





#### A collaborative effort by the HHI staff

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In strategic alliance with





### We were there, and we're still here

Dear Board of Directors

We hope that this message receives you with great hope. As you may know, I am Dr. Eliezer Lappots-Abreu, Executive Director of Horizons of Health; and it is a pleasure to share this report with each of our partners and collaborators.

Exactly one year ago, one of the most fearful health crises of the 21st century began; which pushed many institutions to collapse, separated families, impacted the economy of the greatest world powers, but, above all, imposed in the lives of each one of us the fear of an evolutionary disease of which we knew nothing. In the midst of the tumult of the presidential elections in the Dominican Republic and the lack of interest on the part of the local authorities to mitigate the risks associated with the pandemic, our work team met a week before to decide the future of our institution, if we were willing to sacrifice our well-being for the community, and in case we did not receive any support, how we would navigate a completely unknown disease.

Many questions arose in the minds of each of us: What would happen if I contract Covid-19 while providing services to a patient? How do I take care of the communities and protect my family? How far will Horizontes de Salud be able to go in case the pandemic presents problems to continue our operations and finances? What will happen if a cure is not found? What will happen in the world? What will happen?

When the "I" is replaced by the "we", even illness becomes well-being.

On March 15, 2020, we decided to face any adversity and fulfill our promise to serve our communities and make sure they had access to quality primary care services.



During a year, we had the opportunity to extend the coverage of clinical services to more communities and more people who were unemployed, disadvantaged and neglected as a result of the collateral effects of the pandemic; We implemented a series of programs and initiatives that managed to maintain the continuous flow of chronic care, the delivery of medications, and treatments without interruptions, and we provided responses to the increase in the prevalence of other chronic diseases as a result of the closure of medical institutions and the cessation of services by some providers. Our commitment extended to other spheres such as emotional support, nutritional support, and education and sanitation services to people in the most remote corners ... but beyond programmatic achievements, our most important mission was that at all times, in the ups and downs, Horizons was there.

In compliance with ensuring the well-being of our communities, Horizontes de Salud has joined together with the Ministry of Public Health of the Dominican Republic in the National Vaccination Plan Against Covid-19 2021. Through this document, we reflect the impact of our participation in the 1st phase of vaccination and our strategy to strengthen immunization efforts in vulnerable populations at the community level. We want to thank each of our collaborators, who have remained steadfast by our side during this journey, and we hope to continue counting on their commitment in future opportunities and other assignments to our institution.

Firmly,

Dr. Eliezer Lappots-Abreu

Executive Director

Health Horizons International Foundation

# Immunization barriers for COVID-19 in rural Dominican Republic



#### Migration

Currently, immunization policies exclude undocumented people from accessing vaccination services.

**Health Horizons** 



#### Geographical area

Because some homes are not accessible due to the lack of formidable transportation routes such as roads or bridges, or means of communication such as telephones, it is almost impossible to reach these people.



#### Lack of education

Some people do not want to participate in the vaccination sessions due to the myths and misinformation associated with the origin and effects of the Covid-19 vaccine.



#### Discrimination

The UN agency in charge of ensuring global health denounces that many countries are now vaccinating younger and healthier people at low risk against the disease at the cost of the lives of health workers, the elderly and other groups risk in other countries. In the short term this can give a sense of security, in the long term it can be counterproductive both economically and epidemiologically.



## HHI's approach for Community Immunization initiatives

- ❖ PARTICIPATE in a dialogue that conveys information and responds to people's concerns and fears.
- ❖ CONDUCT social research to improve the delivery of health services vaccination and the ability to meet the needs of diverse communities.
- CONDUCT operational and social research to identify strategies that reduce inequalities and improve the quality and delivery of vaccination services.
- AVOID vaccine-preventable diseases and respond to same during disease outbreaks, humanitarian crises and in areas of conflict.
- CONDUCT operational research on improved distribution methods for immunization throughout the life cycle and vaccination in situations of emergency in so-called fragile states and in those emerging from conflict.



## Patients vaccinated for COVID-19

27

Pancho Mateo Centre

Pancho Mateo – Caraballo

54

Severet Centre

Severet – Arroyo de Leche-Rural caucus

19

Mosovi Centre

Mosovi – El Saman

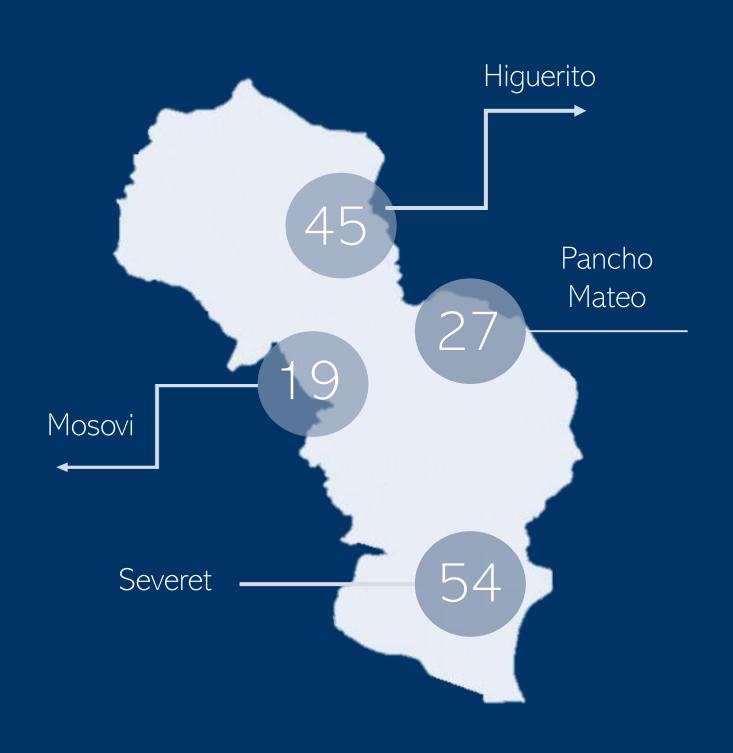
45

Higuerito Centre

Montellano center – Higuerito - Cangrejo



# Patients vaccinated for COVID-19 Geographical scope







#### GOALS ACHIEVED

Pancho Mateo Centre	Severet Centre	Mosovi Centre	Higuerito Centre
108%	216%	76%	180%























