
LATAM IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

A report on the measures taken in Latin America in the face of the pandemic

April 1 to 17, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The first case of covid-19, in the region, was registered in Brazil on February 26 and the first death from the infection was announced in Argentina on March 7. Since then, the virus has been spreading to the rest of the region's countries.

Faced with this scenario, each nation has taken different measures to face the consequences brought by the pandemic. Here below is a fortnightly summary of the main measures adopted in public health, the economy and other measures that governments have implemented to better manage the situation.

LATIN AMERICA FIGURES AS OF APRIL 16

COUNTRY	CASES	FATALITIES
ARGENTINA	2571	115
BOLIVIA	441	31
CHILE	8,807	105
COLOMBIA	3,105	131
ECUADOR	8,225	403
MEXICO	6,297	486
PANAMA	4,016	109
PERU	12,491	274

MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS

<p>INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It plans to allocate resources to the region's countries, acting together with other multilateral partners, making available up to USD 12 billion in 2020 to help overcome the impacts of the coronavirus. IDB Invest, the private arm of the IDB Group, is contributing an additional \$ 5 billion. • Disbursement of USD 25.3 million to support the efforts of the Government of Ecuador to strengthen health services and respond to the health demand of citizens affected by the emergency. It is the first disbursement of a total of USD 700 million committed to support the country in this crisis.
<p>PACIFIC ALLIANCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol approved that lifts commercial limitations to encourage the exchange of essential products and medical supplies, as well as other products and categories. • Protocol approved for technological integration and the promotion of unified telecommunications among member countries, with free technological exchange.
<p>DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA (CAF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ 50 million per country for direct care of health systems. • Enabling an emergency credit line and rapid disbursement of up to \$ 2.5 billion for authorities to respond immediately to the expansion of the virus, contributing to the continuity of business operations and the recovery of economic growth. • Non-reimbursable cooperation resources for the donation of essential supplies and support to the health sector in the sum of \$ 400 thousand per country.
<p>CARICOM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARICOM leaders considered several proposals for a common border policy and a combined public health policy as ways to limit the spread of the new coronavirus. • Financial support requested from the World Bank and the IMF.

<p>ANDEAN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS (CAN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadmap that seeks to harmonize biosafety standards, in order to prevent the entry of Covid19 into the rural sector and thus preserve agricultural production and the agrifood chain. • Exchange of information in real time on the progress of the disease, for timely decision-making, as well as sharing successful experiences in mitigating the spread of the virus. • Trade facilitation, support for the reactivation of regional production, exports and employment, exchange of information and experiences of good practices and the strengthening of cooperation systems.
--	---

ARGENTINA

<p>STIMULUS PLANS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspension of bank account closures. • Suspension of withdrawal fees at ATMs. • Extension of the term to deposit cheques. • Freezing of rents and suspension of evictions. • Credits for companies, cooperatives and research institutions that contribute to the health emergency. • Unpaid balances of credits granted by financial entities, whose instalments are due between April 1 and June 30, 2020, will not have punitive interests . • Creation of the Provincial Financial Emergency Program: the program contemplates an allocation of resources for a total amount of 120 billion pesos from the Contribution Fund of the National Treasury, as well as the Trust Fund for Provincial Development. • One-time emergency family income of AR \$ 10,000 (100 dollars) for self-employed workers in informality or category A and B monotributistas, between 18 and 65 years • Special line of credit to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MiPyMEs) at a maximum annual interest rate of 24% launched by the Central Bank of the Argentine Republic (BCRA) to the sum of \$ 66,182 million, of which \$ 43,298.55 million was disbursed on 13/4. • Benefits for companies affected by the pandemic (Postponement of payment or reduction of up to 95% of employer contributions. Compensatory allocation of wages to companies with up to 100 workers, Health emergency assistance for companies with more than 100 workers.) • Ahora 12 Extension (a social program to make purchases in 3, 6, 12 or 18 installments with a credit card, every day of the week).
-----------------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits for vulnerable sectors (all those who receive the Universal Child and Pregnancy Allowance, pensioners and retirees, health workers, and the security forces).
--	---

<p>FISCAL MEASURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expiration of the urban property tax, which expired on April 14, was postponed and moved to May 14. • The expiration of Gross Income was postponed for businesses, independent professionals, micro-companies. It expired on April 4 and was moved to May 4. • Rural property tax was postponed. • The suspension of embargoes was extended. • Maximum prices for State purchases: the National Government sets out for the State to be reached and adjusts its purchases, particularly when it comes to the direct acquisition of goods and services that are necessary for the emergency. <p>The pro-government blocs in Congress are preparing a bill that sets a one-time tax on large fortunes to finance the health and social campaign against the pandemic. 12,000 taxpayers would be reached.</p>
------------------------	--

