Peru is the second country in the region most affected by COVID-19 and has the fifth highest number of cases in the world, with 375,961 confirmed cases and 17,843 deaths, including 68 children and adolescents, as of 24 July. With a population of 32 million and only 1,527 ICU beds nationwide, the health system has struggled to cope with the pandemic.

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 in overcrowded living conditions with limited local support networks. The harsh economic impact and some discontent with the response led to a cabinet change on 15 July, including new Health, Social Protection, Housing and Sanitation, Production, and Labour ministers.

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

- Information and messages on COVID-19 posted on social media have had a reach of 16,559,476, and 420,295 engagements.
- Webinar promoting behavior changes among ECD service providers with the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion, obtaining 16,800 video views.
- Delivery of 4,540 hygiene kits benefitting 20,587 people, among them 18,666 people in 63 indigenous communities in the Amazon, 3,581 children and adolescents in residential care facilities and juvenile deprivation of liberty centres, and 140 Venezuelan migrants and refugees. In total, 5,601 girls and 6,714 boys benefitted from hygiene kits.
- COVID-19 prevention messages have been disseminated in indigenous communities in the Amazon, providing 16,866 people access to culturally relevant content in their native Shipibo-Konibo language.
- 145,628 children continue to access home-based education thanks to UNICEF pedagogic support to teachers and content developers.
- 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, have been viewed 7,286 times.
- High-level technical assistance to the education and sanitation sectors resulted in the approval of a school reopening protocol to ensure safe a return.
- Guidelines to ensure safe reopening of primary health services benefitted 134 women and 660 children (320 girls, 340 boys) who accessed two health establishments in Loreto and Huancavelica.
- Participation in interagency studies about the socioeconomic impact of COVID on children and migrants, in designing the UNS socioeconomic response to COVID, and generation of evidence on monetary child poverty and on the impact of the State’s intervention.

**Situation in Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th># cases</th>
<th>% total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PERU</td>
<td>258,213</td>
<td>68.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lima</td>
<td>185,156</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callao</td>
<td>20,333</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambayeque</td>
<td>16,256</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Libertad</td>
<td>13,897</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arequipa</td>
<td>11,703</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loreto</td>
<td>10,515</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ucayali</td>
<td>9,381</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Martín</td>
<td>7,411</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cajamarca</td>
<td>4,785</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumbes</td>
<td>3,937</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huancavelica</td>
<td>1,399</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 MoH, and, with the 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)
During the reporting period, UNICEF COVID-19 messages on Facebook had 239,437 impressions per post, 1,565 engagements per post, and 192,200 video views.

UNICEF worked to promote behaviours to keep children healthy and learning. With the Peruvian Press Council, UNICEF continued work on a behaviour change campaign to prevent the spread of the virus, set to launch in August with ads and roundtables of experts and representatives of the public and private sectors. With the MoE, UNICEF produced a series of “I Learn at Home” videos aimed at parents and adolescents, featuring UNICEF ambassadors, which were disseminated in national and sub-national media. In terms of adolescent engagement, UNICEF launched its TikTok account in Peru on 15 July, challenging youth to share skills learned during quarantine (#ComparteTuTalento). The challenge runs until International Youth Day on 12 August. During the reporting period, Camila, Lima, also represented Peru in a video with UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore on education and COVID-19.

In northern Lima, implementing partner Warmi Huasi continued sharing communication pieces aimed at preventing discrimination and promoting mutual care in four targeted communities of settled Venezuelan migrants. These posts included videos and messages from adolescents and community leaders and had an average 45,381 impressions and 1,583 engagements per post. UNICEF also held a webinar with the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion promoting behavior changes among ECD service providers, with an emphasis on children with disabilities. This webinar was based on a KAP study (Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice) and had a total reach of 19,468 as well as 16,800 video views. Finally, UNICEF designed communication pieces for indigenous communities in Loreto, adapted to their local context and customs, for COVID-19 prevention and care for COVID-positive children and adolescents, as well as orientations for community health workers. This work was carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Culture.

Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)
UNICEF distributed 2,204 hygiene kits that benefitted 3,581 children and adolescents (1123 female, 2458 male) in Residential Care Facilities and juvenile deprivation of liberty centres, as well as 9,866 people from indigenous communities in the Ucayali and Loreto regions of the Amazon. UNICEF continued distribution of hygiene kits in Ucayali, with 735 kits distributed during the reporting period in 10 indigenous communities that benefitted 7,795 people. In Loreto, distribution started last week, and 496 kits were distributed in 5 indigenous communities, benefitting 2,071 people.

With the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation (MVCS), UNICEF continue to co-lead the meetings of the WASH Sector Group. This month, the Group incorporated MVCS priorities into their Action Plan against COVID-19, and identified the populations most-in-need of WASH interventions in the prioritized regions.

