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## Highlights

Peru has one of the highest COVID-19 mortality rate in the world, with **1,561,723 confirmed cases** and **52,161 deaths**, of which 93,076 and 314 are children and adolescents, as of 31 March 2021. With a population of 32 million and less than 3,000 ICU beds available nationwide, the health system is struggling to cope with the situation.

In response to the pandemic, on 16 March 2020, the Government of Peru declared a national state of emergency, extended to 30 April 2021, closed borders and imposed a mandatory national quarantine, gradually lifted as of July. These actions have been complemented by various health regulations, a remote mass public education strategy entitled "Aprendo en Casa" ("I Learn at Home"), social protection measures and an economic stimulus package.

However, the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 have been devastating. By December 2020, 1.2 million children were pushed into poverty as Peru's GDP fell by 11%, the worst setback in 30 years. Due to the pandemic, 705,000 children interrupted their studies or are at risk of doing so.

In addition, Peru has the second largest population of Venezuelan migrants in the region, hosting 1.05 million of which over 190,000 are children and adolescents (GTRM). Since the COVID-19 outbreak, mandatory quarantine increased social, economic and physical vulnerability among incoming and settled Venezuelan families, and increased exposure to violence. Mostly in the informal labour market, migrant parents cannot access the national health system services nor social protection benefits, pushing them back to work and increasing risk of contagion, while overcrowded living conditions favour COVID-19 transmission.

The Government of Peru's focus on the immediate socioeconomic response is not conducive to addressing structural challenges of the social protection system (UNICEF, September 2020), which increases the risks faced by the most vulnerable, especially women and girls, families living in poverty or headed by self-employed workers, whose livelihoods have been impacted by the quarantine, as well as indigenous communities with limited access to health services, and migrants and displaced people in overcrowded living conditions with limited or inexistent local support networks.

Peru

## Migration & COVID-19 2021 Situation Report No. 1

unicef   
for every child

### Situation in Numbers

**1,561,723**



Laboratory-confirmed  
COVID-19 cases  
(MoH, 31 March 2021)

- **93,076**  
children and adolescents

**52,161**



COVID-19 deaths  
(MoH, 31 March 2021)

- **314**  
children and adolescents

**1.05 million**



Venezuelan migrants and  
refugees in the country

- **190,000**  
children and adolescents
- **89.6%**  
lack health insurance
- **47.1%**  
children and adolescents  
not attending classes

### Funding Requirement (US\$)

HAC 2021

**\$ 20,464,417**

Initial Vaccination Plan

**\$ 1,165,000**

## *(Highlights Cont...)*

UNICEF's response strategy focuses on helping ensure children's rights are fulfilled. Since the start of the emergency, main results include:

- Reach of 94.2 million in UNICEF's COVID-19 related messages on social media, as well as 425,853 engagements and 675,731 video views
- Ad campaign to promote UNICEF-supported mental health helpline reached an estimated 86,863 adolescents via TV and 35,802 via radio
- Migratory integration campaign entitled "Somos Geniales" (We're Awesome) had 83 digital pieces and a reach of 169,131 on social media
- 54,207 women and children received maternal, child and adolescent health services thanks to UNICEF's support in reactivating 33 primary health centres in prioritized regions
- 15,407 people benefitted from 4,171 hygiene kits delivered among 94 indigenous communities and to 171 migrant children on the move
- 77,685 views of YouTube psychosocial support videos elaborated with Ministry of Education
- 1,577 migrants settled in Northern Lima benefitted from cash transfers, including 300 girls, 384 boys, 516 women and 377 men (23 with disabilities, 12 pregnant and 116 lactating women, 37 seniors)

## Funding overview and partners

Since the launch of the 2021 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal, UNICEF Peru has received generous donations from Spanish Committee for UNICEF, USAID (OFDA), UNOCHA, USA (State) BPRM, Republic of Korea, Banco de Crédito del Perú, and SIDA– Sweden, 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. 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 organisations 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 gap and capacity analyses in case there is an activation requirement from the Government of Peru, following the network's activation protocol.

