actualizadas el 20 de agosto 2020

ACTIVIDAD ECONÓMICA CIU 4	ENERO (P)	FEBRERO (P)	MARZO (P)	ABRIL (P)	MAYO (P)	JUNIO (P)	VAR. ABS. Junio-febrero	VAR. %
Agricultura,caza,silvicultura y pesca	14,252	14,117	13,791	12,790	12,621	12,437	(1,680)	-13.3%
Industrias manufactureras,Explotación de minas y canteras y Otras actividades Industriales	189,109	190,258	189,546	180,223	170,176	166,317	(23,941)	-14.1%
Construcción	26,486	27,158	26,287	22,641	18,781	19,781	(7,377)	-39.3%
Comercio,restaurantes y hoteles,Transporte,almacen.,Activ de Alojamiento y Servicios de Comida	209,170	208,879	206,944	197,909	191,219	187,117	(21,762)	-11.4%
Información y Comunicaciones	18,382	18,478	18,758	18,179	17,970	17,938	(540)	-3.0%
Actividades Financieras y de Seguros	32,944	32,677	32,672	32,304	31,541	31,122	(1,555)	-4.9%
Actividades Inmobiliarias	6,891	6,920	6,996	6,760	5,834	5,806	(1,114)	-19.1%
Actividades Profesionales, Científicas, Técnicas y de Servicios Admon. de Apoyo	129,819	129,947	129,295	122,315	118,318	117,559	(12,388)	-10.5%
Servicios	70,385	71,823	71,663	70,054	68,899	67,823	(4,000)	-5.8%
Servicio Doméstico	1,938	1,949	1,941	1,880	1,841	1,801	(148)	-8.0%
Salvadoreños en el Exterior (SALEX)	60	63	66	63	61	63	-	0.0%
Trabajadores Independientes	2,606	2,746	2,795	2,640	2,516	2,472	(274)	-10.9%
SECTOR PRIVADO	702,042	705,015	700,754	667,758	639,777	630,236	(74,779)	-11.7%
SECTOR PÚBLICO	173,582	175,029	175,955	175,374	175,880	176,270	1,241	0.7%
PENSIONADOS	176,927	177,936	178,268	178,196	178,279	178,281	345	0.2%
TOTAL GENERAL	1,052,551	1,057,980	1,054,977	1,021,328	993,936	984,787	(73,193)	-7.4%
TOTAL TRABAJADORES	875,624	880,044	876,709	843,132	815,657	806,506	(73,538)	-9.0%

Source: Prepared by the assessment team, based on information from the National Energy Council (2020).

Abbreviations and Acronyms

PDNA-SV: Post-Disaster Needs Assessments-El Salvador

COVID-19: Coronavirus Disease-19

mm: Millimeters

CNE: National Energy Council

MARN: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

TU: Transactions Unit

PEN: National Energy Policy

EDP: Energía del Pacífico

SIGET: General Superintendence of Electricity and Telecommunications

BANDESAL: Development Bank of El Salvador

CEL: Executive Hydroelectric Commission of the Lempa River

IDB: Inter-American Development Bank

VAT: Value Added Tax

FOVIAL: Road Conservation Fund

CONTRANS: Special Tax for the Stabilization of the Public Service Collective Passenger Transport Rates

FEFE: Stabilization and Economic Development Fund

IEC: Special Tax on Fuels

AES: Servicios de Energía Aplicada (Grupo AES-El Salvador)

DELSUR: Distribuidora de Electricidad DELSUR

EDESAL: Empresa Distribuidora de Electricidad de San Luis, S. A.

B&D: B&D Servicios Técnicos

MINEC: Ministry of Economy

kWh: kilowatt-hour

ISSS: Salvadoran Social Security Institute





Sectorial Report: Drinking Water and Sanitation

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Amanda and Cristóbal

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Summary

Considering the damage registered in urban drinking water supply systems, rural systems and sanitary sewers, classified as severe, moderate and slight damages at a national level, the National Administration of Aqueducts and Sewers (ANDA, for its acronym in Spanish) has been highly affected in several ways. First, by the damage to 78 systems, of which 66 are urban, 8 rural, and 4 sanitary sewers, as a consequence of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. The rains caused many slopes to collapse, destruction or damage to pumping plants, demolition of lightning poles with high voltage power lines, damage to the electrical substation, control boards, starters, protections and, above all, a considerable number of burned motors of different capacities; 25 HP, 40 HP, 50 HP, 100 HP, 125 HP, 150 HP, 250 HP and up to 800 HP. Also, damage to adduction lines, impellence water pipelines, distribution networks, pipes of different diameters, from 2" to 12"; and wastewater collectors with diameters between 8" and 18".

As an effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a drastic drop in the collection for the provision of drinking water services, which reached an institutional record of 75.0% abstention for payment of services. This generated serious difficulties for the fulfillment of the institution's commitments with suppliers, staff salaries, hiring, etc.

Based on what happened and the multiple needs focused on the supply of water suitable for human consumption in those vulnerable sectors that have suffered serious prob-

lems in drinking water supply systems, it is recommended to provide them with a supply of bottled water and in tanker trucks; and to support the entire population settled in the most vulnerable zones or that belong to the dry corridor of the country.

In the same way, it is advisable to have access to funds that allow speeding up the reconstruction processes of the systems damaged by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, in order to reach the maximum capacities of all the damaged systems at a national level as soon as possible, and thus being able to provide a service in quality, quantity and with the continuity demanded.

Context before tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

The drinking water and sanitation subsector was mostly required as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, since the population required a greater demand for the service to counteract the virus with hygiene measures, such as hand washing, bathing when entering the home, laundry, among others. These preventive measures were taken in order to avoid the contagion of COVID-19, which forced the institution to maintain a continuous operation in the production, distribution and attention to leaks in the networks, to maintain the service regime active 24 hours a day. This increased power costs and the consumption of chemicals for the purification of the water produced and distributed, which guaranteed water suitable for human



consumption and to counteract the virus as of March 18, 2020.

The service was being carried out with a high level of control, until tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal originated in late May and early June 2020, whose rainfall intensity caused landslides of slopes with mud and trees. The rains also damaged control booths, storage tanks, high voltage lines, electrical substations, transformers, control boards, starters, motors, impedance lines and adductors in ANDA's urban and rural systems throughout the country; and they seriously, but on a smaller scale, affected the sanitary sewer systems in targeted areas, destroying manholes and collectors of different diameters.

This forced this institution to immediately launch a campaign to clean up and dislodge

various materials, including mud, soil, debris of all kinds, stones, bricks, and sheets, until the areas were clean. At the same time, the damages and the needs to urgently repair and rehabilitate each of the damaged plants nationwide were accounted for, through the use of the stock of spare parts, accessories and equipment located in warehouses; and purchases from local suppliers of all those spare parts, accessories and necessary equipment that were not available in internal inventory.

Once the repairs were made, the pumping operation was restarted, lifting power lines, lightning poles, electrical substations, control panels and starters, from the systems with less damage to those with moderate and severe damage, which have taken longer to restore. It was also necessary to launch a

TABLE 1

Main reference data for the Sector (Million US\$)

Region or place	Description	Number of claims	Budgeted amount
Central	Pumping plants, urban and rural systems, sanitation	24	
Metropolitan	Pumping plants, urban and rural systems, sanitation	15	
Western	Pumping plants, urban and rural systems, sanitation	8	
Oriental	Pumping plant	2	
Electromechanics	Pumping equipment, electrical substation, control boards and starters	27	
Ex IVU Building	Deterioration due to rain	2	
Total			1,873,000

Note: Includes the value for losses due to non-payment of the service as an effect of COVID-19.

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

campaign to supply water in tank trucks, repeating this service diagram until the re-establishment of the pumping plants, pipelines and distribution networks; this process took between two to three weeks to provide optimal service to the population.

Effects identified due to COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

One of the immediate effects on the drinking water and sanitation sector, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, was the drastic reduction in the payment for the drinking water service in April, May, June and July at a national level. The economic flow collapsed, reducing the monthly income from the provision of services by up to 80.0%, a situation that affected ANDA to comply with its commitments to suppliers, and in the purchase of supplies for maintenance and operation of the systems in general. To date, the normal monthly income prior to the pandemic has not been recovered.

The emergency caused by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, parallel to the pandemic, led to the drop in the normal service that was being provided to the population. Due to the damage suffered by the tropical storms in over 78 drinking water systems nationwide, water production was greatly reduced. This further deepened the income gap of the payment for drinking water service; and increased the total operating and reconstruction costs due to the damage caused to

pumping plants, main power lines, electrical substations, control boards, walls, mud walls, booths, pressure lines and adductors damaged by slope collapse, among others.

These two situations led to the lowest income in ANDA's history. On the other hand, there were high levels of expenditures for disaster relief in over 78 systems nationwide. To date, work continues on these systems, in order to leave them according to their installed capacities, since they were working provisionally, since they were mostly repaired on an emergency basis, in order to restore service as soon as possible and thus supply service to the user population.

The rise in consumption led the institution to maintain a constant uphill struggle, due to the precarious conditions in which the damaged systems were left. At that time, the work of the technical staff and the maintenance brigades stood out, as well as the support of the central government, which allowed the restoration of drinking water service in record time, thus guaranteeing its provision to the population, who demanded it for their consumption and protection against COVID-19: hygiene, hand washing, disinfection of vegetables, etc.

It is imperative to highlight that COVID-19 generated losses in the sector due to foregone income, which reached 75.0% of the monthly total, considered a very high level. On the other hand, add the high additional costs to repair and maintain the service during and after storms; the assurance of governance in each sector; and the reduction of additional risks due to the pandemic,



TABLE 2

Summary table of Damages and Losses in the sector (Million US\$)

Parameters	COVID-19 (March-May 2020)				Storms Amanda and Cristóbal (May-July 2020)			
	Loss		Loss		Damage		Loss	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Damage to pumping plants, control booths, motors, electrical substations, transformers, plumbing pipes, walls, mud walls, dislodged material removal, etc.	*	*	*	*	1,345,455.08	*	*	*
Damage to systems in the rural sector: Pipelines, distribution networks, control booths, motors, electrical substations, among others.	*	*	*	*	210,509.78	*	*	*
Damage to urban sanitation infrastructure: Wells, collectors, pavement restoration and others.	*	*	*	*	316,869.36	*	*	*
Total US\$	*	*	*	*	1,872,778.22	*	*	*

* Data not available

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

as well as due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. If the rains continue, it is expected that in some sectors where the slopes collapsed, new damages (impact on infrastructure and equipment) and losses (additional costs) will be generated, so reconstruction works must be completed quickly, to reduce the risk of failure through the works to be carried out.

The cost estimate for the institution is clear, concise, and precise since it works under budgets for works execution projects and corrective maintenance nationwide. In case of natural disasters, the most recent cost lists

are implemented for each item in particular: Excavations, fillings, electric motors according to their horsepower, pumps, starters, electrical substations, pipes and accessories of any diameter and material: PVC, HFD, HG, PHD, etc.

The institution's intervention focuses on serving the most vulnerable sectors: Women, children, and the elderly, thus avoiding water shortages. ANDA strives to provide an immediate response that allows providing sanitary conditions, guaranteeing the human right to water, and meeting the needs of the population in general.

TABLE 3

Damage and loss estimate, water, and sanitation sector (Million US\$)

Components	Units	Total	Damages	Losses	Sector	
					Public	Private
Water						
Urban Systems						
Infrastructure	66	1,345,495.08	1,345,495.08	*	1,345,495.08	*
Rehabilitation Expenses	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lower income (non-revenue water)	*	*	*	*	*	*
Higher production cost	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rural Systems						
Infrastructure	8	210,509.78	210,509.78	*	210,509.78	*
Rehabilitation Expenses	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sanitation						
Urban Systems						
Infrastructure	4	316,869.36	316,869.36	*	316,869.36	*
Rehabilitation Expenses	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lower income	*	*	*	*	*	*
Higher production cost	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rural Systems						
Infrastructure	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rehabilitation Expenses	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	78	1,873,000	1,873,000	*	1,873,000	*

* Data not available

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

Contributions of the sector to Human Impact

1 Living conditions: living conditions of Salvadoran families represent a concern for the institution. Having running water is vital, and having it allows Salvador-

ans to guarantee their health and fight COVID-19.

2 Livelihoods: We secure the needs of water service to the population, providing it safely and continuously.

3 Gender equity: It is guaranteed with the timely service in tanker trucks, regardless of gender.



4 Poverty and security: General support was provided to families, without distinction of sex or economic level, suspending payments for water service during the COVID-19 pandemic, and during the emergency due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal.

5 Food: The water service is facilitated through tank trucks, or valves are manipulated for the sectorization of the service.

6 Social inclusion: We consider all social strata, supporting non-payment for water service during the pandemic and providing drinking water supply.

Recovery Needs and Strategy

Summarizing, due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, ANDA accounted for 78 damaged urban and rural systems, of which 35.0% presented severe damage and required over four weeks for their rehabilitation and putting into operation. Another 40.0% corresponded to systems with moderate damage, needing a maximum of four weeks of repair. The remaining 25.0% presented slight damage, needing a maximum of three weeks to enable them back. In total, there were 8 rural systems and 4 urban sanitary sewer systems damaged.

TABLE 4

Recovery Needs and Strategy (Million US\$)

Parameters	Damages	Losses	Justification of the needs arising from the analysis of effects and impacts	Needs
The supply of equipment and accessories necessary for the urgent rehabilitation of pumping plants, electrical substations, pumping houses, replacement of damaged motors, pressure lines, metal and PVC adductors, junctions, among others, is needed.	1,345,455.08	785,000.00	The urgent importance of restoring drinking water service to the population affected by damage to the systems, replacing all destroyed equipment and accessories that are highly necessary to resume drinking water service to the population that urgently needs it, due to COVID-19.	1,345,455.08
All the necessary equipment and materials needed to repair the damages in the rural sector systems: Pipelines, distribution networks, control booths, motors, electrical substations, etc.	210,509.78	80,000.00	Replacement of all equipment and accessories destroyed and that are highly necessary to resume the drinking water service to the population that needs it urgently, due to COVID-19.	210,509.78
Damage to urban sanitation infrastructure: Wells, collectors, pavement restoration and others.	316,869.36		Replacement of damaged collectors and wells.	316,869.36
Other needs arising from human impact and derived from reconstruction, BBB, RRD, etc.				
Total	1,872,778.22			1,872,778.22

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

TABLE 5

Recovery and prioritization needs. Summary table of initiatives and recovery costs in the short, medium, and long term (Million US\$)

Intervention	Short Term*	Medium Term*	Long Term*	Priority (1 a 5)	Description	Cost (in US\$)
Damaged pumping plants and pipelines.	x			1	Supply of equipment and accessories necessary for the urgent rehabilitation of pumping plants, electrical substations, pumping houses, replacement of motors, etc.	1,345,455.08
Damaged pumping plants and pipelines in rural systems.	X			1	Damage to systems in the rural sector: Pipelines, distribution networks, control booths, motors, electrical substations, among others.	210,509.78
Reconstruction of the collectors and manholes of the sewage system.		X		1	Damage to urban sanitation infrastructure: Wells, collectors, and repair of pavements.	316,869.36

* To be agreed upon with the central government.

Source: Own elaboration of the assessment team.

Recommendations for its implementation

The implementation of the different activities will be pursuant to the level of damage to the drinking water supply systems, being addressed by region and stage. The systems with less damage will be in first place, consider-

ing one to three weeks until the restoration of service; for those with a moderate level of damage it is estimated between three to five weeks; and for those with severe damage, a maximum period of four to six weeks is considered. While the drinking water service is restored normally, the population will be supplied using tanker trucks.



Sectorial Report: Impact Analysis



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Sectorial Report: Macroeconomic Impact

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Macroeconomic impact of the pandemic¹

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit hard, causing high and growing economic and social costs globally. This has had a cascading effect on all countries, especially those that are more dependent on the industrialized and larger countries for their growth and international trade. Protecting lives and enabling health systems to cope with the pandemic has involved isolation policies, restrictions on citizens' mobility and widespread border closures, with the intention that the spread of the virus can be slowed. These measures have been gradually relaxed in each nation, with the aim of restarting their economic and social activities. However, outbreaks of coronavirus have been experienced in some countries, forcing them to postpone the complete reopening of their economies.

The economic outlook is still quite uncertain, and is closely linked to the evolution of the pandemic, the speed and form of the economy reopening, the reactivation plans and possible outbreaks of the disease, etc. Likewise, several international organizations, such as the United Nations, the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), among others, indicate that the risks that

would cause that the world situation worsens, remain; that is, there is the potential for the pandemic to drag on for longer, for financial turmoil to occur, and for international trade to contract further, and even global supply chains.

In this sense, the adverse effects on the country have called for: i) in the short term, policy priorities are oriented towards alleviating the continuing human and health costs, and mitigating the economic losses of the most vulnerable; and ii) in the medium and long term, it will be necessary for governments to reaffirm a credible commitment to promote sustainable public policies and thus undertake the necessary reforms to reinforce long-term growth prospects when the pandemic is under control and the crisis subsides.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

It is important to bear in mind that the ongoing pandemic, in addition to the damage to human health, is also generating a serious deterioration in the macroeconomic conditions of the country, inducing reductions in production and income levels, and, therefore, in consumption and investment expenses and the export and import capacities of companies, factors that reduce the population's welfare.

According to estimates by the Central Reserve Bank (BCR) made in June 2020 (which were maintained for the September update

¹/ No estimates have been made on the macroeconomic impact of the pandemic.



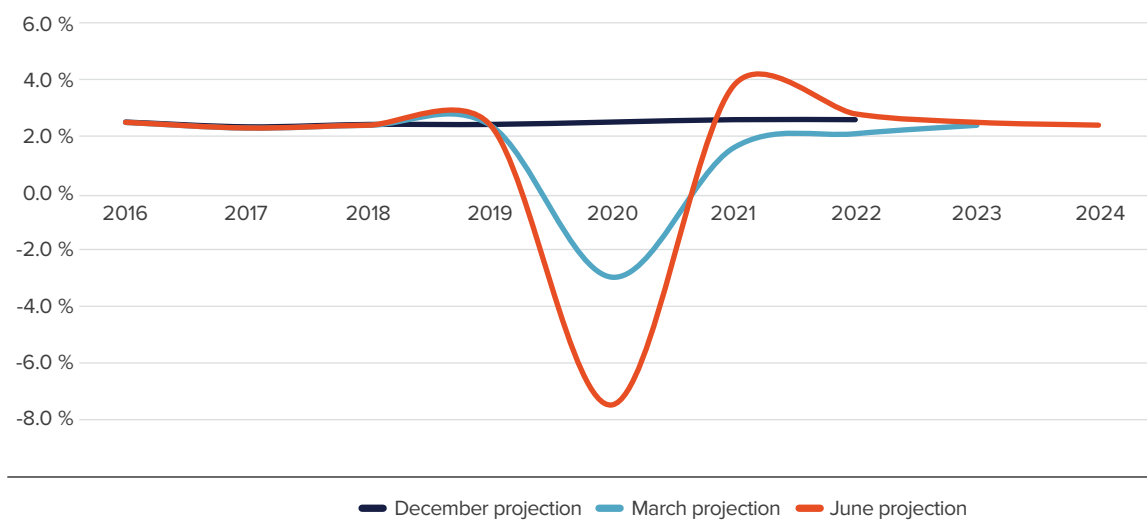
of the same year), there are various explanatory factors for the downward projection of economic growth in El Salvador, in an estimated range between -6.5% to -8.5%, with an expected value of -7.5%, within which is the current uncertainty environment regarding the duration of the coronavirus (vaccines), global macroeconomic expectations and those of the main trade partners, and

the improvement in conditions that affect aggregate demand.

