



2020 at a glance

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EDUCATION

With the covid-19 pandemic hitting in March of 2020, our communities saw increased vulnerability. Our schools were forced to switch to virtual study following strict governmental lockdown protocols. Of course, virtual study being a challenging transition for any educational institution and its students, it was even more so considering the difficult conditions already found; such as lack of internet accessibility, rising violence, and extremely low household incomes, only worsened by the pandemic.

However, we praise God, as our schools were able to continue serving these families thanks to the efforts made by our amazing donors, sponsors, partners, and our dedicated school staff.

We were able to partner with broadband providers and ensure hundreds of homes had internet access, as well as donate laptops, tablets and phones to over 200 students. We recognize the additional effort our teachers and counsellors put in during this year, as each individual student's situation was different. Considerably, some had more accessibility and resources than others, to the point where our teachers and counsellors would reach out to students through constant phone calls, WhatsApp messaging, live virtual classes, and more, depending on each students' need.

During this time, students' parents became students themselves, walking side-by-side our staff; having to pay more attention than ever to their children's education and support them in this new dynamic. This new mode of learning engaged entire families in their children's development. Every step of the way, our counsellors and chaplains were there to offer support over the phone to parents and students as we all learned how to cope with this pandemic's effects.

This was also an opportunity for our staff to up-skill and learn creative and innovative ways to teach their material, embracing technology as it became a more pressing priority.

In 2021, Colombia has moved into an alternating attendance model. Our schools are now focused on ensuring the transition of adapting to this partly virtual, partly in-person mode of education as effectively as possible.



Our schools had
4% more students
than in 2019



96% of those
students stayed in
school



90% of our 2020
graduates already
had post-
graduation plans

INCOME GENERATION

This pandemic heightened Colombia's social inequality due to the strict lockdown protocols (March-September 2020 and then intermittently thereafter) collapsing the country's informal (street) economy, and leaving thousands jobless. This contributed to a quickly rising **poverty rate of 42% of Colombia's population**. Of course, in addition to this was the near collapse of the health system and damage to the formal economy and small business sector.

While there were limitations for our Vocational Training Centers (PTI) and Entrepreneurship and Employability sectors (CONNECTA) in reaching the program goals outlined in 2019, such as the unfortunate obligation to cut down on staff, a transition to virtual classes paired with phone calls for additional support meant Conviventia was still able to **provide economic opportunities and stability for 2,394 individuals**.

In addition to vocational training, virtual classes focused on practical advice for navigating this difficult economic landscape, providing networking opportunities, and updating or developing new business models and ideas; supporting our small business owners in this transition period.

