

MUNDO DE TALENTOS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID19

JAN-JUN 2020 REPORT

REPORT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The pandemic that COVID19 caused affected life in its different ways and the activities of the population in general. During the phase of the lock-down, decreed by the Federal Government of Mexico, Mundo de Talentos had to think of alternatives to be able to continue to offer her program to the students. Together we decided to count on the use of technologies as the most viable option to continue with the planned sessions. Considering the problems that this lock-down represented for many parents. Staying at home and living together all this time in the same space and with the possibility of complicated family relationships, in addition to changes in the economic and work situation have implied changes in the wellbeing of the families. Mundo de Talentos has taken this into consideration and has tried to continue to offer an interesting and fun program that does not imply an extra burden on the families.

In this context Mundo de Talentos has continued to offer vocational orientation sessions to its students through the use of WhatsApp, since most parents were cooperative in lending their cell phone to their children. Together with the volunteer guest teachers, experts in different labor topics, we prepared the sessions with interesting content. Both written and audiovisual, and with questions, topics for discussion and challenges. We tried to consider the different family contexts of our students, e.g. regarding the use of materials for the implementation of the challenges. At all times,



challenging activities were offered that motivated the reflection and creativity of the students.

The response from mothers and fathers was generally favorable to continue the activities us-

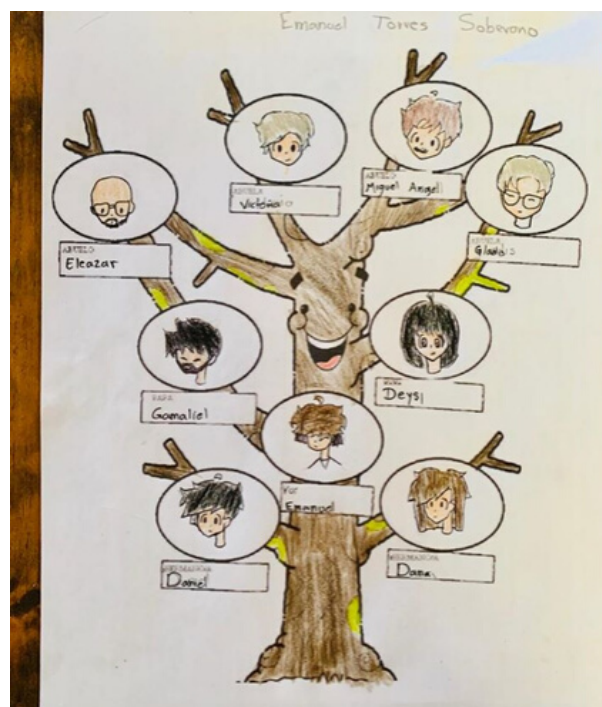
ing the digital tool of WhatsApp. Some students did not participate due to a feeling of overload of schoolwork. With the affirmative response from parents, two WhatsApp groups were formed (one for each generation) where a total of 15 sessions were held between April and June, including the topic: 'Corona-virus' and the modules of Social Sciences, Environmental Care, and Extreme Jobs.



RESULTS AND LEARNED LESSONS

Of the students who participated constantly it is important to highlight their abilities in the use of technologies. Many of them made videos through the Tik Tok application ([click to see the video](#)), which allowed them to express their opinions and talents with great creativity. It is also noteworthy that many girls and boys wrote stories concerning the topics addressed in the form of poems or tales.

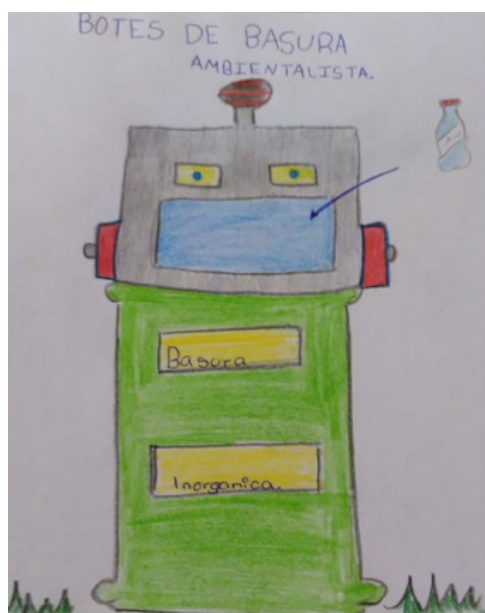
Participation in this new form of remote activities allowed us to identify the support that many of the students received from their family and friends, which in some way en-



hanced creativity in their work ([click here](#) and [here](#)). It is clear that in making videos and challenges such as the elaboration of the tree of life, the families got involved helping them with gathering the information, and even participating in the interviews. We consider that the activities and challenges we offered were motivating and represented a different learning method, more individual and with more freedom for the students, while at the

same time offering concrete exercises and direct contact with the Mundo de Talentos coordinators. While remaining formal it allowed the students to learn in a different way, revealing new talents.

An interesting element comparing face-to-face and remote classes is the difference in the dynamics of student participation. During face-to-face sessions the most sociable and expressive students are those who usually participate actively. During WhatsApp classes we were able to appreciate much more the active participation of students who are usually more silent or shy. We have observed that some children have exploited abilities and talents that we had not previously recognized, such as working individually, technical abilities to create videos and social skills in interviewing professionals. Having to work from home without the presence of classmates changed the way of preparing the students' work. Interesting results can be seen on our Facebook and Instagram pages with videos, drawings and stories. In general, the students have expressed themselves in their own way, we have been able to hear the voices of those who usually participate less, and we have learned a little more about their family environments, their likings and their dreams.



