Peru COVID-19 Emergency Response

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### Highlights

Peru is the second country in the region most affected by COVID-19, with **164,476 confirmed cases and 4,506 deaths** as of 30 May. With a population of 32 million and only 1,200 ICU beds nationwide – up 1,100 from the start of the pandemic –, the health system has struggled to cope with the pandemic, especially in the capital and in the Amazonian region.

UNICEF’s response has sought to address the main needs of the government to ensure the protection of child and adolescent rights:

- Thanks to UNICEF support, **245 out of 2181 adolescents (11.2%) left juvenile deprivation of liberty centres** between 16 March and 21 May.
- Health guidelines on the provision of the comprehensive health care model for rural and dispersed indigenous communities in the context of COVID-19, developed in collaboration with the MoH, were approved on 21 May – RM No. 308-2020-MINSA.
- Technical assistance to the Ministry of Education (MoE) in developing educational content for their **distance-learning radio programs in rural areas reached 130,615 children.**
- UNICEF distributed **hygiene kits to 235 families** in indigenous communities in Ucayali, as well as informative banners and **audios in the native Shipibo Konibo tongue** to be played in their loudspeakers.
- Since the start of the pandemic, UNICEF’s COVID-19 messages on social media have had a **total digital reach of 40.6 million**, with over 400,000 interactions and 770,152 video views.
- As a part of the **Mission Possible campaign with ATV, Peru’s second largest media group**, UNICEF specialists and adolescents participated in TV interviews highlighting health, education, protection and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on children in Peru, as well as practical advice for parents and caregivers. The campaign had 159 media pickups and $1,355,475.89 in free press, and **raised over $140,000.**

### In Perú

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th># cases</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PERU</td>
<td>164,476</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lima</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tumbes</td>
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Situation overview and needs

COVID-19 has upended the lives of children, adolescents and their families. On 6 March, Peru’s first case was confirmed. In response, the Government declared a national state of emergency, closed borders and imposed a mandatory national quarantine, started on 16 March and extended to 30 June. These actions are complemented by various health regulations, the “I Learn at Home” public education strategy, social protection measures and an economic stimulus package.

However, the estimated economic downturn ranges between 6.5 and 15%, as estimated by the IMF and the Peruvian Economics Institute, while 35% of households have not been receiving income since the start of the pandemic. This has generated over 160,000 Peruvian citizens returning to their regions of origin, many of them on foot, and 30,000 Venezuelan migrants and refugees reportedly returning to their country.

While the pandemic affects everyone, it risks amplifying existing inequities:

- **Women and girls** are taking on increased domestic burdens. Confined at home, they are also at greater risk of violence.
- **Families living in poverty**, many relying on informal work, have abruptly lost their income, hampering quarantine compliance and increasing their risk of exposure.
- **Indigenous communities**, especially in the Amazon, have limited access to hygiene items and quality services, including water, health and connection to Internet, TV or radio.
- **Migrants and displaced people** are more likely to live in overcrowded homes and have limited access social protection measures.

Response Strategy

UNICEF’s goal is to preserve child, adolescent rights and their families’ in emergency situations. The Response Strategy focuses on immediate actions to support the national and prioritized sub-national governments, communities and families living a worsening vulnerable situation due to COVID-19 Pandemic and restrictions. UNICEF in Peru is concerned on the socioeconomic impact that COVID-19 crisis is having on families with children and adolescents. Particularly those families who were previously facing poverty and inequity situations. Therefore, the Response Strategy is to support the national and local health and education systems through policy development and capacity building, drawing upon strong local partnerships and networks, especially for the most vulnerable communities, including Venezuelan migrants settled in Northern districts of Lima.

Response coordination

- PAHO is leading the inter-agency engagement with the MoH, and with the MoE, UNICEF and PAHO are coordinating their engagement to provide a joint message. PAHO’s support has focused on ensuring the MoH has a proper preparedness plan covering risk communication, vigilance, case management, prevention and control of infections, laboratory, and coordination and logistics.
- An inter-agency task force has been set-up to review the UN system’s preparedness to manage COVID-19. Each agency has been advised to update and test their business continuity plans. As part of a joint framework, agencies are sharing information on their activities and achievements.
- Within the Nacional Humanitarian Network (RHN in Spanish), the cluster coordination mechanism between Government, CSOs and SNU led by OCHA, UNICEF leads Education, Protection and WASH working groups, and actively participates on Health and Nutrition & Food Security working groups. These working groups developed COVID-19 specific gap and capacity analyses in case there is an activation requirement from the Peruvian Government, following the RHN’s activation protocol.


