Highlights

In the month of June:

- 496 teachers received a Tablet and 3,436 teachers received phone planes to continue home-based education;
- 16,161 children and adolescents and 112 social workers benefitted from psychological support;
- 14,000 workers from the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) concluded the UNICEF’s PSEA course on Agora;
- 301 children received support from community health workers in getting access to essential health services such as immunizations, prevalent childhood illnesses and HIV;
- 137 community contact tracers have been trained in identifying suspected cases and refer them to health services;
- 75,919 adults and 58,451 children and adolescents were reached with WASH services, including the provision of water through UNICEF supported water-tanks in the provinces of Esmeraldas and Manabí.
- 1,150 Venezuelan families received a conditional CBI to acquire essential WASH supplies for their personal hygiene and prevention of the COVID-19.

Situation in Numbers

As of June 30:

- 56,342 Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases (National Infographic, MoH)
- 4,527 COVID-19 deaths plus 3,071 probable deaths from COVID-19 (National Infographic, MoH)
- +4,560,000 children and adolescents are currently not going to school and follow various distance learning programs

The “traffic light” system continues to be implemented by the Government to identify Municipalities. The system works as follows: those municipalities needing extended restrictive measures are shown as “red light”, those that need limited restrictive measures are shown as “yellow light” and those with “green light” mean that they have overcome the sanitary emergency.

This decision is evaluated in a weekly manner by Municipalities and Provinces themselves. To date, 178 municipalities have moved from red to yellow light and 5 municipality to green light. 38 municipalities remain in red light. The Municipality of Machala is the first to have returned to “red” after being in “yellow” for a few weeks, due to a pick in the number of cases.
Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The first confirmed COVID-19 case in Ecuador was identified on February 29th, and on March 11th the Ministry of Health declared a National Health Emergency through the Ministerial decree 00126-020. This triggered the activation of the national COE (Committee for Emergency Operations) on March 13th and therewith the installation of sectoral working groups (mesas) as established by the national emergency response framework. An official request from the national government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs activated the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the coordination of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), adopting the cluster approach as established by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).

UNICEF is leading the WASH and Education clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. These coordination efforts directly support the National Government in the emergency response by identifying the most pressing needs and gaps while advocating for keeping children healthy, reaching every child with water, sanitation and hygiene, ensuring that every child keeps learning, protecting children from violence and supporting families to cover their needs and care for children. UNICEF is also actively participating in the Health, Logistics and Protection clusters.

UNICEF, together with UNESCO, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank, is part of a Technical Advisory Committee set up by the Minister of Education to help her think through the return to school.

The work of UNICEF contributes to outbreak control and to mitigation of the collateral impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including of the risks to the continuity of essential social services for children, women and vulnerable populations. Through its interventions, UNICEF also aims to address the protection issues that are a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, youth and their care providers, especially for the most vulnerable.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF Ecuador is part of the Global HAC, which comprises the funding asks for all UNICEF COs. Ecuador appeal amounts to USD $15,115,650. Part of this amount is destined to cash transfers for extreme vulnerable Venezuelan families who are not eligible for the various cash transfer schemes provided to Ecuadorian nationals.

Up to now, UNICEF has received a grant of USD $250,000 from UK DFID for the COVID-19 response, which was used to acquire PPE supplies. In addition, USD $190,000.00 from UK DFID funds were received to provide social protection measures to most vulnerable families. An additional USD $100,000 were received from NYHQ (EMOPS CERF RR), and a grant of USD $41,666 from UNAIDS UBRAF, which have been assigned to the Health programme. Additionally, USD $350,000 has been received from United Nations Foundation (UNF) as part of the Solidarity Fund, for health activities. The Education programme received USD 514,000 from the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Programme and additional USD $70,000 from Thematic Funds to support Ministry of Education emergency contingency plan.

Regarding WASH, to support WASH services in health centers and schools, $665,000 USD were received as an ECHO top-up for the Resilient Communities project that is already under implementation in Ecuador. USAID/OFDA has also pledged USD $1.7M to Ecuador CO for a combined WASH and Protection proposal. BPRM supported with USD $1.8 million to integrate the COVID-19 response with the Venezuelan migration crisis, as well as an additional $120,370 USD for WASH, which will be used to deliver CBI to Venezuelan families to provide them with WASH essential supplies. It was also received USD $81,768 USD Thematic Funds for WASH. UNICEF CO is also allocating USD $279,000 of its regular programme to support Venezuelan families living in Ecuador to acquire hygiene items through collaborative measures with WFP.

