

Peru

Update on the context and situation of children

The first quarter of 2023 began with a social conflict crisis, during which several emergency situations arose. According to the Ombudsman's Office, 49 civilians, of whom 11 were children, lost their lives in clashes with the armed forces and the police. National and international organizations have issued statements urging the government to uphold and respect the lives and human rights of citizens. Both the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued reports condemning the disproportionate, indiscriminate, and lethal use of force by the state. These reports also included recommendations on how the state should address the crisis, provide reparations, and attend to the victims of human rights violations, among other key points.

In 2023 alone, critical government sectors such as women and vulnerable populations, education, justice, the interior, and labour have witnessed an average of three ministerial rotations. Meanwhile, Peru's citizens are dealing with critical issues such as rising insecurity, economic decline, political instability, and corruption. Multiple organizations have raised concerns about democratic instability, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the separation of powers.

Peru also faced a climate emergency during the first quarter of 2023, which was triggered by Cyclone Yaku. This uncommon event resulted in overflows, floods and landslides affecting several areas. The northern regions were impacted the most. The National Institute of Civil Defense (INDECI) reported that over 164,000 individuals, including approximately 47,000 children and adolescents, were affected by the calamity. Due to the elevated likelihood of *El Niño* development in the central Pacific, Peru has been under a 'Coastal *El Niño* Alert' throughout 2023. It has been estimated that the effects of *El Niño* in Peru will peak at the end of 2023 or the beginning of 2024.

Peru has maintained one of the lowest inflation rates in Latin America. However, a transient increase to 5.9% took place in the first quarter of 2023. By the third quarter of 2023, the country had experienced a 1.0% year-on-year decrease in gross domestic product. This resulted in the government acknowledging a state of recession. The attributed causes include the same factors affecting inflation, coupled with weakened private consumption and a lack of investments.

In 2023, anaemia among children aged 6 to 35 months increased by 3.6 percentage points compared with 2021 from 38.8% to 42.4%. This issue is more pronounced in the poorest quintile, where the percentage reached 55.6%. Chronic malnutrition affects 11.7% of children under 5; in rural areas, this increases to 23.9%. The percentage of children under 12 months who have been immunized reached pre-pandemic levels in the first half of 2023 (76.5%). However, persistent gaps remain, particularly in rural areas (71.8%). Overweight and obesity impact 38.4% of children aged 6 to 13, and 24.8% of adolescents (UNICEF). Only 52% of the population has access to safe water with an adequate chlorine level. Additionally, 57% have improved sanitation facilities in their homes (WHO/UNICEF 2023).

In Peru, enrolment rates in primary and secondary education stand at 98.5% and 87.8%, respectively. This represents a slight increase overall during the past decade. However, completion rates at these educational levels are lower, at 90% and 79.8%, respectively. Notably, completion rates are especially lower among populations speaking Indigenous languages, those residing in rural areas, or those experiencing extreme poverty (National Household Survey). Only 12.7% of secondary school students satisfactorily solve mathematics problems, and results are significantly lower in rural areas (4.1%) and in the Amazonian department of Loreto (2.1%). In reading comprehension, 19.1% of secondary students demonstrate satisfactory achievement, but this figure drops to 5.4% in rural areas and is less

than 10% in almost all Amazonian regions (Student Sample Evaluation- Ministry of Education).

Gender-based violence remains a concerning issue impacting girls and adolescent women. Women's Emergency Centers in Peru responded to over 57,000 cases of violence against children and adolescents. Nearly 20,000 of these involved sexual violence, primarily targeting female adolescents. In the school environment, reported cases of violence reached 18,553 in 2023, marking the highest number recorded in the past decade (SISEVE virtual platform). UNICEF, in collaboration with other United Nations organizations, advocated before Peruvian government institutions to ensure the enforcement of the resolution of the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the rights of two adolescents, 'Camila' and 'Mila'. They were victims of sexual violence who became pregnant and did not receive proper attention from the state.

