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Update on the context and situation of children

Political context

2019 was marked by the closure of Congress on 30 September, political instability and high turnover of government authorities at national and subnational levels. This affected political priorities and continuity of policies for children and adolescents. Political confrontation, corruption, judiciary reform, migration from Venezuela and gender-based violence continue to be the focus of much of Peru's public and political attention. In this context, UNICEF has faced challenges in prioritizing children and adolescents in the national political and technical agendas.

The absence of a legislative branch impacted children and UNICEF operations as follows: the approval of laws has halted, including progressive legislation recommended by the congressional report on sexual abuse of children in institutions. The 2020 Budget was approved by an Emergency Decree, which made it impossible to hold political dialogue, to analyse and propose improvements to the allocation of resources for children and to raise awareness about the impact of budget cuts in critical areas such as urban and rural sanitation (-26 and -12 per cent respectively from 2019 to 2020).

Economic scenario

Peru's economic dynamics are still favorable, with low inflation and exchange rate stability. Projected growth of Peru's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2019 was 2.5 per cent: lower than previous years, but above the Latin American average.

Following a sharp decrease in monetary poverty (from 42 to 21 per cent of the total population between 2007 and 2016), poverty rates have stagnated in the last two years, with a decrease of 1.2 per cent between 2017 and 2018, which reversed the equivalent increase recorded between 2016 and 2017. The incidence of poverty for children and adolescents is higher than that of the total population (28.3 vs 20.5 per cent in 2018) and is particularly high in rural areas (51.5 per cent) in comparison to urban settings (21.1 per cent). In recent years, poverty reduction has been slower in urban areas. This trend increases the challenges for the social inclusion of Venezuelan migrants, since many of them have settled in Lima and other urban areas.

Bottlenecks persist in the allocation of public resources for children and adolescents. Unlike the 2019 public budget for this population, which increased by 15.8 per cent compared to 2018, growth estimates for 2020 are only 1.5 per cent, less than the growth of the total public budget (5.5 per cent). Resources allocated for prevention and response to violence against children, highly prevalent in Peru, increased (32 per cent from 2019 to 2020), but continue to be very low (around 1 per cent of the total public expenditure for children).

Violence against children

Though violent discipline by parents – both mothers and fathers – is still high in Peru (around 20 per cent, Demographic and Family Health Survey (ENDES 2018)), it is decreasing. Still, geographic disparities persist. Children in Peru's Amazon are 1.5 times more likely to suffer violent discipline (32 per cent). In the National Survey of Social Relations (2015), 81 per cent of adolescents aged 12 to 17 years said they had been victims of some type of violence.

Adolescents

While Peru boasts high secondary school enrolment rates – at 86 per cent – with slightly better coverage in urban areas than rural areas, and for children whose mother tongue is Spanish than those who speak an indigenous language, completion rates are much lower and stark rural-urban disparities persist. Only 74.5 per cent of schoolchildren in Peru complete secondary school by the expected age (17-18 years). In Loreto, in Peru's Amazon, that rate is much lower at 46.8 per cent (2018, National Household Survey, Statistics of Educational Quality). Only 16.2 per cent of secondary schoolchildren can read satisfactorily (2018, Student Census Evaluation), and this number plummets to 4.1 per cent in the Amazon region of Loreto. Mathematics performance is even lower: only 14.1 per cent of schoolchildren achieve a satisfactory level, and only 1.9 per cent in Loreto.

Over the last decade, the adolescent pregnancy rate (15 to 19 years) has remained constant at around 12.6 per cent. Disparities according to income levels are glaring: adolescent girls in the lowest wealth quintile (24.9 per cent) are seven times more likely to get pregnant than their peers in the highest wealth quintile (3.3 per cent).

Persistent inequalities

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Anaemia in children aged 6 to 35 months is high and has increased slightly from 41.6 per cent in 2011 to 43.5 per cent in 2018, affecting 53.6 per cent of children in the poorest quintile.

Though Peru has improved education accessibility, improving learning outcomes remains a challenge and there are sharp rural-urban disparities. Urban students continue to outperform their rural counterparts. Only 37.8 per cent of children in second grade understand what they read and only 14.7 per cent could do logical and mathematical operations expected for that age (2018, Student Census Evaluation). Schoolchildren in rural areas are 3 times less likely to understand what they read than their urban peers.

In the Amazon, only 1 in every 5 indigenous children has access to water at home (Census 2017), and only 2 out of every 100 have access to improved sanitation services. In the general population, 8 out of 10 children has access to water at home and 7 out of 10 have access to improved sanitation services.