Over the months, the predictions or scenarios of economic evolution have changed from a growth scenario, following the 2019 trend, to a contraction in 2020 that is subsequently corrected for the following years, estimating an economic recovery (Chart 1)

CHART 1

Evolution of GDP Forecasts



Source: Central Reserve Bank.

External sector

The double confluence of domestic lockdown and the international situation leads to a deterioration of the external sector, with a

sharp decline in exports and imports and a growth forecast in the trade balance deficit of 11.6%. Said deficit has traditionally been compensated for by remittance flows from Salvadorans abroad. Although these have

also had a fall, their trend is estimated not to be so negative, so that the deficit will only be partially moderate.

Exports

El Salvador’s accumulated exports as of August 2020 totaled US\$3,093.3 million, decreasing by US\$984.7 million compared to the same period in 2019, with a year-on-year variation of -24.1%.

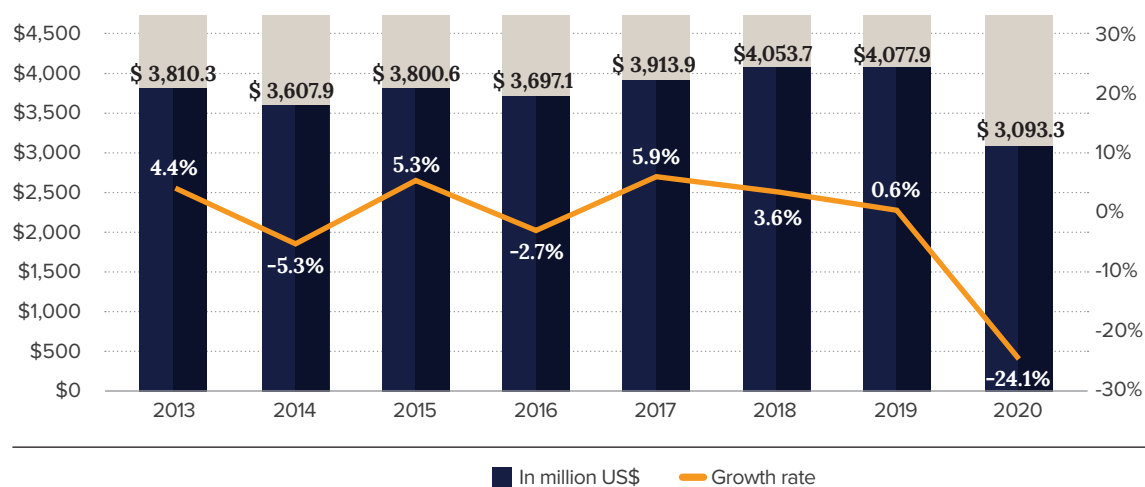
In August 2020 alone, exports decreased by US\$33.7 million compared to the previous month, a minimal reduction, if one takes into

account that in the last week of August all companies were allowed to reopen² and that this month includes a week’s vacation. An improvement was seen for September, considering that economic activity had increased and that during that month the inventory of companies was reinforced, facing the end of the year.

A particularly important industry for the external sector is manufacturing, which, including maquila, exported US\$2,940.8 million, with a year-on-year variation of -24.9%, equivalent to US\$975.6 million less compared to the previous year (Chart 2).

CHART 2

Evolution of accumulated exports as of August of each year, 2013-2020



Source: Central Reserve Bank.

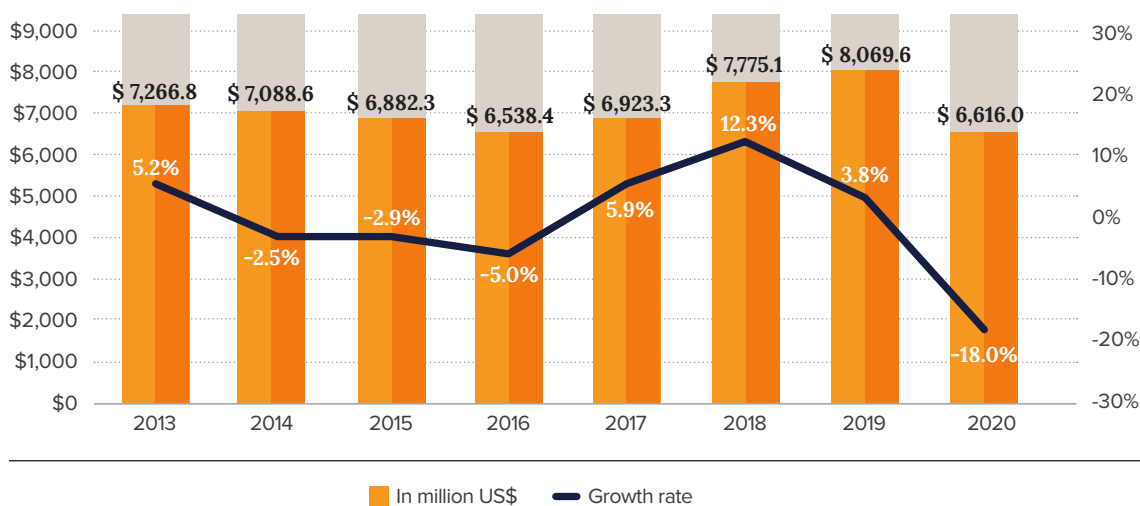
2/ The reopening of the Salvadoran economy began on June 16, where phases were contemplated that

determined the activities that could operate. The total opening of the economy occurred in August 2020.



CHART 3

Evolution of accumulated imports as of August of each year, 2013-2020



Source: Central Reserve Bank.

Imports

Due to the confinement and falls in industrial, commercial and service activities, a fall in imports is also expected, which, as indicated, will not prevent an increase in the deficit in the trade account (Chart 3).

Remittances

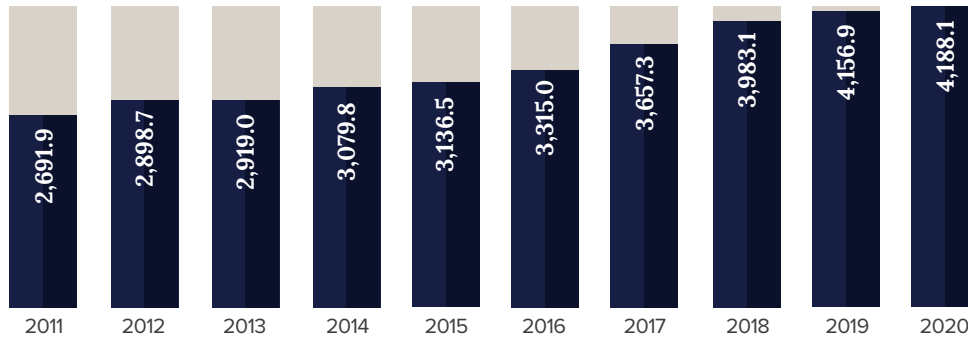
Family remittances received by El Salvador totaled US\$4,188.1 million in the first nine months of 2020, being higher by US\$31.2 million, compared to the same period in 2019, which is equivalent to an annual increase of 0.8%, which exceeded the year-on-year fall of -40.0% in April and -18.0% in May. In recent months there were factors that favored

the accelerated recovery of remittances, for example, the flexibility that Salvadoran migrants have to adapt to new jobs. In addition, 15.1% of senders work in essential activities, such as health, personal care and cleaning activities, according to the Sixth Survey of Family Remittances, carried out by the BCR in the United States, in 2018.

Additionally, the reactivation in the United States improved employment conditions that are reflected in the global unemployment rate, which went from 14.7% in April 2020 to 7.9% in September (Chart 4); Latino unemployment also shows a similar trend. With the latest data received, remittances are expected to close the year with a growth of 2.0%.

CHART 4

Evolution of monthly and accumulated remittances as of September of each year, 2013-2020 (in millions of US\$ and growth rate)



Source: Central Reserve Bank.

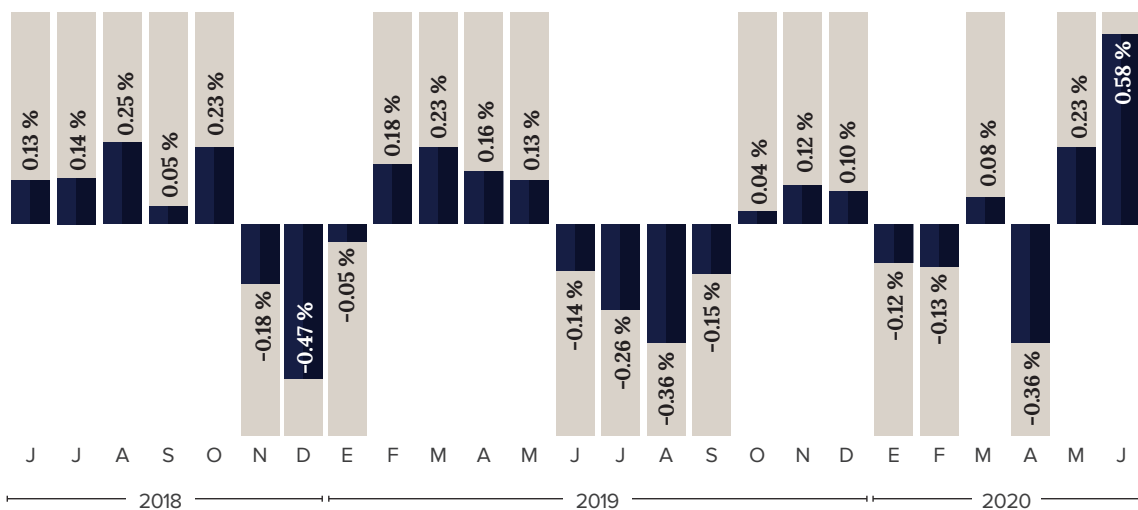
Inflation

▣ The annual variation rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in August 2020 was -0.3%, two tenths lower than the previous month. The accumulated variation of the CPI throughout 2020 has been -0.4% (Chart 5).

▣ The decrease in the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages should be noted, -2.0% registered in August 2020 compared to the previous month. Likewise, it must be taken into account that the food category represents 26.3% of the market basket used to calculate the indicator.

CHART 5

El Salvador: Monthly change percentage in the general CPI, June 2018-June 2020



Source: MINEC, DIGESTYC, Price Survey Department.



Tax sector

Impact on tax revenue

The contraction in GDP growth in 2020 will be the cause of a significant reduction in tax revenues. This negatively affects the current limited fiscal space and increases the level of indebtedness as a counter-cyclical fiscal policy measure to address the emergency and the reactivation of the economy.

According to data from the BCR, the fall in GDP will be the main reason for the decrease in tax revenues and the increase in the fiscal deficit, of approximately 4.0% with respect to GDP. While the expected drop in income from the Government, as an effect of

the economic contraction, could represent between US\$900 and US\$1,000 million, in a more probable scenario. At the same time, the deterioration of the deficit could reach up to 4.0%, as a result of the fall in income.

Current income and estimated annual contributions as of December 31, 2020

The estimated revenue loss by the close of the fiscal year is estimated at US\$960 million relative to the budget. Total revenue will contract with respect to the budget, from US\$6,371.9 million to US\$5,410.9 million, largely due to the stoppage of productive activity as an effect of COVID-19, which has fostered the slowdown of the economy with respect to estimates for the first quarter.

TABLE 1

Revenue projection of the Non-Financial Public Sector (NFPS) as of December 31, 2020 (in millions of US\$ and %)

Concept	2019	2020 Budget	2020 (to 31 December)	Year's variation against 2020 budget		2020/2019 Variation	
				Absolute	%	Absolute	%
Current income and contributions (1+2+3+4)	5,930.4	6,371.9	5,410.8	-911.0	-15.1 %	-519.6	-8.8 %
1. Taxes and Contributions	4,913.8	5,157.2	4,509.2	-597.9	-12.6 %	-404.6	-8.2 %
Value Added Taxes (VAT)	2,215.1	2,315.9	1,993.6	-322.3	-13.9 %	-221.5	-10.0 %
• Declarations	1,026.0	1,052.2	975.4	-76.8	-7.3 %	-50.6	-4.9 %
• Import	1,189.1	1,263.7	1,018.2	-245.5	-19.4 %	-170.9	-14.4 %
Income Tax (ISR, for its acronym in Spanish)	1,933.5	2,072.4	1,874.8	-197.6	-9.5 %	-58.7	-3.0 %
• Declarations	471.4	548.8	503.5	-45.3	-8.3 %	32.1	6.8 %
• Withholdings	980.1	1,021.8	947.7	-74.1	-7.3 %	-32.4	-3.3 %
• Advance tax payments	482.0	501.8	423.6	-78.2	-15.6 %	-58.4	-12.1 %
Import Customs Duties	232.1	245.0	178.4	-66.6	-27.2 %	-53.7	-23.1 %

Concept	2019	2020 Budget	2020 (to 31 De- cember)	Year's variation against 2020 budget		2020/2019 Variation	
				Absolute	%	Absolute	%
Selective Consumption Taxes	192.2	191.6	178.6	-13.0	-6.8 %	-13.6	-7.1 %
• Alcoholic products	25.3	26.0	33.0	7.0	26.9 %	7.7	30.4 %
• Beer	81.9	79.0	59.7	-19.3	-24.4 %	-22.2	-27.1 %
• Cigarette	24.2	25.9	28.3	2.4	9.3 %	4.1	16.9 %
• Sodas and other carbonated drinks	51.7	52.0	49.2	-2.8	-5.4 %	-2.5	-4.8 %
• Weapons, ammunition, explosives and the like	1.2	1.2	0.9	-0.3	-25.0 %	-0.3	-25.0 %
• <i>Ad valorem</i> on fuels	7.9	7.5	7.5		0.0 %	-0.4	-5.1 %
Other taxes and charges	54.2	48.6	28.1		-42.2 %	-26.1	-48.2 %
• Transfer of assets	28.8	30.5	16.8		-44.9 %	-12.0	-41.7 %
• Migration and tourism	0.7	2.1			-100.0 %	-0.7	-100.0 %
• Special tax, 1st registration	16.2	16.0	11.3		-29.4 %	-4.9	-30.2 %
• Taxes on financial operations	8.5					-8.5	-100.0 %
• On checks and electronic transfers	5.3					-5.3	-100.0 %
• Withholding for liquidity control (creditable)	3.2					-3.2	-100.0 %
Special contributions	286.7	283.7	255.7	1.6	-9.9 %	-31.0	-10.8 %
• Promotion of tourism	12.5	12.1	6.5		-46.3 %	-6.0	-48.0 %
• Road fund (FOVIAL, for its acronym in Spanish)	96.1	96.0	80.3		-16.4 %	-15.8	-16.4 %
• Public Transportation	48.3	46.4	38.1		-17.9 %	-10.2	-21.1 %
• Extracted sugar	1.1		1.2	1.2		0.1	9.1 %
• Public Security (CESC)	55.0	53.5	46.3	-7.1	-13.5 %	-8.7	-15.8 %
• Public Security (large taxpayers)	73.7	75.7	83.3	7.5	10.0 %	9.6	13.0 %
2. Non-taxable	234.5	394.1	205.7	-188.4	-47.8 %	-28.8	-12.3 %
• Stabilization and Economic Develop- ment Fund (FEEE, for its acronym in Spanish)	41.2	16.6	29.5	12.9	77.7 %	-11.7	-28.4 %
• Unique Identity Document (DUI, for its acronym in Spanish)	11.3	11.8	6.6	-5.2	-44.1 %	-4.7	-41.6 %
• Other	182.0	365.7	169.6	-196.1	-53.6 %	-12.4	-6.8 %
3. Rest of the General Government	619.2	639.7	608.9	-30.8	-4.8 %	-10.3	-1.7 %
• Contributions to Social Security	604.4	624.6	592.3	-32.3	-5.2 %	-12.1	-2.0 %
• Sale of goods and services	14.8	15.1	16.6	1.5	9.9 %	1.8	12.2 %



Concept	2019	2020 Budget	2020 (to 31 De- cember)	Year's variation against 2020 budget		2020/2019 Variation	
				Absolute	%	Absolute	%
4. Other income of Public Non-Financial Companies (PNFC)	39.3	62.4	31.6	-30.8	-49.4 %	-7.7	-19.6 %
5. Operating Surplus	123.6	118.5	55.4	-63.1	-53.2 %	-68.2	-55.2 %

Source: Ministry of Finance.

Financing to be managed

The Government of El Salvador seeks to implement an adequate financial handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and, at the same time, safeguard the resilience of public finances, which will allow the State to respond adequately to the needs of the population and affected sectors, as well as to maintain the economic stability of the country.

The foregoing allowed the Salvadoran Government to have legislative authorization to

manage financing through the issuance of long-term bonds or the contracting of loans, considering the contracting of short-term bridging loans. The financing strategy includes, in addition to the prior authorization for US \$645.8 million for the management of complementary financing to the 2020 budget, the authorization of up to US\$3 billion to attend the COVID-19 pandemic. However, only a part of these funds have been obtained, due to various reasons that are left outside this document.

TABLE 2

Financing package approved in 2020 (Million US\$)

Financing Instrument	Amount (Million US\$)
Supplementary budget financing	645.8
Financing for the Emergency Fund and Recovery and Economic Reconstruction of the Country	2,000.0
Financing to constitute a trust to promote the economic recovery of companies and reinforce the general budget of the State	1,000.0
Total	3,645.8

Note: Approved funds that cannot be managed and disbursed in 2020 may be managed in subsequent years.

Source: Ministry of Finance.





Sectorial Report: Human Impact

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Pre-storm context: Human development and poverty

The total population of El Salvador in 2019 was 6.7 million people, of which 4.1 million reside in urban areas and 2.6 million in rural areas. 47.1% are men (3.2 million), and 52.9% are women (3.6 million). An important characteristic in demographic terms is that 51.4% of the population is under the age of 30; while 13.6% are over 60 years of age (DIGESTYC, 2019).

Living conditions in El Salvador prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal that hit the country from late May to the first week of June reflected significant challenges in terms of human development and poverty. As of 2019, 11.1% of households fall into the category of income poverty and multidimensional poverty (Annex 1).

The proportion of households in a situation of monetary poverty in El Salvador decreased by 3.5 percentage points, from 26.3% (5.7% extreme poverty, and 20.6% relative poverty) in 2018 to 22.8% (4.5% extreme poverty, and 18.3% relative poverty) in 2019, equivalent to 442 thousand households or 1.5 million people. This has resulted in a decrease of 49,040 households and 254,778 people living in poverty in recent years (DIGESTYC, 2019). Out of these, 4.5% live in extreme poverty, while 18.3% live in relative poverty. In rural areas, 24.8% of households live in poverty, of which 5.2% live in extreme pov-

erty, and 19.6% live in relative poverty. In urban areas, 21.7% of households live in poverty: 4.1% live in extreme poverty, and 17.5% live in relative poverty.

While for 2019, 28.1% of Salvadoran households live in multidimensional poverty; that is, they have an average of eight deficiencies within the twenty indicators of the five welfare dimensions (education, housing conditions, work and social security, health, utilities, food security and quality of habitat). This is equivalent to 543,875 households, that is, about 2.1 million people in the country live in poverty, with significant deprivations. Urban multidimensional poverty represents 17.5% of urban households and 46.0% of rural households. 74.0% of households headed by women have between one to three deprivations, and of these there are 230 thousand households with dependents between 0 and 17 years of age (UNDP, 2020).