Among women aged 20 to 24, a total of 18.5% entered marriage before reaching the age of majority. Additionally, 9.2% of adolescents were pregnant or were already mothers in 2023. There is a striking disparity between the bottom (19.9%) and top (1.9%) wealth quintiles, as reported by the Continuous Demographic and Health Survey.

From 2021 to 2022, there was a 1.6 percentage point increase in monetary poverty, to 25.9%. This setback is attributed mainly to persistent inequalities, labour informality and low economic growth. However, in 2023 Peru made a significant advancement by declaring the official measurement of multidimensional poverty a national priority. The Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS) submitted a methodological proposal to the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI), which includes disaggregation to capture the situations of children.

It is estimated that over 1.5 million Venezuelans now reside in Peru, making it the country with the second-largest population of Venezuelan migrants. The demographic profile has undergone changes since the first national survey of the Venezuelan population in 2018. By 2022, the number of Venezuelan children and adolescents in Peru had risen from 18.7% in 2018 to 31.9%. In addition to immigration, 5.7% of births to Venezuelan migrants in 2022 occurred in Peru. These children form a group referred to as the second generation. In addition to the challenge of improving the migratory status of Venezuelan families, there is also a need to ensure their access to health, education and protection services.

Major contributions and drivers of results

In 2023, UNICEF Peru made concerted efforts to address the significant challenges faced by children and adolescents in the country. UNICEF has demonstrated a strong commitment to the well-being of young people, by navigating challenges and focusing on maximizing achievements. The main results are described below.

Goal Area 1: Every child survives and thrives

UNICEF's support for the Ministry of Health (MoH) to implement the 'Childhood First' (*Primero la Infancia*) policy has involved various interventions. A notable achievement has been the training of approximately 350 health professionals and educators in comprehensive care for child development.

In Northern Lima and Loreto, there has been a specific focus on early identification and intervention for developmental risks, including disabilities, in children under the age of 3. In Ucayali and Huancavelica, UNICEF played a critical role in developing multisectoral plans to combat malnutrition and anaemia and supporting the implementation of specific regional policies. UNICEF played a key role in the MoH Immunizations Committee, contributing to monthly meetings and presenting studies on coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination in the Amazon region. In Tumbes, UNICEF delivered 7,934 doses to children and pregnant women.

Furthermore, UNICEF has undertaken advocacy actions with Congress, engaging with the MoH and business groups to tackle critical issues such as anaemia, malnutrition and the labelling of food products. The focus on malnutrition within the context of the migration response in Tumbes and Lima Norte has played a catalysing role in formulating a directive for managing acute malnutrition in collaboration with the MoH. Currently, this directive is awaiting approval.

UNICEF assisted in evaluating teenage pregnancy prevention strategies and improving mental health services. Adolescent mental health care coverage increased from 6% to 8.3%. Over 290,000 adolescents received mental health care nationwide, particularly in Northern Lima and Ucayali. Collaborations with various ministries led to the development of a national mental health plan for educational institutions. UNICEF's involvement resulted in a joint plan between the MoH and the Ministry of Education (MoE) to implement a referral road map for mental health cases identified in schools.

A unique collaboration between UNICEF, the MoH, indigenous organizations and the Ucayali Regional Health Directorate is actively implementing a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy targeting Indigenous adolescents and pregnant women. This will benefit approximately 1,200 individuals. Through a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MoEF) and the MoH, UNICEF has conducted a study to assess the effectiveness of the teenage pregnancy programme. This study has subsequently informed the design of a new multisectoral approach to address this issue in Peru.

Goal Area 2: Every child learns

UNICEF supported the MoE to implement educational systems dedicated to serving children with disabilities in priority areas. Through the +Inclusion project, UNICEF developed an inclusive education model in schools, benefiting over 6,000 children, and providing support to 704 families and 35 civil society organizations. Additionally, under the Education Cannot Wait Multi-Year Resilience Programme (+Diversity), UNICEF worked towards the inclusion of migrant and refugee children. The capacities of 10,123 educators were enhanced to enable them to offer socio-emotional support to 139,342 students across 259 schools in Northern Lima, Southern Lima and Trujillo. The initiative also provided tools and resources to 26,618 vulnerable children and their families, ensuring their access to, and continuity in, the education system. In partnership with several organizations and teachers, UNICEF worked to maintain the progress made in intercultural bilingual education.