In total, USD $2.7M has been reallocated from the regular programme to attend the COVID-19 emergency.
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

During the month of June, UNICEF published four web articles on 1) how to guarantee children’s rights during the emergency; 2) how children imagine the world after the pandemic; 3) how parents can build a protective environment at home and, lastly, 4) regarding WASH intervention in 15 neighborhoods of Esmeraldas, where UNICEF delivered safe water to 3,000 families. These articles were also shared with national media. A press release was published to cover the distribution of 496 tablets and 3,436 connectivity plans to teachers and student counsellors, in order to support the continuity of education and the regular communication between teacher-students.

On social media, UNICEF reached 3,134,632 people with Children’s Day video (1st June); 1,786,394 people with a post about handwashing and 125,729 with a video on parenting tips that was released for Father’s Day. These results show how publications that include children participation, recommendations with a friendly tone and content on virus prevention, are those that have the highest impact on UNICEF´s social networks.

As part of the Adolescent Development and Participation Programme (ADAP), UNICEF is working with adolescent and young people to guarantee that their voices are heard, and their rights are protected in the emergency response. Adolescents and young people participate in the Coordination Committees of U-Report and U-Report On The Move and together are launching, with the support of the mobile network Claro, the initiative Internet of Good Things, in Spanish and Kichwa, in order to amplify the voices of those who do not have an internet connection and so reach all groups of population.

Furthermore, as part of the initiative of Gen-U, UNICEF is leading an innovation joint program with UNDP and UNDP Accelerator Lab in alliance with the Office of the Vice President of Ecuador and the Youth Assembly for Sustainability. This initiative is called DREAMlab and aims at strengthening community resilience of those neighborhoods most affected by both the migration crisis and the pandemic, through the engagement of adolescents and young people in the design and implementation of sustainable development interventions in urban areas.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

Since March 2020, UNICEF Ecuador has been providing continuity of water services in peri-urban areas, where there is a lack of water services. To date, 543,494 people were reached with WASH services, including water trucking and supplies for water purification. Water trucking is a key intervention to facilitate hygiene practices, and is also an excellent entry point for C4D, RCCE and hygiene promotion; water trucks announce their arrival in a neighbourhood with a jingle composed by UNICEF with handwashing with soap messages.

Through a partnership with WFP, UNICEF has started the delivery of a cash transfer for WASH supplies to Venezuelan families. This cash is included in the WFP cards to shop at supermarkets. This intervention has reached 1,150 households during the month of June.

The WASH cluster, led by UNICEF, has achieved important results, managing to scale-up interventions and mainly through the improvement of the quality of water service in urban areas, key hospitals identified for the care of patients with COVID19 and shelters that provide services for migrant and refugee population. In terms of information management, the WASH cluster has established continuous coordination with the Governmental Health Working Group (MTT1), allowing a rapid response to the formal sectorial requirements of the national COE. This also led to agreements on the WASH cluster response plan, monitoring indicators and mutual reporting between stakeholders on interventions and progress.

Technical assistance in the formulation and execution of a response plan to COVID19 is provided to the Health Working Group of the COE (MTT1), considering the stage of confinement, social distancing and sectoral recovery. This technical assistance is supported by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and is based on a regional analysis carried...
out on the response actions of the WASH sector in different countries of the regions. SIWI will also support the WASH sector Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PMDA) process.

Continuity of health care for women and children

UNICEF Health and Nutrition programme continues to support the COVID-19 response in the country. Some of the programme highlights during the month of June are:

1) Strengthening of a community-based surveillance system: In Imbabura province, UNICEF is currently working in four predominantly indigenous territories in close coordination with local entities from the MoH. Over 70 community contact tracers and one municipal team were identified and trained in identifying suspected cases and refer them to health services. Moreover, culturally sensitive communication material has been developed and will be disseminated across the province. In Guayaquil province, over 50 community contract tracers have been identified and trained. These teams work closely with MoH health care professionals in ambulatory home visits and ensure the continuation of vaccination, nutrition and HIV services. In Pichincha province, an MoU was developed with Academia, MoH and Quito municipality. The MoU will support the training of community contact tracers who will also support MoH efforts to continue providing essential health services.

2) Supporting the continuation of essential maternal and child health and nutrition services: UNICEF together with MoH and civil society organizations are working together to train health care professionals in the implementation of mother and baby friendly health establishments in the context of COVID-19. Moreover, together with MoH, PAHO and civil society organizations, UNICEF is planning to launch a webinar series to share and train health care professionals in maternal and child health care provision in the context of COVID-19. UNICEF CO will also retake the support to the MoH in strengthening emergency ambulance transportation for newborns. Finally, this week 68 health care professionals graduated from UNICEF supported advanced course on breastfeeding, with a focus in COVID-19, these health care professionals attend around 150,000 births a year.

3) Edu-communicational strategy on healthy habits: The programme is working in the development of series of edu-communicational strategies for internet, TV and radio to support the practice of healthy habits in the context of COVID-19 and quarantine. UNICEF is developing a tv show, informative videos and supporting the development of community radio shows on health and nutrition. These materials have been produced in close coordination with the Ministry of Education and will have national reach.