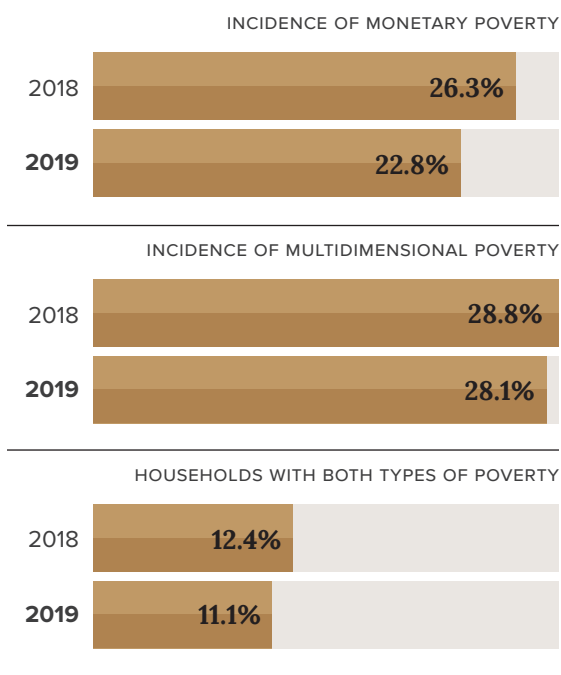
On March 11th, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. The Salvadoran Government decreed a state of emergency and emergency in the country. Despite the rapid reaction of the Government, as of May 31st there were 2,395 confirmed cases and 44 deaths, figures that present a very low fatality rate (1.8%).

While the country was facing the impact of COVID-19, between May 29th and June 7th, a low-pressure system south of the coasts of El Salvador and Guatemala started temporary rains in the Salvadoran territory. The low pressure grew stronger, and on May



CHART 1

Incidence of monetary and multidimensional poverty (% of households), 2018 and 2019



Source: UNDP (2020), base 2018 and 2019 MPHS.

31st, 2020 it reached the category of tropical storm Amanda. Although this system made landfall in Guatemala, strong winds and heavy rains affected western El Salvador. Between June 4th and 6th, tropical storm Cristóbal displaced abundant humidity and temporary rainfall over the country, with emphasis on the coastal area and the volcanic mountain range.

This document presents the analysis of the impacts of these tropical storms on people, their living conditions, access to utility ser-

vices, livelihoods and poverty, their food security, as well as well as the impact on social inclusion/exclusion and the social protection measures that were taken by the Government to protect them. Finally, the main needs and strategies for the social and human recovery of people after these natural disasters are identified.

Impact on living conditions, health, and education

In the nine days of temporary rain, choppy seas and flooding of rivers were registered, which caused floods and landslides in different areas of the country, increasing the levels of threats and the probability that these would occur and generate impacts on house infrastructure (water, sanitation, electricity, among other utility services); as well as in access to health and education.

Impact on infrastructure

The overcrowded conditions and the lack of utility services in many of the Salvadoran homes did not allow people to comply with the necessary sanitary measures or maintain the required distance, increasing the vulnerability and risk of contagion by COVID-19. This can be evidenced in the 2019 MPHS, where it is observed that:

- 379 thousand households did not have access to domestic drinking water or did not have drinking water service only with

minimal frequency (over a month). The lack of access to household drinking water is greater in rural areas (33.3%) than in urban areas (11.5%).

- 803,679 households do not have access to a sanitary service connected to a sewer or septic tank. Lack of access is greater for rural areas (74.0%) than for urban areas (22.0%), and it is greater for households headed by men (43.1%) than for households headed by women (38.6%).
- Access to electric power, on the other hand, has high levels of coverage: 97.9% of homes have electric power.
- 1.05 million households have the three utility services. Access to these three utility services is greater for female-headed households (56.8%) than for male-headed households (52.8%) and is significantly higher for urban areas (73.6%) than for rural areas (21.3%).
- 88.6% of households nationwide use liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to cook, followed by the use of firewood 7.7%. In urban areas, 93.5% use LPG, while only 2.4% use firewood. In rural areas, on the other hand, 80.2% use LPG and 16.9% firewood.
- 452,582 households had home internet access, access being lower in rural areas (4.1%) than in urban areas (34.6%).
- 40.5% of the households lived in a house with few bedrooms, in relation to the total number of people that comprise it. Overcrowding is higher for male-headed households (42.2%) than for female-headed households (37.7%), and it is higher in rural areas (55.2%) than in urban areas (31.9%).

- 9.9% of Salvadoran households live in a house or land without a stable arrangement for their legal occupation; insecurity is greater in rural areas (16.7%) than in urban areas (6.0%).

These overcrowded conditions and the lack of utility services in many Salvadoran homes worsened because the abundant rains caused by storms Amanda and Cristóbal caused landslides, floods and material damage to houses. Thus, according to the consolidated information from the reports of the Ministry of Housing and the General Directorate of Civil Protection, Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters (DGP, by its Spanish acronym):

- 23,855 homes, which represent 2.0% of the national total, were affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal to different extents:¹ 18.0% severe; 28.0% moderate; and 54.0% minor.
- 71,119 families had their quality of life affected, and their situation became more complex in the context of the health emergency generated by the pandemic.²
- The most affected departments were Sonsonate, San Salvador, and La Paz, totaling 12,242 homes with various damage levels.
- At the highest peak of the humanitarian response, almost 11,000 people were

¹/ Housing Sectorial Report, PDNA 2020 in El Salvador, p. 10

²/ Housing Sectorial Report, PDNA 2020 in El Salvador, p. 10



sheltered in the second week of June, and between 8,500 and 6,500 between June 12th and July 13th. The Government provided the sheltered families: Food, a mat, blankets, personal cleaning kits, medicines and drinking water.³

Additionally, the Social Housing Fund (FSV, by its Spanish acronym) also provided assistance with insurance coverage to the homes under its system. 401 cases were processed and a total of US\$142,667 were disbursed. At the moment, 127 more cases affected by Storm Amanda are in the process of preparing the damage budget. In the case of Cristóbal storm, there were no cases of insurance procedures.

As can be seen, the overlapping of the effects of COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal on people living in homes with poor utility services and overcrowding put thousands of families at serious risk and increased their vulnerability.

Impact on Health

The disease prevalence analysis in the Salvadoran population and that of the barriers to access to basic health services is of vital importance in the human impact of both COVID-19 and the effects of tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the 2019 MPHS:

- ▾ 999 thousand people (14.9% of the population) suffered some disease, symptom, or injury. In the case of men and women, it is 2.5% higher in women than in men.
- ▾ Of the people who became ill and sought medical consultation, 44.5% did so in a Ministry of Health (MINSAL) Health Unit; 14.0% went to a MINSAL hospital; 20.4% visited in a private hospital or clinic; 10.4% visited Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS) units; 6.0% visited an ISSS hospital; and 4.6% did so elsewhere.
- ▾ 25.3% of the country's total population stated that they had some medical insurance. This percentage is 12.3% in rural areas and 33.4% in urban areas. Of the population covered with health insurance, 91.9% have access to health insurance through the ISSS; 6.0% have access to the Salvadoran Institute for Teachers' Welfare (ISBM, by its Spanish acronym); 1.6% have access through the IPSFA; and only 0.4% have private insurance.
- ▾ There are 1.56 doctors and 1.8 nurses per 1,000 inhabitants, figures that are below the Latin American average, of 2.0 doctors and 2.8 nurses per 1,000 inhabitants.

Once the World Health Organization (WHO) declared both the public health emergency of international importance in January 2020, as well as the declaration of a pandemic due to COVID-19, El Salvador took immediate re-

³/ Housing Sectorial Report, PDNA 2020 in El Salvador, p. 11.

sponse measures to contain the infections in the country. Despite this quick response, it was observed that:

- ▾ As of May 31st, there were 2,395 confirmed cases and 44 deaths, with a fatality rate of just 1.8%.
- ▾ Due to the increase in health demand to attend to COVID-19 cases, between March and May 2020, around 2.96 million fewer consultations were left unattended than in 2019 related to essential care in sexual and reproductive health, maternal-neonatal and infantile health, dental, elective surgeries that require hospitalization, among others.

As a result of the presence of storms Amanda and Cristóbal, it was found that the Salvadoran health system:

- ▾ Suffered a destructive impact on the Health Units that complicated the response capacity to meet the population's emerging needs, due to the simultaneous presence of COVID-19 and tropical storms. The greatest affectation occurred in rural establishments in the most dispersed populations.
- ▾ By the end of June there was an increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases, registering 6,173 cases, 164 deaths and a fatality rate of 2.66%. By the end of July, infections increased sharply, registering 15,841 cases, 430 deaths and a fatality rate of 2.71%.⁴

- ▾ Until June 2020, and as a result of COVID-19, 46 health professionals died.
- ▾ Health care at health centers, given the saturation due to the COVID-19 pandemic continued to decline, until there were 5.4 million fewer visits in July, compared to the same period in 2019.⁵
- ▾ The deaths attributable to the effects of the storms were 30 people, and one missing person.
- ▾ 7,886 people in approximately 256 shelters required emergency and health care as a result of the tropical storms.
- ▾ The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MINEDUCYT, by its Spanish acronym) reported that psycho-social care was provided to more than 1,799 people from 31 prioritized shelters.
- ▾ Poor nutrition problems for the population increased, especially children and girls, due to the breakdown of agricultural production chains and the lack of resources for household food.

Impact on access to Education

Access to education for the population of study age is one of the deprivation dimensions that most affects the present and future living conditions of the population. That is why it is necessary to analyze how the main educational indicators were before COVID-19, how they are being affected by this pandemic, and whether tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal further limited the

⁴/ Health Sectorial Report, PDNA 2020 in El Salvador, p. 1.

⁵/ Health Sectorial Report, PDNA 2020 in El Salvador, p. 11.



population's access to education. For 2019, it was observed that:

- ▾ 495,499 girls and boys between 0 and 6 years old (32.0%) did not receive early or preschool education. The gap is greater in rural areas, with 71.3% of girls and boys unschooled between the ages of 0 and 6.
- ▾ The schooling of children between 7 and 12 years old was 96.8% and there was no gender difference. Schooling in the urban area was 97.8%, while in the rural area it was 95.5%.
- ▾ The schooling of adolescents from 13 to 17 years old was 81.2% and there was no gender disparity, but there was per geographical area: In rural areas, only 72.6% of adolescents attend school, in contrast to 87.9% in urban areas.
- ▾ At the beginning of Term I-2020, there were 203,164 higher-level students, of which 63,233 (31.1%) attended public higher education institutions (HEIs) and 139,931 (68.9%) students attended private HEIs.
- ▾ According to⁶ MINEDUCYT, 2018 school enrollment amounted to 1.4 million students at different educational levels,⁷ of which 1.2 million attended public school

and 218,000 students did so in the private sector.

- ▾ According to the 2017 MINED Observatory, of the 5,145 public educational centers, 865 are most vulnerable to flooding; 3,269 are susceptible to being affected by hurricanes, tropical storms and/or high winds; and 1,332 are vulnerable to droughts.

The 2020 school year began on January 20th and was scheduled to end on November 15th, but classes were initially suspended on March 11th due to the COVID-19 emergency and it was evidenced that:

- ▾ 1.3 million students switched to digital education, but with limited internet connectivity and a lack of technological devices to follow the learning offered online.
- ▾ There were 16,131 student dropouts from HEIs until May 2020.⁸

On May 29th, in view of the yellow alert due to the tropical wave in El Salvador, guidelines were issued to the Departmental Directorates, to take precautions to reduce the risks to the educational community and facilities. Despite this, and due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, it was recorded that:



- ▾ Out of the 5,145 educational centers, damage was reported in 555, of which 194 had minor damage (35.0%), 220 had

⁶/ MINEDUCYT (2019). Statistical Bulletin No. 2: 2018 School enrollment.

⁷/ The educational levels in El Salvador consider: Early education, kindergarten education, basic education (I Cycle), basic education (II Cycle), basic education (III Cycle), secondary education and adult education.

⁸/ Education Sectorial Report, PDNA in El Salvador, p. 13.

moderate damage (40.0%) and 141 were seriously damaged (25.0%).⁹

-  On a temporary basis, 145 educational centers were used as shelters to receive 4,560 people due to the tropical storms, who remained in shelter for an average of ten days. As of August 24th, the use of 11 educational centers as shelters for 673 people was still reported.
-  371,251 students did not have access to the school feeding program due to the focus of the program, which sought to focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable families.

The impact on Livelihoods

The impact on livelihoods is measured in terms of people's access to the labor market, which allows them to generate income and resources for their subsistence and that of their family.

The labor market is one of the main determinants of poverty, livelihoods, and social mobility, since it allows households to obtain income, a factor that determines in which position of the social distribution or stratum a household can meet (Fields, 2012a, 2012b; Appleton, Song and Xia, 2005; Banerjee and Duflo, 2011; Ravallion, 1998 2009; among others).

Impact on Employment and Income

This section will analyze the characteristics of the Salvadoran labor market before the pandemic, which highlighted the structural inequalities in employment, and which will make it possible to identify risk factors against COVID-19 and tropical storms.

The working-age population in 2019 amounted to 4.99 million people, of which 54.0% were women and 46.0% were men. The workforce consisted of 3,104,867 people, of which 59.0% were men and 41.0% women. Of the total workforce, 93.7% were employed and 6.3% were unemployed, which indicates that the majority were pursuing some economic activity.

The economic activity branches where workers were most occupied in 2019 were: Commerce, hotels, and restaurants (31.0%); agriculture, livestock, hunting and forestry (15.4%); manufacturing industries (14.9%); and construction (6.8%). Furthermore, the household branch with domestic services (5.5%) employs a large number of employed women (11.7%), in contrast to men (1.1%), presenting the greatest sex difference. In general, these activity branches have low social protection for employees.

In El Salvador, structural limitations persist in relation to the labor market related to low access to social security systems and the persistence of informal employment. In 2019, only 34.7% of the employed population

⁹/ Education Sectorial Report, PDNA in El Salvador, p. 4.



was protected by the social security system, where coverage is higher in urban areas (43.1%) than in rural areas (18.9%). The informal employment trend has gone upward in the last decade, both in absolute and relative terms, and increased by six percentage points between 2009 and 2019. In 2019, a total of 1.46 million non-agricultural workers were estimated to have informal jobs, that is, 63.3% of the total employed workers. Women are overrepresented in informal jobs: Seven out of ten employed women have an informal job, in contrast to six out of ten men. The economic activity branch that contributes the most to the generation of informal jobs in El Salvador is commerce, hotels, and restaurants (45.0% of informal jobs fell in this branch in 2019), followed by agriculture, livestock, hunting and forestry (15.4%), manufacturing industries (14.9%) and construction (6.8%), with specific incidents of 56.5%, 81.3% and 93.0%, respectively.

The COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal will have an impact on the labor market and the livelihoods of the working population, which can be seen in the short, medium, and long term, based on the immediate effects in the loss of work hours and work income.

The Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS) recorded a gradual reduction in the number of employers who submitted payrolls to the ISSS. Between March and June 2020 there is evidence of a loss of 70,427 formal jobs in the private sector, which is equivalent to approximately 7.9% of all

workers in the formal sector as of February 2020.¹⁰ The most affected activity branches are construction (25.3%), real estate activities (15.7%), manufacturing industry (11.6%), agriculture and livestock (11.6%), commerce, restaurants, and hotels (10.5%) and professional activities (9.5%). Of the people who lost their formal jobs, 11,339 are expected to get a job with social security; 27,326 will transfer to informality; and 31,763 will remain unemployed for a long period of time.¹¹

The average wages of ISSS contributing workers had an average reduction of -6.4% between January and June. The commerce sector is the one with the greatest reduction in wages (-17.1%), followed by industry (-13.9%) and construction (11.3%). The wage drop is estimated for workers who contribute to Social Security. Said simulation reflects the economic effect of suspensions on household income, which together with unemployment imply a reduction of -7.3% in people's income from dependent work.

The estimates according to the PDNA methodology indicate that the reduction in sectorial production may have caused a loss of 89,347,000 workdays among informal workers, which is equivalent to 487,900 full-time jobs. Consequentially, affected workers

¹⁰/ Employment Sectorial Report, PDNA in El Salvador, p. 1.

¹¹/ It was valued based on the estimates of labor transition from the 2013 Longitudinal Social Protection Survey.

could have foregone up to US\$1,861 million in personal income. The sectors where most of the informal economic activity was interrupted are commerce and tourism (33.0%), agriculture (21.0%), construction (15.0%) and manufacturing industries (13.0%).

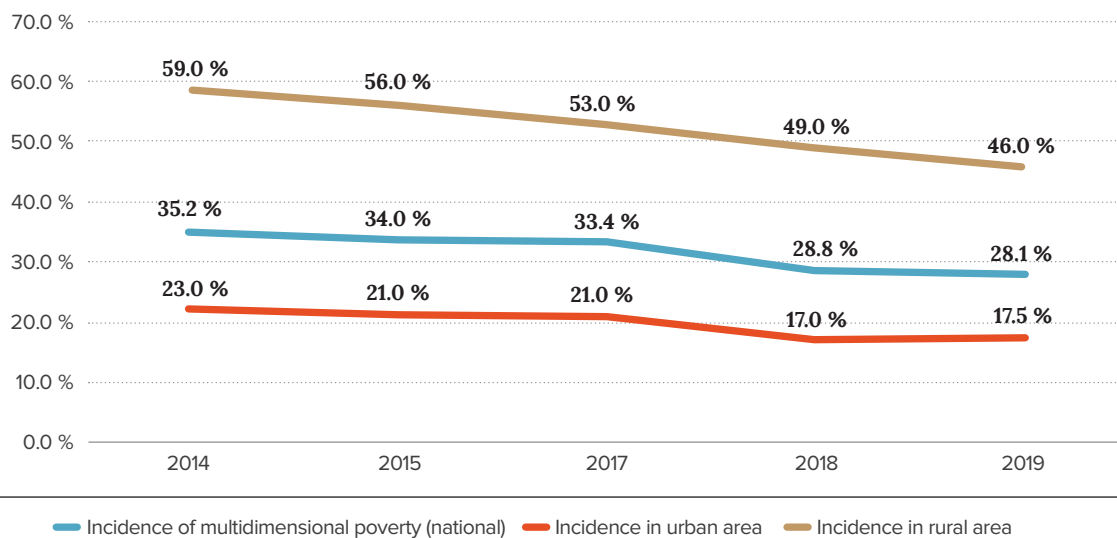
The Impact on Poverty

The multidimensional poverty rate¹² at the household level fell from 35.2% in 2014 to

28.1% in 2019, equivalent to a decrease of 7.1 percentage points. In 2019, 2.1 million people lived in multidimensional poverty, of which 17.5% are in urban households and 46.0% in rural households. On average, households in situations of multidimensional poverty were characterized by presenting deficiencies in eight of the twenty indicators, and by having low adult education, lack of access to social security, underemployment and job instability, lack of access to sanitation and overcrowding.

CHART 2

Incidence of multidimensional poverty 2014-2019



Source: UNDP (2020), based on MPHS, various years.