UNICEF promoted a secondary-level education model tailored for the adolescent stage, which aimed to ensure school completion. This model influenced regional education projects, and the development of guidelines and protocols. This has positively impacted 45,660 adolescents in prioritized regions. UNICEF initiated the transfer of the Secondary Education as a Life Experience (SEV) model to 19 subnational entities. This initiative has directly impacted 144 schools in prioritized regions, including Ucayali, Loreto, Huancavelica and Northern Lima.

Through the Connected to Learn programme, UNICEF introduced educational innovations. This led to the establishment of 33 innovation classrooms in 25 schools, and the development of digital competencies for 900 educators. This resulted in a positive impact on a total of 14,650 students in priority regions.

At the school level, UNICEF continued to offer technical assistance to management and teaching staff, placing a strong emphasis on adolescent participation and agency. In priority regions, a total of 420 schools and 199,697 students benefitted. In Huancavelica, collaborative efforts with the Regional Education Directorate led to the approval of guidelines for student participation. In Loreto, training programmes for adolescents were developed, which outlined scalability routes for the participation network. Concurrently, in Ucayali, the School of Leaders (*Escuela de Líderes*) training programme

was institutionalized, with the aim of strengthening adolescent participation. The institutionalization of the My Voice Matters Survey (*Mi Voz Importa*) in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP). This process has encompassed several participatory consultations, reaching 9,000 students in Northern Lima.

Goal Area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

In 2023, UNICEF continued to collaborate with the Peruvian government to prevent violence against children and adolescents. The organization supported the institutionalization of the school violence prevention model through close coordination with the technical staff of the MoE. This model was successfully implemented in 2,128 schools nationwide. A total of 1,300,000 students benefitted, and the total budget allocation was US\$ 12 million. In parallel, UNICEF conducted training sessions for 1,046 education sector professionals. For the first year of implementation, the MoE invested approximately US\$ 12 million from its budget in this initiative.

To safeguard the rights of children on the move, UNICEF continued its collaboration with the National Migration Authority (SNM) to regularize the migration status of children. In addition, a partnership was established with an implementing partner who offered supplementary support in legal orientation within communities and facilitated applications through an online platform. This joint effort resulted in 5,403 individuals receiving legal orientation. These individuals were subsequently processed by the SNM. As of 20 November 2023, a total of 2,142 children have successfully regularized their migration status. The direct support provided to the SNM has enabled 10,761 individuals to access specialized procedures for migratory regulation, particularly due to their vulnerable situations.

UNICEF played a key role in supporting the MIMP in designing and implementing an online massive open online course focused on specialized interventions for the protection of children and adolescents. This course was subsequently institutionalized as mandatory training for MIMP's child protection workforce, reaching 2,875 professionals nationwide. Additionally, UNICEF provided technical assistance to MIMP to help build a business case. This incorporated evidence generation and systematization to create the National Budgetary Programme for the Right to Live in a Family. The programme facilitates the sustainability of an intervention model to prevent the institutionalization of children and adolescents' and the promotion of family-based alternative care for children at risk or without parental care.

UNICEF provided a technical team to review and support the drafting of the new version of the National Policy for Adolescents at Risk and in Conflict with the Penal Law, which promotes preventive, restorative and specialized justice. UNICEF provided technical assistance to National Youth Centre Programme to scale up specialized instruments for adolescent sexual offenders in conflict with the law and for survivors of sexual violence.