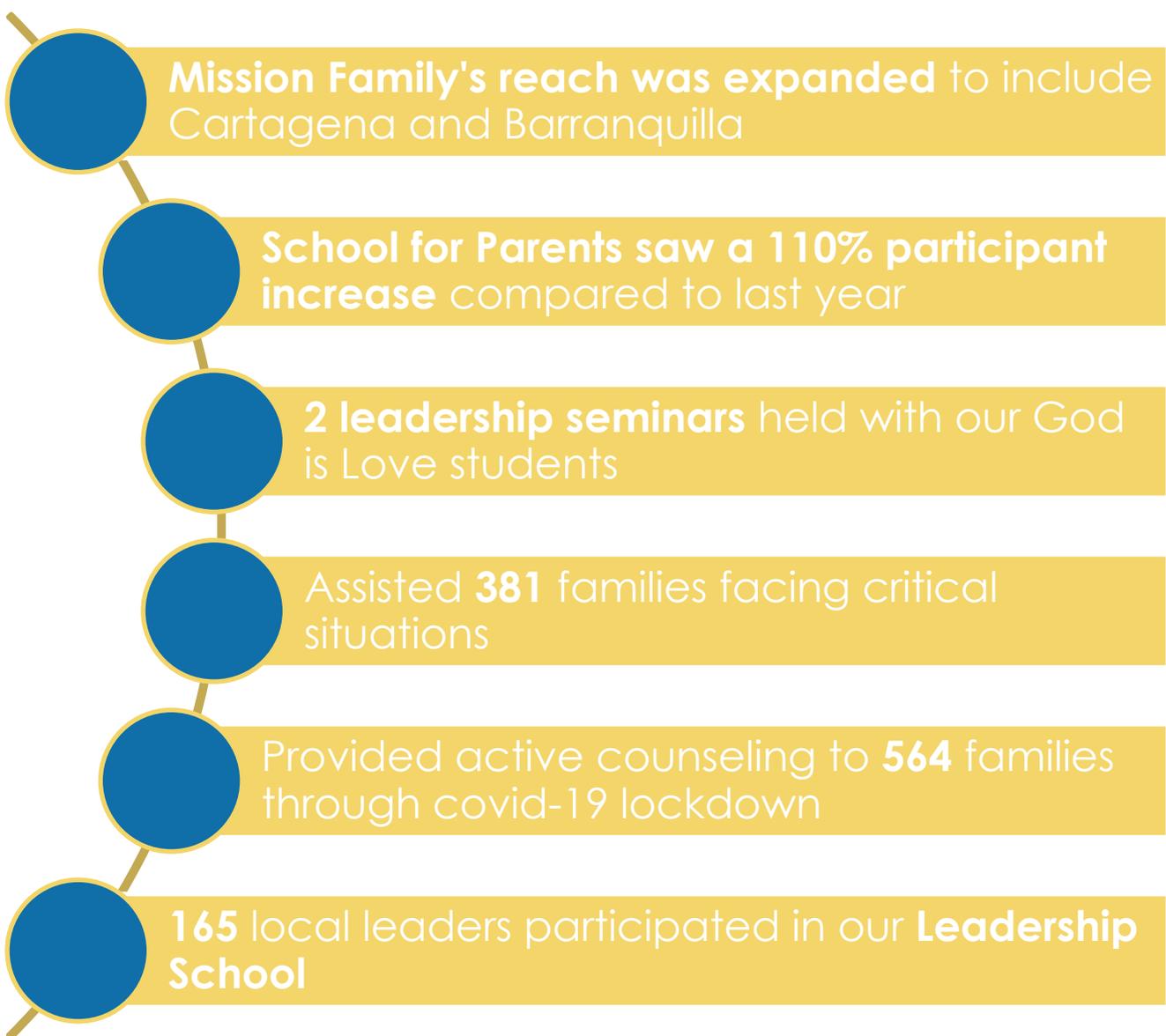
OUR PROJECTS
HELPED PROVIDE
ECONOMIC
STABILITY &
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR **2,394 PEOPLE**

FAMILY & LEADERSHIP

During 2020, Colombia's official emergency line reported an **increase in domestic violence calls of 175%**. The lockdowns imposed in response to the pandemic and the accompanying economic collapse brought on an increase of violence, desperation, and hopelessness within families by magnifying pre-existing spiritual, emotional, and financial issues. To make the best use of our resources, our Family and Leadership programs were focused solely on the children and families already linked to Convivencia. We were able to successfully adapt our family strengthening and leadership projects into a virtual format.

- During the pandemic, our work focused on **providing spiritual and emotional guidance & tools** for coping with fear, loss, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, and depression, as well as crisis management training, aimed at improving family dynamics, communication, and conflict resolution.
- Monitoring and intervention of at-risk cases continued. We continued our intervention and counselling with individual families, engaging the entire family unit during virtual workshops. **Embracing virtual means actually furthered our reach, so we could bring our 'Mission Family' project to the coastal areas** (Cartagena and Barranquilla); previously limited to Bogota and surrounding areas.

