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MARIANA ARCEO (MEX) USES HER FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT MEDICS AFTER RECOVERING FROM COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

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The 2019 Pan American Games gold medallist, Mariana Arceo of Mexico, has launched a campaign to help people affected by COVID-19 – after recovering from the Coronavirus herself.

Mariana, 26, contracted the virus in February and her story attracted a lot of publicity as she was one of the first people in Mexico – and one of the first members of the global UIPM community – to be directly affected by the pandemic.

Now the athlete, who also won gold at the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Championships alongside Mayan Oliver (MEX) in the Women's Relay, is seeking to create something positive out of the publicity through the Mariana Arceo Foundation, which she had set up shortly before falling ill.

Originally conceived as a means of raising money for sports development, Arceo (MEX) is now

using her foundation to channel donations towards the fight against COVID-19.

In this interview with UIPM she explains more about this wonderful initiative.

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Q: Do you have partners working with you on this project?

A: Yes. Right now I am working with a group of entrepreneurs making donations, they are named

Dale un respiro a México ("Give a breath to Mexico"). They have provided 50,000 masks to support hospitals in need. I am also working with Trejo Promotion Team, a group working specifically on the NASCAR Cup Series. They will help the foundation through promotion and donations during all their events. The purpose of this is to bring support to fund projects.

Q: Is it possible to make donations with international currencies? How many donations have you received so far?

A: Donations can be made from \$1 MXN, and people can donate with international currencies too, from €1 and \$1 US.

Up to now the foundation has collected a total of \$20,000 MXN in donations. In terms of equipment, we received 50,000 face masks which is equivalent to \$2.5m (€90,000; \$100,000 US).

In January the foundation had received a total of 23 hectares of land in San Ignacio Municipality (San Ignacio Cerro Gordo) in the Mexican State of Jalisco, dedicated to sports facilities.

Q: How do you measure the situation in Mexico? Do you feel a sense of panic? Is there great solidarity between individuals?

A: Mexico suffered an increase in cases and deaths linked to the Coronavirus pandemic. A lot of people started to worry and panic, mostly because people don't understand the consequences of being into stage 3. But of course many have been very supportive to each other, especially to the ones who struggle with unemployment.