UNICEF and UNESCO co-lead the MoE-spearheaded Peru chapter of the "Global Coalition for Education", which aims to channel support and leverage funds to implement MoE's COVID-19 response strategy, and where UNICEF acts as an advocate for Venezuelan children as a group in particular vulnerability. Active participation continues in the Migrants and Refugees Working Group (GTRM), where it coordinates with other agencies, organisations and State entities in the Protection, Basic Needs, Social Integration, Information Management and Communication subgroups.

# Summary Analysis of Programme Response

## Health and Nutrition

UNICEF has continued to provide technical assistance for the reactivation of adolescent health services in the context of COVID-19 supporting the implementation of the guidelines approved in December 2020 that establish the basic package for comprehensive adolescent health care during the pandemic.

UNICEF has continued to work at local level in Loreto, Huancavelica and Northern Lima to reactivate early childhood development services, including prenatal control check-ups, growth and development monitoring sessions. Vulnerable families also receive educational material, hygiene and toy kits for new-born care and promotion of ECD. In Northern Lima, 335 vulnerable families with pregnant women, newborns and children under 2 years of age received home visits, of which 82 were migrants.

UNICEF's prioritized health establishments attended 54,207 women and children (27,668 women, 14,338 girls and 12,201 boys, including 765 migrants).

UNICEF has completed the implementation of a strategy to develop digital communication materials for and with adolescents in Northern Lima and Ucayali. The materials are focused on sexual and reproductive health, mental health and COVID-19 prevention. The strategy included training of health personnel to develop their own materials and the development of templates that can be updated and changed accordingly.

UNICEF is working with the national and subnational health authorities in Loreto and Ucayali to strengthen

the COVID-19 vaccination plans in indigenous communities, providing technical assistance for the development of the plans and supporting the coordination required to secure funding from subnational governments.

## Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies

In January 2021, UNICEF concluded the delivery of 4,000 family hygiene kits to families in 94 indigenous communities in the Loreto region, directly benefitting 15,276 people (approximately 6,126 women, 5,332 men, 1,914 girls and 1,904 boys). Family kits included alcohol-based hand gels and soaps, while community leaders received bleach and a box of masks. UNICEF also delivered 5,704 packages of sanitary towels to 2,852 women in 54 indigenous communities with a greater number of women of childbearing age and with waste management possibilities. The sanitary towels were accompanied by a banner on solid waste management.



Hygiene kits were also delivered to 171 migrant children and adolescents (74 female, 97 male) in the northern Peru-Ecuador border, where closed borders are forcing migrants to enter irregularly and face new challenges.

As co-leaders of the WASH table in the National Humanitarian Network, UNICEF presented the WASH actions carried out during 2020 and the challenges and plans for 2021. The WASH table also updated its information regarding participating organisations and representatives, and we participated in technical coordination meetings with the GRTM table/ basic needs subgroup, for the definition of a study on water provision and quality for migrant shelters.

¿Quieres hablar del COVID?  
**Ven con confianza** al Establecimiento de Salud  
y conversemos

Pregunta por el servicio de **SALUD INTEGRAL ADOLESCENTE**

Canada



## Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF's COVID-19 related messages on social media had a total reach of 94.2 million, as well as 425,853 engagements and 675,731 video views.

UNICEF ran an ad campaign to promote the new UNICEF-supported mental health helpline for adolescents, reaching an estimated 86,863 adolescents aged 12 to 17 years via TV and 35,802 via radio in four prioritized subnational regions. The webinar held to promote the line had a reach of 22,179 and more than 8,063 views on Facebook. The ad campaign resulted in a significant increase in the number of calls from adolescents. Wide media coverage of the helpline in the last week of February coincided with an increase in calls from stay-at-home mothers.

With the Ministry of Education and UNESCO, UNICEF co-presented a two-part international seminar on the challenges and opportunities in planning the return to classes. The first webinar had 2,713 views and the second webinar had 2,879 views on Facebook. UNICEF also co-presented, with the World Bank, a [webinar](#) to disseminate new research on the pandemic's impact on child well-being in Peru. The webinar had 4,845 views and the [publication](#) had over 15,000 web visits.