At a territorial level, multidimensional poverty shows a very unequal distribution pattern. Thus, Ahuachapán, Morazán and La Unión

continue to be the departments with the highest proportion of multidimensional poor households (45.7%, 41.2% and 38.6%, re-

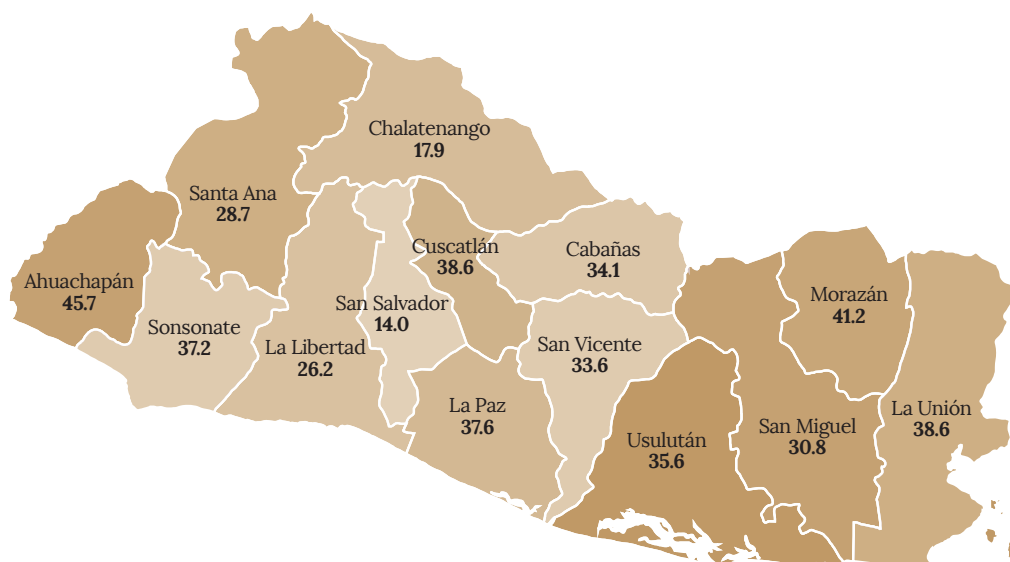
^{12/} The incidence or multidimensional poverty rate refers to the percentage of households that are clas-

sified as poor in El Salvador; the poverty line is seven or more deprivations.



FIGURE 1

Incidence of multidimensional poverty per department, 2019



Source: MINEC-DIGESTYC (2020).

spectively), in contrast to departments such as San Salvador and Chalatenango, with incidences lower than 20.0%.

Meanwhile, in the last decade, the trend in the evolution of monetary poverty¹³ in El Salvador has been a reduction. Both in the number of poor households and poor people, the incidence of poverty went from 36.5% in 2010 to 22.8% in 2019, that is, it fell by 13.7%. The disaggregated analysis per geographic

area and sex of the head of the household shows a more noticeable decrease in poverty in rural settings, as well as an interaction between these two variables: Although the incidence is higher in rural households headed by men, it is also it is in urban households headed by women. The disaggregation of the incidence of poverty at an individual level and according to demographic variables shows that the rural population (particularly rural women) and the population under 15 years of age continue to be the most affected by this condition.

However, this decreasing trend observed in the incidence of monetary poverty will be reversed because of the COVID-19 pandemic,

^{13/} Monetary poverty represents another way of understanding vulnerability through income, and its contrast with the threshold is defined as the value of the Basic Food Basket (BFB).

TABLE 1

Incidence of poverty in households, per sex of the head of the household and geographic area (% of households)

Area	Head of household	2010	2019	Reduction (%)
Rural	Man	45.0 %	26.5 %	18.5
	Woman	39.1 %	21.3 %	17.8
	Rural total	43.2 %	24.8 %	18.4
Urban	Man	31.6 %	20.7 %	10.9
	Woman	35.2 %	23.1 %	12.0
	Urban total	33.0 %	21.7 %	11.3
Total number of households	Man	36.6 %	23.0 %	13.6
	Woman	36.3 %	22.5 %	13.8
	National total	36.5 %	22.8 %	13.7

Source: Own elaboration, based on DIGESTYC (MPHS, 2011 and 2020).

due to the severe restrictions imposed from March to August 2020, on mobility and economic activity in the country.

Microsimulation techniques were used to evaluate the possible distributional impacts of the economic crisis due to the COVID-19 containment measures. The microsimulation seeks to answer the question of how much income poverty could rise in the face of a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contraction with no close antecedents in the Salvadoran economy.

To simulate the macroeconomic shock of the impact of COVID-19, the microdata of the 2019 MPHS were used and five assumptions were established on how household income would be affected by the crisis:

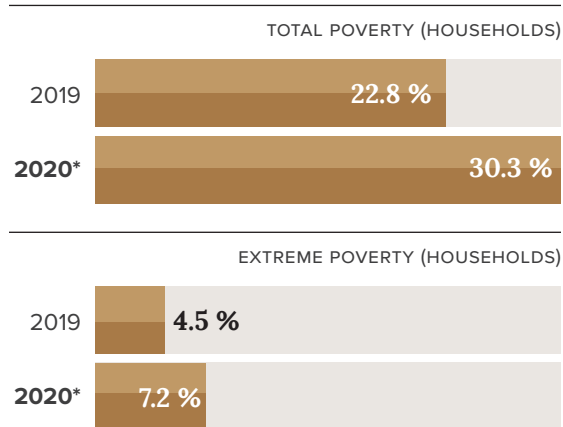
- ▾ An annual contraction of remittances of -2.8%.
- ▾ A 33.3% contraction in the income of independent workers, equivalent to losing four months of income due to confinement measures.
- ▾ The loss of 68,850 formal jobs would imply a 0.8% increase in the unemployment rate, and around 20,422 workers will transition from formality to informality.
- ▾ A 6.4% reduction in the income of workers dependent on the private sector, due to suspensions or other measures adopted by companies.
- ▾ An increase in the prices of the basic food basket of 3.5% in urban areas and 1.9% in rural areas.

The main results of this microsimulation show that these five shocks to household income



CHART 3

Results of the monetary poverty microsimulation



(*): Projected data.

Source: DIGESTYC (2020).

would imply that the incidence of income poverty in households could go from 22.8% in 2019 to 30.3% in 2020, an increase of 7.5 percentage points, equivalent to 144,993 new households living in poverty, and equivalent to 627,820 new people living in poverty.

The incidence of extreme poverty would increase by 2.7 percentage points, going from 4.5% in 2019 to 7.2% in 2020, equivalent to 51,750 new households living in extreme poverty and 275,594 new people living in extreme poverty.

When evaluating the sex of the head of household who live in poverty in 2020, 37.2% of poor households would have female heads, and 62.8% would have male heads; however, there is no evidence that poverty incidence

rates are differentiated by the sex of the household head.

Finally, the results of this simulation are subject to the performance of the economy in the last semester of the year: If the magnitude of the recovery is high, the results in poverty may be lower, as well as the impact of possible recovery policies.

The impact on Food insecurity

“Food security exists when all people have, at all times, physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their daily energy needs and food preferences to lead an active and healthy life.” (FAO, 2011).

According to the 2019 National Food Security and Nutrition Survey (ENSAN, by its Spanish acronym), carried out by the World Food Program (WFP), the Ministry of Interior and Territorial Development (MIGOBT) and the Ministry of Health (MINSAL), 630,000 people (126,000 households) lived in moderate and severe food insecurity conditions prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal.

Follow-up on this matter, the May 2020 ENSAN found that 812,000 people (162,630 households) were severely food insecure, which represents an increase of 29.0%, compared to December 2019, due to the impact of COVID-19. In addition, the WFP estimated that 336,000 food insecure people

(68,000 households) were also affected by storms Amanda and Cristóbal.¹⁴

Furthermore, access to food, one of the main dimensions of Food and Nutrition Security (FNS), has been affected by the increase in the cost of the basic food basket (BFB), which is the extreme poverty line. Thus, the urban BFB showed in May 2020 an increase of US\$9.99 over the same month in 2019.¹⁵ The increase between March and June 2020 was US\$12.54; the difference in this same period in 2019 was US\$2.18. The rural BFB showed its highest monthly increase compared to 2019 in June 2020, which was US\$7.38, and the increase between March and June 2020 was US\$5.91; while the difference in this same period in 2019 was US\$-1.14.

Regarding the most vulnerable groups, the informal vendors homes in urban areas and of people who work daily in rural areas are the most affected, since their food insecurity is 14.0% on average, which is 4.0% higher to the national average.¹⁶ Households dedicated to aquaculture, coffee growing, veg-

etable cultivation and fishing are the most affected in consumption, according to ENSAN¹⁷.

Moreover, the May 2020 ENSAN reported 20,000 households with low food consumption, since the diet diversity was very low, mainly based on starches, sugars and fat, which could influence an increase in non-communicable chronic diseases.¹⁸

Social inclusion/ exclusion

Social inclusion is measured in terms of inequality of opportunities, access, and participation of vulnerable populations or of those people who, after the tropical storms, find themselves in a social exclusion situation.

Impact on the vulnerable population

The consequences of storms affect different population groups differently. The most vulnerable: Women, children, young people, the elderly, and people with disabilities have had their lives impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, according to their vulnerability conditions, and they are the ones most at risk of suffering losses.

^{14/} WFP: Food and Nutrition Security Situation, Tropical Storm Amanda Emergency. Report No. 2, June 4th, 2020.

^{15/} Rapid Assessment: Food and Nutrition Security against COVID-19 (draft, August 2020). This document is an effort of the Agencies, Funds and Programs of the United Nations Team in El Salvador that integrate the work of different clusters, among them those of Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) and Early Recovery.

^{16/} WFP: Food and Nutrition Security Survey, COVID-19. Follow-up No. 1, May 2020.

^{17/} Rapid Assessment: Food and Nutrition Security against COVID-19.

^{18/} Rapid Assessment: Food and Nutrition Security against COVID-19.



The main impacts and potential risks faced by the most vulnerable populations in this context are summarized below.

Salvadoran children

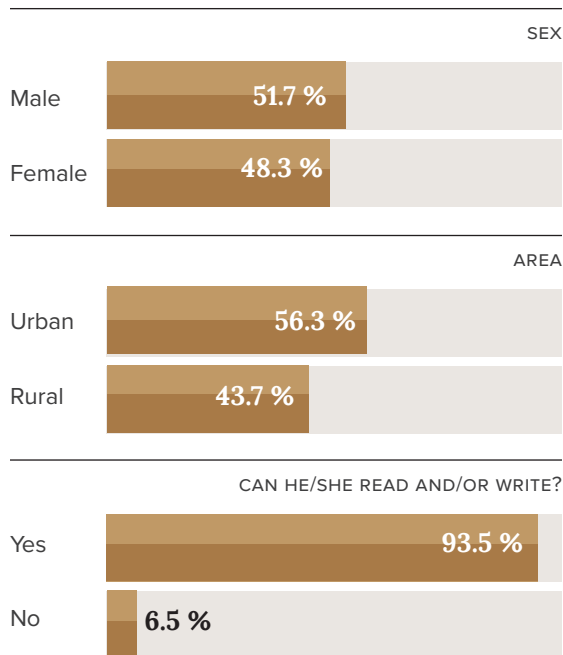
Children require special protection, but the restrictions imposed by the pandemic made it difficult to adequately monitor the protection of their rights. “Childhood” is understood as the population in the age range of 0 to 14 years. In El Salvador, 23.8% of the total population falls within this group (DIGESTYC, 2019). Although it has not been conclusively proven that this population presents higher than average risks to COVID-19 infections, they have been affected in their psycho-social development, due to prolonged confinement and the sudden interruption of their daily routine, among other causes.

34.8% of this group lives without one or both parents, either due to abandonment, migration, or death (DIGESTYC, 2019). The increase in the number of deaths from coronavirus threatens to increase this percentage from two fronts: On the one hand, many children whose parents are part of the front-line staff are at greater risk of becoming seriously ill and dying from this disease; on the other hand, the increase in unemployment could generate an equivalent increase in migration.

The 2019 MPHS showed that 51.7% are male and 48.3% are female. In addition, 43.69% live in the rural sector and 56.31% in the urban sector. One of the first activities interrupted by social isolation measures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic was face-to-face education, and the decision was made to migrate

CHART 4

Distribution of children per sex, area, and literacy status*



(*): Literacy calculation for girls and boys seven years of age and older.

Source: Multipurpose Household Survey (DIGESTYC, 2019).

all educational levels to digital media. However, in El Salvador, only two out of every ten households have internet access, which endangers the educational continuity of this population. In 2019, nine out of ten children aged 14 and under were in school. At the end of the first semester of the year, an increase in school dropouts was anticipated due to the lack of technological resources to continue during school closings, despite the fact that it was decided to include educational slots via television and radio, and 89.9% of

households nationwide reported having the first, although only three out of ten households have a radio.

According to data from the 2019 MPHS, nine out of ten girls and boys knew how to read and/or write (DIGESTYC, 2019). An increase in school dropouts in the early years would imply an increase in this percentage, thus slowing down the later development of this population and hindering their educational continuity.

In El Salvador, 108,139 girls and boys between the ages of 5 and 17 reported being employed in 2019 (69.3% men and 30.7% women). Of these, 93,283 (72.3% men and 27.7% women) performed some typified form of child labor, either because they were below the minimum age of 14 years, or because they performed dangerous tasks or in long hours, not in accordance with their age. In recent years, there has been a reduction in the incidence of girls and boys in child labor (not allowed): From about 9.0% at the end of the last decade to 6.5% in 2019. The composition of the population that performs child labor has remained relatively unchanged in the 2009-2019 period, where there is a predominantly male (seven out of ten are men) and rural (six out of ten come from rural areas) participation that performs work classified as dangerous (approximately seven out of ten).

In the last weeks of May, El Salvador was hit by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. In 2019, five out of ten homes had a tin roof, making them completely vulnerable to the rains (DIGESTYC, 2019). Disasters caused

by the storms involved material and human losses, and many girls and boys lost their homes, material belongings and, in some cases, loved ones during this period. Many families were transferred to shelters after two months of quarantine, which meant a major shock for a large part of this population.

Added to the situation of vulnerability experienced by girls and boys in the country are the effects of the pandemic and tropical storms, which can cause significant interruptions in their development. To counteract the effects of these shocks, comprehensive measures should be created focused on the protection of their physical and emotional health, educational continuity and protection against violence. It is necessary to provide them with psychological support, so that they can adjust in the least traumatic way possible to the 'new normal'; and design adjustable educational mechanisms at all levels, which take into account the difficulty of access to technology and technological literacy.

Salvadoran youth

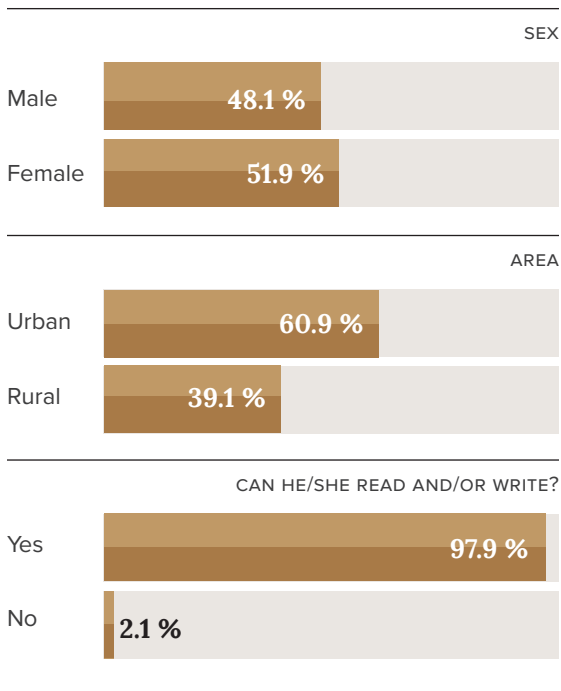
Youth is understood as the population group between 15 and 29 years old. The total population that falls into this category in El Salvador is 27.6% of the total population. 48.1% are men and 51.9% are women. Furthermore, 60.9% of young people live in urban areas and only 39.1% in rural areas; while 97.9% can read (DIGESTYC, 2019).

In El Salvador, in addition, youth is the first age group that qualifies within the working-age population. Seven out of ten young



CHART 5

Distribution of youth per sex, area, and literacy status (15 to 29 years old)



Source: Multipurpose Household Survey (DIGESTYC, 2019).

people in El Salvador currently study, and four out of ten young people who do not study indicate the need to work as the main cause (DIGESTYC, 2019).

On average, this population has studied for approximately ten years, which indicates that they do not complete secondary education. 127.4% of young Salvadorans qualify as “ninis”, which means that they neither work nor study (DIGESTYC, 2019). Many of the young people who drop out of school do so due to the need to generate income for the household; how-

ever, most of them do not have access to the formal labor market, therefore they carry out activities in the informal sector.

The participation rate of young people (between 16 and 29 years old) in the labor market is up to eight percentage points lower than the national average. In addition, the youth unemployment rate (11.4% on average) is approximately twice the national rate (6.3%). This inequality also deepens with gender: In 2019, 76.9% of young people who neither worked nor studied were women; and of the latter, 54.1% were in the two lowest quintiles of family income distribution. 57.7% of the women who did not look for a job pointed out domestic work and care as the main cause.

The pandemic could exacerbate both the need for employment, likely at the cost of dropping out school, and the difficulty of finding work. The health crisis has generated an economic crisis that has increased unemployment in recent months. In addition, many and many of these young people are part of households that were seriously affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, which makes the need to bring more income to the home more imperative. Some have probably lost the head of the family or the main supplier in the wake of the pandemic.

With all this, it is necessary to create programs that stimulate the employability of young people and reduce the opportunity cost of continuing their studies. In particular, the need arises to incorporate young “ninis” into the formal labor market or the educational sector. In the context of natural disasters,

the need also arises to provide technological tools to young people who are studying, because many of them probably lost computers or cell phones with which they continued their education online.

Older Adults

Older adults, understood as the population group 65 years or older, require special attention and care, due to the difficulty that certain activities represent them due to their age, as well as the prevalence of chronic diseases. In El Salvador, 9.9% of the population is 65 years or older, according to data from the 2019 MPHS.

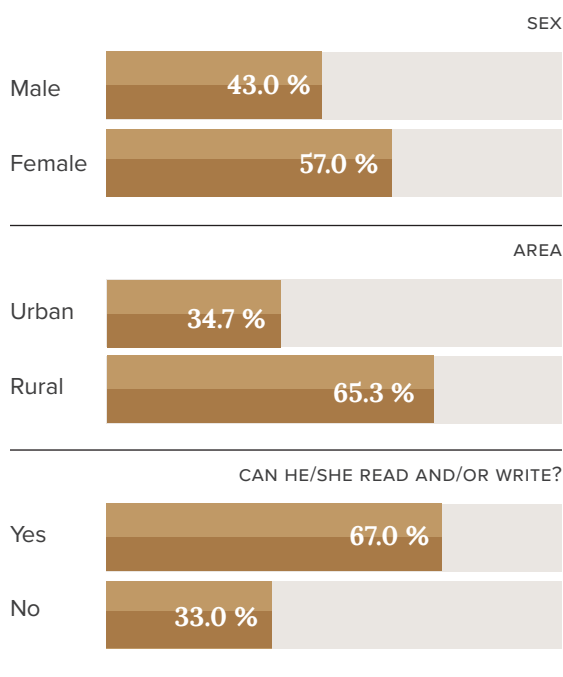
43.0% of this population is male, while 57.0% is female. In terms of housing distribution, approximately seven out of every ten older adults live in the urban sector, and the rest in the rural sector (DIGESTYC, 2019). On average, this population has only attended fourth grade of primary school, with sixth grade being the year in which the first level of education is completed. Furthermore, a third of all older adults cannot read or write.

23.2% of the population over 65 years of age (23.3% of men and 23.2% of women) were in poverty, and only 18.6% (22.7% men and 15.5% women, although the average lifespan of women is longer) received a disability or old-age pension, or a social pension (universal basic pension) (DIGESTYC, 2020).