<p>FINANCIAL SECTOR AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Bank: 250,000 million released to give the financial system additional liquidity. To do this: it reduced reserve requirements, stopped taking liquidity notes and relaxed prudential rules so that banks can make available to their clients, especially SMEs, lines of loans to finance the payment of wages. • The Argentine Guarantee Fund (FOGAR) granted guarantees for financial institutions to have new loans of \$ 89,073 million.
-----------------------------	--

<p>TRANSPORTATION AID</p>	<p>No specific aid measures were issued.</p> <p>In the last period studied, essential transport services were exempt from compulsory isolation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biofuel distribution was added to the list of activities and services declared essential in the emergency. • The Public Passenger Transport, freight, oil, fuel and LPG services continues to operate. • The collection, transport and treatment of urban solid, dangerous and pathogenic waste continues to operate.
---------------------------	---

<p>MINING AID</p>	<p>Although no particular benefits were announced, the mining activity was considered "essential" and excepted from quarantine on April 3. Before the announcement, the Argentine Chamber of Mining Entrepreneurs (CAEM) created a protocol, so that in each province the chambers, together with the unions, can plan their implementation. It states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement measures that guarantee the operation, maintaining safety and environmental care. • Minimize the circulation of personnel within the fields. • Suspend support at central administrative offices and implement telework. • Inform the enforcement authority of the preventive measures and compliance with current protocols related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) to date. • Suspend visitation and training activities for mining operators. • Work regimes according to each particular situation. • Collaborate with national and provincial authorities on a daily and constant basis in the implementation of measures to safeguard people's health.
<p>TOURISM AID</p>	<p>The Executive Power determined some measures to alleviate the situation of companies, which may be applied to SMEs in the tourism sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postponement or reduction of up to 95% of the payment of employer contributions for employers that do not exceed 60 contracted workers. • Compensatory Salary Allowance for all workers in companies with up to 100 employees (mentioned above). • For those that exceed this limit, the Productive Recovery Program, Repro, will be applied, which includes health emergency assistance for full time private sector workers. • The Ministry of Tourism unveiled the option that Travel Agencies can share an office or physical location in order to reduce fixed costs.
<p>OTHER SECTORS AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of import taxes for critical supplies (alcohol, pharmacy items, sanitary supplies). • The National Government ordered that COVID-19 be considered a presumptively professional disease. In this way, the Occupational Risk Insurers must adapt their coverage so that injured workers receive, immediately, the corresponding benefits. • The Ministry of Culture settles the Develop Fund creation, for the granting of economic support to cultural spaces in the sum of 30 million pesos.

<p>MEASURES THAT GUARANTEE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures for commercial establishments (establish attention to the public of at least 13 hours a day, have personnel specifically destined to control access and avoid crowds, guarantee a distance of 1.5 m. between clients). • AYSA: virtual and telephone offices with 24-hour service for claims and business procedures. • Service cuts / restrictions are suspended in case of default or non-payment for 180 days. • Mandatory operational guards are set out for public service companies to guarantee services. • ENARGAS makes a new web form available for sending online documentation previously associated with procedures at the agency's entry desk. • Movement permit for personnel affected by the provision of essential services.
<p>TRANS-BORDER COLLABORATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government offered collaboration with the Falkland Island's inhabitants in the face of the Coronavirus: it sends food, medical supplies, tests to detect the virus, as well as a provision of means to carry out humanitarian flights. • Argentina and Chile agreed to work together on the repatriation and information exchange program on actions to halt the spread of the pandemic.

BOLIVIA

<p>MACROECONOMIC STIMULUS PLANS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary Payment Support Plan: Soft loans will be granted to companies to help them pay workers' wages for two months. Companies will be able to obtain loans for the value of two minimum salaries (equivalent to US \$ 592) for each worker and for each month. The loans will be for an 18 months term and the first six months, capital nor interest will be paid. • Employment Plan: It will benefit more than 720,000 micro, small and medium entrepreneurs in Bolivia. An initial fund of \$ us 215 million is available for work and operations credits. They will be
-------------------------------------	--

	<p>for a five-year term and it is established that the first year be a grace period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Benefits: The payment of US \$71.8 to families with children in the initial, primary and secondary levels of public, private, covenant schools and alternative and special education centers. • Family Basket Benefits: These benefits are aimed at older adults who receive Dignity Income, but not retirement; mothers who receive the Juana Azurduy Benefits for each child born and people with disabilities who access disability benefits. The amount of \$ US 57.4 is paid. • Universal Benefits: Consists of the payment of \$ US 71.8 for people over 18 years of age who do not receive wages of any kind nor beneficiaries of any State benefit (Renta Dignidad, the Juana Azurduy Benefits, Family Benefits or other).
--	---

