

COVID-19 first appeared in Peru on March 6th and by March 31st the government had announced that the start of the school year would be conducted using the government's remote-based learning strategy Aprendo en Casa. The CO immediately implemented a phased approach to support the MoE. The three phases of the approach are outlined below.

Phase I

In the first phase of the approach the initial response was intended to respond as quickly as possible to the crisis. It began with the start of the crisis and ran through the end of April. Two major actions categorize this Phase I of the response.

The first action was to prepare key PSS messages to be disseminated to families, students, and teachers. These messages provided helpful actions that individuals can take to support their own mental health. The second action was to support the MoE in implementing Aprendo en Casa. This strategy delivers education in three ways: internet, television, and radio. Content is available for pre-primary, primary, secondary, and special education students. In addition to core subjects, PSS messages and COVID-19 prevention messages are also disseminated using these channels.

Phase II

The second phase was designed to run from the beginning of May through the end of July. This phase was meant to deepen the CO response and strengthen actions that had already been taken.

The CO continues to work with the MoE during this phase by strengthening their educational response. A specific goal of the CO has been to reach vulnerable populations, which they have been successful in doing. For instance, they have developed specific guidance and materials specifically targeting secondary students in rural areas as well as providing technical assistance to develop radio program in order to reach other learners in rural areas. Additionally, the MoE has purchased 1.1 million tablets for students and teachers in rural areas and asked for UNICEF support with developing the pedagogical framework to implement this distance learning modality. Lastly, four UNICEF offices throughout the country have been working with local governments to develop monitoring frameworks and assisted in financial planning.

Phase III

The final phase of the response is set to run from the beginning of August and does not have an end date. The two activities in this phase both contribute to a return to learning.

The first activity has the CO working with the national and sub-national governments to develop strategic school reopening plans that take into account the safety considerations needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The second activity is centered around preventing mass drop-outs of students once schools reopen. 25% of secondary students have not been using the MoE's learning strategy Aprendo en Casa which makes them more prone to drop-out.

Taken together, all three phases are contributing to a robust and holistic response that has had many successes and paints a picture of an effective response to an evolving and dynamic crisis.



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