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|  | **COVID-19** | **Codificación: Posicionamiento** |
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**medicus**mundi **position on**

**coronavirus pandemic**

**(COVID-19)**



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| **Realizado: Consejo**  | **Aprobado: Consejo** | **Fecha: 20 de marzo 2020**  |

**medicus**mundi position on Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19)

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"As human beings, our health and that of those in our care is a matter of daily concern. Regardless of our age, gender identity, socioeconomic status or ethnicity, we consider health to be the most basic and precious good we possess. We are willing to make many sacrifices for good health if it guarantees us and our families a longer and healthier life. Text included in the preamble of***medicus****mundi declaration* ***"Health for all people".***

**medicus**mundi **is an international NGO that firmly believes health is a global public good and a universal right. We work every day to make this a reality, and hereby we join the Spanish Ministry of Health and the regional authorities in implementing the measures to prevent and contain the spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).**

**International public health emergency, multisectoral and global response**

The Coronavirus emergency, declared a pandemic by the WHO, shows us once again that diseases have no borders. Health problems are interdependent, and although diseases do not affect all people and societies equally due to underlying socio-economic conditions, government structures, training, information etc, it is high time we all make a commitment to global health. When it comes to health, we cannot separate the rich from the poor, countries and continents. Combating this disease is now the collective responsibility of all people.

**medicus**mundi demands that governments be an active participant of the response to the crisis; and that, as health policy leaders in their countries and / or territories, they make available all means and resources needed to:

1. Strengthen public health systems to ensure that their main components - health professionals, therapeutic, preventive and diagnostic means, infrastructure, logistics, information systems and management - effectively provide quality and equitable health care without discrimination on any grounds.

2. Encourage cooperation with third countries and the competent international organisations in the field of public health in order to seek global responses and local solutions.

3. Meet commitments on health and poverty reduction, with a particular focus on equity of access to health services for the poor and on the health workforce crisis

4.Work across all sectors which directly or indirectly affect or influence health, such as social protection, gender identity, the environment, the economy, water or food, as established by Agenda 2030.

In addition to the above measures, we ask the government of Spain to:

- Coordinate with all donors to give a global response to this pandemic which limits the consequences in countries with more fragile health systems in order to:

- Review and resource operational outbreak response plans to achieve full geographical coverage in countries with widespread and intense transmission.

- Implement comprehensive response interventions in countries with initial cases or localised transmission.

- Increase development assistance in health and adapt it to partner countries' strategies to enable them to take ownership of their health policies and actions.

**medicus**mundi**'s commitment to the Coronavirus emergency**

**medicus**mundi is committed to:

• Support the necessary measures to control the pandemic reinforcing the actions of public institutions in the areas where we work.

• Coordinate with all actors to increase our effectiveness in the intervention, supporting the stewardship function of the public health systems.

• Continue our advocacy role so that the lessons learned from this pandemic are not forgotten once the crisis ends.

• Establish clear guidelines for prioritising the protection of the health of personnel, counterparts and communities on the management of the actions it develops. Based on this guideline, **medicus**mundi issues the following recommendations:

- The health of the population, counterpart and staff must prevail over the implementation of the projects themselves.

- Given our committment to strengthening the stewardship function of public health, **medicus**mundi will follow the instructions of the ministries of health wherever we work.

- Attendance at meetings and forums will be limited, and attempts will be made to limit community meetings in a given project, in the absence of other official guidelines from the country's Ministry of Health.

- Travel will be limited to what is strictly essential. Field staff should be given the option of returning to Spain circumnstances permitting. Those employees who do not wish to return must notify the organization. Exceptionally, the organization may choose to compel field staff to return if the situation so requires it.

- **medicus**mundi makes itself available to the Ministry of Health wherever it may be needed to join forces against this pandemic.