<p>FISCAL MEASURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension for the declaration and payment of monthly tax obligations: The National Tax Service (SIN) of Bolivia issued a resolution that extends the maturity for the payment of tax obligations until next May. It also extended until April 30, 2020 the expiration date for payment of installment payment plans that expired on February 28, 2020, as well as the one that will end on March 31 of the current year, among other specifications. • Tax free imports. The National Customs has lifted taxes on imports of medical supplies necessary to face the coronavirus. The dispatch will be 24 hours.
------------------------	--

<p>FINANCIAL SECTOR AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention in the payment of rents and bonds: The Financial System Authority (ASFI) instructed the financial intermediation entities to provide their services during the quarantine from 07.00 to 12.00 for the payment of rents and bonds announced by the Central Government. • Soft credits: More than 720,000 micro, small and medium entrepreneurs in Bolivia will be able to access work and operations credits. They will be for a five-year term and the first year is a grace period (see Macroeconomic Stimulus Plans above).
-----------------------------	--

<p>TRANSPORTATION AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine does not restrict heavy or cargo transportation: Despite the National Health Emergency decree and national quarantine, factories, production centers and the transportation of family basket products continue to function normally. • Bus rental: In La Paz, the seat of government, the Puma Katari and Chiquititi municipal transport bus fleet is used to transport health personnel. In Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, public transport buses are also rented for the same purpose.
<p>MINING AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No aid for the mining sector is identified at the date of publication of the report.
<p>TOURISM AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No aid for the tourism sector is identified at the date of publication of the report.
<p>OTHER SECTORS AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheat imports without tariffs. The Government established a zero tariff for the importation of wheat for a period of two years to guarantee food security during the health emergency. • Prohibition of dismissals. The Ministry of Labor prohibits unfair dismissal of public and private sector workers and guarantees job stability for the duration of quarantine in Bolivia. • Health professionals and workers insurance: By decree, it is established that health professionals and workers who are infected with the coronavirus will have health insurance of \$ US 14,430, valid for one year, in case of death, total or permanent disability. • Deferred payment of credits
<p>MEASURES THAT GUARANTEE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic services. Electricity, gas, internet and water service providers are prohibited from cutting off supplies for non-payment for the duration of the quarantine. • Deferred payment of interest: Payment deferral of fees for citizens who have credits and discounts on debit card use at foreign ATMs. The measure is valid for the duration of the quarantine in Bolivia, until April 30.
<p>TRANS-BORDER COLLABORATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No aid for the sector is identified at the date of publication of the report.

--	--

CHILE

<p>STIMULUS PLANS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Central Bank set the monetary policy rate to 0.5% and opened special lines of credit to guarantee cash flow in the market to the sum of USD \$ 24 billion. • Other measures of the issuing body aimed at providing liquidity to the market are allowing access, from non-bank institutions such as credit unions, to its instruments. • Inclusion of corporate bonds within eligible collaterals for all liquidity operations • Extension of the foreign exchange sales program until January 9, 2021 • Transitional modification of the monetary reserve regulations, expanding the constitution of the reserve requirement in foreign currency obligations from US dollars to euros, yen and Chilean pesos.
-----------------------	--

<p>FISCAL MEASURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injection of USD \$ 2 billion into unemployment insurance for the purpose of supplementing the resources of the fund that will be used in the interruption of employment law that was enacted to protect the jobs of those who are unable to carry out their work as a result of quarantine. • Delivery of a payment of USD \$ 60 per person, which will cover 2,600,000 beneficiaries of the poorest 40% of the population. It will be paid in May. • Restructuring of the nation's budget. Through a bill, the Ministry of Finance was empowered to request the return of all cash balances from public institutions in order to centrally manage the treasury. • Suspension of new employees, salary increases, readjustments and other emoluments of state workers. • Postponement of payment of monthly taxes for all micro, small and medium-sized companies, this includes the value added tax VAT. • Postponement of the first installment of the real estate tax to be paid on April 30.
------------------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no direct aid for the financial sector since it is one of the most solvent industries in the country and so far has not presented
--	--