Continuity of health care for women and children
From the first week of July, UNICEF and the MoH have been working together on a communication campaign entitled: “Your milk is the best choice, without hesitation, breastfeed!” aiming to improve the care of pregnant women and newborns within health services with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and to raise awareness of the importance of breastfeeding. The campaign will continue for two more weeks, and educational materials for families are also being prepared.

New guidelines for the provision of services by the Cuna Mas programme have been approved (RDE-383-2020-MIDIS). These guidelines establish the provision of services in the context of social distancing. UNICEF promoted technical exchange with the Uruguayan Family Support Program Crece Contigo and participated in technical meetings to review the guidelines.
UNICEF also continues to support the reactivation of ECD services in Loreto and Huancavelica, in collaboration with implementing partners Redsuma and Descocentro. Local plans to close gaps in the coverage of interventions for pregnant women, newborns and children under two years of age are being developed.

UNICEF is collaborating with the MoH on the “Afinidata” pilot, an interactive platform promoted by ECD colleagues in LACRO that will benefit 11,000 families with children under two who participate in growth and development monitoring sessions in selected health services in Ucayali and Huancavelica, and two districts of northern Lima. UNICEF also began the design of communication materials for adolescents and a strategy of adolescent peer educator leaders, both considering COVID-19 prevention and control.

Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services
UNICEF provided equipment to increase the reach of the ‘I Learn at Home’ education sessions broadcast in the Masisea district in Ucayali. On 24 June, the Ministry of Education approved the protocol for reopening schools, elaborated with UNICEF support. UNICEF also developed a proposal to increase connectivity in 3 regions to reach 74 rural communities and 4,990 students in urban areas, to be shared with potential donors in private sector. Furthermore, UNICEF, UNESCO, WB and IDB finished the strategic plan for reopening schools, which will be presented to the MoE next week and would reach 8.7M students.

During the reporting period, UNICEF videos in the MoE’s platform for its ‘I Learn at Home’ public education strategy had 4,266 new views out of the total 7,286. These videos will be shared on national radio, reaching a much wider audience. UNICEF is signing a PCA with Futbol Más organization, which will reach children in residential care centres and juvenile deprivation of liberty centres with psychosocial support activities. This is being implemented with the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations and the Ministry of Justice. UNICEF also provided food baskets for 106 children in foster families throughout the country. For the rest of 2020, two more provisions of food baskets are planned tentatively via implementing partner ADRA. A country action plan for PSEA is being designed, and several actions to contribute to this indicator should be rolled out in August.

In addition to the COVID-19 response, UNICEF is signing a PCA with Aldeas Infantiles SOS to strengthen the alternative care system via the design of a family-based alternative care model for the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations.

Social protection
UNICEF selected HIAS as implementing partner and increased the target to 400 families. The preliminary list of targeted families is being validated, while the complementary Education and Protection intervention is in the final stages of design. UNICEF participates in interagency studies about the socioeconomic impact of COVID on children and migrants, in designing the UNS socioeconomic response to COVID, and is generating evidence on monetary child poverty and on the impact of the State’s intervention.

Due to cabinet changes, UNICEF is opening political and technical dialogues with the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion to position the urgency of a social protection response to the increase in poverty, especially in urban areas and among children and adolescents. UNICEF has offered technical assistance to strengthen the social protection system, emphasizing the Ministry’s information and targeting systems, which have demonstrated bottlenecks in the implementation of various emergency subsidy packages.

Human Interest Stories and External Media
Through media engagement, UNICEF generated 93 media mentions during the reporting period to highlight COVID-19’s impact on children and advocate for a child-centred response, with almost US$182,000 in free press. There was significant media coverage of the breastfeeding campaign with the MoH, including a UNICEF Op-ed, and of the launch, with the MoE and UNESCO, of the Peru chapter of the Global Education Coalition for a new education focused on quality, inclusion, equity and innovation. The release of UNICEF’s report 120 Days of COVID-19, 120 Days of Action in Peru, which calls on the government, private sector and civil society to reimagine a new Peru for children, was also widely picked up by media. Additionally, a post-evaluation of UNICEF’s Mission Possible campaign, which ran in May, found that it reached 66 per cent of its target audience of adults aged 25 and over.

For more on COVID-19’s impact on children in Peru, as well as UNICEF’s response, see these stories and videos:

- In Peru’s Amazon, It Will Take More Than Soap And Water
- Delivery of hygiene kits to indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon
- Delivery of oxygen concentrators for indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon
- The challenge of virtual education
- Solidarity and care in confinement

Next SitRep: 31 August 2020
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