Migration flows from Venezuela

Peru has the second-biggest population of Venezuelan migrants after Colombia, with an estimated 1.2 million, including regular and irregular entries (National Migration Authority, 28 November 2019). UNICEF has adapted the response to different scenarios throughout the year. This mass migration increased the demand for public services, health and education, for which the government was not always prepared. Only half of Venezuelan children attend school (National Institute of Statistics, 2019). Around 70 per cent of Venezuelan families have settled in peri-urban northern Lima (National Institute of Statistics, 2019). Changes in migration policies, from an open-door approach to a more restrictive one as of mid-2019, led UNICEF to develop contingency plans (in case of sudden increase of entries) and study irregular migration trends through innovative methods.

Major contributions and drivers of results

UNICEF continued influencing public policies and decentralized work with the aim of addressing existing child disparities supporting national and regional efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17) contributing to key UNDAF results in the areas of Decent work and sustainable development, Social Protection and universal access to basic services, Effective and inclusive public Management, and Human-Rights and Citizenship.

Every child survives and thrives

UNICEF Peru is working to improve the access of health services for second decade and for children under five years old. UNICEF-led policy dialogue, technical assistance, and evidence generation, in partnership with Ministry of Health (MoH), contributed to the approval of the Health Guidelines for Comprehensive Adolescent Healthcare, a ground-breaking framework, which recognizes adolescents as rights holders, allowing them to access preventive sexual, reproductive, mental health and nutrition services without parental consent.

UNICEF also conducted a study on barriers to health insurance faced by adolescents that provided recommendations to governmental authorities, to guarantee adolescent access to health insurance, including care for adolescent pregnancy, depression, HIV, and violence.

With UNICEF support, the MoH trained health personnel from 81 health services on Comprehensive Adolescent Healthcare, reaching 63 per cent of services in prioritized districts. With UNICEF's technical assistance at regional governments in Loreto, Ucayali and Huancavelica, 11 local health networks and at the Local Health Directorate (DIRIS) for Northern Lima obtained accreditation by the MoH as implementors of comprehensive and differentiated healthcare for adolescents. This is a key step to demonstrate how Comprehensive Adolescent Healthcare is implemented at the local level, and could be scaled.

The Government reiterated its commitment to early childhood development (ECD) with the implementation of the "Primero la Infancia" (Childhood First) policy and the design of the Results-Based Budget Programme (RBBP) on Early Childhood Development. UNICEF contributed to these policies by providing evidence analysis, methodologies for the implementation of a comprehensive approach to ECD (including health, education and protection services), training for ECD service providers, monitoring, and intersectoral coordination. These policies are expected to improve the quality and coverage of ECD services/programmes and achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in the public resources allocated to ECD.

To improve the quality of ECD services at the subnational level, UNICEF is implementing "models of comprehensive early childhood development articulated in the territory" in the districts of Carabayllo, in Lima, and Nauta and San Juan Bautista,

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in Loreto, with local/community coordination mechanisms led by Local Governments. This district model will contribute lessons learned for the local implementation of the "Childhood First" policy.

UNICEF's advocacy efforts led to the inclusion of child-centred care and support for caregivers and families, elements of the global framework of Nurturing Care, and Care for Child Development (CCD) in ECD services, such as growth and development monitoring (CRED) where these changes have been institutionalized by the MoH. UNICEF invested in training a team of ECD and CCD trainers – through distance learning, in-service training, coaching and internship/exchange programmes. An estimated 700 professionals from health, social development, education and protection sectors have been reached. This training is now being incorporated into the MoH's School of Public Health.

UNICEF contributed to the prevention of mortality and morbidity in Venezuelan children under 5 years by assessing their health and nutrition status, providing nutrition counselling and nutritional supplements, and facilitating vaccination at the Binational Border Service Centre (CEBAF) in Tumbes, reaching 11,049 children and their caregivers, through extensive partnership with CSO. UNICEF also strengthened the capacity of health systems in northern districts of Lima (where a majority of Venezuelans are living) by providing training in health information system management and care of vulnerable populations with an inclusive and gender-sensitive approach. By March 2020 this training will have reached more than 350 government health personnel.

Every child learns

Equitable access to education and secondary education were the focus of UNICEF's work this year. With the aim of improving learning outcomes and reducing the urban/rural gap, UNICEF promoted and supported the creation of technical roundtables at the national and regional levels to facilitate the processes of updating or developing new policies (Intercultural Bilingual Education-IBE-, Rural Education) and improving organization of educational services.