FINANCIAL SECTOR AID	any problems. However, a system for banks to grant loans to companies with a state guarantee has been implemented.
TRANSPORTATION AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no special aids, in the case of public transport it has a subsidy guaranteed by law that supports the income of the private concessionaires who operate it. • Taxis have been authorized to provide services for delivery applications.
MINING AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No aid to the mining sector is identified at the date of publication of the report.
TOURISM AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government has leased some hotels to transform them into health facilities, in order to mitigate the effects of the fall in occupation rate, which according to a survey by the Undersecretary of Tourism amounts to 90%. • Some state measure for the sector is expected in September.
OTHER SECTORS AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No aid for other sectors is identified at the date of publication of the report.
MEASURES THAT GUARANTEE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A special permit system was established for workers in essential companies. • The operation of all basic services was guaranteed thanks to the state of constitutional emergency of catastrophe that allows the participation of the Armed Forces in safeguarding public order.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are only information exchange measures on methodologies to deal with the pandemic, but there is no special

<p>TRANS-BORDER COLLABORATION FRONTERIZA</p>	<p>coordination at the regional level, because there has been a division of multilateral organizations for several years. There is currently Prosur (right) Mercosur (weakened) Unasur (left, has lost members).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closure of borders was renewed until April 22, which implies the prohibition of non-resident foreigners from entering the country.
--	---

COLOMBIA

<p>STIMULUS PLANS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Finance restructured loans for companies, microenterprises, VIS housing loans (Social Interest Housing), constructor loans and loans for medium-sized companies. The sum of these credits is 90 trillion pesos, equivalent to about 5,400,000 credits. • Special lines of credit were created with subsidized credit from Colombia Responde to the sum of 250,000 million pesos, with individual loans for up to 3,000 million for SMEs and up to 5,000 million for large tourism, aviation and public entertainment companies. • The National Guarantee Fund (FNG) backed loans of up to 70 trillion to guarantee loans of this amount, 20 trillion will be for micro, small and medium-sized companies.
-----------------------	---

<p>FISCAL MEASURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Tax and Customs Directorate (Dian) authorized the reimbursement of balances in favor of individuals and companies so that taxpayers affected by the covid-19 pandemic have a greater cash flow and liquidity to be able to fulfill their obligations. • On April 10, Decree 535 was issued establishing an abbreviated procedure that facilitates the automatic return of the balances in favor of the charges, during the Health Emergency declared in light of the covid-19 pandemic. • The term for legal entities to file the declaration and pay the first installment of income and complementary taxes was extended: it passed from April 21 to May 19 according to the last two digits of the NIT. • The deadline to pay the first installment of the surcharge was modified, which was initially set between April 14 and 27. The new deadlines run from April 21 to May 19, according to the last two digits of the NIT. • On April 8, 2020, Decree 530 was issued, which states that Non-Profit Entities (Esal) will be exempt from the financial movements tax (GMF), when they make withdrawals from their checking or
----------------------------	--

	savings accounts constituted by entities supervised by the Financial Superintendence of Colombia.
FINANCIAL SECTOR AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect the financial system, the use of the countercyclical provision and the general provision was authorized. This means that, in the event of a probable deterioration of the portfolio, entities will not have to put their capital down immediately or raise rates to cover the greatest risks.
TRANSPORTATION AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International passenger air transport companies will now have until October 30, 2020 to file a declaration and pay the national tourism tax corresponding to the first and second quarter of this year. A Logistics and Transport Center was created, attached to the Ministry of Transport, led by Angela Orozco, in charge of making decisions about allowing mobility and transit to passengers and ensuring that there are guarantees of normal supply to the population, with the lowest costs.
MINING AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to streamline the necessary actions and investments in the face of the emergency declared by COVID-19, the national government authorized the direct approval of investment projects with royalty resources. The municipalities, districts and departments that receive direct royalties' assignments are those where mining or hydrocarbon production activities are carried out, for which companies must make economic contributions to the State.
TOURISM AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism will allocate resources to contribute to the subsistence of tourism guides that have active and current registration in the National Registry of Tourism. Large taxpayers from tourism, air transport, theater and shows will be able to pay the second installment of the income and complementary taxes until July 31, 2020 and the third installment until August 31, 2020.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From April 1, agricultural producers can access the 'Colombia Agro Produce' credit. This is a credit line for a trillion pesos, with rates for the small producer of 3.5 percent and for the medium and large ones up to 4.5, at three years with one of grace.

OTHER SECTORS AID	
MEASURES THAT GUARANTEE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Ministry of Housing, 200 thousand families have been reconnected to the water service for the time that the quarantine in Colombia lasts. • Service rates were frozen for the duration of the health emergency for vulnerable sectors of the country. • Users of strata 1 and 2 may defer payment of energy and gas bills to 36 months during Mandatory Preventive Isolation.
TRANS-BORDER COLLABORATION FRONTERIZA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No aid for this sector is identified at the date of publication of the report.

