

Case Study City: Barcelona (2020)

Part 1 - General Description

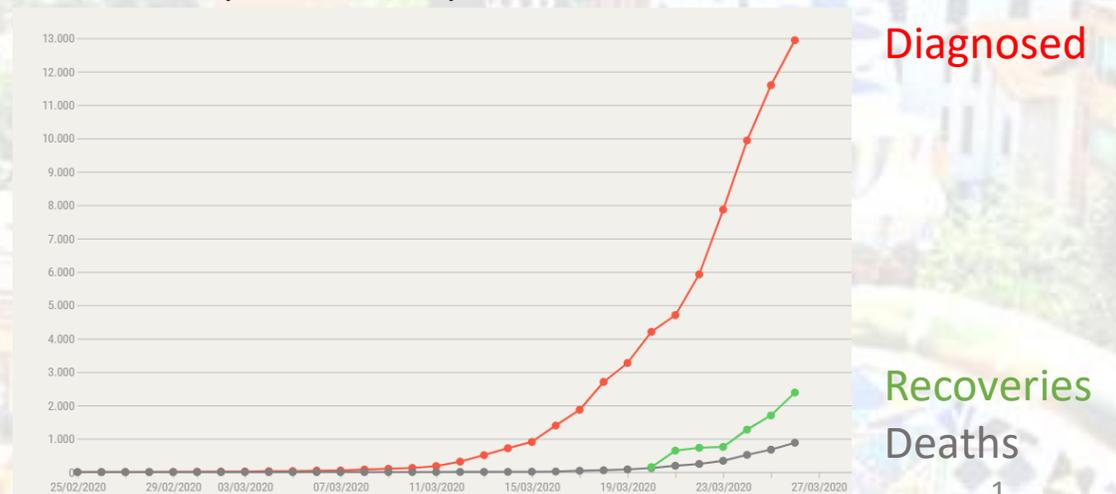
- City inhabitants: 1.6M
- Metro area inhabitants: 3.2M (42.8% of Catalonia)
- 250,000 daily commuters in/out Barcelona
- Life expectancy: 83.7 years

- Metro area GDP: €99,000 M (50.9% of Catalonia)
- City GDP: €81.300
- Services contribution to city GDP: 82%
- Tourism contribution to GDP: 18% (12M tourists 2019)

COVID-19 figures (cumulative as of 26 March)

	SPAIN	CATALONIA
Diagnosed	56,188	12,940
Hospital stay	31,912	7,439
Deaths	4,089	880
Recoveries	7,015	2,384

Catalonia (cumulative)



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Part 2 – Responses and best practices

Measures to prevent the collapse of the health system:

- Intermediate with hotels to facilitate its use as medical centres
- Set up municipal facilities for help (i.e. as warehouses for donations)

Measures to reduce the impact on vulnerable people and families

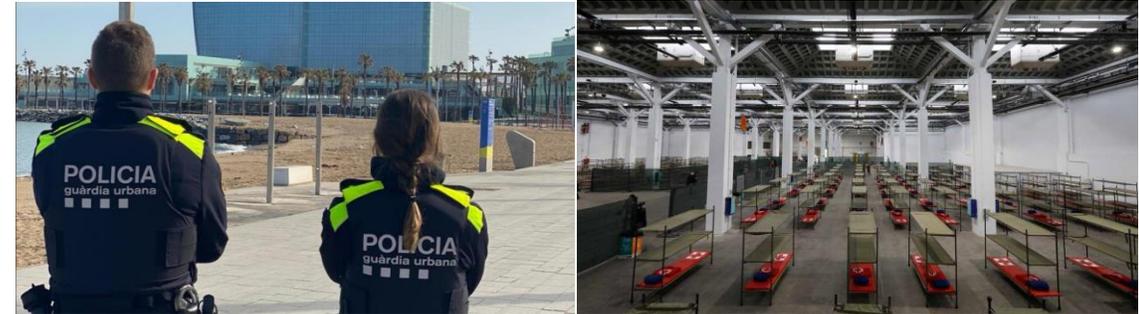
- Granting and extending Telecare, with more than 90,000 users
- Increase assistance to women victims of sexist violence
- 30% increase for meals on wheels, and 30,000 cards for meal grants
- Increase number of places for homeless and vulnerable people

Measures to reduce the impact on the economy, family budgets and employment

- Many municipal fees and taxes have been suspended or postponed
- Worker Rights Protection offices given support
- Suppliers of City Council have their contracts guaranteed

Measures to guarantee food provision to the city

- City markets open with home deliveries,
- Central wholesale market (Mercabarna) is open too



Measures guaranteeing the right to housing:

- Rental charges for municipal public housing halted
- Evictions stopped at Mayor's request (alongside other administrations)

Measures to reduce the impact on the culture sector:

- Extra subsidy of €1M, and another extra €1M for libraries
- Shows being cancelled will have contracting preference for municipal festivals, e.g. Grec 2020
- Fee exemption for filming in the city until December
- Rescheduling of festivals and events to counter cancellations

Measures to keep the City Council working

- Granting essential services and making telework possible
- Adaptation of city services to the confinement situation
- Volunteer job bank with 850 for municipal workers

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Part 3 – Challenges, lessons learnt & recommendations

Challenges:

- Ensuring the supply of **personal protection equipment** for health workers, as well as municipal workers engaged in essential services
- Guaranteeing **social services for vulnerable groups** – homeless people, unaccompanied minors, elderly population and others
- Enhancing **our organisational intelligence** and mid-term assessment capacities, both to anticipate problems during the upcoming weeks, and also to plan for the social and economic dimensions of the recovery and post-crisis phase.

Vision for the future:

- **Central role of digital services** in maintaining a certain level of social cohesion and economic activity in the city. We need to place digitalization at the heart of our rights-based approach to municipal services.
- Finding ways to **include the private sector** in overall recovery efforts, together with the public sector and civil society organizations
- Learning to **capitalize new urban dynamics** that we are witnessing are changing and being created in this new paradigm.