The monitoring system of the IBE Policy - which guarantees the right of indigenous children to learn in their own language – was designed and field tested in three regions: Loreto, Huancavelica and Ucayali, with UNICEF's technical support.

As for the Rural Education Policy, UNICEF guidance led the Ministry of Education (MoE) to improve public financial management, promote incentives and define operating models for the prioritized services defined by the policy, such as boarding schools. The MoE is testing the re-organizing of Peru's education services to improve accessibility, quality and relevance, especially in rural and dispersed areas. Findings of this testing will feed into national roll-out/scale up in 2020.

UNICEF has promoted the participation of civil society and adolescents in consultations geared at drafting the National Education Project 2021-2036 (PEN 2036); the highest-level national framework on education in Perú.

UNICEF and UNESCO have jointly provided technical guidance to the MoE to design the National Policy on Adolescent Education and Well-being. Once approved, this policy will guide increases in budget allocation and improvement of services from 2021 onwards.

UNICEF implemented the 'Model of Comprehensive Adolescent Development: Secondary Education as a Life Experience (SEV)' with the MoE in 52 secondary schools in 4 of Peru's regions. This innovative model seeks to ensure meaningful and gender-sensitive education where learning meets adolescents' needs, democratic institutional practices ensure participation, educators value diversity and promote healthy lifestyles. As a part of implementation, UNICEF conducted face-to-face training and coaching programme for 670 education professionals, and designed a virtual course on adolescent development, which was approved by the MoE and will be mandatory for all secondary school teachers, starting 2020.

UNICEF is implementing +Inclusion, a demonstration project that will support the MoE's efforts to promote inclusive education in all schools through more informed and field-tested training strategies, and policies. Fifteen primary schools in Carabayllo and Ucayali are involved, reaching more than 10,000 children and their families, with comprehensive training for teachers and school authorities, to be scaled up in the coming years.

As a result of advocacy efforts UNESCO, OIM UNHCR, led by UNICEF, Peru has eliminated administrative barriers to education for Venezuelan migrant children, benefiting 75,000 children. Monitoring and follow-up will be required to sustain these results. UNICEF provided technical assistance to improve coordination among government, civil society and humanitarian organizations, as well as development of teacher training activities to reduce discrimination and promote non-formal education models.

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Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

UNICEF Peru has been working to prevent violence against children through evidence-based generation, technical assistance, support to models to scale up results and advocacy to change policies. As of 2019, UNICEF-generated evidence on child protection has been paving the way for better designed, evidenced-based public policies on child protection. The following studies were conducted with UNICEF support: the determinants of violence against children study as a part of the Young Lives initiative; National Survey on School Climate and Violence (ENCEVE); financial benchmarking study for child protection, and diagnostic study on institutionalized children without family care; child sexual abuse in institutions; and sexual violence against children in Peru.

On violence in and around schools, the ENCEVE's preliminary findings indicate that primary school children suffer more violence than secondary school children; the most prevalent type of violence is peer-to-peer; 13% of primary school children suffer corporal punishment by teachers; and 13% of primary school children don't go to school for fear of being corporally punished.

The UNICEF-supported report on sexual violence against children in Peru, highlighting the challenges faced by child victims of violence in justice system, was presented to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

UNICEF also provided recommendations to National Congress report on sexual abuse of children in institutions. The report found that child sexual abuse is common in schools and institutions run by faith-based organizations, and that often these cases are not reported to the police or dealt with.

The professionalization of the social service workforce and justice professionals in child protection launched with training programmes aimed at reducing use of violent discipline and provision of quality child protection services. This support ensured the institutionalization of these courses into curriculums of public training institutions (National School of Public Administration-ENAP and other ministry-specific entities) in 2020 for scale up and sustainability.

On violence against children, major efforts were made to improve policies for children. In September 2019, the National Strategy to End Violence against Children 2020-2030 was validated at a Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) and MoE co-hosted consultation workshop that brought together over 200 child protection actors from Government and civil society (NGO coalition Steering group to end violence against children in Peru).

The MoE is preventing violence by teachers (corporal punishment and sexual harassment or abuse) and by other school children (physical and sexual violence and bullying) by improving school climate and fostering positive teaching practices. Principals have clear guidelines for handling cases of violence. A communication strategy 'Brigada SiseVe' ('Yes, you can see it' Brigade) has been designed to prevent violence in schools and encourage reporting of violence through a MoE established mechanism: SiseVe.