ECUADOR

STIMULUS PLANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 million dollars are destined for payments to health system providers and to the attention of the covid-19 health emergency. • The capital payment of \$ 300 million, in external debt, demonstrated the intention to cancel and comply, thereby opening the doors to more than 2 billion fresh dollars. • From 60 to 90 days, loan and credit card payments in private banks and Biess can be deferred. • Work is being done to open fast lines of credit, both for day-to-day businesses and large companies to avoid mass layoffs. • The Family Protection Bond for Emergencies is created due to the presence of COVID-19 in Ecuador, an aid of 60 dollars, which will be given for two months (April / May 2020) to people with limited economic resources and will reach 3 million families. • The Central Bank of Ecuador carried out a short-term operation to obtain financing for \$ 300 million in exchange for 15 tons of gold from the country's reserves. • The Government presented a proposal to the holders of Ecuadorian debt bonds, to postpone the payment of interest on these commitments until August 15. With this, the Fiscal Fund would have a short-term relief of USD 811 million.
----------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecuador, awaits the approval of USD 500 million from the IMF through the rapid financing instrument and if approved, will arrive in April. • Development Bank CAF, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) would contribute USD 100 million to Ecuador for the emergency. • Actions to raise resources abroad, debt renegotiation and reduction of unnecessary public spending. • The CFN will create a long-term line of credit at rates not exceeding 2% to sustain jobs, with an initial contribution of \$ 500 million from companies' contributions. • Companies that earned more than USD 1 million in fiscal year 2019 will contribute 5% of that profit in three monthly payments, destined for the national account. • For nine months, citizens in full-time work will make a progressive contribution to the account based on their income, for which a solidarity contribution table has been generated, those who earn less than USD 500 will not contribute. • Officials who earn more than USD 1,000 will contribute 10% of their salary, public servants who earn less than USD 1,000 will be governed by the humanitarian contribution table, those officials who belong to areas of health, police, armed forces and education are exempt. • The President of the Republic on Sunday April 12 announced an urgent economic project that includes reducing public sector wages by 50%, in collaboration with the entire private sector, there are possibilities that it will include additional taxes. This project must go through the National Assembly that is awaiting the final text for analysis and discussion.
--	---

<p>FISCAL MEASURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution SRI (Internal Revenue Service) 20 029: The March 2020 deadline for filing VAT returns and Corporate Income 2019 is extended. • SENA Resolution (National Customs Service) 20 022: The suspension of deadlines and terms of SENA's tax administrative processes, face-to-face attention, annex authorization physical capacity without OCE, etc. is extended until April 30. • Tax payment deadlines have been deferred, elimination of tariffs for medical supplies, teleworking was implemented, credit refinancing was regulated. • The tax deferral benefit is extended for six months to small and medium-sized companies. • The IESS (Ecuadorian Social Security Institute) will defer the payments of the employer contribution of the microenterprises for three months. Unemployment insurance will be collected in seven days and coverage will be expanded.
------------------------	--