In addition, 29.6% of this population was employed that year (46.1% of men and 17.1% of women). Of these, 55.9% were categorized

CHART 6

Distribution of older adults per sex, area, and literacy status (age>65)



Source: Multipurpose Household Survey (DIGESTYC, 2019).

as self-employed workers without premises (52.4% of men and 62.6% of women), and 86.7% have an informal job, with a higher incidence in women (77.1% of men and 96.6% of women). This shows that the elderly population is unprotected against a phenomenon such as the COVID-19 crisis, not only in terms of little-to-no social protection against a disease, but also because one in three is still working and in occupations with greater exposure and risk of contagion.



Part of the prevention measures that have been taken in the framework of COVID-19 is to allow the population at risk, which includes this population group, to stay at home and not go to their workplaces. However, this could be counterproductive and promote more layoffs of older people.

However, this is not the only difficulty that the pandemic imposes on this population. The absence of policies focused on this group and the dependency generated by the difficulty in carrying out certain tasks already represent important vulnerabilities. In addition, 66.0% of older adults suffered from high blood pressure in 2015, and 34.5% suffered from chronic kidney disease, these being the most common chronic conditions in this population (MINSAL, 2015). This significantly increases the risk of becoming seriously ill from coronavirus and dying. In addition, the saturation of hospitals also aggravates their vulnerabilities, since five out of ten older adults report attend a MINSAL Health Unit when they become ill or need treatment (DIGESTYC, 2019).

Storms Amanda and Cristóbal increased the risk of this population during the pandemic. Approximately four out of ten older adults live in homes with a roof made of inadequate materials that are not very resistant to natural disasters, such as tin, straw and waste (DIGESTYC, 2019). Many of these people probably lost their homes during tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, and were forced to move to shelters, where the risk of contagion increased. Furthermore, they were left unprotected due to the lack of a home.

To comprehensively address the needs of this population, it is necessary to address issues of health, mental stability, and protection of their rights. There is also the need to guarantee space in homes or residences for the elderly where they can be protected from natural disasters and thus prevent them from ending up living on the streets, in the absence of a home. It is essential that they be guaranteed continuity and timely access to health services and supply of inputs to treat chronic, neuro-degenerative, or seasonal diseases, such as respiratory infections, which may require medical attention, therapy or medications.

People with disabilities

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which coupled with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

People with disabilities usually require more attention and medical care than those who are not in this condition; therefore, they are more vulnerable to the saturation of health systems due to the current health crisis. In addition, some of the comorbidities derived from these disabilities represent risk factors for possible COVID-19 infections (Naciones Unidas, 2020). In the face of the pandemic, it is essential to create comprehensive policies and programs focused especially on this population, so this analysis includes their demographic conditions and characterization.

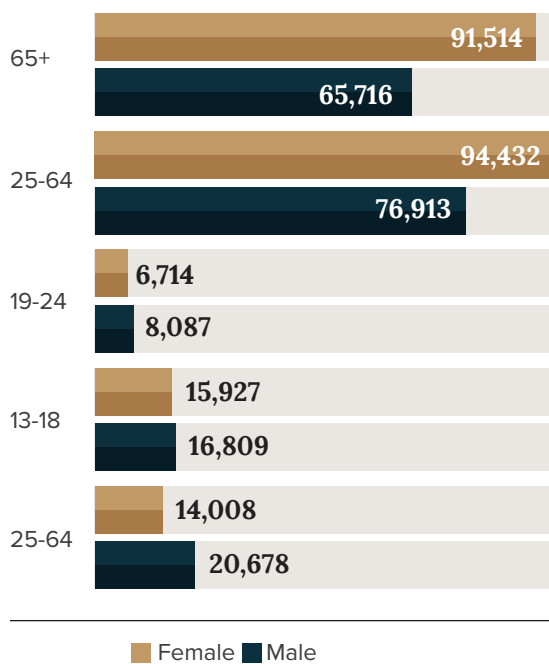
The National Council for Comprehensive Care for Persons with Disabilities (CONAIPD) defines disability as “limitation or physical, mental, intellectual or sensory difficulty: Sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste permanently, which prevents them from participating in society like any other person” (CONAIPD, 2016). The first National Survey of People with Disabilities revealed that by 2015 6.4% of the Salvadoran population had some type of disability, that is, a total of 410,798 people. Of these, 54.2% were women and 45.8% men. In terms of the total population, 6.55% of women have some type of disability; this proportion drops to 6.14% for men. Chart 7 shows the composition of the population with disabilities for 2015, per sex and age group.

36.49% of the population with disabilities lives in the rural sector and 63.51% in the urban area. Per age group, the range between 25 and 64 years concentrates 41.71% of the people in this condition, followed by the group 65 years and older, with 38.27%. It is important to emphasize that the population made up of the elderly presents a greater risk of COVID-19 infections, which highlights the importance of focused policies for comprehensive care for older adults, emphasizing those who have some type of disability, since the risk is twofold; 34.8% of people with disabilities reported suffering from a chronic disease (UNICEF, DIGESTYC y CONAIPD, 2019).

People with disabilities also present economic deficiencies that increase their vulnerability. In 2015, its labor participation rate

CHART 7

Distribution of people with disabilities per age and sex, 2015



Source: National Survey of Persons with Disabilities (CONAIPD, 2015).

was 50.9%, 17.8 percentage points less than for people without disabilities. They reported average schooling equal to 4.2 years, and 30.8% of this population had never attended school. Furthermore, 37.8% lived in homes with inadequate materials, while for people without disabilities the figure dropped to 29.4%. Taking these indicators into account, it is possible to affirm that a significant percentage of the population with disabilities is in a multidimensional poverty situation or has serious deficiencies in some indicators at least.



In terms of employment, approximately one third of the disabled population is economically active. Of these, 57.7% are men and 42.29% women. 37.7% of employed persons with disabilities work as independent workers without premises, probably within the informal sector, which emphasizes their vulnerability when they are left without social protection. Only one fourth works as a permanent employee. In June 2020, the Law on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities was approved, which requires hiring one person with a disability for every twenty workers in public and private institutions, thereby strengthening their protection.

39.0% of people with disabilities affirm that they attend national network hospitals to receive medical attention, habilitation, and rehabilitation therapies. To guarantee an adequate quality of life, the availability and continuity of these services during and after the current situation is essential.

Storms Amanda and Cristóbal, which occurred in the last days of May and the first days of June 2020, imposed new restrictions on the development of this population and deepened its vulnerabilities. Given the prevalence of housing in inadequate conditions in this population, it is expected that they have suffered material losses greater than the population without disabilities. Furthermore, approximately half of employed persons with disabilities are in the unbanked informal sector probably, thus material loss worsens in the absence of a financial safety net.

Strategies focused on the promotion and alleviation of vulnerabilities must focus on three pillars: Health, housing, and labor inclusion. The incidence of chronic diseases, added to the presence of a physical and/or mental disability, requires that access to the health system and rehabilitation therapies be guaranteed. In addition, it is essential to offer shelter in decent conditions, to avoid that in the face of losses due to tropical storms they end up living on the streets, where they are exposed to greater risks. Finally, to remedy the lack of social protection and decent income, it is necessary to implement training and employability programs within the formal sector.

Indigenous Peoples

In El Salvador, the population descendant of indigenous peoples has lost their traditional habits and customs, which is why they neither self-identify as of indigenous origin nor are they identified by the rest of the population as such.¹⁹ This has also led to having scarce information disaggregated per ethnicity.

ECLAC estimated that for 2010 the indigenous population in El Salvador was 0.2% of the total, that is, 14,408 people (ECLAC, 2014). According to data from the DIGESTYC, 57.2% were in the age range of 15 to 64 years, while a third were 14 years or younger. Furthermore, 51.9% were women and 48.1% men (DIGESTYC, 2007).

¹⁹/ World Bank (n.d.).

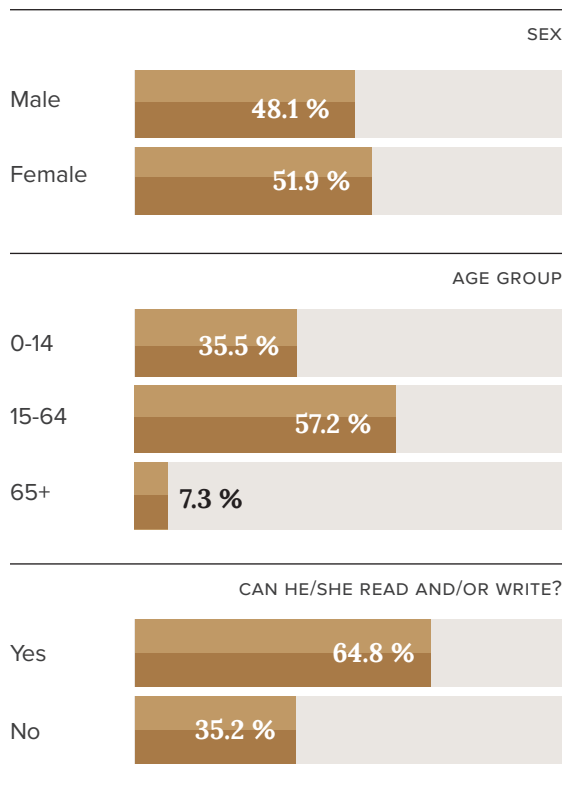
In terms of the composition of the labor market, eight out of ten people who identify themselves as an indigenous person work in the primary sector, twice the number of non-indigenous people in it. On the other hand, according to 2017 data from the Centre for the Indigenous Peoples' Autonomy and Development (CADPI), 50.0% of the non-indigenous population works in the industrial sector, and only 17.7% of the indigenous population does so.

According to the data collected in the 2007 Population and Housing Census, there is a gap between formal employment for indigenous peoples and non-indigenous people. 59.8% of non-indigenous people work as public or private employees, or employer; this figure decreases to 44.6% for the indigenous population. In addition, approximately twice as many indigenous people over non-indigenous people work without a salary or as domestic employees, 23.7% and 12.5% respectively, according to CADPI (2017). 3.2% of the indigenous population had Social Security coverage, and 23.8% were in a situation of open unemployment, approximately three times the national average at that time, of 7.5% (CADPI, 2017). These data indicate a vulnerable position of the indigenous population in terms of social protection, but also a greater risk of losing their source of income.

There is also a gap in schooling. According to data from the DIGESTYC, in 2007 29.4% of indigenous persons aged six years or older attended school, while 26.4% reported never having attended. For the non-indigenous population, school attendance rate was

CHART 8

Distribution of the indigenous population per sex, age group and literacy status



Source: Population and Housing Census (DIGESTYC, 2007).

30.7%, and only 17.7% reported never having attended an educational institution; furthermore, four out of ten indigenous people between the ages of 10 and 65 did not know how to read or write (CADPI, 2017).

The COVID-19 pandemic deepens the vulnerabilities of the indigenous population in terms of access to utility services. The first preventive measures are constant hand



washing and periodic cleaning; however, 44.4% of indigenous households did not have access to drinking water, and seven out of ten also lacked adequate sanitation service (DIGESTYC, 2007).

Access to health services has been crucial to preserve the well-being of the Salvadoran population. In 2009, the implementation of the Comprehensive Family and Community Health Care Model began, through family and specialized Community Care Teams (CCTs), to monitor the population that came to the health system and thus guarantee the timely care of the vulnerable population (UNFPA, 2017). According to data from the Ministry of Health and UNFPA (2017), of the total number of families that received care from family CCTs, only 5.4% belonged to indigenous peoples.

Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, which reached El Salvador in May and June, affected poor households the most. In 2003, six out of ten indigenous households were on the poverty line, and 38.3% were in extreme poverty (CADPI, 2017). The loss of material goods and housing caused by natural disasters emphasizes this precariousness, which could further deteriorate the development and quality of life of the indigenous population.

In the context of the pandemic and natural disasters that have hit the country in recent months, the need arises to design programs that prioritize the needs of the vulnerable population. Indigenous peoples have been neglected for years, but it is essential to

identify their current living conditions to chart a better route. The first step, then, is to analyze the geographic and demographic composition of this ethnic group, to provide better access to educational, health and basic services, such as potable water and electricity.

In addition, it is essential to stimulate formal employment and education, to offer the indigenous population a better quality of life. To design comprehensive plans, priority must be given to access to decent work opportunities, with social protection; and quality education in which their traditions and culture are respected, to reduce the vulnerabilities caused by the situation of poverty in which the majority of indigenous households find themselves.

Gender

El Salvador has a population of 3.6 million women, which represents 52.9% of the national population, with a projected fertility rate of 1.7 and with a life expectancy of 77.9 for women and 68.7 for men, for the 2019-2020 period (DYGESTYC, 2014 projections).

Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, the COVID-19 pandemic, and pre-existing gender inequalities have contributed to deepening existing gender gaps. It can be seen that:

Low participation of women in decision-making spaces: Only one in ten mayoralties, and three out of ten magistracies and councils are occupied by

women; in the Executive branch, four out of five are ministers.

▾ Of the 2.1 million people in multidimensional poverty, 35.0% are men and 32.8% are women (gap of 2.2 pp in relation to men). 37.1% of the households are headed by women, 74.0% of those households have between one and three deprivations, and of these 230 thousand households have dependents between 0-17 years of age (UNDP, 2020).

▾ **Labor market with strong gender gaps:**

- The national labor participation shows 80.5% of men compared to 46.8% of women (gap of 33.7 pp to the detriment of women).
- The unemployment rate is 19.5% for men compared to 53.2% for women (gap of 33.7 pp against women), with care work and domestic work being one of the main factors to keep them out of employment.
- The population between 16 and 29 years old that neither studies nor works is 7.0% for men versus 38.3% for women (gap of 31.3 pp to the detriment of women), which could be due to the traditional assignment of work in the home that is awarded mostly to young women.
- The contribution of women to unpaid domestic work is equivalent to 21.0% of GDP.
- 62.0% of men work in the informal sector, compared to 66.5% of women, equivalent to a gap of 4.5 percentage points.
- The pay gap for equal work is 18.02%. The average salary for men

was US\$373.06 and that of women US\$306.11 (MPHS, 2019).

▾ **Education:** The average years of schooling are 7.3 for men and 7.0 for women. The illiteracy rate of the population aged ten years and older is 10.0% at a national level: 11.7% of women and 8.1% of men (gap of 3.6 percentage points against women); the gap is 3% against women between 30-59 years old, and 0.3% higher in men between 18 and 29 years old. The school attendance rate for people four years and older is 26.1% nationwide: 27.9% of men and 24.4% of women (gap of 3.5 pp against women). The non-attendance rate is 6.0% at a national level: 6.1% of men and 5.9% of women (gap of 0.2 pp against men); the gap widens between 4-6 years of age (gap of 3.6 pp against men) and 16-18 years of age (2.1 pp against men). Among the causes for not attending school are, for men in high school: that they are not interested (31.8%) and need to work (31.6%), while for women it is that they are not interested (31.7%) and domestic and care work (26.8%) (MPHS, 2019).

▾ **Health:** In 2019 there were 24.3 deaths of mothers per 100,000 girls and boys born alive. The COVID-19 pandemic began with the death of a woman, but at the end of April contagion cases of men increased, reaching 65.9% of men (1,307 cases) compared to 34.1% of women (676 cases). By May 24th there was a ratio of two out of three cases of infected men compared to one in three cases of infected women (Fundaungo, March 25th – May



24th). The health staff involved amounted to 29,294 health workers, being 61.91% women (18,138) compared to 38.1% men (11,157); of these, there were 4,752 people as medical staff: 55.5% men and 44.5% women, with a gap of 11 pp to the detriment of women. And 7,203 people as nursing staff: 90.9% women and 9.1% men, with a gap of 81.8 pp of fewer men (MINSAL, 2019-2020).

▾ **Sexual and reproductive health:** In 2019, 59,693 pregnant women were reported. Of these, 556 were girls between 10 and 14 years old; and 14,770 adolescents between 15 and 19 years old, with an average of 24.5% of adolescent pregnancies. Of the total deliveries, 90.0% received prenatal care and 99.0% delivered in a hospital (MINSAL, 2019-2020). This year, 1,005 women were received health care due to sexual violence (MINSAL, 2020).

▾ **Violence and impunity:** Only 6 out of 100 women report acts of violence against them (94.0% do not). Psychological violence is the main form of violence against women, followed by sexual violence. The homicide rate of women per 100,000 inhabitants was 6.5, and of femicides, 3.4 events.

Tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and pre-existing gender inequities, have also contributed to deepening gender gaps, particularly in:

▾ The overload generated by gender roles, which adds to the workload, to the home,

to the care and to the accompaniment at school in an adverse context that ignored the care needs at the start.

▾ Impact on economic activities in which women are mostly involved: Commerce and services in the informal sector

▾ Impact on the already scarce resources they have, such as time, access to employment and services and income that enhance their autonomy, among others.

▾ It has had a major impact on violence against women, particularly in their expressions in the female sphere, and in the acts of sexual violence and teenage pregnancies.

▾ In the health field, it has impacted on the continuity of services provided to women, such as sexual and reproductive services, which shows as unwanted pregnancies.

This occurs in a context in which the particular needs of women are made invisible and only those associated with reproductive roles (care and pregnancies) are addressed.

In summary, the main impacts for women due to tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal are:

▾ **Loss of lives:** 29,968 families affected, and 150,000 people affected, 30 people dead (10 women and 20 men), 878 families were housed in 142 shelters. In these shelters a total of 969 psychological consultations were provided to early childhood, 51.8% to girls and 48.2% to boys.

▾ **Sexual and reproductive health:** In the midst of confinement, there were 258

pregnancies of girls between 10 and 14 years of age, and 6,581 in groups aged 15 to 19. The impact of the moderate interruption of health services during confinement meant that at least 53,000 women were unable to use modern contraceptive methods and 11,485 unintended pregnancies occurred (UNFPA, data as of June 2020). On the other hand, according to statistics from the National Women's Hospital, from April to June 2020 the registration of pregnancies of girls between 10 and 14 years old increased to 79.16%; and 71.6% in the case of adolescents between 15 and under 18 years of age. In the first semester of 2020, 712 cases of sexual violence have received health care, evidencing households as risk places for young women (ORMUSA, July 2020). At the beginning of the second semester of 2020, measures were taken to attend to the reproductive role of pregnant women and to provide them with the necessary medications through telemedicine programs.

▾ **Labor:** Women are mostly represented in the economic sectors most vulnerable to the impacts of the pandemic: Commerce, hotels, restaurants, industry, and construction, which bring together more than half of those employed (62.8%). 79.5% of working women are employed in the tertiary sector, compared to 49.5% of men (DIGESTYC, 2019), a sector that is estimated to have the strongest economic impact derived from the pandemic. In addition, inequalities have worsened in the multiple duties of women, due to care re-

sponsibilities; thus, women dedicate five hours, compared to two hours for men (there is a gap of three hours) (Ministry of Economy/ DIGESTYC, 2017).

▾ **Education:** The economic opening of the country is conducted, at the same time that the formal distance education processes are continued, without having anticipated and attended to the care needs of girls, boys or dependents, which evidences the invisibility that this issue poses when designing public policies.

▾ **Violence:** Violence against women has experienced a sustained reduction in the first half of the year. The projected homicide rate by the end of 2020 is 3.0 for women (Infosegura, August 2020). 2,427 acts of violence against women were reported, with a substantial increase in the acts related to the dissemination of pornography. 85.1% of the victims are young women (32.3%) and adults (52.8%). During the mandatory quarantine period, the capacity of justice and security sector institutions to continue providing access to justice to women victims was reduced and, in the same way, they were afraid to go out to file claims, which has had a significant impact in the reported figures. These services have recently been adapted to continue providing services to Salvadoran women and girls who are victims of violence.