UNICEF provided technical guidance to the MoH to ensure a better response to child abuse, including training mental health practitioners on handling trauma in children under 3 years and the development of a protocol of assistance for child survivors of sexual violence at health facilities.

The child protection response to the Venezuelan Migration Crisis focused on unaccompanied and separated children and consisted of providing - at the Binational Border Service Centre (CEBAF) in Tumbes (on the Ecuador border) - child friendly spaces, psychosocial care for 39,341 children and social services support to 516 children.

Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

UNICEF worked to tackle the gap in adequate solutions for access to water and sanitation services among vulnerable populations, with emphasis on isolated Amazonian communities (under 200 inhabitants). UNICEF contributed to improving the regulatory framework that serves those communities, using the experience of a comprehensive water and sanitation model. This year, the model was implemented in homes and schools of four communities, demonstrating efficiency, acceptance and sustainability. Two of those communities were declared as free from open defecation, while the remaining two declarations are in process.

UNICEF helped the National Sanitation Authority (SUNASS) to define a national Methodology to Determine Service Delivery Areas, to ensure coordination between community-based WASH committees who share a common water source. UNICEF intervention provided input to promote comprehensive water and sanitation models for rural communities with a disaster risk management (DRM) approach, with an implementation plan jointly defined by UNICEF and SUNASS.

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The WASH response to the Venezuelan Migration Crisis focused on improving WASH sectoral coordination at the Binational Border Service Centre (CEBAF) in Tumbes, achieving sustainable results. This was possible through a combination of advocacy, technical assistance and joint response between local government, the local water authority, and CEBAF management team. To date, UNICEF and its partners have achieved full access to water at the CEBAF, improved hygiene services and an improved waste management system, a success recognized with a national award. UNICEF reached 51,435 children and their parents through the provision of hygiene kits, which included information on safe hygiene practices.

Every child has an equitable chance in life

Technical leadership on child-focused public management and budgeting placed UNICEF strategically to influence and prioritize children in the design of subnational policies, plans, budgets and services. Capacity building strategies implemented by UNICEF applied integrated approaches – breaking away from the perception that UNICEF works in a siloed manner in health, education and protection – and aimed to create, update and improve management instruments that prioritize addressing inequalities affecting children and adolescents. Four subnational policies, eight management tools, twelve service improvement plans, and eight subnational laws were designed or updated with UNICEF technical assistance.

Technical assistance to 3 out of 25 regional governments contributed to increased budget allocations in health and education, benefiting 34,000 children and adolescents, and to strengthening the capacities of the planning/budget officials. This strategy is labour-intensive and requires a higher level of engagement and ownership by national and subnational authorities to ensure sustainability and scalability.

Participation of national and subnational decision-makers in global initiatives, such as the First International Child Friendly Cities Summit held in Cologne, Germany contributed to reinforcing their political commitment to work with UNICEF on child-focused local governance initiatives.

UNICEF continued supporting the Taxonomy of Public Spending in Children Working Group (composed of MIMP, Ministry of Economy and Finance (MoEF), Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS), MoE, MoH and the Round Table for the Fight Against Poverty (MCLCP)), updating the methodology to estimate public expenditure for children; and preparing reports on public expenditure for children 2017-2018 and public expenditure on child protection, which has been historically low.

Four child-related policies were designed or amended/updated with UNICEF's technical guidance at the national level: Results-Based Budget Programme on Early Childhood Development (RBBP ECD); Intercultural Seal (an innovative non-monetary incentive mechanism to improve ECD services); National Action Plan for Children and Adolescents; and National Policy for Development and Social Inclusion (the last two are in progress).

UNICEF positioned adolescent participation on the public agenda, implementing strategies in national education and health public-policy-making processes. Local and regional governments of Lima, Huancavelica, Loreto and Ucayali have also incorporated adolescent participation into their agendas, promoting dialogue between adolescents and authorities, and improving peer dialogue in schools and communities, reaching 32,000 adolescents

These efforts were complemented with communication and advocacy strategies to position adolescents at the centre of media attention, promoting their direct participation and highlighting their lack of opportunities. Adolescent-focused mobilization initiatives in 2019 such as #MySchoolsVibe (70,000 students) and the #WorldsChildrenDay celebration, as well as the appointment of two new young UNICEF ambassadors, sought to help revert negative perceptions of adolescents and to provide families, authorities, and the media with better information about their potential and their challenges in reaching it.