Goal Area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

UNICEF played a critical role in enhancing water and sewage infrastructure in crucial childcare facilities, including schools and health centres in regions including Ucayali, Northern Lima and Tumbes. This involved providing training to 50 staff and local authorities and using water and sanitation for health facility improvement tool (WASH FIT) strategies for space improvement, hygiene and waste management. This strategy was implemented in 16 health-care facilities, and impacted 319,014 people in their jurisdictions.

Significant emphasis has been placed on upgrading water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) structures in schools (WINS) as part of the humanitarian and migration response framework in Tumbes, Piura and Lambayeque. The WINS strategy was implemented in 19 schools and benefitted 9,000 students. UNICEF played a critical role as the leader of the WASH cluster in these regions. In the context of development, efforts have been actively made in Ucayali. Here, UNICEF engaged in collaboration and advocacy efforts with the regional government for the Sustainable Total Sanitation and Hygiene

(SAHTOSO) strategy. Technical professionals from the regional government took part in a seminar focusing on the SAHTOSO methodology. The objective was to enhance community involvement in sanitation and hygiene practices in this region.

Furthermore, in Piura, Lambayeque and Tumbes, UNICEF helped secure safe water and sanitation for approximately 50,000 people. Additionally, 6,000 individuals in 18 schools have benefited from the distribution of water kits and hygiene kits (specifically for adolescent girls), and the provision of drinking water and facilities for showering and cleaning clothes.

UNICEF's efforts encompassed the rehabilitation of water and sewage systems and included the provision of chemical supplies for these systems. This effort has directly benefited over 30,000 families, especially during periods of flooding and the *El Niño* Southern Oscillation (ENSO). In addition, UNICEF conducted training sessions for 35 local authorities in the WASH FIT to empower them to assess conditions in seven health centres in Tumbes.

Goal Area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

In 2023, UNICEF offered technical assistance to the Peruvian State to formalize measurement of multidimensional poverty for individuals and children. This enables Peru to access new information to inform the design of comprehensive poverty reduction policies targeted at vulnerable populations. Moreover, INEI will be able to provide updated information on its website to monitor the progress of efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals that are related to children. The progress report and indicator analysis are currently under way and are expected to be delivered in the first quarter of 2024.

In relation to the social protection system, UNICEF engaged in dialogue with government officials and authorities, and involved national and international experts to develop a social protection agenda. Furthermore, to enhance the beneficiaries-focused programme, UNICEF funded the first pilot of a targeting assessment in the Carabayllo district. With this input, the MEF is financing a nationwide strategy to register 1.4 million households in the poorest districts. This will enable the targeting of social protection programmes to be refined, by refocusing coverage in urban areas.

In collaboration with five ministries and civil society organizations (through the Roundtable on Poverty Reduction [MCLCP]), UNICEF compiled a document for monitoring of public spending on children and adolescents in 2021 and 2022 at the national level; and for the years 2018–2022 at the subnational level with the governments in Loreto, Ucayali, Huancavelica and Carabayllo. Additionally, in terms of expenditure efficiency and effectiveness: An impact evaluation of the conditional cash transfer programme targeting early childhood has been conducted, the results aim to leverage greater budget allocations from the public treasury. Initial results of the new conditional cash transfer programme for high schools have been analysed, and these demonstrate positive effects on increasing school attendance. The evaluation of interventions to prevent teenage pregnancy has led to commitments from the MoH and the MoE to enhance the provision of sexual and reproductive health services, and the distribution of contraceptive methods.

UNICEF also provided technical assistance and support for the implementation of the MIDIS and the implementation at local level of the National Multisectoral Policy for Children and Adolescents. UNICEF, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other United Nations agencies, is providing technical assistance to achieve the approval of a care system law that aligns with child rights standards during the current legislative term.

Core Commitments for Children: Migration and humanitarian responses

In 2023, UNICEF's response to three national emergencies ensured the delivery of timely humanitarian aid for children. These were the violent social protests that took place in the south, the Venezuelan migrant crisis, and flooding caused by *El Niño* in the Piura and Lambayeque regions.

