

**IMMEDIATE NEEDS:
FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY COLD WEATHER
IN PERU**



URGENT REQUEST: US\$ 348,700

1. EMERGENCY

A total of 34 provinces (in seven departments) in the south and central highlands of Perú are being affected from severe cold weather, snowstorms and heavy rainfalls since the last week of June. The persistent very cold weather (down to -20 Celsius in places 3,800 metres above the sea level), together with prolonged and unexpected snowfalls, rains and landslides have blocked the roads, damaged crops and grazing patches, and killed animal herds.

According to the Civil Defence authorities, 107,257 people have been affected by the current winter emergency. Eighteen children under the age of one have died due to acute respiratory infections. And some 1.4 million people suffering from respiratory infections and 400,000 with cases of pneumonia have been attended by the Ministry of Health (MoH).

The situation is expected to worsen as we approach the coldest peaks of winter in August and September. The population in this mountainous region lives in scattered areas and in the most deprived situations, thereby exacerbating their vulnerability to disease and death. The current emergency is taking a heavy toll on the poorest region of Peru, where poverty levels reach as high as 75 per cent and more than half of the child population suffers from chronic malnutrition. Children, especially babies, have been severely affected by acute respiratory infections and pneumonia, which become more critical when children are malnourished.

2. RESPONSE

Since the onset of the crisis, the National Civil Defence System, composed of several public as well as private institutions, has been sending relief aid to the affected areas that can be reached by road or by helicopter. However, the sheer size of the problem has overcome the Government's capacity to adequately respond to the crisis. UNICEF is, therefore, urgently requesting for international humanitarian assistance.

As acute respiratory infections, leading to pneumonia, are the major effects of the emergency on children, UNICEF is concentrating its efforts to reduce the incidence of these diseases. In order to support and make a difference, particularly for young children, UNICEF will provide warm clothing for children as well as basic medicines to treat ARIs and pneumonia, even in the most remote places through trained health personnel or health community agents. Distribution of clothing and medicines will be coordinated with the Ministries of Health and Women and Social Development and the National Civil Defence Institute (INDECI). In addition, relief will be channeled through the local organizations—that are already partners of the ongoing UNICEF's Programme of Co-operation with the Government—to ensure a timely and effective response to those most affected.

The national authorities and UNICEF recognize that in the medium-term there is the need to curbe the impact of these recurrent climatic phenomena. For this purpose, UNICEF will strengthen the capacity of the MoH and INDECI, including 120 health centres located above 3,500 metres, to face such emergencies in future.

3. ACTION

- Provision of antimicrobials: UNICEF will make available vials of Cotrimoxazol and vials of Amoxicilin to the health care services in at-risk areas to treat ARI cases. Likewise, mobile health care units will be organised to provide these supplies to communities lacking regular health care services.
- Provision of warm clothing for children and mothers to avoid ARIs and especially pneumonia. These clothes will be supplied through health care institutions, community women's groups, and NGOs working in the affected areas.
- Support to the work of some 10 mobile health care units in each of the affected departments and those working in the affected geographic areas.
- Community education, including the support to the production of A/V educational materials and its distribution. The main themes will be: promotion of parental health care to children, identification of acute respiratory complications, and a timely use of health care institutions, allowing an efficient assistance to the cases.
- Strengthening the personnel as well as supply capacity of 120 health centres located above 3,500 metres of altitude to prevent the death of children due to ARIs.

4. IMPACT

- Reduce child mortality due to acute respiratory infections and pneumonia in the affected geographic areas.
- Strengthen community education of parents aimed at prevention, identification of complications and timely treatment of pneumonia cases.
- Build capacity in the MOH to prevent the death of children due to ARIs in the health centres located above 3,500 metres.

5. BUDGET

Activity / Supply Item	Funds Required US\$)
1. Provision of antimicrobials	25,000
2. Provision of warm clothing for children	70,000
3. Mobile health care units	20,000
4. Community education	20,000
5. Strengthening of specific health centres	50,000
6. Strengthening of local response	32,000
7. Logistic support	50,000
8. Monitoring and supervision	47,100
9. Programme support (NYHQs)	34,600
TOTAL	348,700

Further information on the UNICEF emergency programme in Peru can be obtained from:

Andres Franco
UNICEF Representative
Peru

Tel: + 511 213 0707
Fax: + 511 447 0370
Email: afranco@unicef.org

Olivier Degreef
UNICEF EMOPS
Geneva

Tel: + 41 22 909 5655
Fax: + 41 22 909 5902
Email: odegreef@unicef.org

Dan Rohrmann
UNICEF PFO
New York

Tel: + 1 212 326 7009
Fax: + 1 212 326 7165
Email: drohrmann@unicef.org