Gender equality

Gender equality was one of UNICEF's main advocacy activities, through the implementation of a strategy that included a strong commitment from UN agencies, public positioning by UNICEF and a continuous political dialogue with the MoE, which managed to maintain a gender equality focus in the national curriculum and overcome the "anti-rights" movement *Don't mess with my children*. UNICEF also collaborated with the National School of Public Administration to institutionalize a programme for civil servants on mainstreaming gender equality. The CO facilitated stakeholder involvement and commitment to the promotion of gender equality for girls through the signing of an Intergenerational Pact that involved 47 women in high-profile positions, such as vice-ministers related to key sectors (education, justice, health) and ambassadors. UNICEF also partnered with the private sector on the marketing campaign "I can" to question gender stereotypes and

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promote girls' empowerment, reaching more than 2 million people in Peru through digital media.

Humanitarian Action

UNICEF's effective and efficient humanitarian response to the Venezuelan Migration Crisis, implemented in collaboration with UN Agencies and other partners, provided services to Venezuelan migrants and refugees arriving in Tumbes at the Binational Border Service Centre (CEBAF). From August 2018 through December 2019, the following services at the CEBAF reached at least 128,069 migrants (81,188 children and adolescents): child protection, health-nutrition, water and hygiene. UNICEF's communication and C4D strategies promoted protective behaviours and social integration. UNICEF holds leading roles in the Refugees and Migrants Working Group on Child Protection and Education, and in the National Humanitarian Network on Protection, on WASH and Education. The CO is prepared for two response scenarios under the EPP: natural-generated disasters such as earthquake and floods; and increase of migration flows.

Disaster Risk Management

In Peru, UNICEF mainstreams resilience through a Risk-Informed Programming strategy:

On education, UNICEF provided technical assistance to assess existing methodological tools for implementing the global Safe Schools initiative.

On WASH, UNICEF leads the national WASH Working Group. UNICEF is creating a pathway to bring together Peru's WASH governing body, WASH regulator and other stakeholders to develop ways of working on Disaster Risk Management nationwide.

On climate change, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Environment (MINAM)-spearheaded national and subnational Meeting with Adolescents and Young People: Let's Talk Climate Change. This national event contributed to national policies and enabled discussion on the impact of climate change on adolescent rights.

Social and Behaviour Change

UNICEF's social and behaviour change interventions on migration, sanitation, health, Zika, violence and adolescent pregnancy engaged nearly 100,000 people, through CSO and direct interventions. Most of them (92,000) were involved in strategies to promote Venezuelan migrant children and adolescents' health, nutrition and hygiene, and to protect them from violence and discrimination. UNICEF generated sound, innovative evidence to inform C4D strategies aimed at changing perceptions, attitudes, practices and social norms around adolescents, to remove barriers affecting their access to and the quality of public services, and to empower them to realize their rights. Inclusion of C4D strategies within government programmes remains as a challenge.

Child Rights and Business

UNICEF reinforced 26 alliances with private sector to position the children's rights and business principles agenda - CRB Principles -around Health, ICT and ECD. As a result of UNICEF initiatives 155 companies are aware of CRB principles and 24 are implementing specific actions to promote child rights within their value chain.

UNICEF generated synergies with RESPONDE, a business sustainability consulting firm; PERU2021, a business platform to advance on SDG, the Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of Justice (supporting National Plan for Human Rights and Business); with CONFIEP (the largest business association) and GLOBAL COMPACT to include CRB Principles in its working group on human rights; the, co organizing a meeting on ECD with the private sector. A group of interest on Early Childhood and Private Sector has been launched by UNICEF and the Spanish Chamber of Commerce.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

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Challenges that children and adolescents face in Peru are multifaceted and require comprehensive and cross-sectoral government policies and approaches, rather than siloed responses. This is the basis of the current country programme's Theory of Change, which remains credible and effective for UNICEF's programming. Three successful experiences from 2019 reflecting this approach, are highlighted below, while UNICEF is well positioned to accelerate results for adolescents.

Humanitarian-Development Nexus to address the Venezuelan migration crisis

UNICEF's effective humanitarian response to the Venezuelan Migration Crisis (L2) in Tumbes (border with Ecuador), with 128,069 people assisted, was followed by timely development responses funded and implemented in northern Lima, where most Venezuelan families have settled. Strong evidence generation (eight research pieces), supported by UNICEF, informed the response at the border and the transition from a humanitarian to a development focus.

