Highlights

Peru is the second country in the region most affected by COVID-19, with 285,213 confirmed cases and 9,677 deaths, including 42 children and adolescents, as of 30 June. With a population of 32 million and only 1,336 ICU beds nationwide, the health system has struggled to cope with the pandemic in the most severely affected subnational regions.

In response to the pandemic, on 16 March the Government of Peru declared a national state of emergency, extended to 7 September, closed borders, and imposed a mandatory national quarantine, extended to 30 June. These actions have been complemented by various health regulations, the “I Learn at Home” public education strategy, social protection measures and an economic stimulus package.

However, in its June Global Economic Prospects report, the World Bank forecast a 12 per cent GDP contraction in 2020, and a 7 per cent recovery in 2021 for Peru. This increases the risks faced by the most vulnerable, especially women and girls, families living in poverty, whose livelihoods have been impacted by the quarantine, indigenous communities with limited access to health services, and migrants and displaced people mostly living in overcrowded conditions and with limited local support networks. Between 16 March and 31 May, 2,021 children and adolescents and 3,191 women received services for reported physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence.

UNICEF’s response strategy has focused on helping ensure children’s rights are being fulfilled. Since the start of the emergency on 16 March, some of the main results include:

- Delivery of 1,140 hygiene kits benefitting 4,735 indigenous people in the Amazon and Venezuelan migrant and refugee children in shelters.
- Information on COVID-19 posted on social media has had a reach of 16,320,093, 418,730 in engagement, and 3,517,142 video views.
- COVID-19 prevention messages were disseminated in 25 indigenous communities in the Amazon, granting 4,595 people access to culturally relevant content in their native Shipibo-Konibo language.
- 145,628 children accessed home-based education thanks to UNICEF’s pedagogic support to teachers and content developers.
- Ongoing high-level technical assistance to the education and sanitation sectors in the formulation of the strategic school reopening plan to ensure safe post-COVID conditions
- Continuous work with the Ministry of Health in the development of guidelines to ensure safe post-COVID-19 reopening of primary health services, including bio-safety elements and management guidelines. 122 women and 525 children benefitted from the reopening of one health establishment in Loreto.
- Interagency coordination to generate evidence and disseminate information on the socioeconomic impact of COVID on children, adolescents and their families, especially those living in poverty and vulnerability. Advocacy at the subnational level to address challenges brought by COVID-19 to poor and vulnerable households.
- Six videos with socioemotional support and tips for families as a part of the “I Learn at Home” public education strategy, published on the Ministry of Education’s YouTube channel, getting a total of 3,120 video views.

### Funding (US$)

$1,535,000

Available against the total $3,500,000 required
Funding overview and partners
Since the launch of the HAC, the humanitarian needs and the original funding requirements of US$ 3,500,000 have changed and continue to do so every day. UNICEF estimates that its financial requirement will increase in relation to the March 2020 HAC appeal, and the revised figure will feed into the next Global HAC revision. In the meantime, UNICEF Peru has received generous donations from CERF, BPRM, DFID, SIDA, Orbia and COVID thematic funds, which have allowed for the timely implementation of immediate actions in UNICEF’s response plan.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy
UNICEF’s response strategy focuses on supporting the national and local health, education, social protection and child protection systems through policy development and capacity-building, drawing upon strong local partnerships and networks, especially for the most vulnerable populations, including indigenous communities in the Amazon and Venezuelan migrants settled in the northern districts of Lima. UNICEF works closely with PAHO, which leads the inter-agency engagement with the Ministry of Health (MoH), and, with the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF and PAHO coordinate engagement to provide a joint message. An inter-agency task force has also 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 National Humanitarian Network, the cluster coordination mechanism between Government, civil society organizations and the United Nations System 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 gaps and capacity analyses in case there is an activation requirement from the Government of Peru, following the network’s activation protocol.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response
Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
On 15 June, UNICEF started disseminating COVID-19 risk prevention messages in indigenous languages via eight radio stations in Loreto and Ucayali, in the Amazon, and Huancavelica, in the Andes. The series of radio shorts will run until 17 July. UNICEF also continued in-person delivery of safe hygiene messages in the indigenous Shipibo-Konibo language to targeted communities in Ucayali, reaching 1,455 people in the reporting period, and a total 4,595 people in 25 communities since the start of the pandemic.

UNICEF is in the process of establishing an MOU with the Peruvian Press Council to develop a campaign to promote behaviour changes to slow the spread of COVID-19. The campaign will be disseminated to the public via traditional media, social media and messaging platforms. Likewise, with the MoH, UNICEF is preparing a public campaign on maternal and newborn care during COVID-19, as well as information for specialized health practitioners to promote breastfeeding and prevent mother-to-child transmission.

In terms of community engagement, UNICEF hosted an intergenerational dialogue with 87 adolescents and 58 adults from Peru and Venezuela, discussing their roles as leaders and promoting community participation to protect children and adolescents from violence. UNICEF posted a video made by adolescents who participate in a UNICEF-supported community dance club, where they encourage friends to protect themselves from COVID-19.