<p>FINANCIAL SECTOR AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For one time only, without the need for prior processing, the companies subject to the supervision and control of the Superintendence of Companies, Securities and Insurance that are obliged to pay the tax contribution for fiscal year 2019 payable in 2020, are able to carry out the same in two installments, as follows: • a) 50% of the contribution value will be paid until September 30, 2020. • b) The remaining 50% will be paid without surcharge until December 3, 2020. • Companies will be able to cancel the total value of the contribution for fiscal year 2019, until September 30, 2020.
<p>TRANSPORTATION AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTOP (Ministry of Public Works) through the Undersecretariat of Ports and Maritime and Fluvial Transport, is working on the Arrival and Docking Protocol for international traffic vessels that carry out Foreign Trade. • 500 biosecurity kits were delivered to heavy transport drivers at the Puerto Marítimo de Guayaquil. • In order to preserve the good condition of cargo vehicles, the provision of maintenance and repair services for vehicles and their parts, nationwide is authorized. • During the health emergency MTOP has issued 145 operation certificates and import licenses • With the joint work between the Ministries of Transport and Public Works (MTOP) and Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), since April 02, 2020, four logistics corridors came into operation that will serve to supply food to the different markets, fulfilling the due protection and biosecurity standards. • 90 disinfection points have been installed at tolls and entrances and exits to cities, the asepsis posts have personnel equipped with motorized pumps, vehicle disinfection arches and footbaths. Also, there are special points for cargo transportation and supply.
<p>MINING AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Government will continue promoting new investments in the energy sector, to generate resources for the benefit of the country. • The Ministry of Energy and Non-Renewable Natural Resources, through the Vice Ministry of Mines, generated a digital emerging process for the delivery of 2019 mining exploration and production reports. • Until March 31, 2020, ARCOM registered in the SGM a total of 1,218 reports; 386 annual reports of exploration of metallic and non-metallic minerals in medium and large mining (Technical Guide 1) and 832 reports of production in simultaneous exploration and exploitation (Technical Guide 8).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the attention of the procedures of the mining owners, the ARCOM enabled the channel soporte@arcom.gob.ec, attending to, during the emergency, 206 support requests from mining concessionaires, on different procedures in the SGM: change of owners, recovery of credentials, technical assistance to upload information, etc.
<p>TOURISM AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to meet the high demand of tourism service providers for training, the Ministry of Tourism began a new cycle of online courses on April 17, with nine options. • The generation of new ventures will be one of the challenges to revive tourism. • The third call for the “Emprende Turismo” program is being prepared, which will take place in the coming weeks. • The Ministry of Tourism will give strength to investments in the sector and credits for tourism. • Since the beginning of the crisis, there have been five working groups made up of representatives of the industry and the Ministry of Tourism who meet every week to analyze the situation in the sector.
<p>OTHER SECTORS AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No person can be evicted for not paying rent. • Prohibition of termination of health policies due to default. • It is suggested that private educational institutions agree with teachers and parents to reduce costs. Financial aid to parents for the payment of school fees. • In the National Assembly, seven bills have been presented by different political sectors, six have to do with the country's health emergency, and one with smuggling and customs fraud.
<p>MEASURES THAT GUARANTEE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic services cannot be suspended, ensuring that everyone has access in a state of emergency. • SENAGUA (Water Secretariat) with the support of UNICEF and the Armed Forces (FFAA) are supplying drinking water in different provinces. • AME, in coordination with the MAE, continues with the training of solid waste technicians in the application of the Protocol for managing waste produced by the COVID-19 event, and continues to socialize the protocol for disinfecting public spaces. • ARCSA carries out water quality sampling in public service providers with drinking water treatment plants in the GAD with new cases of COVID 19.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Union (EU) will redirect funds from its projects in Ecuador to support the COVID-19 emergency. The available

<p>TRANS-BORDER COLLABORATION FRONTERIZA</p>	<p>funds (10 million euros) will be reoriented in various development projects, which are currently underway in the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EHP through the IOM donated 6,000 N95 masks, 6,000 pairs of latex gloves, 25 gallons of antiseptic gel, 25 gallons of alcohol. • On April 9, a PAHO / WHO donation arrived in Ecuador consisting of protective gloves, masks, and medical gowns that are destined for the health area. • Ecuador has received donations from the Embassies of China, Canada, Korea, from the Red Cross and from both Ecuadorian and foreign companies that each day make important deliveries in the most affected sectors, especially in the city of Guayaquil. • The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility issued Ministerial Agreement 000038, which authorizes foreign ONGs that do not have a Basic Operating Agreement to implement programs and projects in Ecuador according to the emergency. • The Foreign Ministry and the SNGR with the support of CONGOPE will work on the procedure that the GAD must follow to obtain international cooperation. • The Chancellery sent the lists of needs to the United Nations, the American States, other specialized agencies, developed countries (such as the US, France, Germany, the EU, as such, China and Canada), as well as to almost one hundred foreign non-governmental organizations registered in Ecuador.
--	---

MEXICO

<p>STIMULUS PLANS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After days of debates - and after the initial opposition from Mexico - the main oil-producing countries of the world reached an agreement to cut production globally. Mexico agreed to reduce its oil production to 100,000 barrels per day, to continue strengthening PEMEX and maintain its energy strategy with a nationalist vision. We must not forget that the health of Mexico's public finances is always linked to Pemex. • The Exchange Commission, made up of the Ministry of Finance and Banco de México (Banxico), announced the auction of exchange hedges settled in pesos, for an amount of 2,000 million dollars. The objective of this offer of exchange hedges was to promote better liquidity conditions and an orderly operation of the market.
<p>FISCAL MEASURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President of Mexico ruled out providing support or measures regarding tax payments in favor of businessmen. • Tax incentives for ISR and VAT are upheld in the border area with the United States. • VAT will be refunded promptly to citizens and companies

--	--

FINANCIAL SECTOR AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been no measures to support the financial sector
----------------------	---

TRANSPORTATION AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no increase in the price of fuels
--------------------	---

MINING AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No support measures have been announced for the mining sector
------------	---

TOURISM AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No support measures have been announced for the tourism sector
-------------	--