In a country where just 57 per cent of the population accepts COVID-19 vaccines ([Ipsos/El Comercio, March 2021](#)), UNICEF started to promote vaccine confidence, in partnership with PAHO and the UN in Peru, by sharing stories of vaccinated [older adults](#) expressing their joy, relief and hope.

“My heart is happy because this vaccine has given me more time to be with my family, and more time for my family to be with me. I long for the time when I can hug my grandchildren – that moment will be glorious.” – Artemio Baldocea Porras, 83 years old, after being vaccinated against [#COVID19](#)



# Education

UNICEF provided support in the promotion of regular and extraordinary enrollment to boost access of migrant and refugee children and adolescents to education services. Support included a communication campaign in the media, training for the promotion of extraordinary enrollment, and work with the interagency Refugees and Migrants Working Group (GTRM)'s Education Subgroup to articulate efforts .

## Sigamos aprendiendo

### Docentes nos comparten 5 buenas prácticas para una enseñanza más inclusiva

Como maestras y maestros, directoras y directivos, tenemos el reto de hacer nuestras prácticas cada día más inclusivas para lograr que las niñas, los niños y adolescentes que experimentan mayores desventajas logren aprender y participar en igualdad de oportunidades.

¡Este 2021, empieza tu año escolar realizando estas 5 buenas prácticas de educación inclusiva!

#### 1. Confía en las fortalezas de tus estudiantes

Identifica lo que sí saben y pueden hacer tus estudiantes, y toma esas fortalezas como punto de partida para seguir progresando. Bríndales ayuda, también a sus familias, para que puedan reconocer también esas capacidades y las valoren.

*"Hay que hacerles llegar la información según las características de ellos, utilizando imágenes, audio, videos cortitos."*  
(Loida Napa, I.E. 2051)

#### 2. Enseña que el error es una oportunidad de aprendizaje

La mejor manera de que tus estudiantes aprendan que el error es una oportunidad para mejorar, es que tú mismo las y los valores y alientes a perder el temor a equivocarse durante su aprendizaje.

*"Yo a diario tengo que hablarles, llamarles y estamos en comunicación permanente."*  
(Greisi Ríos, 64023 El Trébol)

#### 3. Acompaña continuamente a las familias

Sé empática o empático, muestra interés y brinda orientaciones para el acompañamiento desde casa. Considera diferentes formas de comunicarte con las familias: llamadas, mensajes de texto o videollamadas.

#### 4. Valora el progreso de aprendizaje de todos tus estudiantes

Ayuda a que tus estudiantes se planteen metas para su aprendizaje, monitorea cómo van lográndolas y aprecia sus progresos individuales, independientemente del progreso del grupo.

#### 5. Presenta la información con diversos formatos y recursos

Prepara tus materiales utilizando diversos formatos: con ilustraciones, esquemas o gráficos, audios, videos o texto, para que todos tus estudiantes accedan a la información. Explora tu creatividad.

Conoce más en:  
[www.sigamosaprendiendo.pe](http://www.sigamosaprendiendo.pe)

PERU Ministerio de Educación | BICENTENARIO PERÚ 2021 | UNICEF 75 años

\*Ilustraciones referenciales de mascarillas accesibles para personas sordas usuarias de lengua de señas peruana

UNICEF continued its work to prevent school desertion, delivering presentations to Education authorities and specialists about results and lessons learned from the Active Search pilot programme implemented in 60 targeted schools. UNICEF also provided technical support to the MoE in the initial design of a new Dropout Prevention and Recovery program, which was presented by the General Directorate of Decentralized Management (DIGEGED) to all regions and will be implemented with the return to classes. This new program has estimated the dropout rate between 2020 and 2021 and is designing strategies to work on prevention and reintegrate out-of-school students.