The Online Morbidity System (SIMMOW, by its Spanish acronym), the National Health Services Network, in the period from Janu-



ary to June 2020, registered 258 pregnant girls aged 10 to 14 years, while in ages 15 to 19 there were 6,581 pregnancies. According to UN Women, these situations should be understood as results of sexual violence.

Social protection

The mission of the Ministry of Local Development (MINDEL, by its Spanish acronym) is to improve the life quality of people in the territories in a sustainable manner, with emphasis on those who live in vulnerable conditions, managing policies, programs and projects in terms of sustainable local development. To achieve the above, MINDEL will be in charge of formulating and leading a National Local Development Policy, managing the development of the territories through the articulation of local, national and international actors, and the execution of programs and projects that contribute to balanced, sustained and sustainable development, generating wealth and improving the quality of life in the municipalities.

The actions of MINDEL, in coordination with the Social Investment Fund for Local Development of El Salvador (FISDL, by its Spanish acronym), seek to generate a country with a high level of human development, through policies, programs and projects that allow the use of different tools of social protection oriented according to the specific needs of individuals, communities and municipalities. In particular, MINDEL seeks that all people can enjoy better social and economic opportunities that promote development and

inclusion, always following guidelines that allows citizen participation, transparency, accountability and evaluation of results.

To put these bets into practice, MINDEL focuses its efforts on facilitating the population's access to social services in a primary way, in what corresponds to it, according to its mandate (especially, aimed at groups in vulnerable situations: Families living in food insecurity, women who experience domestic violence, youth and the elderly), to mechanisms to support the economy of families in extreme poverty, to strengthen human and social capacities of people and communities, as well as to carry out actions advocacy and articulation with other state institutions, to guarantee the enjoyment of rights of the people in the territories and contribute to improving living conditions and well-being for all Salvadoran society.

The following describes the situation, as of March 2020, of the social programs carried out by MINDEL and the Social Investment Fund for Local Development (FISDL):

Ciudad Mujer Program

The objective of the Ciudad Mujer Program is to guarantee the fundamental rights of Salvadoran women through specialized services: Sexual and reproductive health, comprehensive attention to gender violence, economic empowerment, and promotion of their rights. In this sense, the following reports on the results obtained during the first three months of 2020:

As of March 2020, US\$881,621.94 have been invested in the provision of essential services for sexual and reproductive health, prevention and attention to gender violence, economic autonomy, territorial care and childcare, benefiting more than 51 thousand women.

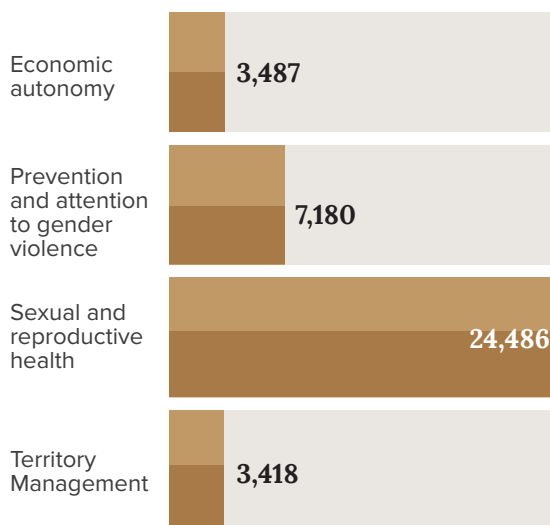
In the Ciudad Mujer premises, the institutions are organized into “care modules”, which focus on providing specialized care in sexual and reproductive health, attention to gender violence, promotion of economic autonomy and training in women’s human rights. The care model offers the opportunity to receive various services in an integrated manner, following a care route according to the need or interest expressed by the users.

Through the fifteen institutions that make up the program, Ciudad Mujer has offered specialized services in areas such as economic autonomy, prevention, and attention to gender violence, sexual and reproductive health, and territorial care (territorial management). In the period from June 2019 to March 2020, it rendered 38,571 services, which are broken down by type in the chart. 9

Sexual and reproductive health care is the type that has had the most demand, with over 24,400 services rendered. The following table shows the number of services per type; and further disaggregated per center. The center with the highest demand for services is Ciudad Mujer San Martín, with 10,267 services rendered; followed by Ciudad Mujer San

CHART 9

Services provided per typology*



(* Data as of March 2nd, 2020.

Source: Directorate of Ciudad Mujer (2020).

Miguel, with 8,824; and Ciudad Mujer Colón, with 8,491 services rendered.

It is worth mentioning that from March to August 2020 the ordinary services offered by Ciudad Mujer were suspended, because in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, a national health emergency was decreed by the central Government and the Legislative Assembly, which implied compulsory home protection for the entire population, limiting daily activities and preventing any work in the field. Only those directly related to emergency care were available, so they should be considered in the analysis of the results presented in this document.



TABLE 2

Services disaggregated per center - January to March 2020

Center	Economic autonomy	Prevention and attention to gender violence	Sexual and reproductive health	Territorial management	Total
Colón	805	2,936	4,330	420	8,491
Morazán	538	447	3,822	310	5,117
San Miguel	407	1381	6,146	890	8,824
Santa Ana	925	890	1,704	757	4,276
San Martín	684	1244	7,866	473	10,267
Usulután	128	282	618	568	1,596
Total	3,487	7,180	24,486	3,418	38,571

Nota: In relation to disaggregated services, it is not possible to have 2019 data, since the new registration system began operating in January 2020.

Source: Directorate of Ciudad Mujer (2020).

Solidarity Entrepreneurship Program

Economic activity at a local level is encouraged by the Social Investment Fund for Local Development (FISDL), through actions that enhance the productive scheme of families in the intervened areas, to promote a permanent income for these homes.

With the FISDL Solidarity Entrepreneurship Program (PES, by its Spanish acronym), it is sought to strengthen participants in their human and productive condition, through training processes defined in established methodologies, for a period of twelve months, where at the end of the intervention people are strengthened and equipped with their entrepreneurship.

Program components are: Technical assistance, training in labor issues and life skills, as well as economic transfers in kind. This set of actions is carried out with the purpose of strengthening the productive system at a local level, by generating income for the intervened population.

As a policy tool in crisis contexts, this program serves, in addition to people in poverty and vulnerability situations, native populations and returned migrants.

From June 2019 to March 2020, an amount of US\$2,222,620 was invested, through the different interventions. As a result of this program, the skills of 3,120 people were sharpened, and 668 productive enterprises were equipped.

Due to the suspension of work in the territory, due to the domiciliary protection decreed by the health emergency, between April and August the implementation of the program was paused.

Poverty Eradication Strategies

To improve consumption and development opportunities for Salvadoran families living in poverty and vulnerability, through the Social Investment Fund for Local Development (FISDL) the economic income of families participating in the Poverty Eradication Strategy is supported, “Sustainable Families”, with the delivery of monetary transfers aimed especially at families with children of school age, people with disabilities, older adults who do not have a pension and people in a vulnerable condition as a result of the internal armed conflict.

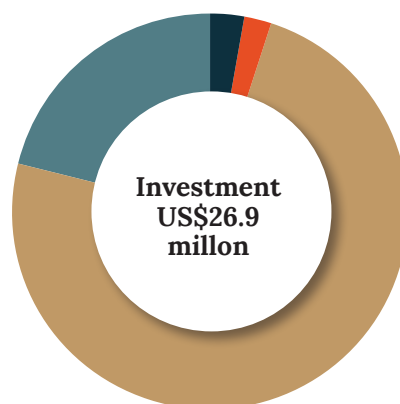
For the period from June 2019 to May 2020, the total amount invested in monetary support for families amounted to US\$26.9 million, distributed per type of monetary transfer (Chart 10).

Through the Old Age Solidarity Pension, 37,868 adults over 70 years old, residing in 119 municipalities with greater poverty and vulnerability conditions have been supported, representing an investment of US\$19.9 million. The delivery process for these transfers is underway. To date, US\$4.3 million are pending delivery.

On the other hand, with the purpose of encouraging families so that their daugh-

CHART 10

Financial support provided per type of transfer



- 2.0 % ■ Solidarity pension for people with severe disabilities
- 74.0 % ■ Solidarity pension for elders
- 21.0 % ■ Incentives for health and education
- 3.0 % ■ Monetary support to veterans of the historic FMLN

Source: Social Development Management (FISDL, 2020).

ters and sons in early childhood receive adequate health checks, and that children who are enrolled in third cycle and high school regularly attend school and remain in the educational system, an investment of US\$5.7 million was made, through the delivery of health and education bonuses of US\$30.00 on average, thus supporting the economy of 43,190 families in situations of poverty and vulnerability in 132 municipalities. It is estimated that they serve around 7.3% of households living in poverty and 37.2% of households living in extreme pov-



erty. The delivery process for these transfers is underway; to date, US\$1.8 million are pending delivery.

Likewise, to promote well-being through integration into family, community and social life, monetary transfers were made to veterans of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), for an amount of US\$100.00, delivered bimonthly, with an investment of US\$743,700, in 122 munic-

ipalities of the country, benefiting 1,074 people.

Through a solidarity pension for people with severe disabilities, 1,143 people have been supported, with an investment of US\$555,600 in 29 municipalities with greater conditions of poverty and vulnerability. The delivery process for these transfers is underway; to date, US\$1.8 million are pending delivery.

TABLE 3

Conditional and unconditional transfers delivered

No.	Financial support	Beneficiaries	Amount (Million US\$)	Municipalities
1	Solidarity Pension for Old Age	37,868 adults older than 70 years	19.9	119
2	Health and education bonuses	43,190 families	5.70	132
3	Monetary support to veterans of the historic FMLN	1,074 people	0.74	122
4	Solidarity pension for people with severe disabilities	1,143 people	0.56	29

Source: Social Development Management (FISDL, 2020).

TABLE 4

Estimation of the cost of incorporation into the Health and Education Bonus of the new extreme poor households

Item	Families	Monthly total	Total (Million US\$)
TMC	51,750	30	18.63
Socio-family support service			2.07
Bank service			0.16
Total			20.86

Source: Social Development Management (FISDL, 2020).

The main results of the microsimulations of the impact of COVID-19 on monetary poverty show that 51,750 new households could enter into a condition of extreme poverty and that they would need to have a minimum social protection floor such as that offered in the health and education bonus. To incorporate these 51 thousand new extreme poor households to the health and education bonus, it would take around US\$20.86 million annually.

Strategies

Based on the main human impacts that have been identified in this chapter, the strategic line “Well-being, protection and social inclusion” is proposed as an integral part of the National Recovery Strategy-El Salvador 2020.

The objective of this strategic line is to help the social and human recovery of the population in vulnerable conditions that has been affected by both COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal, so that they can have access to utility services, subsistence means and food security, taking their differentiated needs and impacts into account.








This proposed objective is related to the vision of fostering resilience and social inclusion, taking special consideration of the right to gender equality throughout the life cycle, and with the key intersectionalities (rural, ethnic, etc.), through of the implementation

of activities for their social recovery in a participatory and effective manner.

The strategic line “Well-being, protection and social inclusion” starts from taking into account both the effects and the differentiated needs of the population in a vulnerable condition, including girls, boys and adolescents, young people, the elderly, women, people with disabilities, indigenous and Afro-descendant populations, to “leave no one behind.”

Given that the needs and effects on the population impacted by COVID-19 and tropical storms are diverse, coordinated, and joint work is required between different sectors of the central government, but also with local governments, so that action from the public be effective and avoid duplication.

In this manner, this strategic line would be contributing directly to at least seven Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):

-  **SDG 1:** No poverty
-  **SDG 2:** Zero hunger
-  **SDG 3:** Good health and well-being
-  **SDG 4:** Quality education
-  **SDG 5:** Gender equality
-  **SDG 6:** Clean water and sanitation
-  **SDG 10:** Reduced inequalities

Five action lines are proposed, with their respective activities for social and human recovery, which cover the most pressing needs identified in the different sectors; as well as the main actors involved.



TABLE 5

Strategic line: “Well-being, protection and social inclusion”

No	Action line	Activities	Actors
1	Protect basic health services for the population.	<p>1.1. Extension of the health coverage period of the Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS) to workers in a situation of unemployment, suspension of work contract or whose employers are in arrears.</p> <p>1.2 Strengthen new care modalities (example: Telemedicine) for the provision of health services, including sexual and reproductive health, preventive, among others.</p> <p>1.3 Expand care for children with acute malnutrition at the hospital level and strengthen the capacities of health personnel to provide adequate care at this level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salvadoran Social Security Institute. • Ministry of Health. • Solidarity Fund for Health.
2	Guarantee the provision of educational services to the population, especially children and adolescents.	<p>2.1 Strengthen the continuity of the school feeding program and innovate with food distribution measures during periods of suspension from face-to-face classes.</p> <p>2.2 Expand the multimodal education system (television, radio and internet), to guarantee access to quality education for girls, boys, adolescents and young people.</p> <p>2.3 Develop an educational leveling strategy for children who did not have access to multimodal education or which was limited.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology • Higher Education Institute. • National Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents • Municipal mayorships.
3	Protect people and guarantee the enjoyment of rights of the vulnerable population.	<p>3.1 Strengthen social protection programs, to include the new population that entered a condition of poverty due to low income, due to the effects of COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal.</p> <p>3.2 Strengthen and adapt reporting and attention means for women and girls who are victims of violence close to their communities, particularly adolescent and young women in the face of acts of sexual violence and the deconstruction of sexist patterns that give life to them, within the framework of social confinement by COVID-19.</p> <p>3.3 Strengthen efforts to improve disaggregated statistical information on the population in conditions of vulnerability to multiple emergencies, which serve for the design of evidence-based public policies.</p> <p>3.4 Monitor that identification and safeguarding processes of the intangible cultural heritage in indigenous and Afro-descendant communities continue, including the Nahuat language.</p> <p>3.5 Promote livelihoods and decent employment for vulnerable populations (women, youth, people with disabilities, etc.).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Investment Fund for Local Development. • Ministry of Health. • General Directorate of Civil Protection, Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters. • General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses. • Attorney-General's Office of the Republic. • Institute of Forensic Medicine. • Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women. • Ministry of Economy. • Social welfare. • Ministry of Culture. • Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. • National Micro and Small Enterprises Council.

Strategic line: “Well-being, protection and social inclusion”

No	Action line	Activities	Actors
4	Ensure food safety.	<p>4.1 Expand food assistance programs for the most vulnerable populations and in territories with the greatest poverty levels.</p> <p>4.2 Promote food and nutritional education, with emphasis on pregnant women who suffer from anemia, and families with chronically malnourished children.</p> <p>4.3 Strengthen ancestral knowledge to protect natural resources (forests, water, and food) and strengthen mechanisms that promote the indigenous economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture. • Ministry of Health. • Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. • Ministry of Culture.
5	Guarantee other basic public services (transport, water, sanitation and power).	<p>5.1 Support households without water and sanitation coverage with hygiene packages/kits, safe water for human consumption and safe water points (water collection and washing stations).</p> <p>5.2 Expand or restore the water and sanitation infrastructure and promote internet access in the educational centers of the poorest communities and/or their school population.</p> <p>5.3 Guarantee the continuity of the transport service, which includes the incorporation of biosafety protocols.</p> <p>5.4. Promote national care systems that alleviate the burden of women and especially young people, and that allow for quality services for children, people with some level of dependency, older adults, among others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Association of Aqueducts and Sewers. • Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology • Vice Ministry of Transport. • Social Investment Fund for Local Development. • Mayorships. • Ministry of Economy.

Source: Own elaboration.



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Annexes

ANNEX 1

Main baseline indicators, 2019 MPHS

Component	Sub-component	Indicator
Life conditions	Education	Net attendance rate: Population aged 0 to 6
		Net attendance rate: Population aged 7 to 12
		Net attendance rate: Population aged 13 to 17
		Percentage of households with children aged 0 to 12
		Percentage of households with adolescents aged 13 to 17
	Water and sanitation	Percentage of households that have access to domestic drinking water (MDP)
		Percentage of households with access to sanitation service (MDP)
		Percentage of households with access to electricity (own, neighborhood and solar)
		Percentage of households with access to the three basic services (water, sanitation and electricity)
		Percentage of households that have home internet
		Percentage of households where at least one person uses "home" internet
	Overcrowding	Percentage of households living in overcrowded conditions
		Percentage of households with rented house
		Percentage of households with own house
		Percentage of households with secure home tenure (MDP)
Employment and livelihoods	Employment	Employment rate
		Underemployment rate
		Unemployment rate
		Formality rate (urban) PRODUCTIVITY
		Informality rate (urban) PRODUCTIVITY
	Livelihood	Work income
		Non-labor income (remittances, transfers, pensions)
		Total household income
		Per capita household income
Food safety	Food safety	Incidence of extreme income poverty
		Coverage of the food basket with household income



National Indicator	Area		Sex	
	Urban	Rural	Male	Female
32.0 %	34.5 %	28.7 %	30.9 %	33.2 %
96.8 %	97.8 %	95.5 %	96.5 %	97.1 %
81.2 %	87.9 %	72.6 %	81.4 %	80.9 %
0.46 %	0.43 %	0.52 %	0.49 %	0.41 %
0.25 %	0.23 %	0.29 %	0.24 %	0.26 %
80.4 %	88.5 %	66.7 %	79.6 %	81.9 %
58.5 %	77.9 %	25.6 %	56.9 %	61.4 %
97.9 %	99.0 %	96.1 %	97.8 %	98.2 %
54.3 %	73.6 %	21.3 %	52.8 %	56.8 %
23.3 %	34.6 %	4.1 %	23.6 %	23.0 %
64.6 %	71.9 %	52.2 %	64.9 %	64.2 %
41.0 %	60.0 %	55.0 %	42.0 %	38.0 %
13.0 %	94.0 %	93.0 %	13.0 %	14.0 %
55.0 %	35.0 %	0.0 %	56.0 %	54.0 %
90.0 %	94.0 %	83.0 %	89.0 %	91.0 %
94.0 %	94.0 %	93.0 %	93.0 %	95.0 %
34.0 %	35.0 %	0.0 %	31.0 %	37.0 %
6.0 %	6.0 %	7.0 %	7.0 %	5.0 %
55.0 %	55.0 %	0.0 %	61.0 %	47.0 %
41.0 %	41.0 %	0.0 %	39.0 %	45.0 %
US\$ 192.67	US\$ 233.60	US\$ 121.71	US\$ 257.50	US\$ 138.48
US\$ 59.18	US\$ 73.82	US\$ 34.24	US\$ 55.72	US\$ 65.04
US\$ 619.90	US\$ 728.33	US\$ 435.19	US\$ 652.50	US\$ 564.58
US\$ 202.15	US\$ 239.27	US\$ 138.94	US\$ 204.80	US\$ 197.67
4.5 %	4.1 %	5.2 %	4.6 %	4.3 %
75.5 %	76.3 %	74.4 %	74.6 %	77.0 %

Component	Sub-component	Indicator
Social inclusion	Vulnerable groups	Percentage of households headed by women
		Percentage of poor households with girls, boys and adolescents
		Percentage of households with older adults
Poverty	Poverty	Incidence of income poverty
		Incidence of extreme income poverty
		Multidimensional poverty rate
		Income poverty gap
		Extreme income poverty gap
	Inequality	Gini coefficient of income
		Theil index of income

Annex 2. COVID-19 Impact Simulation using microdata from the 2019 MPHS

Microsimulations

Microsimulations allow evaluating the effects of a macroeconomic or public policy shock at an individual level. The analysis can be ex-post (tax incidence analysis) or ex-ante (tax reform analysis, macroeconomic shocks, etc.). The methodology starts by generating counterfactual scenarios or simulations to compare with the initial status or starting point (Cicowiez and Olivieri, 2007). Microsimulations integrate the macro-micro approach. The macro model allows obtaining results in terms of changes in relative prices, employment sector, etc., the micro

model (or microsimulation) is necessary to model distributional impacts and assumes a partial equilibrium (main difference with general equilibrium models).

