

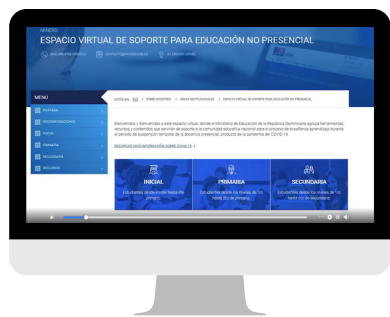
# LEADERS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Strategies to support teachers to face the challenge of confinement of the member states: Case of the Dominican Republic



Focused on continuing education in the face of the pandemic, the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic developed an emergency **action plan to prepare for and continue the educational process in the event of social isolation.**

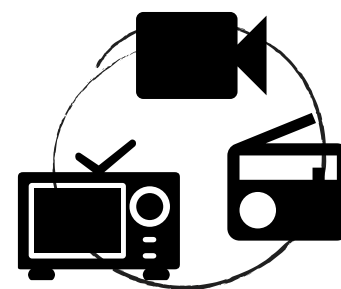
In consultation with leaders, the guide **"Learning from Home"** was created. It includes 30 simple activities that respond to the fundamental competences of the educational curriculum and that can be carried out from home with the facilitation of families and the active participation of children.



With the support of **INICIA-Educación**, the guide was published on an **open portal**. Now, teachers who were already using WhatsApp to accompany their students, began to have access to structured lesson plans for distance learning.

To support those without Internet access, **2,000 physical copies of the Guide were distributed** to entry-level students across the country. In addition, with the support of the Organization of Ibero-American States **more than 150,000 copies of the support book** "Exercises to Play and Think" and the "Activity Book" were provided for pre-primary and 1st and 2nd grade students.

The Ministry also planned a series of **videos with pedagogical guidelines** for families, disseminating them through the mass media, such as **Educational Radio and Television**. In addition, videos were recording to accompany activities in the guide to strengthen the portal's pedagogical resource bank that is accessed by teachers and families.



To continue to advance distance learning, the Ministry and its partner institutions are generating webinars and conversations between technicians in the sector to reflect on the situation and how to deal with it.

The Ministry's **leadership unified** strategy has been **key** for monitoring and boosting educational processes in the country. **The constant flow of communication between stakeholders, and the feedback between families and teachers based on children's work at home are crucial to the success of this process.**

Now, the Dominican Republic is working on an orientation program and pedagogical recommendations for the closing of the 2019-2020 school year at the initial level. **The expectation is that the efforts of teachers, families, and students will advance the country's education beyond COVID-19.**

# LEADERS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

ITEN Teacher Fellows use **social media tools to maintain connections** with children and their families



<https://bit.ly/3abxLqd>

Teacher Fellows **Lucy Denia Graciano Pérez** and **Carmen Dileini Abad Hernández**, from the Dominican Republic, turned to the popular social media application WhatsApp to keep in touch with their young students through their parents.

Using the app, they have distributed the Ministry of Education emergency guide, "Learning from Home," to parents. In follow-up with individual families, parents are encouraged to use the simple activities in the guide using everyday materials.

Lucy comments that the idea of continuing with the teaching was initially an independent initiative of the teachers, but soon the pertinent authorities began to provide support with more structure and appropriate to work under the circumstances of the quarantine. "The teaching staff has assumed their role with great responsibility, giving serious follow-up to the indicated assignments for the children and all the emotional support for their parents. And now we are all very much safe at home," she says.

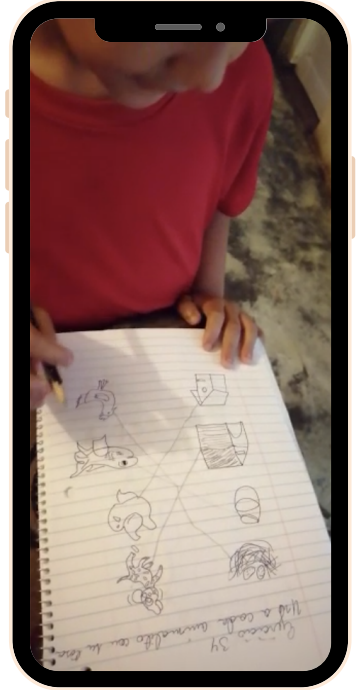
Lucy reports that among the great obstacles to distance learning is the lack of ICT tools, the limited access of communities to the Internet, and knowledge of how to use the tools. However, despite the precariousness of ICTs in the communities, the teachers continued with their action plan. "Considering that many of our parents don't have a lot of technology, or don't know how to use it, we got the idea that we should use WhatsApp, since all parents, without exception, have it!" Lucy shares.



**"I'm ready to give everything for the integral development of my little ones." - Lucy**

As a result, not only are children pursuing their studies, but parents are playing a crucial, highly involved role in their children's education. "Many parents are excited to share their children's progress and document it in the form of videos and images." Lucy comments

Carmen adds that "For parents who do not have this type of resources ... they received a kit that included school meals and handwritten and photocopied worksheets, with the intention of guaranteeing that each boy and girl can maintain a daily routine and study habits at home. "



As teachers, **"we are a universe of culture: inquiry, exploration, knowledge..."**, and this should continue throughout the quarantine.  
- Carmen