IN PERU:

- 28% of children and adolescents live in poverty
- 75% of households in Loreto, in the Amazon, lack access to water
- 57% of Venezuelan households are overcrowded
- 14,222 cases of violence reported during the quarantine
Response coordination (cont.)

- As part of a COVID19 adaptation process of its 2020 planing, UNICEF is working with all its Implementing Partners (IPs) involved with the regular programme activities. Also, IPs working on the Venezuelan Migration Crisis response are jointly adapting and responding to the effects of COVID19 in their areas. New IPs are currently under consideration to extend or engage in response actions.

Response actions

UNICEF Peru’s Response Plan focuses on Risk Communication and Community Engagement and contributes on Infection Prevention and Control and Community Health Continuity with training, equipment, essential care services and WASH activities. The Plan also supports government distance Education strategy and further back to school preparations. Also, the Plan supports the Child Protection mechanisms to prevent and address the secondary impact of the outbreak and Advocacy for Continuity of Services at national and local levels, while providing Cash to migrant families that are forgotten form the Social Protection system. Local level activities focus on the regions prioritized by UNICEF, particularly on districts in Northern Lima where UNICEF is working with the migrant Venezuelan population that has settled in these districts: Carabayllo and San Martin de Porres.

Health and Nutrition

- Health guidelines on the provision of the comprehensive health care model for rural and dispersed indigenous communities in the context of COVID-19, developed in collaboration with the MoH, were approved on May 21 – RM No. 308-2020-MINSA.
- Technical assistance provided to the MoH in the development of a communication/education campaign for the dissemination of guidelines on the care of pregnant women and newborns in the context of COVID 19, based on Health Directive No. 97-2020-MINSA-DGIESP.
- Design of a dissemination plan with regional-local radio stations to reach indigenous communities with COVID-19 prevention messages.

Education

- Technical assistance to the Ministry of Education (MoE) in developing educational content for their distance-learning radio programs in rural areas reached 130,615 children.
- Technical assistance to MoE in developing the national strategy for reopening schools, including high-level meetings with the Minister. No schools are open yet.
- 5 TV spots for the I Learn at Home strategy have been designed and will be aired this week.
- Participation in the working group with UNESCO and the World Bank to support the MoE in their technical discussions to prevent school dropouts caused by the COVID-19 emergency.

C4D

- Technical support to the MoH in creating awareness on breastfeeding during the pandemic, and on health care for COVID-19-positive mothers and newborns.
- Co-creation of a pamphlet on child and adolescent risk prevention in the digital world.
- C4D strategy in indigenous communities in Ucayali, including informative banners and USBs with ten audios in the native Shipibo Konibo tongue and in Spanish, to be played in their community loudspeakers, reaching approximately 378 families.
- In northern Lima, UNICEF organized spaces for dialogue with adult and adolescent leaders in four communities in prioritized districts, using Facebook messenger room as a platform. These spaces will promote mutual care against COVID-19, protection against violence, and promotion of Peruvian and Venezuelan family integration.
- UNICEF is elaborating communication materials for virtual dissemination in implementing partner Warmi Huasi’s social media account regarding COVID-19 preventive practices and mutual care as an expression of Peruvian-Venezuelan integration. Posts in these accounts had a digital reach of 1,025.
- Sharing information on COVID-19 prevention and care among adolescents continues to be hindered due to families’ economic difficulties and limited access to mobile phones. In response, Warmi Huasi’s local volunteers are promoting adolescent participation by creating their own videos and messages of motivation.
Response actions (cont.)