The basis of the methodology is to generate counterfactual labor income for the people surveyed, which allows answering “what if”. For example: What would the poverty rate have been in 2019 if the unemployment rate was 2009’s? It also allows you to analyze the direction and magnitude of the change. To perform the microsimulation, it is necessary to be clear about the theory that allows modeling the response of each of the agents: Theory Hiring, Saving, Demographic Transition, etc.

There are two simulation methodologies: Nonparametric estimations and parametric estimations. Parametric estimations use random income allocations for people who



National Indicator	Area		Sex	
	Urban	Rural	Male	Female
37.1 %	39.7 %	32.7 %		
76.5 %	75.7 %	77.8 %	78.0 %	74.0 %
25.6 %	26.6 %	23.9 %	22.3 %	31.1 %
22.8 %	21.7 %	24.8 %	23.0 %	22.5 %
4.5 %	4.1 %	5.2 %	4.6 %	4.3 %
28.1 %	17.5 %	46.0 %	29.9 %	25.0 %
30.4 %	29.9 %	31.1 %	30.6 %	30.0 %
24.5 %	23.7 %	25.6 %	25.4 %	23.0 %
0.35 %				

Source: DIGESTYC (2020).

change employment status. The parametric estimates use wages or labor participation regressions (Bourguignon, Ferreira and Leite, 2002).

Simulation of COVID-19 impacts

The economic growth projection that the World Bank (2020) calculated in the face of the COVID-19 crisis was -4.3% of GDP, which was later adjusted to -5.44%. As of June 30, 2020, the Central Reserve Bank updated its GDP projection to -7.5%; an economic contraction of this magnitude would have significant effects on the poverty levels of El Salvador.

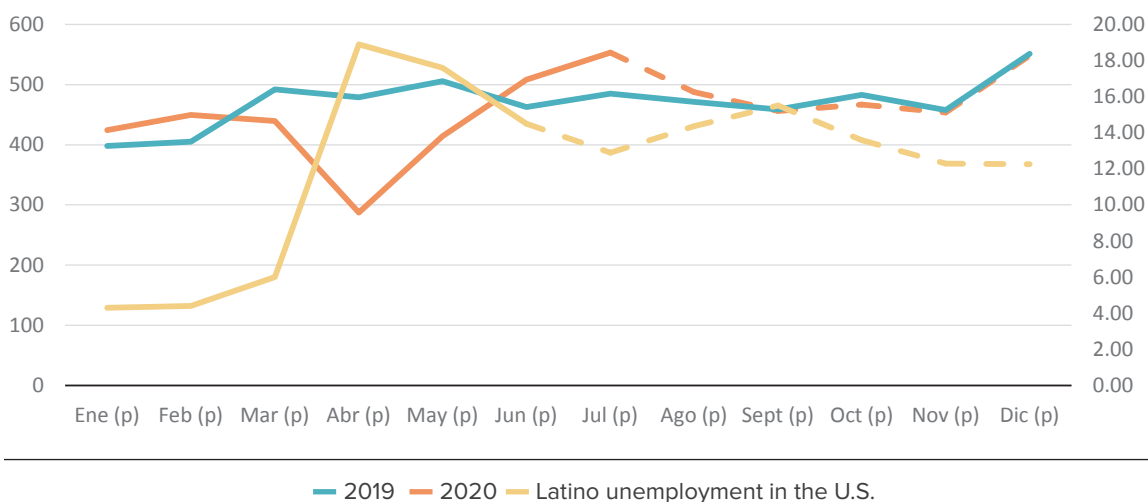
The microsimulation seeks to answer the question of how much income poverty could rise in the face of a GDP contraction with no close antecedents in the Salvadoran economy.

To simulate the macroeconomic shock, five assumptions are defined as to how household income would be affected by the crisis: 1) An annual contraction of remittances of -2.8%; 2) A 33.3% contraction in the income of independent workers, equivalent to losing four months of income due to the confinement measures; 3) That the loss of 68,850 formal jobs would imply an increase of 0.8 percentage points (pp) in the unemployment rate and around 20,422 workers who will transition from formality to informality; 4) A 6.4% reduction in the income of workers dependent on the private sector, due to suspension or other measures adopted by companies; and 5) An increase in the prices of the basic food basket of 3.5% in urban areas and 1.9% in rural areas.

These five assumptions allow the construction of a counterfactual income and simulate the distributional results of the shock, which

CHART 19

Remittances, evolution, and projection



Source: DIGESTYC (2020).

would impact with a fall in household income of 11.6%, with differentiated effects between households receiving remittances, independent workers, the unemployed and dependent workers. And it would imply an increase in income poverty by 7.5 percentage points, from 22.8% to 30.3%; and extreme poverty would increase by 2.7 percentage points, from 4.5% to 7.2%.

The latest macroeconomic data published by the BCR indicates a recovery in remittances as of July 2020, which could indicate an annual decline in remittances that is lower than expected at the beginning of the pandemic. Remittances had a reduction of 23.0% in January and reached the lowest level in April 2020 (-34.7%), coinciding with the highest level of unemployment for

Latinos in the United States (18.0%); however, from May to July, remittances recovered. Based on the historical trend of the value of remittances and Latino unemployment in the United States, an Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) is developed to predict the value of remittances by the end of the year. If the recovery of remittances continues and we return to the historical trend, it is foreseeable that remittances will close in 2020 with a value of US\$5.489 billion, 2.8% less than the value of remittances in 2019. This minor drop is explained by a sustained recovery in remittances in the next semester.

The statistics of average wages of ISSS contributing workers indicate an average reduction in salaries of -6.4% between January



and June. The commerce sector is the one with the greatest reduction in wages (-17.1%), followed by industry (-13.9%) and construction (-11.3%). This wage drop is simulated for workers in the survey in which they contribute to Social Security. Said simulation reflects the economic effect of suspensions on household income, which together with unemployment imply a reduction of -7.3% in people's income from dependent work.

ISSS statistics also indicate that, as of June 2020, 7.9% of workers had lost their jobs. Likewise, a characteristic of the precariousness of the Salvadoran labor market is that very few people can face long periods of unemployment (or zero income), so, many people, faced with unemployment, started informal enterprises. The 2013 Longitudinal Social Protection Survey indicates that of the unemployed 45.0% remain unemployed for two years, 38.8% are employed in the informal sector and only 16.1% are able to return to the formal labor market after 24 months. These labor transition data are used to model unemployment in 2020: Out of the new 51,417 unemployed persons from the private sector simulated in the MPHS, 7,224 are expected to obtain a job with social security; 20,422 go to informality; and 23,771 remain unemployed for a long period of time. This employment loss and transition from formality to informality is simulated in household income, affecting both the income of dependent and independent workers.

The evolution of the prices of the Basic Food Basket (BFB) is estimated to increase 3.5% on average for the urban area and 1.9% for

the rural area, increasing the poverty line by that magnitude.

The main results of this microsimulation show that these five shocks to household income would imply that the incidence of income poverty in households could go from 22.8% in 2019 to 30.3% in 2020, an increase of 7.5 percentage points, equivalent to 144,993 new households living in poverty, and equivalent to 627,820 new people living in poverty. The incidence of extreme poverty would increase by 2.7 percentage points, going from 4.5% in 2019 to 7.2% in 2020, equivalent to 51,750 new households living in extreme poverty and 275,594 new people living in extreme poverty. When evaluating the sex of the head of household living in poverty in 2020, 37.2% of poor households would have a female head, and 62.8% would have a male head, however, there is no evidence that poverty incidence rates are differentiated by sex of the head of the household.

Finally, the results of this simulation are subject to the performance of the economy in the last semester of the year: If the magnitude of the recovery is high, the results in poverty may be lower, as well as the impact of possible recovery policies.

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Summary

En In El Salvador, the labor market prior to the COVID-19 pandemic showed limited progress in terms of employment, especially in terms of job quality and decent employment, due to the growing population in precarious informal jobs with little or no social protection. This coupled with the fact that it is a labor market fragmented by multiple inequalities pertaining to gender, territoriality, in terms of youth and returned migrant population.

In addition, challenges are still identified in terms of work at the ends of the life cycle, that is, child labor and that of the elderly population, reflecting well-being deficiencies at different stages of the Salvadoran population's life.

Consequently, the health, economic and social crisis caused by COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal has seriously impacted these vulnerabilities in the labor market. First, an impact on employment of 70,427 formal jobs lost is estimated. Of these, since in El Salvador it is not sustainable over time to remain unemployed for long periods (especially due to the lack of unemployment insurance and the general job insecurity), it is expected that 11,339 people will obtain a job with social security, 27,326 will take informal jobs and 31,763 will remain unemployed for a long period of time.

In addition, an estimated loss of 89,347,000 workdays among informal workers, which is

equivalent to 487,900 full-time jobs. This impact on employment will have consequences in the short, medium, and long term, deepening the existing gaps.

In the short term, a deterioration in the population's livelihoods can be seen, derived from the loss of income caused by confinement and social distancing measures to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Likewise, tropical storms caused monetary and material losses for the population living in risk areas. This translates into immediate shortcomings to meet the basic needs of workers and their families, thus making them more vulnerable.

In addition, the increase in unemployment and inactivity is likely to have repercussions in the medium and long term, mainly through the increase of informal jobs, as well as the deepening of inequalities to the detriment of women, youth and people living in rural areas.

In this sense, action needs are identified in the short, medium, and long term, to fill the momentary shortcomings of informal workers, micro, and small businesses, as well as sectors that are especially impacted, such as the tourism and commerce sectors. In the medium and long term, needs are identified to strengthen employment services and, in general, the expansion of decent employment, ensure quality jobs and the transition of informal workers into formality.



Context before COVID-19 and the storms

El Salvador, in 2019, had a population of 6,704,864 people, of which 74.5% were of working age. The population was mostly young and of a productive age, since 66.3% were between 15 and 64 years old, and 51.4% were under the age of 30. On the other hand, the untapped productive potential reaches just over a third of the working-age population (37.9%) who are inactive, the vast majority of whom are women (76.5%). The workforce consisted of 3,104,867 people, of which 59.0% were men and 41.0% women. Of the total workforce, 93.7% were employed and 6.3% were unemployed, which indicates that the majority were pursuing some economic activity. The trends of these employment indicators have not had significant changes for a decade (2009-2019), showing that there have been no setbacks, but also no progress in terms of job creation. The economic activity branches where workers were most occupied in 2019 were: Commerce, hotels, and restaurants (31.0%); agriculture, livestock, hunting and forestry (15.4%); manufacturing industries (14.9%); and construction (6.8%). Furthermore, the household branch with domestic services (5.5%) employs a large number of employed women (11.7%), in contrast to men (1.1%), presenting the greatest sex difference.

Inequality in the labor market: Vulnerable groups

In 2019, the limitations persisted for vulnerable groups regarding their insertion into the labor market and during their permanence in it, in terms of income, working conditions, access to social security and access to opportunities in general. These vulnerable groups have not experienced substantive improvements in access to better opportunities in the 2009-2019 period, which indicates a structural inertia of existing inequalities.

Women: Between 2009 and 2019, the gap between female and male economic participation amounted to over 30 percentage points (47.3% annual average for women, in contrast to 80.6% annual average for men). Furthermore, women continue to be underrepresented among employed people: Only four out of ten workers in 2019 were women, and they receive almost 17.0% less than men's wages. On the other hand, in 2019 as well, 35.7% of employed people (43.4% of women and 29.9% of men) carried out jobs classified as vulnerable,¹ and women overrepresentation patterns in this type of work are observed, and generally they lack social protection. In this sense, it can be affirmed that women circulate around inactivity and vulnerable or unfavorable jobs. The persistence of these gaps during the last decade

^{1/} Vulnerable work is specifically attributed to a self-employed worker or an unpaid family member.

reflects the absence of equal opportunities between women and men in El Salvador, and the slow pace of socio-cultural changes to move in this direction, despite progress in the regulatory and institutional frameworks.

Young people: Regarding Salvadoran youth, latent inequalities are also observed to enter the labor market. The participation rate of young people (between 16 and 29 years old) is up to eight percentage points lower than the national average, and this difference has been maintained for longer than the 2009-2019 decade. Around half a million young people neither study nor work, representing approximately three out of ten young people (28.0%) during the period analyzed. In addition, the youth unemployment rate (11.4% on average) is approximately twice the national rate (6.3%). This inequality also deepens with

gender: In 2019, 76.9% of young people who neither worked nor studied were women; and of the latter, 54.1% were in the two lowest quintiles of family income distribution. 57.7% of the women who did not look for a job pointed out domestic work and care as the main cause.

Rural population and returning migrant population: The place of residence constitutes a determining and differentiating well-being factor. In 2019, the difference in the incidence of multidimensional poverty between rural and urban households was almost 30 points: 46.0% for the former, 17.5% for the latter. In addition, educational level differences at a territorial level are greater than those of gender, since the educational level of rural men and women is the same, but it is always lower than the urban educational level.

TABLE 1

Labor market indicators selected by disaggregation: Sex, area, and age, 2019

Classification			PET %	Average schooling years	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	% inserted in vulnerable work
Men	Urban	Not young	18.3 %	9.0	83.5 %	4.6 %	27.4 %
		Young	10.1 %	10.6	68.5 %	10.9 %	17.1 %
	Rural	Not young	10.6 %	4.6	85.5 %	6.7 %	38.7 %
		Young	6.5 %	8.5	82.6 %	9.2 %	26.7 %
Women	Urban	Not young	24.0 %	7.8	55.6 %	2.4 %	47.2 %
		Young	11.0 %	10.9	45.3 %	14.2 %	26.2 %
	Rural	Not young	12.4 %	4.0	38.2 %	2.0 %	54.4 %
		Young	7.0 %	8.6	34.3 %	10.9 %	32.9 %
Total			100 %	8.5	62.2 %	6.3 %	34.6 %

Source: Own elaboration, based on the 2019 MPHS.

On the other hand, in recent years, the tightening of immigration policies in the United States has generated a significant increase in the flow of returnees. According to figures from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), between 2013 and 2019 over 280,000 people were returned (70.2% men; 17.3% women; 7.5% boys; and 5.0% girls); or the equivalent of an annual average of 40,000 (NTMI, 2020). Of the total of returned migrants, nine out of ten were of productive age (Flores, 2018). However, they have limitations that may make it difficult for them to enter the labor market, such as the fact that 70.0% have only basic education (IOM and ILO, 2019), in addition to the stigma of the returned migrant population, which makes them vulnerable and victims of discrimination.

Limitations and challenges for the quality of employment in El Salvador

The functional effectiveness of the labor market in El Salvador is measured by the quantity and quality of jobs generated. In this sense, structural limitations persist:

Low access to social security systems: The entire working population is in a precarious situation and with little social protection. In 2019, only 34.7% of the employed population was protected by the social security system, where coverage is higher in urban areas (43.1%) than in rural areas (18.9%).

Persistence of informal employment: In 2019, a total of 1.46 million non-agricultur-

al workers were estimated to have informal jobs, that is, 63.3% of all employed workers, according to the ILO estimate. The informal employment trend has gone upward in the last decade, both in absolute and relative terms, and increased by six percentage points between 2009 and 2019. Women are overrepresented in informal jobs: Seven out of ten employed women have an informal job, in contrast to six out of ten men. The economic activity branch that contributes the most to the generation of informal jobs in El Salvador is commerce, hotels, and restaurants (45.0% of informal jobs were in this branch in 2019), followed by agriculture, livestock, hunting and forestry (15.4%), manufacturing industries (14.9%) and construction (6.8%), with specific incidents of 56.5%, 81.3% and 93.0%, respectively.

Child labor: In El Salvador, 108,139 girls and boys between 5 and 17 years of age reported being employed in 2019 (69.3% men and 30.7% women); out of these, 93,283 (72.3% men and 27.7% women) carried out some typified form of child labor, either because they were below the minimum age of 14 years, or because they performed dangerous tasks or in long shifts not appropriate for their age. In recent years, there has been a reduction in the incidence of girls and boys in child labor (not allowed): From about 9.0% at the end of the last decade to 6.5% in 2019. The composition of the population that performs child labor has remained relatively unchanged in the 2009-2019 period, where there is a predominantly male (seven out of ten are men) and rural (six out of ten come from rural areas) participation that performs

work classified as dangerous (approximately seven out of ten).

Work in old age: Finally, it is convenient to analyze work in old age in the country, since this age group is more vulnerable to the threat of COVID-19 contagion. In 2019, the population aged 65 and over represented one tenth (9.9%) of the total population (663,287 people), of which 43.0% were men and 57.0% women. Of these, 23.2% (23.3% of men and 23.2% of women) lived in poverty, and only 18.6% (22.7% men and 15.5% women) received a disability or old-age pension, or a welfare pension (universal basic pension) (DIGESTYC, 2020).

In addition, 29.6% of this population was employed that year (46.1% of men and 17.1% of women). Of these, 55.9% were inserted as self-employed workers without premises (52.4% of men and 62.6% of women), and 86.7% have an informal job, with a higher incidence in women (77.1% of men and 96.6% of women). This shows that the elderly population is unprotected against a phenomenon such as the COVID-19 crisis, not only in terms of little-to-no social protection against a disease, but also because one in three is still working and in occupations with greater exposure and risk of contagion.

In conclusion, the impact of the health and economic crisis caused by COVID-19 on employment is undeniable, but in El Salvador, prior to the crisis, employment with little-to-no social protection prevailed, informal, and vulnerable employment, intertwined with gender, age and territorial inequalities.

This poses a challenge to prevent further precariousness of the workforce and protect workers from greater poverty and misery conditions.

Effects identified due to COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

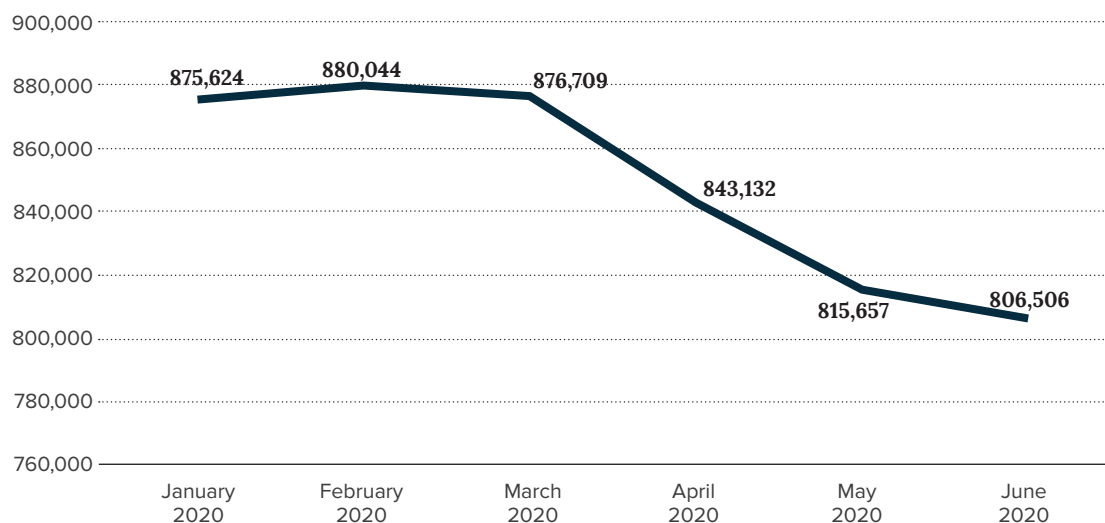
Methodological aspects: To perform the analysis of the effects on formal employment, microsimulation techniques were used based on the data from the 2019 Multipurpose Household Survey; from the administrative records of the Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS, by its Spanish acronym) for March, April, May, and June 2020; and the 2013 Longitudinal Social Protection Survey. In addition, a secondary estimate was made to approximate the effect of COVID-19 and tropical storms on informal employment, using figures from the sectorial production from the Central Reserve Bank (BCR, by its Spanish acronym). This latest estimate follows the guidelines of volume B of the PDNA methodology² and assumes that informal employment per sector will behave in the same way as the impact on sectorial production from March to June 2020 compared to the same months of the previous year.