Continuation of education and access to child protection and GBV prevention services

As part of the Education programme, UNICEF supports the development and implementation of multiplatform learning for the emergency context and beyond. The school year in the Coastal areas started on the 1st of June, in a context where the pressures to reopen the schools increased and the rate of C19 contagion continued to increase in various territories. The need for a prolonged emergency education plan became evident. UNICEF is providing technical support to the Ministry of Education in the design of the school reopening strategy and management model and advocated for prioritization of saving lives and the best interest of the children and adolescents in the process.

As of June 2020, the support to multiplatform learning included support to educational television, education programmes in community radios, distribution of printed material in Spanish and indigenous languages, distribution of mobile equipment and connectivity to education staff, pedagogical and psychosocial orientation and support to teachers and student councilors. UNICEF-supported educational television started its second phase which now includes special programmes on early childhood development and involves participation of teachers as actors. Two-minute animations on hygiene, health, nutrition, protection and emotional support are being produced by UNICEF and broadcasted in every programme. A total of 252 programmes of 30 minutes each are being broadcast in 160 national, local and regional channels. Additionally, 30-minute educational programmes are produced and transmitted with UNICEF support daily in 25 community radios reaching an audience of 2,473,177. The capacity of community radios in production of educational programmes is being strengthened simultaneously as most of them did not have experience or capacities in this area. Both the productions as the training process are being published through national media to raise awareness of the importance and the role of community radios in this emergency.
UNICEF continued distribution of educational materials and hygiene kits to students in rural and hard to reach communities of the Northern Border, supporting teachers to conduct levelling and adapt education to multi-grade school reality in the emergency context. Intercultural bilingual material was printed for over **240,000 indigenous students** and distributed through the Ministry of Education to the territories.

With regards to the **Child Protection programme**, the process of attention to cases of children victims of violence was developed in collaboration with the implementing partner Idea Dignidad. In addition, they will develop communicational proposals to prevent violence in different contexts. As part of the effort to attend boys and girls victims of violence, UNICEF is also working with local authorities and municipalities to analyze information and define mechanisms to improve care for victims.

The development of the **strategy for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse** was agreed with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) and it was agreed that front line officials would take the UNICEF PSEA course in Agora. During the month of June **14,000 civil servants took the PSEA course**. UNICEF will also suggest a similar agreement with other key governmental entities that are providing assistance to affected population.

On Father’s Day, Comms released a video on key protection messages, personal care and the care of children at home to prevent violence (hogares seguros en pandemia). UNICEF also continues to provide psychological support to caregivers through two implementing partners Danielle’s Children Fund (DCF) and the Catholic University of Quito, working with a group-care methodology that cared for **112 people** in June. This strategy also includes workers from the Ministry of Education to help them with emotional discharge and socioemotional support during this time of distance learning. Additionally, these groups are paired with parents to develop cohesion and parental support, in coordination with the Ministry of Education.

The partner DCF worked with 120 professionals of 9 shelters for adolescents with psycho-emotional programmes and methodology to continue the care of adolescents and prevent violence. DCF provided bakery supplies so that adolescent can continue participating in the training workshops as part of the extracurricular activities in juvenile detention centers. In addition, educational and recreational materials were delivered to 9 institutional shelters, so that approximately 315 children could carry out recreational activities or use their free time productively.

Regarding the coordination of the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, within the Clusters’ structure, the work continues with the support of the 19 organizations that are actively participating, and to date, the Group reported about **180 initiatives that have achieved nearly 7,000 girls and 6,700 boys, and nearly 23,500 people in total**. This includes the identification and referral of more than **600 cases to the local protection systems**.

Regarding the **Social Inclusion programme**, the efforts are concentrated in strengthening the social protection system to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. UNICEF is part of a group of UN entities and IFIs to advise the government in the socioeconomic recovery. UNICEF is conducting a microsimulation exercise to determine the income and multidimensional poverty effects that COVID-19 will have on households with children. The results of the microsimulations will be used to inform policy recommendations to redesign of the National Social Protection System. The governmental counterpart for this task is Secretaría Técnica del Plan Toda una Vida (STPTUV).

UNICEF continues to deliver the cash transfer programme for Venezuelan migrant and refugee families with children through its implementing partner HIAS. The programme was adapted to respond under the COVID-19 context, cash transfers are distributed through OTP codes and remote mechanisms for screening and psychosocial support. In addition, it includes a top-up from the WASH programme, in the food vouchers of WFP. In June 2020 and as part of the tasks for the UN Common Cash Statement (UNCCS) pilot initiative, UNICEF and HIAS were preparing the deployment of UNICEF CBI re-designed initiative for migrant and refugee Venezuelan children and families, which complements in a comprehensive way the assistance provided by UNCHR and WFP with: i) a nine month cash payment; ii) a top-up single payment for education for extreme vulnerable migrant and refugee families with children; and iii) strengthening the cash plus approach to support these families to access to social services. The pilot is expected to start during the first week of August.

