Highlights

- UNICEF Ecuador has delivered additional PPE to the Ministry of Health, which included:
  - 21 oxygen concentrators
  - 10,500 protective gowns
  - 3,157 units of antibacterial gel
  - 66,900 caps
  - 83,500 surgical masks
  - 20,000 N95 masks
  - 5,096 protective goggles
  - 5,000 face shields
  - 1,215,850 units of gloves
- 403 tablets with connectivity plans delivered to teachers to support remote education during the month of July 2020;
- 208 community workers and 80 health professionals trained as community epidemiological tracing agents, so they are able to detect, refer and prevent the spread of COVID-19 cases among children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, while also ensuring essential care services for children and women; which has, in the month of July, referred 280 children to health care facilities.
- 8,526 girls and 7,904 boys received psycho emotional support;
- 1,250 uprooted families provided with a CBI to buy essential hygiene supplies.

Situation in Numbers
As of July 31:

- Currently **84,370** Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, and **18,759** people recovered
  (National Infographic, MoH)
- **5,657** COVID-19 deaths plus **3,468** probable deaths from COVID-19
  (National Infographic, MoH)

The “traffic light” system continues to be implemented by the Government to identify restrictive measures for each Municipality.

To date, 196 municipalities have moved from red to yellow light and 11 municipality to green light. 14 municipalities remain in red light.
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. A fund of USD $1.7M was received from USAID/OFDA 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.

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 set up of sectoral working groups (mesas) as established by the national emergency response framework. As of the 31st of July, 84,370 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases were identified, and 18,759 people recovered. Additionally, there are 5,657 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, plus 3,468 deaths with COVID-19 as probable cause of death.

**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 advise her on continuity plans for education, that include, connectivity, ensuring WASH in schools and, eventually, orderly return to schools.

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.
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

During July, UNICEF broadcasted messages on social networks about preparing children to receive and understand news about whether a loved one has become ill or has passed away. These messages were well received, resulting on social media engagement where comments evidence families’ appreciation for these kinds of recommendations of a sensitive theme when approaching children.

UNICEF Ecuador also shared protection messages about security and safety online, in order to prevent risks of boys and girls as they are spending more time on the internet. Also, UNICEF continued to deliver Early Childhood Development content, with messages from Sesame Street. Stories for children, which deliver on-line messages on how to prevent the virus, [https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/cuentos-infantiles-para-hablar-de-covid-19-con-los-ni%C3%B1os](https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/cuentos-infantiles-para-hablar-de-covid-19-con-los-ni%C3%B1os).

As part of raising awareness of UNICEF contribution to education during the pandemic, the story of Raiza, a 11-year-old girl from the Amazon basin, was published globally and reached 3,404,488 people. UNICEF Ecuador continues to engage people through social media: For instance: 413,142 people from Ecuador and 1.2 million people globally interacted with “likes” and reactions to posts loaded by UNICEF in Facebook, during the first week of July. UNICEF Ecuador also launched #OneLove as a part of the global campaign #Reimagine that includes a call to action to engage more people to support UNICEF’s work.

In collaboration with UNFPA and CARE, UNICEF, through the Social Inclusion area, organized a webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on adolescent pregnancy, in which 1,125 people participated, and 1,670,634 were reached with social media posts, and the engagement received illustrates the interest on this issue and the need people have to access information.

As part of the work done through the WASH cluster, to date, 413,000 people received key information on handwashing, hygiene and access to services.

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

During July 2020, UNICEF has received 35 handwashing stations with 50 tanks of 500lts through the company WAVIN. These stations will be installed in health centers, markets, and transit cities for uprooted families. This contribution is a result of the global agreement between UNICEF and Orbia.

Since the beginning of the response, UNICEF has reached more than 500,000 people with interventions that include the delivery of chlorine to disinfect the water systems in urban and rural hospitals and other health care facilities, the delivery of water by tankers to vulnerable neighbourhoods, personal protective equipment and hygiene kits. 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 1,250 households during the month of July.

As the leader of the WASH cluster, UNICEF has also started a performance evaluation on the cluster coordination, in collaboration with OCHA and the WASH regional/global cluster. The results are expected at the end of August. In addition, the WASH sector chapter of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment was finalized. This exercise helped identifying losses in the sector due to the emergency, as well as the following steps for recuperation.