AID TO OTHER SECTORS AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of public trusts and redistribution of spending. • Greater incentives for PEMEX (Petróleos Mexicanos). • The construction of the Santa Lucía airport, the Maya Train and the Dos Bocas Refinery will continue. • The Sembrando Vida program will be expanded to 200,000 more farmers, seeking to encourage farmers to establish agroforestry production systems. • Reduction of salaries of senior officials.
--	---

MEASURES THAT GUARANTEE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An investment of 25 billion pesos will be made in drinking water and pavement. • 45 thousand doctors and nurses will be hired
--	--

<p>TRANS-BORDER COLLABORATION FRONTERIZA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance was requested from the Cuban government to send doctors and intensive care specialists. The first group arrived on April 6 with the aim of supporting and making recommendations regarding public policy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Other observations:

There is discontent on the part of various governors (Jaime Rodríguez Calderón, governor of Nuevo León; Enrique Alfaro, governor of Jalisco; Miguel Ángel Riquelme Solís, governor of Coahuila and Francisco Javier Cabeza de Vaca, governor of Tamaulipas) who have requested that the Federal Government grant them more resources since their states contribute more to the Federation, and they have even highlighted the need to convene a national tax convention to review the fiscal pact.

PANAMA

<p>MACROECONOMIC STIMULUS PLANS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of the National Emergency Fund for health, agriculture and food issues has been enabled. \$ 500 million will be received from the IMF and another \$ 500 million from MIGA (WB organism) to maintain the maximum possible jobs in the country.
-------------------------------------	---

<p>FISCAL MEASURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tax Amnesty Law, on payment arrangements and exemption from taxes that apply to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, is extended until June 20. They have signed a resolution suspending the payment of the Social Security Fund fees corresponding to the months of March, April and May. The Social Security Fund suspends fines and surcharges for late payment of employer-employee contributions.
------------------------	--

<p>FINANCIAL SECTOR AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) authorized one to several issues of Global Bonds from the Republic of Panama for a value of \$ 2.5 billion with a 36-year term. Congress approves bill that dictates a three-month bank moratorium. The Government announces that it will support financial companies to grant a deferment of payments to 70,000 microentrepreneurs in the country.
-----------------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ 300 million have been acquired from the IDB for SMEs and agriculture. • The Panamanian Superintendency of Banks approves a package of temporary measures that will allow banks to modify loans to customers who have been affected by the coronavirus (Covid-19) and who have delayed payments of up to 90 days.
<p>TRANSPORTATION AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction of around 25% in the price of gasoline for 14 days has been announced. • Both bus and taxi drivers will receive the support that the Executive will grant to those who are economically affected by the crisis that the COVID-19 pandemic has generated through benefits and food bags of the Panama Solidarity Plan.
<p>MINING AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Industrial Union of Workers of Mining Construction and Mining Development requested the central government to temporarily suspend the activities of Minera Panama. For its part, the Ministry of Health announced on Monday, April 6, the temporary closure of the Minera Panama company mine and coordinated the transfer of the workers who tested positive for COVID-19 to hotel rooms. However, no specific aid measure has been established for the mining sector.
<p>TOURISM AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal from the Ministry of Tourism to unite the sectors and work on strategic lines to boost tourism, however, there are no concrete measures declared yet.
<p>OTHER SECTORS AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panama Maritime Authority announces measures to help importers who cannot carry cargo to their warehouses. • \$ 12 million destined for the purchase of special medications for people with diabetes, people with COVID-19 and vulnerable people. • 20 million dollars are destined to the purchase of meat and grains and quintals of rice to supply the country. • The purchase of \$ 40 million is authorized for medical supplies, coronavirus tests, ventilators, swabs, and safety equipment for healthcare personnel. • The national government is managing the acquisition of 600 ventilators, beds and vital sign monitors to strengthen ICU care and address a possible requirement for critically ill patients.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 50% electricity rate reduction plan is established, which will cover users who consume 300 kilowatts per hour and 30% for

<p>MEASURES THAT GUARANTEE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICES</p>	<p>those who come in above that figure, during the period from April 1 to June 30. A guarantee that no one is cut off water or electricity is in place for the next 3 months.</p>
<p>TRANS-BORDER COLLABORATION FRONTERIZA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cortizo announces that Panama will provide international aid for Ecuador.