Child Protection

- Signing of a small-scale funding agreement with NGO: ADRA to support foster families who received 70 children and adolescents in need to care through the provision of food supplies.
- Thanks to UNICEF support, between 16 March and 21 May, **245 out of 2181 adolescents (11.2%) left juvenile deprivation of liberty centres**: 15 with presidential pardons, 80 with time served, and 150 with acquittals. This was achieved with help from private attorneys, the National Programme of Juvenile Centres (PRONACEJ), and the Judiciary.
- Development of **7 TV programmes with psychosocial support** aimed at families and students within the I Learn at Home strategy, including violence prevention. They will air during June.
- Socioemotional support continued with the 105 migrant children and adolescents in residential care facilities in Tumbes.

Communication

- Since the beginning of the pandemic, UNICEF’s COVID-19 messages on social media have had a digital reach of **40.6 million**, with over 400,000 interactions and 770,152 video views.
- UNICEF’s **Mission Possible campaign** with ATV, Peru’s second largest media group, closed on 30 May with a 2-hour TV programme, and **raised over US$140,000**. During the campaign, UNICEF specialists and adolescents participated in various TV interviews, highlighting health, education, protection and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on children in Peru, as well as practical advice for parents and caregivers. As of 30 May, the campaign had **159 media pickups**, with over **US$ 1.3 million in free press**.
- On 21 May, UNICEF delivered the fourth in a series of Facebook Live webinars on COVID-19. The latest webinar, aimed at parents, caregivers and teachers, covered learning at home. To date, the webinar has had a reach of 38,112, with 2,654 interactions and 11,931 video views.

WASH

- Coordination with the WASH sector to sign a contract with Municipal Technical Areas and Municipal Management Units, and a **call to include Dry Ecologic Toilets (BES) in sectoral regulations**.
- Participation in the MoE’s Education Response to COVID-19 table to support the elaboration of the back-to-school protocol and ensure its correspondence with WASH programming.
- Systematization and elaboration of **national-level situation analysis of school infrastructure and water access**, which will lead to establishing a WASH work plan.
- Coordination with the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP), and the national Advisory Councils of Children and Adolescents (CCONNA), to reformulate programmed activities to **position children and adolescents in the national and regional climate agenda**.
- Support connecting key actors such as the IDB, WB and the National Programme for Educational Infrastructure (PRONIED), to form partnerships that permit joint WASH work in schools during COVID-19.
- Meeting with SIWI (Stockholm International Water Institute) to prepare a questionnaire on good public policy practices in sanitation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Participation in the Water Group to make its COVID-19 related actions visible to the WASH table.
- Follow-up to the evaluation of security conditions in school infrastructures, emphasizing WASH services.
- UNICEF is currently elaborating a concept note on WASH in schools, in line with Education sectoral regulations and LACRO foundational documents.
- **Hygiene kits and prevention messages delivered to 235 families** in indigenous communities in Ucayali.

Supply & Logistics

- UNICEF is finalizing the procurement process for **45 oxygen concentrators** to support the MoH and priority regions.
UNICEF in action

We work with the government and partners at the national level. We have targeted interventions in northern Lima, Huancavelica, Loreto and Ucayali.

We support the government on their COVID-19 response

Highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on children and adolescents, we advocate for an equitable response. We provide support and technical assistance to the government on: the health response; education for indigenous and rural students; assistance for children in alternative care and deprived of liberty; and strengthening the social protection system.

We deliver risk prevention messages to families

With the government, we have developed three practical guides for parents and caregivers – in Spanish, indigenous languages and sign language – on health, care and activities for children and adolescents at home. The messages have been disseminated through digital platforms, media and live Q&As with UNICEF experts.

We are working to provide critical resources to targeted communities

During the quarantine, we have distributed hygiene kits and psychosocial support materials to Venezuelan migrants in Tumbes, at the border with Ecuador. We are providing hygiene kits to indigenous communities in the Amazon and will be providing cash transfers to Venezuelan families in northern Lima.

NGO Non-governmental organization

Impact

Our actions aim to impact the lives of vulnerable children and adolescents in targeted regions, as well as their peers across the country who will benefit from a more equitable response to COVID-19.

130,615 children and adolescents accessed inclusive distance learning via radio

40.6 million digital reach of risk prevention messages

11,279 visits to the web pages of the three guides for families

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Funding (US$)

$1,405,000 available against the total $3,500,000 required

40%

Funds include generous contributions of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), DFID and the Government of Denmark, in addition to pre-existing resources re-purposed for the COVID-19 response.