Through the Health and Nutrition programme and the strategy of community-based surveillance, and in coordination with local government, UNICEF delivered equipment to chlorinate water, which has been installed in five parishes, in the province of Imbabura, and over 1,200 families are currently benefiting from food security strategies, which include support for home vegetable gardens.
Continuity of health care for women and children

To prevent and control COVID-19 transmission and to foster the continuity of essential maternal and child health services, UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the academia (Universidad Central), the municipality of Quito and the Ministry of Health to implement a strategy for community-based surveillance (CBS). The strategy is supported by university students who are deployed as contact tracers in their communities to identify possible COVID-19 cases and notify to the Ministry of Health (MoH), and in addition to this, they provide support to families with children and pregnant women to receive essential medical services.

With UNICEF support, community health technicians (TAPS) from local health facilities have been included in the CBS in Imbabura province. Through this strategy, TAPS, local leaders and local government boards coordinate to support families and control and prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Through the community surveillance system in Imbabura, 120 community contact tracers are being currently trained.

In Guayaquil city, where CBS is also been implemented, UNICEF local implementing partner DyA has developed an innovative phone app to support the work of community health workers and improve the exchange of information between community and health facilities. The app supports over 300 families to access essential health services and prevent the further expansion of COVID-19 transmissions.

The health and nutrition programme is currently implementing a communication for development strategy to support healthy habits though messages in the context of COVID-19. As part of the strategy, over 25 community radio stations have been provided with messages and their staff trained in a range of topics relating to health, hygiene, nutrition and how to promote physical activity.

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

As part of the Education programme, UNICEF continues to support the development and implementation of multiplatform learning for the emergency context and beyond. UNICEF is providing technical support to the Ministry of Education in the design of the distance learning strategy and is supporting the identification of needs and processes for school reopening.

In July, thanks to a donation of the Denmark government, 403 tablets with internet plans were delivered to teachers and school personnel in the Provinces of Esmeraldas and Sucumbios. The tablets will allow better interaction between teachers and students, reaching an estimated 70,000 students in total. This intervention is the result of a process of accountability of affected population in which, through a survey, children and parents identified the need to access Internet for in-house and distance learning programmes.

With UNICEF support, 252 education programmes on TV and radio continued to be broadcasted in 160 national, local and regional channels. Additionally, 30-minute educational programmes are produced and transmitted daily, with UNICEF support, in 25 community radios reaching an audience of around 2 million monthly. UNICEF continues to strengthen the capacity of community radios by producing educational programmes since most of them did not have experience or capacities in this area. Both the productions as well as the training process are being broadcast through national media to raise awareness of the importance and the role of community radios in this emergency.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the UNICEF WASH programme, conducted a diagnostic on the conditions of WASH services in schools through the online tool KoBo. This exercise has supported the identification of schools with “adequate services”, “services that need maintenance or improvement” and schools that “do not have services”. This allowed to have a better understanding of the needs of WASH infrastructure prior to a future reopening of schools.

As a result of the survey, 19% of public schools, especially in rural areas, do not have water access, and 50% of rural schools do not undertake any process to appropriately treat drinking water. Currently UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education to cost needed improvements to ensure adequate water and sanitation services in schools.

Through the Child Protection Programme, UNICEF continues to provide care services to caregivers of different Government institutions. As part of this effort, UNICEF contributed with a protocol for referral of patients in need of
emergency care. These interventions are part of a collaboration agreement with the implementing partners Catholic University of Ecuador (PUCE by its Spanish acronym) and Danielle Children’s Fund.

As part of both interventions, UNICEF contributes to the development of for parental support which have significant results, developing self-consciousness on the importance of preventing violence against children in confinement due to COVID 19. This initiative will be systematized to allow its replication in other contexts and in August, it will be extended to the provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas.

Regarding the protection of children and families on the move, counseling is provided to girls and boys accessing special protection services, with emphasis on preventing COVID-19. Key messages that promote the prevention of violence in this population group are delivered as well, through the implementing partner HIAS.

UNICEF is strengthening efforts to provide comprehensive attention to violence cases, especially on Gender Based Violence. The psico-social support, referral and follow up is provided by UNICEF implementing partner Idea Dignidad. The need to expand the programme will result on expanding the initiative to cover the provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas. On parallel, UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) to strengthen special protection services.

To support the socioemotional wellbeing and continuous education of adolescents currently housed in detention centers, UNICEF is delivering biosafety supplies and education materials, including key messages for violence prevention. Among the materials are, for example, a coloring book with children’s rights messages, and to color (librito para colorear), and a guide to help positive parenting (Guía de parentalidad - ¿!A qué rato creciste!?).

Regarding UNICEF Ecuador 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 United Nations Funds, Agencies and Programmes and International Financial Institutions that provide advise the government in the socioeconomic recovery plan. In order to provide key information and possible scenarios, UNICEF completed a micro-simulation on monetary and multidimensional poverty for households with children and adolescents and will present the results to the social sector ministerial cabinet.