Child protection and monitoring of unaccompanied children were integrated at border points in Tacna, Desaguadero and Iñapari/Madre de Dios. In response to Cyclone Yaku in northern Peru, a multisectoral response was implemented through the Central Emergency Response Fund and organizational funds. The response focused on UNICEF sectors, with the aim of safeguarding children's rights. As a result, 72,000 people were reached thanks to UNICEF's allocation of US\$4.2 million for the migration response, US\$2.2 million for the response to Cyclone Yaku and US\$65,000 for the social crisis response. In addition, US\$200,000 was mobilized for preparedness. In order to buy supplies, strengthening public servant capacities at subnational level and providing technical assistance.

Child protection intervention resulted in a partnership with the MIMP and three non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This enabled a total of 8,746 children (Tumbes); 2,400 children; and 100 adult caregivers (Piura) to benefit from psychosocial care activities. Furthermore, 2,268 caregivers received positive parenting support in Tumbes. A total of 539 Venezuelan unaccompanied adolescents were identified in Tumbes. Of these, 240 received specialized support in Lima. UNICEF supported the SNM to process 54,946 applications for the regularization of children's migration status. Furthermore, 16,164 people were reached with legal orientation in regularization procedures; to date, 2,142 children have already obtained a foreign ID.

UNICEF's response during migration and flooding emergencies helped improve the provision of emergency nutrition and prevent acute malnutrition. Screening of 11,260 children and the subsequent arrangement of counselling and distribution of supplements illustrates UNICEF's proactive approach to nutrition in emergencies. Furthermore, as part of the emergency response, UNICEF delivered educational kits, and provided learning recovery sessions and socio-emotional support for more than 2,000 children directly. Indirectly, a further 25,000 were reached through emergency education training for school principals and teachers.

UNICEF designed and implemented two multipurpose cash transfer programmes as part of the humanitarian response to migration and Cyclone Yaku. UNICEF's response to Yaku amounted to US\$ 254,492 and benefited 284 households. The response to the migration crisis amounted to US\$ 348,080 and benefited 443 migrant households. These initiatives specifically targeted households with pregnant or breastfeeding women, and single-parent households led by women. The cash transfers were complemented by intersectoral coordinated messages to guide households in accessing available support services and humanitarian assistance. Additionally, the emergency preparedness plan, updated on the Emergency Preparedness Platform, involved purchasing supplies for a potential response to *El Niño*.

Cross-cutting approach and communication

Support was extended to initiate the first Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) strategies focusing on healthy eating in Northern Lima. An SBC strategy was also implemented for the prevention and control of HIV in adolescents and pregnant women in the Indigenous communities of Sepahua and Masisea (Ucayali). The strategies identified specific behaviours to be modified. With regards to emergencies, 15,893 individuals received emergency prevention messages and actively engaged in community activities. Furthermore, messages on migratory inclusion reached 561,104 people. Additionally, 4,312 individuals participated in accountability to affected populations as part of the emergency response to the Yaku and migration. A further 150 adult and adolescent leaders underwent training to enhance their community engagement.

Commitments to gender equality and the rights of adolescent girls were reinforced through a girl-centred approach. UNICEF facilitated opportunities for inclusion and advancement for 1,451 adolescent girls through empowerment programmes, life skills training, training in front-end web programming, employability skills training, entrepreneurship training and climate change development. The impact extended to 382,000 adolescent girls and reached 1.2 million people through

gender-transformative messages promoting girls' empowerment. A significant historical milestone was the approval by the Congress of the Republic of Peru of the prohibition of marriage of children under the age of 18. This received overwhelming support, with 103 votes in favour, 0 against and 3 abstentions. The UNICEF Peru Country Office played an active role in advocating for this measure, by engaging with various congressional commissions and participating in dialogue to emphasize the necessity of unanimous approval for this law. Advocacy efforts led the establishment of high-level multisectoral spaces to promote the empowerment of adolescent girls. This was spearheaded by the MIMP. In this context, UNICEF contributed to the formation of the first advisory group of adolescent women in one of the working groups of the Multisectoral Committee to support the Children Policy in the MIMP; this featured 25 leaders at the national level.

