

# Fundación Tropicalia | 2020 MILESTONES

When the COVID-19 pandemic grabbed hold of the Dominican Republic, our landscape had drastically shifted. As a foundation, we've always engaged deeply with our community - visiting schools, gathering and convening people was essential to our work. Social distancing and biosafety forced us to reassess the way we implement our programs, and prioritize the health of our staff and community first and foremost.

What follows is an executive summary of our 2020 milestones. See "Our Response to Covid-19" for additional details.

## COVID



- **1,350 HYGIENE KITS:** Locally sourced and distributed antibacterial soap, face masks and educational flyers on COVID-19.
- **PREVENTION & SAFETY CAMPAIGN:** Created awareness around COVID-19 prevention and safety on our social media channels, highlighting best practices and substantiated health guidelines reaching just over 9,700 users.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING:** Adapted ongoing programs and suspended others in response to social distancing and public health guidelines. Details below.

## EDUCATION



- **School Renovation & Maintenance Program (PRYME):** **17 schools** in the PRYME network. Collaborated with the Dominican Institute of Evaluation for Educational Quality (IDEICE) to support the execution of the seventh rendition of the School Self-Evaluation Program, which encourages school principals to detect areas of improvement in their academic program.
- **Complementary Education Program:** **45 students** from the *Liga de emprendedores agrícolas en formación* - LEAF (League of Agricultural Entrepreneurs in Training), participated in harvesting workshops, created their own ecological fertilizer, and initiated their first production cycle.
- **Scholarship Program:** **12 scholarships students** pursued their higher education at the *Universidad ISA*. Two students graduated with degrees in Education in Natural Sciences, and two other students saw their graduation postponed until 2021 due to the pandemic.

## ENVIRONMENT & PRODUCTIVITY



- **Costa Esmeralda Beach Rescue:** **2 kilometers of beach cleaned and maintained.** In partnership with the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Miches, El Seibo (PROMICHES), FT and other local actores supported beach clean-up efforts, along with other local actors, on a two-kilometer stretch of coastline.
- **¡Miches emprende!:** **11 clients, 90 direct jobs fortified, 450 people indirectly benefited.** A rotational fund managed by our partner, Banco ADOPEM, *¡Miches emprende!* provides financing to small tourism and agriculture businesses that are socially and environmentally minded. Of RD\$2,169,600 available for lending, RD\$1,585,144 were disbursed among 11 clients. During the pandemic, ADOPEM worked with their clients to restructure and refinance their loans whenever necessary.
- **Home Gardens Initiative:** **17 home gardeners.** In partnership with Grogenics, a Canadian-based social enterprise that converts seaweed into compost, FT continued supporting 17 home gardeners with innovative programs. Gardeners applied seaweed compost to their lots, received new tools, training and access to soil testing.

## SOCIOCULTURAL ADVOCACY



- **Cultural Identity:** **5 years of support.** FT remains committed to the cultural integrity of this beautiful destination and supported the annual "Carnaval" celebration in February, and Christmas Lighting celebration for the 5th consecutive year.
- **Soy niña, soy importante in a Box:** **1,550 boxes, 310 girls.** As a result of the pandemic FT adapted the annual summer camp, *Soy niña, soy importante* (SNSI) to SNSI in a Box, effectively delivering 1,550 boxes with fun and informative content to the homes of 310 girls.
- **Communications:** **Outreach campaigns** were implemented across our social media profiles addressing COVID-19 facts and prevention, as well as gender-based violence awareness as a result of prolonged periods of confinement.