With regards to the **gender response**, UNICEF CO with the support of the Gender team from LACRO, are supporting the three winning initiatives from the Hackaton Hackea la Crisis Mujeres + Niñas. UNICEF CO, in alliance with groups
of women. UNFPA, WFP, GIZ, Human Rights Secretariat and the Ministry of Health are preparing the deployment of three pilot initiatives to test the projects to support women victims of GBV during the quarantine. Two out of the three initiatives will launch their pilots in July. No más Sangre, the solution using sanitary pads in partnership with UNFPA and Human Rights Secretariat will partner with shelters for women and girls who are survivors of GBV to develop a prototype and pilot the life-saving messages. And the team who created “La receta de la vecina” has finished the design of the cookbook with “secret recipes” for survivors of domestic violence to discretely report abuse with GIZ, UNICEF, WFP and the Human Rights Secretariat.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To better assess the situation of children, adolescents and their families, during the reporting period, UNICEF has negotiated an agreement with the National Civil Registration Office to have up to date information on deaths. This will allow UNICEF to monitor deaths of children and adolescents at municipality level for its advocacy strategy. In addition, UNICEF implemented a telephone survey to assess the situation of children and adolescents and their families among Venezuelan – CBI installation participants – and Ecuadorian households – UNICEF individual donors -, reaching over fourteen hundred families. The results will be shared in July. UNICEF Ecuador has also reached to CLARO (the biggest cellular company in Ecuador) to develop an agreement to access the data they produce in terms of mobility, to count on sound evidence for its advocacy strategy in health, education, protection, social inclusion.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Since March 2020, UNICEF has published press releases and articles regarding UNICEF’s response to the COVID:

1. Breastfeeding needs to continue, there is no evidence that COVID-19 is pass through breastmilk: https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/la-lactancia-debe-continuar-no-hay-evidencia-de-que-el-covid-19-se-transmita-en
3. Education must continue during the health emergency, UNICEF and UNESCO says: https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/la-educaci%C3%B3n-debe-continuar-durante-la-emergencia-sanitaria-afirmar-unesco-y
4. The Health Emergency threatens children and adolescents’ learning: https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/la-emergencia-sanitaria-supone-un-desaf%C3%ADo-para-el-aprendizaje-de-los-ni%C3%B1os
5. COVID-19: How to ensure continues learning of children without internet access: https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/covid-19-c%C3%B3mo-asegurar-el-aprendizaje-de-los-ni%C3%B1os-sin-acceso-internet
6. How to guarantee children rights during COVID-19: https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/c%C3%B3mo-garantizar-los-derechos-de-los-ni%C3%B1os-en-el-contexto-del-covid-19
10. We must prevent the pandemic from COVID-19 from becoming a health crisis for children, says UNICEF: https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/hay-que-evitar-que-la-pandemia-por-el-covid-19-se-convierta-en-una-crisis-de
11. More UNICEF support arrives to Ecuador: https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/covid-19-una-m%C3%A1s-ayuda-de-unicef-llega-ecuador
12. Educational television programming kicks off: https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/arranca-programacio%C3%B3n-educativa-en-televisi%C3%B3n
13. How children imagine the world after the pandemic: https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/los-ni%C3%B1os-cuentan-c%C3%B3mo-reimaginan-el-mundo-despu%C3%A9s-de-la-pandemia-por-covid-19
14. How parents can build a protective environment at home: https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/c%C2%BFe%C3%B3mo-hacer-que-los-hogares- sean-espacios-seguros-para-los-ni%C3%B1os-y-ni%C3%B1as-durante-la
UNICEF has also developed a series of videos:

3. UNICEF’s humanitarian help to Ecuador: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7_LZI7UvXs
4. Education during emergency is not the same as distance learning: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wRMr3tpBA
5. What can we do to ensure learning continuation if children do not have access to internet? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOSICwdwI9o
6. More than 1 million supplies for health professionals! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjRZMJyKm0
7. Karla Kanora, our GWA, reads the story “El Monito Burbuja aprende a combatir al coronavirus”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-f2RwOia5k
8. Boys and girls need you in this TVC pandemic (15sec): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IETIHf0RniU

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Who to contact for further information:

Joaquín Gonzalez-Alemán, Representative Ecuador
Tel: +593-23934280 Ext 1629
Email: jgonzalezaeman@unicef.org

Juan Enrique Quiñonez, Deputy Representative Ecuador
Tel: +593-23934280 Ext 1614
Email: jequinonez@unicef.org

Letizia Sozzi, Emergency Officer Ecuador
Tel: +593 958702573
Email: lsozzi@unicef.org