UNICEF advocated for children's rights and well-being, using several strategies, including the #CorresponsalesEscolares (#SchoolCorrespondent) initiative, which featured two editions. The second edition of the #QuitémonosLaVenda (#Letstakeoffthe blindfold) campaign against sexual violence was launched on #WorldChildhoodDay in alliance with Latina. The organization has effectively positioned children's rights in emergency contexts in the public agenda. For example, in response to Cyclone Yaku, it implemented a sustained campaign under the slogan "In emergency, #ChildrenFirst".

In response to the technical decision of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) regarding a girl who was raped and accused of having undergone an illegal abortion, UNICEF played a leading role in initiating a campaign to influence public opinion and conducting advocacy actions to restore her rights. The country office supported the visit to Peru of the CRC's vice president, to follow up on the recommendations outlined in the report.

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

Government institutions

UNICEF has worked in partnership with the executive branch of the Peruvian State with the ministries in the main social sectors. These include: MoH,; MoE,; MIMP,; MIDIS,; INEI, MoEF, Ministry; MEF; ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, National Migration Authority; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation,; INDECI,; National Centre for Estimation, Prevention and Reduction of Risk Disaster; Office of the President of the Council of Ministers,; National Council for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities,; National Council of Science, Technology and Technological Innovation, and Peru's Congress. UNICEF also worked with the regional governments of Loreto, Ucayali, Huancavelica and Tumbes, and the local government of Northern Lima.

Civil society organizations

UNICEF has established agreements with several international NGOs, such as RET, World Vision, CARE, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Cooperazione Internazionale, Fondazione L'Albero della Vita América, Internazionale Acción contra el Hambre, Ayuda en Acción, Plan International, and SOS International Children's Village. NGOs include Warmi Huasi, Asociación Benéfica Prisma, Alternativa, SODIS, IDES, Instituto Peruano de Educación en Derechos Humanos y la Paz, Centro Iberoamericano de Derechos de la Niñez, RED SUMA, Salud Sin Límites, Asociación Kallpa. UNICEF has also established agreements with academic institutions such as Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia; and think tanks, including IEP and ENACCION. UNICEF also has partnerships with the civil society mechanism to fight poverty and establish dialogue (Round Table for the Fight Against Poverty), and the Inter-institutional Group for Children's and Adolescents' Rights, whose mission and work are closely linked with the promotion of children's rights. UNICEF has alliances with social organizations to prevent sexual violence against children, such as the Catholic Church, Union of Evangelical Christian Churches-UNICEP, Tierra de Hombres, Sinfonía por el Perú, Caritas, Unión Venezolana en Perú, Quinta Ola, Chamas en Acción,

United Nations Organizations

In 2023, UNICEF continued its collaborative efforts with various United Nations agencies. This involved partnering with the World Food Programme to address acute malnutrition nationally and in priority territories. Furthermore, UNICEF collaborated with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to promote HIV prevention among adolescents and worked with the United Nations Population Fund in common areas. The organization also addressed education issues in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and engaged with the World Bank on learning initiatives.

Additionally, UNICEF worked alongside the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen migrant status, inform service beneficiaries, and listen to their voices. Cooperation with the Office of the Resident Coordinator, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, ILO, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the German Agency for International Cooperation, MESAGEN, and others focused on care systems and related matters.

Private sector

UNICEF established alliances with companies in the Business Advisory Council, including: Intercorp, Talma, Grupo RPP, BBVA, Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Peru, Aequales, SmartDoctor, Diners Club, Qroma, FabLab, Universidad del Pacífico, Kimberly Clark, CONFIEP, Diners Club, Telefónica del Perú, Credicorp., Clorox, Cencosud, Merck Sharp & Dohme. Other efforts include alliances with PedidosYa (migration interventions), Hombro a Hombro, and Peruanos por Peruanos (Peruvians for Peruvians) tax write-off for public works implemented by the private sector, ALAFARPE and CANATUR.