MUNDO DE TALENTOS AND COVID-19

We assume that the students who were unable to participate in the remote activities did not have access to the use of a cell phone, which belongs to their parents. We understand that there could be several reasons:



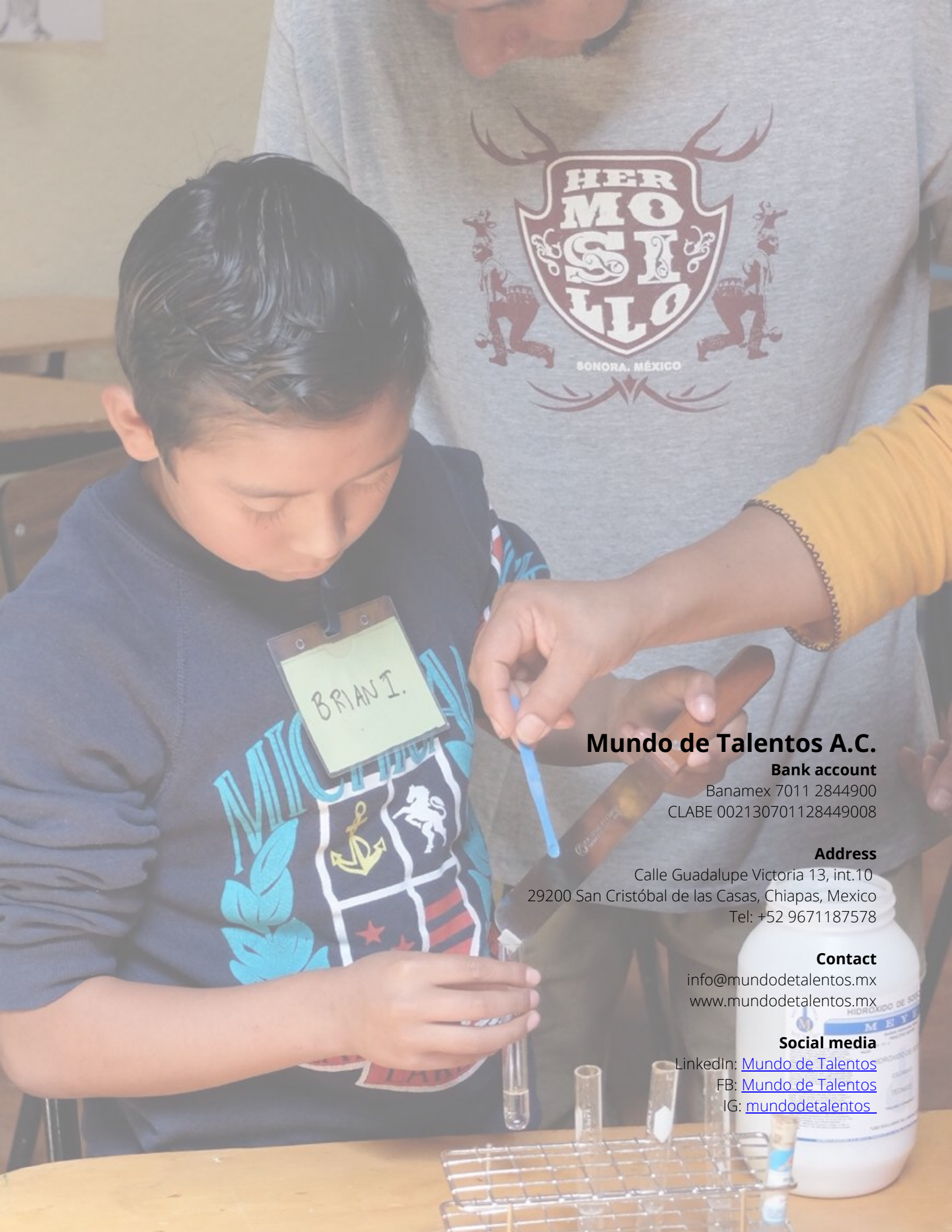
working hours, workload, cost of cell phone rent and even the dynamics of family relationships. Asking how they felt about this form of work, some parents pointed out the fatigue caused by the lock-down situation and the overload of work. Parents of the children who did participate recognized the importance of the continuation of the Mundo de Talentos program as it brought positive and meaningful activities to the students' homes which in some cases resulted in interesting learning experiences for the whole family.

In general, we can say that for the Mundo Talentos team the period has brought an interesting learning process with many challenges. For the coming months we will be flexible to adapt to changing contexts and we consider, for example, the application of a schedule where we alternate face-to-face classes and distance classes. Mundo de Talentos follows the guidelines established by the Federal Government. Possibly, schools will reopen in

September, in which case, Mundo de Talentos will also continue sessions with the students at the project location again. However, if restrictions continue in order to slow down the spread of COVID19, Mundo de Talentos will apply measures taking into account these indications.

The goal for Mundo de Talentos is to keep offering our motivating program to students and to continue inspiring them to be creative, investigative and curious children. As a way of conclusion: Surprisingly, in these past months we have been able to carry out very inspiring sessions of genuine and active participation, of imagination, creativity, expression and closeness.





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