Together with the MoE's Directorate of Regular Basic Education (DIGBR) and Directorate of Special Education (DEBE), UNICEF promoted the enrollment of children with disabilities for the 2021 school year by disseminating messages and videos and supporting direct communication with the families. UNICEF also helped review the modification of the regulations of the General Education Law proposing changes to make education more inclusive in the country, and accompanied the MoE in several consultation meetings with civil society organizations and families of people with disabilities.

MoE's main concern for 2021 has been reopening schools. Through the Coalition for Education, UNICEF has promoted the involvement of civil society organizations, private companies, and international organizations in the process, by: providing technical opinion on the technical standard that establishes the procedures for gradual, safe, flexible and voluntary school reopenings, advocating for consultations with teachers and specialists, and contributing to the final draft; leading the group to support the territorial, decentralized strategy for MoE's Good Return of the School Year (BRAE) plan, actively participating in the Intersectoral Work Commissions in targeted districts; and supporting the MoE's communication strategy with UNICEF spokespersons, evidence-based arguments for progressive and safe reopening, and guidelines to help school principals and educational communities plan and carry out the school openings when the sanitary and biosafety conditions are appropriate.



## Child Protection

In coordination with Ministry of Justice and MIMP, UNICEF is implementing psychosocial activities for children and adolescents in residential care facilities and in juvenile detention centres. Support has already reached 1,553 adolescents in conflict with the law, whose wellbeing and psychosocial state have undergone a baseline evaluation; currently, the same is being done with children in residential care centers. In Tumbes, psychosocial kits and information on access to services were delivered to migrants and refugees, reaching 20 adult caregivers, 43 girls and 37 boys. Moreover, UNICEF's psychosocial support videos, elaborated with the MoE, had 77,685 video views.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the MoH, has been implementing a telephone counselling, risk-identification and mental health care service for adolescents and their families, including referral to mental health, child protection and other services as required. Between January and March, the telephone line has provided services to 708 people, of which 46% were adolescents. Of these adolescents, 43 per cent call the line more than once to receive a continuum of care, related mostly to anxiety, family problems and depression. 41 referrals have been made to different health and protection services. As part of this intervention, UNICEF is strengthening coordination between health establishments and Community Mental Health Centres (CMHC) in providing mental health care for adolescents and in the referral and counter referral process, through a training course for health professionals. This experience will be used by the MoH as a pilot to assess scalability.

UNICEF continues to support the MIMP's 1810 hotline to denounce cases of family violence. There was an increase in calls received during the month of March (715) compared to January (415) and February (417) for the line is increasingly known to the public. In parallel, UNICEF secured the donation from software company to support the updating of technological capacity of Línea 1810 call center to streamline call registry and management.

For promotion of family based alternative care, a total of 776 children in foster families received food basket during 2020. The initiative was part of wider strategy to promote rights of children to live in family environment and well received and appreciated by families and the MIMP. Although this component will not continue this year, UNICEF Peru is about to recruit foster families for unaccompanied migrant children in Tumbes. Also, an agreement was made between UNICEF and MIMP to support their initiative in creation of operational models for foster care system and case management respectively which includes costing of each programmatic component and securing respective cost by the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Due to the policy of Peruvian government to promote regularization of migration status, with UNICEF support, the National Migration Authority provided consultation, legal support and regularization services to a total of 6,298 children and their families in first 3 months of 2021. The trend is likely to accelerate as the revised Nationality law came into force in last March which clarified procedure for various avenues for regularizing migration status thereby making it more accessible for public.



## Social protection

During January 2021, the first ever cash transfer programme implemented by UNICEF Peru concluded, reaching 400 vulnerable migrant families with six monthly cash transfers of US\$217 and information on nutrition, COVID-19 and violence prevention, and access to education, health, protection and migration regularization services. 1,577 migrants benefitted from the programme, including 300 girls, 384 boys, 516 women and 377 men (23 with disabilities, 12 pregnant and 116 lactating women, 37 seniors). 48 beneficiaries received psychological support, 59 regularized their migratory status, and 84 out-of-school children enrolled in school. Moreover, there were 326 referrals to implementing partner HIAS' specialized services: 13 to GBV protection services, 65 to mental health support, and 204 to economic inclusion programmes. Beneficiaries found the communication materials useful and reported having put them into practice, specifically regarding prevention, protection and positive parenting practices.