PERU

<p>STIMULUS PLANS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Economy and Finance ordered the extension of the credit coverage of the Crecer Fund to 90% until 30 September in the case of micro and small companies, up to 70% for medium-sized companies and up to 60% in the case of exporting companies. • The exceptional and one-time grant of a monetary subsidy of S / 380 (USD 111) was authorized in favor of 3.5 million households in conditions of poverty or extreme poverty according to the Household Targeting System located in the geographical areas with the greatest health vulnerability defined by the Ministry of Health (MINSa). • A Transfer of Sums was authorized in the Public Sector Budget for Fiscal Year 2020, from the resources of the Contingency Reserve, in favor of the Central Public Procurement specification (Perúcompras), up to the amount of S / 100 ' 026,487. • Creation of the MYPE Business Support Fund (FAE-MYPE) which aims to guarantee credits for working capital granted to the MYPE, as well as to restructure and refinance their debts, up to the amount of S / 300,000,000. (\$ 87.9 million) • The Congress of the Republic approved the withdrawal of 25% of the AFP fund or up to 12,900 soles (usd 3,780) in favor of the affiliates; As detailed in the approved text, the benefit would apply to those contributors or former contributors whose funds are less than 1UIT (4,300 soles) and they will be able to withdraw 100% of their savings, and the disbursement will be made in a single payment. The Autograph of Law is in the hands of the Executive for its approval or observation. • The head of Economy stated that Peru will invest 12% of its Gross Domestic Product to face the economic impact.
-----------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to reactivate the economy with an injection of 30,000 million soles (\$ 8,795 million). • The Central Reserve Bank (BCR) reduced the monetary policy reference interest rate by 100 basis points, from 1.25% to 0.25%, the lowest historical level and the lowest rate among emerging countries.
<p>FISCAL MEASURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify the expiration schedule for the Annual Affidavit of Income Tax and Tax on Financial Transactions. • The extension of the deadlines for the affidavits, account books and electronic records, as well as the informative declarations that expired in March (and corresponding to February) was ordered, a measure that will benefit micro, small and medium-sized companies. • The Executive temporarily and exceptionally suspended fiscal rules for the non-financial public sector, for this year and next. • Postponement of income tax payment for three months, which will benefit 99% of companies.
<p>FINANCIAL SECTOR AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Legislative Decree No. 1455 (04.07.20), the government ordered the creation of the REACTIVA PERÚ Program to ensure continuity in the payment chain in the face of the COVID19 impact. • By means of Circular No. 0017-2020, the Central Reserve Bank (BCR) established two mechanisms that make it possible to incorporate REPO into its operations (purchase of assets of financial entities by the BCR with the commitment that they repurchase them within a certain period of time), and the purchase of credit portfolios from the Financial System Entities, so that they can channel and divert resources to Peruvian companies in better conditions. • The Superintendency of Banks, Insurance and Reinsurance (SBS) authorized reprogramming of credits, as long as the debtor was up to date in their payments as of the declaration of emergency date. Thus, financial institutions may defer payment of loans for up to six months without implying a deterioration in the debtor's credit rating. • Financial institutions will have the power to reschedule a client's loan without prior notice. Any debtor who considers that they do not need this help, should contact their bank to reverse the reprogramming of the debt.
<p>TRANSPORTATION AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Executive is structuring an aid package for the sector. Pending definition.

<p>MINING AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No aid for the mining sector is identified at the date of publication of the report.
<p>TOURISM AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No aid for the tourism sector is identified at the date of publication of the report.
<p>OTHER SECTORS AID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By Supreme Decree No. 058-2020-PCM (03.04.20), it was established that exceptionally, in cases of productive and industrial sectors, by Ministerial Resolution of the competent sector, additional activities may be included as strictly indispensable to those indicated in the Exceptional norms, as long as they do not affect the national state of emergency and are consistent with the health measures required to prevent the spread and contagion of COVID-19. Supreme Decree empowers the employer, in fortuitous event and force majeure, the perfect temporary suspension of work without pay for a maximum of 90 days, without prior authorization.
<p>MEASURES THAT GUARANTEE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through Emergency Decree No. 035-2020, the government ordered that the public service bills issued during the emergency period, that is, water, electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications; can be divided by the companies that provide them. The government decided to reduce the sanctioning capacity of regulators of basic services such as electric power, natural gas and telecommunications while the state of emergency lasts due to the spread of Covid-19 nationwide. Thus, the regulator (OSINERGMIN) will not be able to apply administrative sanctions derived from non-compliance with regulations on the provision of natural gas distribution services, as long as said transgressions are not related to security issues. In addition, the Executive suspended the obligations to deliver reports and other physical information from the electric and natural gas companies, and the COES, to the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) and Osinergmin during the national emergency.

<p>TRANS-BORDER COLLABORATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presidents of Peru, Colombia, Chile, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia agreed to ensure coordinated work in the execution of containment measures.
---------------------------------------	--