Since the last report, UNICEF’s COVID-19 messages on Facebook had a reach of 653,905 impressions per post, 3,214 engagements per post, and 576,247 video views. The overall results since the start of the pandemic are 16,320,093 in reach, 418,730 in engagement, and 3,517,142 in video views.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
UNICEF is purchasing personal protective equipment for 213 operators in juvenile deprivation of liberty centres, which will cover a period of 3 months. The equipment includes protective eyewear, masks, gloves, and shoe and clothing covers. To date, 30 health personnel from these centres have received PPE. Since the last report, UNICEF distributed 215 hygiene kits in indigenous communities in Ucayali, reaching 1,455 people out of the 4,735 total (982 women, 946 men, 1,435 girls and 1,372 boys, including 63 and 77 migrant girls and boys from Venezuela).

UNICEF facilitated the donation of 42,100-liter water tanks for regions in southern Peru, which were donated by Orbia Foundation and will be implemented by ADRA Peru. Finally, together with the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation, UNICEF led 2 coordination and monitoring meetings of the WASH Sector Group, where members prioritized the regions of Piura, Puno, Loreto, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Ica, Ucayali, Pasco and Huánuco for intervention.
Continuity of health care for women and children

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health in the reopening and reactivation of growth and development monitoring sessions (CRED) at primary health care level. This support has included the development of scripts for 20 short videos to complement CRED’s counseling activities at national level. The videos contain messages on health, nutrition, development, socio-emotional support and early-warning/risk signs and will be used as part of the telemonitoring and remote monitoring system for families. Dissemination of the videos is expected in mid-July. Since the last report, and with UNICEF support, one prioritized health establishment reopened and benefitted 122 women and 525 children in Loreto. UNICEF has completed the implementation plan of the local ECD strategy to respond to COVID-19, with the objective of improving the access of pregnant women, newborns and children under two years to basic health and care services, including immunization, supplementation, prenatal controls and growth and development monitoring. It is expected to benefit 1,370 pregnant women and 2,450 children under two years of age in the peri-urban areas of Loreto. UNICEF is developing a programme to provide online and telephone counselling, risk-identification and mental health care for adolescents and their families, and communication materials for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in adolescents, using digital media an ICTs.

Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

UNICEF participated in the MoE’s internal revision with a team of validation experts to make the I Learn at Home strategy more inclusive, seeking to include elements to respond to families and students with special needs and diverse learning styles and rhythms. UNICEF continues providing technical support to the MoE to improve the distance education’s pedagogical model for the distance education focused on rural and indigenous boys and girls. To date, UNICEF’s technical support to the MoE has helped 130,165 children from rural areas with no connectivity access education sessions via radio, and direct accompaniment of teachers in their virtual pedagogy has benefitted 15,463 students (7,761 girls, 7,702 boys).

In Child Protection, UNICEF published three new videos in the MoE’s platform for its I Learn at Home public education strategy, with tips on harmonious coexistence at home, promoting good treatment within the family, and promoting healthy self-care strategies, getting 2,351 new video views out of the 3,120 total.

- Generating a warm and respectful environment at home
- Helping our children resolve conflicts
- How to educate without violence
- Tips on harmonious coexistence at home
- Promoting healthy self-care practices
- Promoting good treatment within the family

For alternative care of children, an SSFA document is being prepared with ADRA NGO for signatures this week and PCA with SOS Children’s Village to start implementation. Moreover, 145 UNICEF staff and consultants have completed training on GBV risk mitigation and referrals, out of the 215 previously reported.

Social protection

UNICEF selected HIAS as its implementing partner for the cash-transfer intervention for Venezuelan migrant households in two prioritized districts in northern Lima. This intervention includes an additional component related to COVID prevention, addressing the risk of violence against children, and promoting access to child protection and education services.

UNICEF is conducting a micro-simulation analysis to estimate the impact of COVID-19 on child poverty and inequality, as well as a set of key health, nutrition, and education indicators. This analysis will reinforce our advocacy efforts and policy dialogue aimed at strengthening a child-sensitive social protection system and its responsiveness in emergency scenarios.

At the sub-national level, UNICEF’s regional teams, jointly with local NGO’s, are advocating to make visible the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic on children and adolescents and promoting that the regional and local authorities put in place plans and budget to provide an integrated response to address socioeconomic challenges brought by the lockdown.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

To mark Father’s Day, UNICEF produced digital pieces on fathers on the frontlines of COVID-19, including a video of messages between fathers and their children, which had 52,800 video views. In terms of media engagement, during the reporting period, UNICEF generated 15 media mentions to highlight COVID-19’s impact on children, with US$26,594.38 in free press. With partners Acción Por Los Niños and the United Nations in Peru, UNICEF produced a guide for journalists reporting on children during the pandemic. The guide has been distributed to journalists and UN agencies.

Next SitRep: 30 June 2020

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