2/ UNDP. (2014). The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment: Vol A and Vol B Guidelines. UNDP. Retrieved from <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/crisis-prevention-and-recovery/pdna.html>



CHART 1

Total workers reported on payroll to the ISSS. Period: January-June/2020



Source: Own elaboration, based on the ISSS administrative records from January to June 2020.

Analysis according to administrative data and microsimulation: The analysis of ISSS administrative records allows observing a gradual reduction in the number of workers reported on payrolls to the ISSS. Between March and June 2020 there is evidence of a loss of 70,427 formal jobs in the private sector, which is equivalent to approximately 7.9% of all workers in the formal sector as of February 2020. The most affected activity branches are construction (25.3%), real estate activities (15.7%), manufacturing industry (11.6%), agriculture and livestock (11.6%), commerce, restaurants and hotels (10.5%) and professional activities (9.5%).

Likewise, a characteristic of the precariousness of the Salvadoran labor market is that

very few people can face long periods of unemployment (or zero income), so, many people, faced with unemployment, started informal enterprises. The 2013 Longitudinal Social Protection Survey indicates that of the unemployed 45.0% remain unemployed for two years, 38.8% are employed in the informal sector and only 16.1% can return to the formal labor market after 24 months. These job transition data are used to model unemployment in 2020: Of the new 70,427 unemployed people in the private sector, 11,339 are expected to land on a job with social security; 27,326 will transition to informality; and 31,763 will remain unemployed for a long period. This employment loss and transition from formality to informality is simulated in household income, affecting both

the income of dependent and independent workers.

ISSS statistics also indicate that the average wages of contributing workers experienced an average reduction of -6.4% between January and June. The commerce sector is the one with the greatest reduction in wages (-17.1%), followed by industry (-13.9%) and construction (11.3%). This wage drop is simulated for workers who contribute to Social Security. Said simulation reflects the economic effect of suspensions on household income, which together with unemployment imply a reduction of -7.3% in people's income from dependent work.

Estimation according to the PDNA methodology: The estimates according to the PDNA methodology indicate that the reduction in sectorial production may have caused a loss of 89,347,000 workdays among informal workers,³ which is equivalent to 487,900 full-time jobs. Consequentially, affected workers could have foregone up to US\$1.861 million in personal income. The sectors where most of the informal economic activity was interrupted are commerce and tourism (33.0%), agriculture (21.0%), construction (15.0%) and manufacturing industries (13.0%).

^{3/} For the purposes of this report, informal workers are defined as workers who are not members or contributors to the Salvadoran Social Security Institute (ISSS).

Impact identified due to COVID-19 and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal

The COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal will have an impact on the labor market and the livelihoods of the working population, which can be seen in the short, medium, and long term, based on the immediate effects in the loss of work hours and work income.

Short-term impact: Due to the rapid spread of the effects of the COVID-19 crisis, effects can be seen in the short term, with the danger of spreading and deepening in the medium and long term. In the short term, a deterioration in the population's livelihoods can be seen, derived from the loss of income caused by confinement and social distancing measures to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Likewise, tropical storms caused monetary and material losses for the population living in risk areas. This translates into immediate shortcomings to meet the basic needs of workers and their families, thus making them more vulnerable.

The limited coverage of health systems imposes losses or costs on families if they get COVID-19 or other diseases because of the storms and do not have social security. This, in turn, increases the time devoted to short-term care, mostly performed by women.

However, the impacts on employment and foregone income because of the COVID-19

pandemic are differentiated, highlighting, and deepening existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, with special emphasis on the situation of informal workers, women, young workers and the elderly population who is still employed.

Inequalities can be identified at three different instances:

- ▾ First, there is inequality between those workers who lost their income or working hours partially or totally, and those who were able to adapt to confinement measures, teleworking, and who maintained their income level (ILO, 2020b).
- ▾ Second, inequalities between formal and informal workers are accentuated, since the latter do not have the possibility of teleworking, because their economic activities consist of street commerce, which not only entails a greater health risk for them, but also is one of the most restricted activities and with the greatest impact⁴ on the demand for goods and services, experiencing substantial losses in their income (ILO, 2020a).
- ▾ Third, this differentiation deepens gender inequalities to the detriment of women, since women are the ones in the

highest proportion in informal jobs, specifically in commerce, gastronomy, and tourism activities, which have been especially affected by the pandemic. (ILO, 2020b). These vulnerabilities are also present in other groups, such as young workers and older adults.

Medium and long-term impact: These inequalities can be perpetuated and deepened over time, generating impacts in the medium and long term. According to the ILO (2020b: 20) “This crisis exposes while exacerbating the significant difficulties of the labor market as well as the enormous inequalities existing within it”.

Regarding the unequal repercussions to the detriment of women, according to ILO estimates (2020b), 51.5% of total employment is at high risk, delimited according to the economic sectors that have been classified as most affected by social distancing measures, where the participation rate of women in the total of high-risk jobs is 59.9%.

In addition to this, there is an extremely unequal division of care, since according to the ILO (2018) 76.2% of all hours of unpaid care work are assumed by women, which is aggravated by confinement measures. This negatively impacts their health, especially in countries that do not have institutionalized care systems (ILO, 2020b). The consequences on the physical, mental and emotional health of women can be seen in the short, medium and long term, and the deficiencies in the care systems will be more latent.

^{4/} According to the ILO (2020a), the sectors that will receive a greater impact on economic production as a result of the containment measures due to COVID-19 are: Wholesale and retail commerce; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; manufacturing industries; hospitality and restaurant activities; real estate activities; and administrative and commercial activities.

TABLE 2

Groups in a vulnerability situation in El Salvador

	Women		Men		
	Over the age of 15 and 29 or under	Over the age of 30	Over the age of 15 and 29 or under	Over the age of 30 de 30 años	
Formal	98,263	173,708	155,864	342,657	770,492
Informal	264,429	693,778	456,251	809,907	2,224,365
	362,692	867,486	612,115	1,152,564	

Source: ILO (2020b), based on the 2019 MPHS.

Paid care jobs have also been affected. According to UN Women (2018), over 18 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean are engaged in paid domestic work, mostly women (93.0%) and primarily in a situation of informality. In 2009, in El Salvador, 125,004 women were engaged in domestic service activities. They are at risk of contagion and losing their income (UN Women, 2020). This would displace numerous women into poverty situations, with no prospect of recovering their previous situation, initially precarious and vulnerable.

Young people can also be affected in the medium and long term by these inequalities. In the context of the 2008 financial crisis that affected the world and Salvadoran economies, it was shown that young people suffered a greater impact than the national average in terms of unemployment, increasing the rate by 2.1 percentage points, compared to the increase of 1.3 percentage points for the population between 30 and 44 years old (ILO, 2020b). In 2019, the national unemployment rate was 6.3%, while the youth

unemployment rate amounted to 13.4% (DIGESTYC, 2020), so this trend has not been reversed since the crisis.

Young people also tend to be employed in low-productivity sectors and in the informal sector (Table 2), for which they face, like women, double inequality, both vis-à-vis informal workers and the population over the age of 30.

Impact on the quality and quantity of employment: Looking at the trends in the labor market, it is possible that unemployment and inactivity problems are increasing due to several reasons. First, there is no reason to think that the loss of jobs due to confinement measures will recover in the short term; as an example, the country took 2.5 years to recover half of the contributions of workers to the ISSS that existed prior to the crisis (ILO, 2020b).

Second, these people may be reluctant to seek employment out of fear of contagion, thus becoming part of the economically in-

active people. This coupled with the fact that a stigma has been generated on infected people, due to the media focus that contagion is the product of irresponsibility, which affects the voluntary disposition of people –especially if they receive remittances or have savings– of looking for a job (ILO, 2020b). The time for fear and stigma to gradually disappear is uncertain, so these problems can be prolonged in the medium and long term.

On the other hand, informality can spread, affecting average labor productivity, the generation of decent work and even the statistical reporting of these workers, which would translate into poor diagnoses and late information capture that would hinder decision-making and the design of policies focused on the needs of these workers (ILO, 2020b).

Self-employment has been an exit mechanism in the face of contractions in paid employment, but this would now be affected by the displacement difficulties and restrictions that depress private consumption, which will generate precarious jobs and make access to social security coverage even more difficult. This shift to low-productivity jobs decreases the average labor productivity of workers (ILO, 2020b).

In addition to this, their activities mostly require contact or interaction with other workers and clients, and due to the lack of regulation and access to basic health and hygiene services, they comply to a lesser extent with the biosafety protocols, the use of masks

and hand disinfection with alcohol gel (ILO, 2020b). This places them in a more vulnerable situation and at risk of contagion, affecting their health and that of their families.

In El Salvador, as in the rest of Latin America, informality is a structural problem, so its expansion cannot be expected to stop and the size of the informal working population to contract in the short term. The latent challenge of formalizing small businesses and guaranteeing coverage by social security systems for these workers will be even greater as a result of this crisis, which will require more articulated responses from the Government.

In conclusion, the COVID-19 crisis and the effects of the tropical storms are expected to have impacts that would transcend the short term, since they are causing movements and transitions in the labor market to informal and vulnerable sectors that are difficult for women to access public policies, and this reproduces and deepens the already-existing inequalities in the market, seriously affecting the livelihoods of certain sectors of the Salvadoran population

Recovery Needs and Strategy

The interventions are aimed at the most affected and vulnerable population, according to the characterization and prior review of the situation before the COVID-19 pandemic and the tropical storms. Prioritization is defined

according to the immediacy of the measures and the needs of the population to whom the intervention is aimed at.

Recovery and prioritization needs

Since the beginning of the emergency, the Government of El Salvador implemented a series of measures to support the productive sector and protect the income and livelihoods of working people, among which are:

- 1 The delivery of a single bonus for US\$300.00, which was awarded to 1.2 million people.
- 2 Distribution of approximately 3.4 million food packages.

- 3 All taxpayers in the sector were exempted from paying the special contribution for the promotion of tourism for three months.
- 4 Approval of the Law for the Creation of a Trust for the Economic Recovery, for US\$600 million, which incorporates: US\$140 million destined to the Subsidy Program for MSMEs employees; granting of loans to companies, for US\$360 million; and the Productive Financing Program, allocating US\$100 million.
- 5 The approval of the Telework Regulation Law.

Even under this scenario and measures that were previously implemented by the Government, the following needs for recovery are identified:

TABLE 3

Summary table of the initiatives and the recovery costs in the short, medium and long term

Intervention	Short Term*	Medium Term*	Long Term*	Priority (1 to 5)	Description	Cost (in US\$)
Guarantee access to financial services for MSMEs.	X			5	Create a trust with public funds to finance investment projects and recovery of MSMEs. This must incorporate special regulations to guarantee access to loans for these companies. It can include the payment of the payroll for MSMEs employees. Those companies whose legal representatives are women should be prioritized.	To be defined.



Intervention	Short Term*	Medium Term*	Long Term*	Priority (1 to 5)	Description	Cost (in US\$)
Registration and financial assistance for workers in the informal sector and those in vulnerable working conditions.	X	X		5	Carry out a characterization of the population, in order to be able to apply plans and programs according to the reality of these people, having updated information on who will require some type of help in the context of the emergency.	To be defined.
Strengthening of social protection systems and expansion of non-contributory social protection.		X	X	4	Expand social protection coverage with emphasis on vulnerable groups, such as women and the elderly population.	To be defined.
Promote the design and implementation of short-term emergency employment programs and long-term employment-intensive public works plans.	X	X		5	Achieve the reactivation of employment through the promotion of employment programs in public investments as a catalyst for employment opportunities, with an emphasis on women, youth and rural workers.	To be defined.
Training for MSMEs, for the diversification and digitization of their commercial activities.	X	X		4	Training that provides tools to make MSMEs more resilient. Tools and methods to digitize their activities should also be included, as well as the implementation of electronic payments.	To be defined.
Training for companies on biosafety and occupational health protocols.	X	X		4	With an emphasis on MSMEs. It should emphasize the protection of workers and clients/users.	To be defined.
Implementation of the Law on Nurseries, to facilitate the return of women to their jobs.	X	X	X	4	The purpose of the Law on Nurseries is for employers to install nurseries for the children of their workers. This is a step to redistribute unpaid domestic work.	To be defined.
Promote a new universal basic pension, according to the new needs of the elderly population.		X	X	4	Update the database of the population in need, to target the Universal Basic Pension to households with older adults, increasing the coverage age thereof.	To be defined.

Intervention	Short Term*	Medium Term*	Long Term*	Priority (1 to 5)	Description	Cost (in US\$)
Implement a labor market information system.	X	X		3	Implement policies or strategies with clear performance indicators on the dynamics of the labor market in the country, which can be constantly monitored, through the use of the Labor Market Information System (SIMEL, by its Spanish acronym).	To be defined.
Promote an integrated strategy to facilitate the transition of workers and companies from the informal economy to the formal economy.			X	4	Generate inter-institutional coordination to design a plan to transition to the formal economy with a structural approach.	To be defined.
Training and education program for the tourism sector.	X	X		4	For the sector to be able to adapt to economic, social and technological changes, but especially in the field of occupational health and safety and professional requalification, a specialized training program for the sector must be developed.	To be defined.

Source: Elaboración propia.

Recommendations for its implementation

The interventions to be carried out must be based on inter-institutional coordination, even between the Central Government and local and municipal governments, as well as consultation with the stakeholders involved, to identify interventions needs, especially in the case of MSMEs and workers of the informal sector, for whom there is insufficient statistical information and who are emerging as the most affected by the current situation.

In addition, the structural disadvantages of women and other vulnerable groups in the labor market must be considered when implementing interventions, with the aim of reducing inequality gaps. Particularly, specialized actions in other vulnerable groups should be considered, even more so in the context of the pandemic: The elderly population, young people and returned migrants.

Although there are interventions that will have long-term effects, it is important not to postpone their implementation, to achieve



the recovery and subsequent improvement of the working and living conditions of the Salvadoran working population.

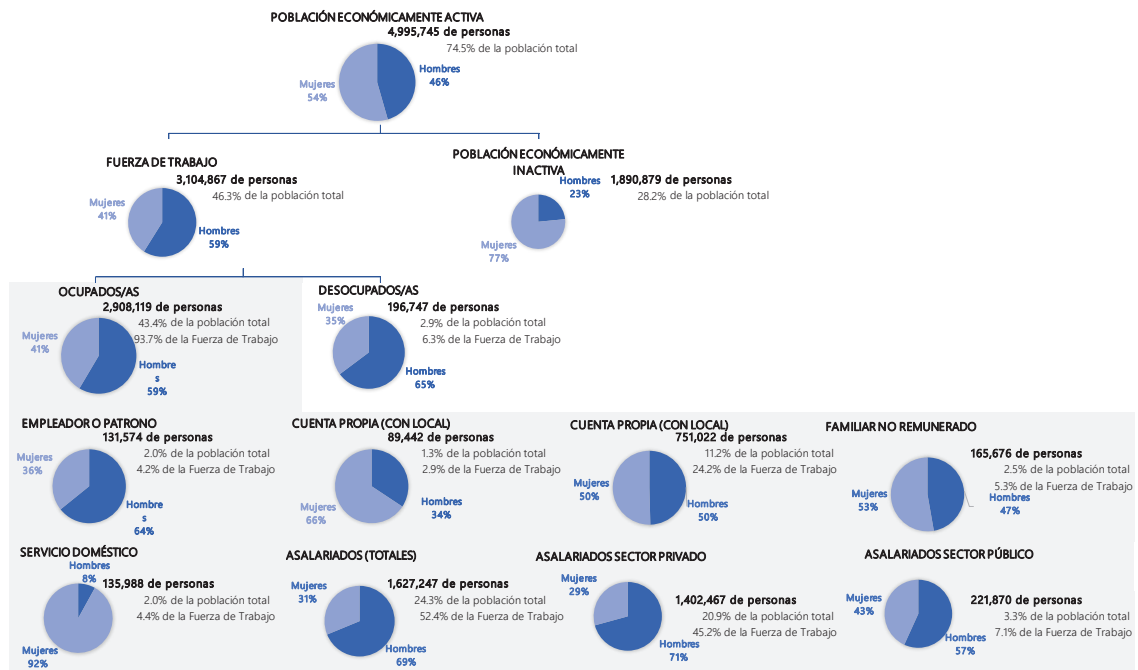
Finally, for their implementation, these actions must have the appropriate instruments, with budgets, strategies and implementation plans with a clear framework of expected results.

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Annexes

Annex 1. Breakdown of the working-age population, per sex (2019)



Source: Own elaboration, based on the 2019 MPHS.

PDNA El Salvador Coordination table and Sectors

General Coordination

Paola Peña • Ministry of Economy
 Patricia Ávila • Secretaría de Comercio e Inversiones de la Presidencia
 Susana Lobato • Secretaría de Comercio e Inversiones de la Presidencia
 Jeannette Fernández • UNDP
 Ricardo Zapata Martí • UNDP
 Silvia Vides • UNDO
 Osmar Velasco • WB
 Matthias Mollet • EU

Coordination support

Noemi La Grotta • UNDP
 Almudena Montoliú • UNDP
 Ryna Ávila • UNDP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ivette Contreras • UNDP

Sectorial teams

HEALTH

Ruth Lucio • UNDP
 Rosa Adela Aguilar
 Ana María Barrientos
 Natalia Carpio
 Elisa Gamero
 Carlos Girón
 Miguel Linares

Marcela Luna
 Norma Posada
 Héctor Ramos
 Edgar Soto
 Francisco Vargas
 Salvador Villalobos

HUMAN IMPACT

María Dolores Almeida • UNDP (and employment)
 Julian Schweitzer • UNDP (with the support of ILO)
 Nancy Argueta
 Marcela Aguilar
 Melisa Alvarenga
 Ivette Contreras
 Diana Contreras Arias
 Adonay De Paz
 Manu Delgado Chavarría
 Regina María Díaz Guardado
 Xenia Díaz
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 Gerson Martínez
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 Victoria Sánchez
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PDNA

Evaluation of the effects, impacts and needs El Salvador is facing due to the double incidence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal
Amanda and Cristóbal

EL SALVADOR 2020

This analysis is part of the evaluation of the effects, impacts and needs El Salvador is facing due to the double incidence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the tropical storms Amanda and Cristóbal. The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Methodology is used to estimate the costs of the combined effect of the two conjunctures, in terms of damages, losses and additional costs, as well as the cost of the combined needs for a comprehensive and resilient recovery in the face of future crises.

El Salvador is the first country in Latin America, and one of the few in the world, to carry out a combined analysis of the effects of both phenomena. The study represents a notable contribution to the recovery needs assessment practice in situations that will surely recur and become more complex with COVID-19 and the potential impact of other natural hazards, such as heavy rains, hurricanes, seismic and volcanic activity, among others.

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