Additionally, UNICEF will also present a national educational vulnerability index to provide key information for the social protection strategy, as part of the technical assistance provided to the Secretary of Plan Toda Una Vida (life-cycle driven social protection plan).

The delivery of cash transfers for migrant and refugee families with children and adolescents continues, to cover basic needs and installation. UNICEF is currently designing a pilot phase for the new modality of cash-based intervention (CBI), in which 308 families will participate, progressively starting in August 2020.

Monitoring and Evaluation

UNICEF Ecuador implemented a telephone survey to assess the impact of COVID 19 in families and their children and adolescents among Venezuelan – CBI installation participants – and Ecuadorian households – including UNICEF individual donors. The results show significant challenges faced by the Venezuelan families in terms of food security, access to health services, among others. Ecuadorian families show that they are also facing challenges due decreasing income, concerns about food security, under-employment or loss of jobs, access to medicine and medical care, to name a few.

Along with other UN agencies, under the Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, a new joint assessment started in July and will end the first week of August. Ecuador CO continues its negotiations with mobile telephone companies to access big data that will be key to provide evidence in how families are accessing and paying for health, education, child protection, and social inclusion services. The use of big data will be key for future advocacy strategies.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Since March 2020, UNICEF has published press releases and articles regarding UNICEF’s response to the COVID:
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](https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/la-lactancia-debe-continuar-no-hay-evidencia-de-que-el-covid-19-se-transmita-en)


4. The Health Emergency threatens children and adolescents’ learning: [https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/la-emergencia-sanitaria-supone-un-desafio-%C3%ADo-para-el-aprendizaje-de-los-ni%C3%B1os](https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/la-emergencia-sanitaria-supone-un-desafio-%C3%ADo-para-el-aprendizaje-de-los-ni%C3%B1os)

5. COVID-19: How to ensure continued 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](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](https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/c%C3%B3mo-garantizar-los-derechos-de-los-ni%C3%B1os-en-el-contexto-del-covid-19)


12. Educational television programming kicks off: [https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/arranca-programacion-%C3%B3n-educativa-en-televisi%C3%B3n](https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/arranca-programacion-%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-despues-de-la-pandemia-por-covid-19](https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/los-ni%C3%B1os-cuentan-c%C3%B3mo-reimaginan-el-mundo-despues-de-la-pandemia-por-covid-19)

14. How parents can build a protective environment at home: [https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/%C2%BFc%C3%B3mo-hacer-que-los-hogares-sean-espacios-seguros-para-los-ni%C3%B1os-y-ni%C3%B1as-durante-la-pandemia](https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/%C2%BFc%C3%B3mo-hacer-que-los-hogares-sean-espacios-seguros-para-los-ni%C3%B1os-y-ni%C3%B1as-durante-la-pandemia)

15. WASH intervention in 15 neighborhoods of Esmeraldas, where UNICEF delivers safe water to 3,000 families: [https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/unicef-distribuye-agua-en-los-hogares-de-los-ni%C3%B1os-m%C3%A1s-vulnerables-en-esmeraldas](https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/unicef-distribuye-agua-en-los-hogares-de-los-ni%C3%B1os-m%C3%A1s-vulnerables-en-esmeraldas)

UNICEF has also developed a series of videos:


3. UNICEF’s humanitarian help to Ecuador: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7_LZI7UvXs](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=0vwRMt3tpBA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vwRMt3tpBA)

5. What can we do to ensure learning continuation if children do not have access to internet? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOSiCwdwI9p](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOSiCwdwI9p)

6. More than 1 million supplies for health professionals: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hitRZMJyKm0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hitRZMJyKm0)

7. Karla Kanora, our GWA, reads the story “El Monito Burbuja aprende a combatir al coronavirus”: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-f2RwOia5k](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=lETIHf0RniU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lETIHf0RniU)

Next SitRep: 31 August 2020

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office: [www.unicef.org/lac](http://www.unicef.org/lac)

UNICEF Ecuador Office: [https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/](https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/)
UNICEF LAC Facebook: www.facebook.com/uniceflac

Who to contact for further information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joaquín Gonzalez-Alemán</td>
<td>Representative Ecuador</td>
<td>Tel: +593-23934280 Ext 1639 Email: <a href="mailto:jgonzalezaleman@unicef.org">jgonzalezaleman@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan Enrique Quiñonez</td>
<td>Deputy Representative Ecuador</td>
<td>Tel: +593-23934280 Ext 1614 Email: <a href="mailto:jequinonez@unicef.org">jequinonez@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letizia Sozzi</td>
<td>Emergency Officer Ecuador</td>
<td>Tel: +593 958702573 Email: <a href="mailto:lsozzi@unicef.org">lsozzi@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>