- We held two virtual **Christian leadership seminars** with our students, continued daily devotionals with students and families, and held virtual classes for our School for Parents, dealing with the issues discussed above. In fact, **our School for Parents saw a 110% participation increase during this year!! That is 3,962 participants.**
PRAISE JESUS!



Mission Family's reach was expanded to include Cartagena and Barranquilla

School for Parents saw a 110% participant increase compared to last year

2 leadership seminars held with our God is Love students

Assisted **381** families facing critical situations

Provided active counseling to **564** families through covid-19 lockdown

165 local leaders participated in our **Leadership School**

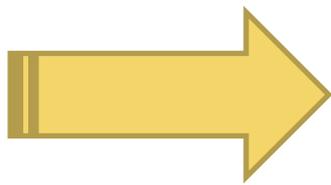
HUMANITARIAN AID

As mentioned, the impact of this pandemic caused **Colombia's poverty level to rise to 42%**. Families who had overcome extreme poverty, in just a few weeks of facing rigorous lockdowns and unemployment, were right back in poverty's grip. For those who were already facing extreme poverty, during the pandemic, the situation worsened to the point where it became nearly impossible to meet their basic needs. On top of this was the widespread inability of these populations to implement biosecurity measures, due to lack of access to soap, hand sanitizer, or masks; causing rapid spread of covid-19.

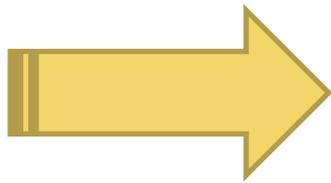
Because of this, we focused our nutritional program and medical outreach on assisting those families and individuals already linked to Conviventia's various projects, ensuring these people received the immediate relief they needed so that their development wouldn't be compromised further.

Thanks to our international and national partners, including those who graciously donated to our *Life Strikes, Faith Strikes Back* campaign, **we were able to distribute 9,457 food vouchers, providing emergency food relief to thousands of Colombian families who had no other means of providing for themselves.** As part of these efforts, biosecurity kits (gel, soap, masks) were also distributed to families, alongside preventive medical advice.

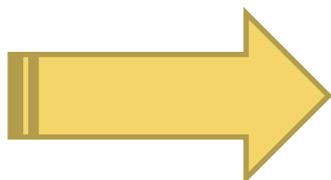
We were also able to reach families in the regions of La Guajira (desert) and El Choco (rainforest) through two medical missions, in February and October of 2020, alongside the Colombian army, who helped us distribute emergency food relief, medicines and first-aid kits, and provide medical and dental health services to around **6,429 people**. It was a blessing to reach the indigenous Wayu population, as well as many Venezuelan migrants in these regions of Colombia. As always, the sharing of the Gospel and of the encouragement of the Living Word was part of every outreach effort.



9, 457 EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF
VOUCHERS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO
FAMILIES IN CRITICAL NEED



2 MEDICAL OUTREACH MISSIONS IN
LA GUAJIRA AND EL CHOCO



6, 429 PEOPLE RECEIVED
EMERGENCY MEDICAL, DENTAL, &
NUTRITIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

THANK YOU CONVIVENTIA PARTNERS

As always, everything we do is for His glory and is made possible through the generosity of our partners both here in the US and in Colombia. Your donations allowed us to continue to provide education, counselling, food relief, medical assistance, and more to the most vulnerable populations in Colombia, during one of the most uncertain and challenging of times. We want to recognize the ministries and individuals that have partnered with us and multiplied our impact.

It is an honor to work alongside you to bless the people of Colombia. May God bless you tenfold.

- ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH
- CHURCH OF CHAMPIONS
- GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
- CHURCH ON THE ROCK KATY
- SUGAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
- KINGSLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
- ST. MARKS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
- CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CHAPEL HILL
- LAKEWOOD CHURCH
- MOBILIZING MEDICAL MISSIONS
- BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER MISSION TEAM
- GRACE INTERNATIONAL, NEW ZEALAND

OUR
PARTNER
MINISTRIES
IN
2020