UNICEF continued mobilizing the private sector through the Child Business Council. Childhood anaemia continues to be a central topic in business conversations, with private initiatives such as Peruanos por Peruanos fostering collaborative endeavours. The Sustainable Development Goals Corporate Tracker was launched jointly with UNDP. It includes a special module for children and adolescents and is an innovative tool to measure the impact of businesses' activities on children's rights. As part of the Business and Community Resilience initiative, UNICEF Peru and INDECI signed a key agreement on emergency preparedness and response in 2023, and jointly developed the new official app, "Emergency Preparedness for Families".

During 2023, the country office exceeded its private fundraising goals; the total amount raised was US \$ 9.4 million, which was well above its established target of US\$ 8 million, and also the US\$ 6.2 million raised in 2022. This was possible thanks to a solid and diversified fundraising strategy to secure funds. The high-value channel reached the most significant agreement with a corporate partner in its history. Individual giving revenue grew by 6%, showing a higher attrition level than expected. This was possibly due to the unusual recession experienced by Peru this year.

Partnerships with the media

UNICEF formed alliances with the media to incorporate a rights-based approach and prioritize coverage of the situation and its impact on children's rights. Media organizations partnered with include: El Comercio, El Peruano, América TV, Latina, and Sociedad Nacional de Radio y Televisión, Radio Programas del Perú, Exitosa, ATV, ALAC, Corporación Universal, CRP.

UNICEF highlighted gender gaps affecting girls and adolescents through campaigns such as #DíaDeLaMujer (#Women'sDay), #MásChicasTec (Skill4Girls), #MásPoderAdolescente (empowerment and equality), including the DRD mission and Global Director Gender and specialist,

#DíaDeLaNiña (#Girl’sDay), and advocating for the law prohibiting child marriage. The organization has also addressed the situation of migrant children, combating stereotypes and xenophobia through the #SoyComoComoTú (#IAmJustLikeYou) and #ConMisDocumentosEnRegla (#WithMyDocumentsInOrder).

Donors

UNICEF received support from development partners, including contributions from the government of Canada and UNICEF National Committees (USA, Germany, and Spain), Zonta Foundation, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). For emergency projects, UNICEF also received funding from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, ECHO, the Republic of Korea, Canada, and Education Cannot Wait.

Migration

UNICEF was part of the Working Group for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, which involved 25 organizations, including the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and others. UNICEF co-chaired the health and nutrition subgroup, together with the MoH and the Pan American Health Organization, and continues to lead the education, WASH and child protection subgroups in prioritized areas.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Innovation

UNICEF’s timely and high-level technical support proved instrumental in navigating the challenges posed by the political context and the emergencies that occurred at the beginning of the year. UNICEF enlisted two national experts with well-established experience and advocacy skills to aid MIDIS in developing the methodology to measure multidimensional poverty. Additionally, the combination with UNICEF technical expertise at different levels (regional, HQ) and drawing on the experiences of other countries such as Mexico and Colombia helped establish an enabling environment that prompted the Peruvian government to prioritize the measurement of multidimensional poverty, starting in 2023.

The participation of technicians and authorities in events showing global and regional progress in social protection systems, care systems and in education has proven to be a potent advocacy tool for advancing specific topics. For instance, the organization of the event Dialogues: Towards the Construction of a Social Protection System in Peru resulted in the development of a strategic working agenda with the government.

In 2023, the office made strides to develop innovative products identified during a co-creation workshop in 2022, as part of the Business and Community Resilience initiative. An app was launched on 15 December 2023 to address the need for a disaster prevention culture in Peru. This app allows users to formulate their family’s emergency plan, connects family members, identifies safety zones in their homes, maintains a safety bag for each member and offers other functionalities.