UNICEF assisted more than 81,000 children and adolescents at the border, where dialogue and coordination between different sectors and levels of government were key to develop sustainable, rather than ad-hoc, solutions to ensure Venezuelan migrant access to services. At the same time, UNICEF proactively built a common position on migration – in the framework of the current UNDAF, going beyond the humanitarian response – with key messages around: advocacy to regularize the immigration status of all migrants, providing technical assistance to expand basic services to all, and public campaigning to highlight the economic opportunity of migration and prevent discrimination.

Ministry of Education's leadership to address Violence against Children (VAC)

While UNICEF has long worked closely with the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) to address violence against children, in 2019 UNICEF also worked strategically with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to make a bigger impact. With UNICEF's support, the MoE led three key VAC prevention initiatives:

1. An innovative National Survey on School Climate and Violence (ENCEVE), piloted in 9 regions, reaching 108 schools and 4975 students, and ready for national expansion.
2. The development of a 'positive discipline and socio-affective skills model' to improve school climate and foster positive teaching practices. The model, aligned with INSPIRE: Seven strategies for Ending Violence Against Children, is linked to the National School Curriculum. Clear guidelines for principals on handling cases of violence reached nearly 20 per cent of schools (6,387 out of 34,866 public schools).
3. The launch of the communication campaign 'Brigada SiseVe' ('Yes, you can see it' Brigade) to prevent violence in schools and encourage reporting of violence through an MoE-established mechanism.

The MoE's leadership was also key to co-host, with MIMP, a high-level event to develop a roadmap for a National Plan of Action to End Violence against Children 2020-2030, as a part of the Global Pathfinder initiative. This effort was complemented by a UNICEF communication campaign launched during the Pan Am Games (reaching 2 million on social media), to raise the profile of VAC – in a country particularly focused on violence against women – in public debate.

These milestones demonstrate the importance of working with more than one sector, combining multiple strategies – including evidence generation, model development, policy dialogue and communication campaigns – to develop scalable approaches to address VAC.

An integrated approach to Early Childhood Development, boosted by UNICEF

UNICEF's longstanding investment in policy dialogue, evidence generation, capacity building and support to intersectoral governance on Early Childhood Development (ECD) has contributed to the development of the National 'Childhood First' Policy launched December 2019, and the design of the ECD Results-Based Budget Programme (RBBP), two stepping-stones towards increasing coverage and quality of services and achieving greater efficiency and effectiveness in public spending.

UNICEF-led initiatives at the sub-national level contributed to improving quality of services, increased budget allocation (i.e 58 per cent in Ucayali region), strengthened 17 intersectoral coordination spaces, and served as a model to design and implement national ECD policies and governance systems.

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UNICEF helped generate a critical mass of ECD 'champions' to build momentum on expansion of ECD policies. The private sector and media were key allies to reach families and communities at scale. On the CRC's 30th anniversary, 30 CEOs came together to express their interest in implementing or supporting ECD interventions; a regional alliance between UNICEF and Kimberley Clark was launched, mobilizing influencers; the media company Radio Programas del Perú (RPP) ran the ECD campaign "What you do now lasts their whole lives", and journalists participated in disseminating parenting skills. Six videos on parenting were translated into Quechua and Shipibo and disseminated in three subnational regions, reaching 64,259 video plays.

Looking forward: Accelerating results for adolescents

UNICEF has been working relentlessly to place adolescents at the centre of the public policy agenda through policy dialogue, advocacy, technical assistance and evidence generation, contributing to improved regulatory frameworks in the education and health sectors. Demonstrative education models and expanded adolescent participation opportunities were developed, with gender equality and intercultural approaches.

However, the full potential of adolescents is far from being recognized in public policies. Expanding opportunities for adolescents requires not just generating evidence and technical guidance to improve policies and services, but also transforming adult perceptions of adolescents, and listening to adolescent voices to make services more relevant and effective.

The 30th CRC anniversary was a great opportunity to put adolescents, and their right to participation, in the public debate through partnerships and advocacy with government, private sector, media, and civil society. UNICEF has also engaged influencers by appointing two young ambassadors.

Today, UNICEF is recognized as an authority on adolescent rights and is well positioned to influence public policies, with wide expertise gained at the national and regional/local levels. A strong compact is needed to accelerate results for adolescents, combining robust public policies and improved services, private sector and media partnerships, social mobilization and full participation of adolescents. UNICEF's experience in boosting integrated ECD policies – though not a cookie cutter approach, given differing contexts, challenges and opportunities – could inspire the way to ensuring adolescents have equal opportunities to reach their full potential in Peru.