This programme was especially relevant for migrants in times of COVID-19, as it articulated cash deliveries with protection, health and education services, including case identification, referral and monitoring of family trajectories. Many families used the cash primarily to cover rent debts, which prevented them from eviction during a critical pandemic; many others regularized their migratory status, enabling them to access the formal job market.

UNICEF presented its study "COVID-19: Impact of the fall in household income on children's health and education indicators in Peru - 2020-2021 Estimates". Results in child health and nutrition are devastating: between 2019 and 2020, anemia prevalence among children between 6 and 35 months could increase by 10.7 percentage points nationally, up to 15.5 in rural areas, and vaccination would decrease in 8.5 percentage points nationally, up to 12.9 in rural areas. Education would also be greatly affected: reading comprehension would reduce in 5 percentage points among second-grade students, while school dropouts would increase in 6.3 percentage points. The study identifies the geographic areas, departments and types of households most affected, and provides policy recommendations to face this situation.



## Communication for Development

UNICEF implemented the Somos Geniales (We're Awesome) digital campaign to spread COVID-19 prevention messages and promote integration among migrants and host communities in 4 targeted neighborhoods. The campaign included 83 digital pieces and had a reach of 169,131 on social media.

Briefings, workshops, informative sessions and intergenerational leader dialogues had 376 Peruvian and Venezuelan participants, including community leaders, parents, service operators, children and adolescents. Two C4D training workshops were also held for public servants in northern Lima.

After the activities Peruvian respondents showed promising results: 73% perceived equal treatment between Peruvians and Venezuelans; 64% said they do not observe discriminatory behavior towards Venezuelans; and 45% said they perceive Peruvians in their districts as having a positive attitude towards Venezuelans.

## Gender

Progress has been made with the commitment of the Aurora National Program to develop a 4-hour virtual course, aimed at professionals on line 100 and chat 100, to provide remote psychosocial assistance in cases of gender violence against children, girls and adolescents for mitigate risks, and respond to GBV according to the regional model promoted by UNICEF LACRO. We are in the process of selecting the training institution.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

In March, UNICEF generated 154 media mentions, with US\$ 255,695 in free press, to raise awareness of COVID-19's impact on children and advocate for a child-centred response. Highlights include 72 mentions related to the importance of reopening schools. To strengthen media coverage of the issue, UNICEF ran a series of workshops on the pandemic's impact on education of migrant children with 116 journalists from four major media outlets.

UNICEF also promoted vaccine equity through coverage of [COVAX's first shipment to Peru](#) and a [multimedia story](#), which had over 67,600 web-visits, on how the Government of Peru procured solar-powered freezers through UNICEF to help ensure the vaccines reach remote communities with limited power supply.

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

[In Peru, the sun helps vaccines keep their cool](#)

[In Peru, migrant families face the pandemic with the help of cash transfers](#)

[In the Peruvian Amazon, loudspeakers help keep indigenous children learning](#)

[Getting oxygen to the heart of the Amazon](#)

[In Peru's Amazon, It Will Take More Than Soap And Water](#)

[Solidarity and care in confinement in northern Lima](#)

[The challenge of virtual education in the Andes](#)

Videos: Delivery of kits for newborns and young children in [Lima](#) and the [Peruvian Amazon](#)

[Video: Delivery of hygiene kits to indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon](#)

[Video: Providing education and psychosocial support kits to students in northern Lima](#)

## Next SitRep: 30 May 2021

UNICEF Peru website: [www.unicef.org/peru](http://www.unicef.org/peru)

UNICEF Peru Facebook: [www.facebook.com/unicefperu](https://www.facebook.com/unicefperu)

UNICEF Global Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: [www.unicef.org/appeals/covid-2019.html](http://www.unicef.org/appeals/covid-2019.html)

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