Effective collaboration with local decision makers and a comprehensive understanding of the challenges related to obtaining up-to-date information played a vital role in enhancing the enrolment of the migrant population. The availability of accurate information proved crucial for authorities to make well-informed decisions. Similarly, in WASH, the experience gained highlights the significance of reinforcing local capacities as a key component for facility maintenance. This approach underscores the importance of incorporating community planning and collaboration as fundamental next steps in similar programmes in the future.

UNICEF launched initiatives to implement innovative approaches and methodologies aimed at enhancing competencies and socio-emotional development in schools. These efforts included fostering

collaborative work among teachers to improve the overall quality of teaching and learning. The promotion of project-based learning was emphasized, and this enabled activities to be designed around meaningful, real-world projects. This approach engaged students in exploration, research and practical problem-solving. Furthermore, efforts were made to strengthen digital competencies.

In the context of a protracted emergency such as the Venezuelan migration crisis, establishing a coordination forum became crucial to collectively advocate for the agenda alongside other United Nations agencies and donor organizations. This approach helped enhance collaboration between agencies, mitigated the risk of duplicated efforts and maximized the resources that each agency can contribute based on their comparative advantages and mandates.

On the communication front, UNICEF Peru has made significant strides by using new media platforms such as WhatsApp Channels and Threads. This expansion has facilitated the sharing of issues related to childhood, and the promotion of UNICEF's vision, in alignment with the CRC.

Lessons learned

While these achievements are significant, challenges remain in ensuring sustainability. This is especially true of emergency response and multisectoral coordination. Navigating bureaucratic processes for policy implementation and maintaining momentum for advocacy initiatives are ongoing challenges. However, these challenges also present opportunities for UNICEF to further innovate and strengthen its partnerships and strategies, and ensure continued progress in child and adolescent health and development in Peru.

The UNICEF Peru country office has successfully advised government institutions on impact evaluation using administrative data. This accomplishment has opened new avenues for collaboration with the Peruvian State, and facilitated the evaluation of public policies directed at children and adolescents. The key lesson learned from this experience is that, by training specialized staff, using administrative data, and engaging in ongoing dialogue with technical and government office leaders, it becomes feasible to generate solid evidence. This evidence provides valuable feedback on programme policies for vulnerable populations, including children and adolescents, and advocates for increased public social investment in their well-being.

Another key lesson learned is the identification of mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of the SEV initiative, at both the central and regional levels. Ensuring the budget for the transformation of secondary education requires the involvement of the MoEF and the planning committee of the MoE. Additionally, strategies involving the private sector, such as "Obras por impuesto", are crucial for long-term sustainability.

The country office has faced challenges in engaging children and adolescents, especially in difficult-to-access areas. Programmes such as Hatariy have proven instrumental in providing training and fostering transformation. Strategies to ensure the continuity and expansion of adolescent participation need to be put in place.

The number of donors was projected by the country office to be 37,000 by the end of the year. This is slightly below previous targets. This is a result of a combination of factors such as low productivity and significant attrition. From the initial goal to acquire 22,700 new donors, progress is estimated at 50% as of the end of October. These figures underscore an opportunity to enhance the quality of new donors entering the portfolio, thereby influencing monthly attrition rates. A specialized quality task force has been established to tackle this challenge, and a comprehensive plan outlining key short-, medium- and long-term actions has been designed to optimize results.

Despite the complex socioeconomic outlook, the Private Fundraising and Partnerships (UNICEF Division) team engaged with massive audiences, developed innovative pilots that resulted in both

brand positioning and revenue generation through pledges, and continued developing alliances with the private sector; this achieved record results.

In the realm of emergencies, Cyclone Yaku provided valuable lessons. Firstly, diversifying and seeking additional implementing partners across various territories, including those not initially prioritized in UNICEF's CPD implementation, strengthens our capacity for managing projects. Continuous efforts are needed to develop prepositioned Programme Divisions for a humanitarian response, and to build new partnerships and nurture existing ones. Training and enhancing the capacities of partners, particularly in adhering to a harmonized approach to cash transfer policies, are also crucial.