



UNICEF delivers handwashing stations in Santa Elena, Ecuador

Reporting Period: 1-30 September 2020

## UNICEF Ecuador

### COVID-19 Situation Report No. 8

unicef   
for every child

## Highlights

- **1,000 Dignity Kits** delivered to support women who have experienced gender-based violence. Dignity Kits contains reusable masks, hand sanitizer, underwear and sanitary pads.
- **35 portable handwashing stations** with 50 tanks of 500lts each, installed in 8 different cities.
- **240 nutritional supplement Plumpy Doz** provided to vulnerable children in Mount Sinai, Guayaquil.
- **780 teachers and student counselors** trained in psychosocial support that will benefit **17,600 children and adolescents**.
- **149,695 intercultural bilingual education guides** delivered to MoE benefiting children and adolescents from elementary to upper-middle school.
- **396 girls and 369 boys** benefited from the services provided in Child Friendly Spaces.
- **9,750 people** reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services.
- **1,250 uprooted families** provided with a CBI to buy essential hygiene supplies.

## Situation in Numbers

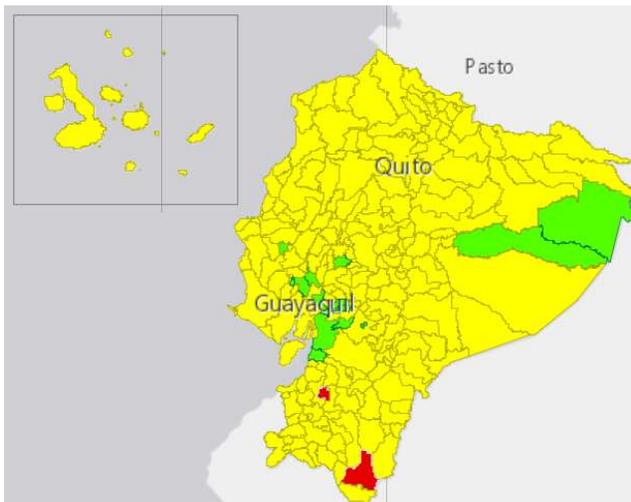
As of September 30:



Currently **137,047**  
Laboratory-confirmed  
COVID-19 cases, and  
**112,296** people recovered  
(National Infographic, MoH)



**7,546** COVID-19 deaths  
plus **3,809** probable deaths  
from COVID-19  
(National Infographic, MoH)



Source: Servicio Nacional de Gestión de Riesgos y Emergencias as of September 22, 2020

By September 13, the state of exception in Ecuador ended after 6 months of restrictions on freedom of movement and freedom of association and assembly, after a ruling from the Constitutional Court. The National Operations Emergency Committee (COE) decided to issue specific guidelines establishing that agencies and institutions of the Central Government and Municipalities must develop and implement regulations and public policies that address the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this sense, the “traffic light” system continues to be implemented to identify restrictive measures which now are on the hand of each Municipalities.

To date, 205 municipalities have moved from red to yellow light and 14 municipality to green light. 2 municipalities remain in red light.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF Ecuador is part of the Global HAC, which comprises the funding asks for all UNICEF COs. Ecuador appeal amounts to USD \$15,115,650. Part of this amount is destined to cash transfers for extreme vulnerable Venezuelan families who are not eligible for the various cash transfer schemes provided to Ecuadorian nationals.

Up to now, UNICEF has received a grant of USD \$250,000 from UK DFID for the COVID-19 response, which was used to acquire PPE supplies. In addition, USD \$190,000.00 from UK DFID funds were received to provide social protection measures to most vulnerable families. An additional USD \$100,000 were received from NYHQ (EMOPS CERF RR), and a grant of USD \$41,666 from UNAIDS UBRAF, which have been assigned to the Health programme. Additionally, USD \$350,000 has been received from United Nations Foundation (UNF) as part of the Solidarity Fund, for health activities. The Education programme received USD 514,000 from the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Programme and additional USD \$70,000 from Thematic Funds to support Ministry of Education emergency contingency plan.

Regarding WASH, to support WASH services in health centers and schools, \$665,000 USD were received as an ECHO top-up for the Resilient Communities project that is already under implementation in Ecuador. A fund of USD \$1.7M was received from USAID/OFDA for a combined WASH and Protection proposal. BPRM supported with USD \$1.8 million to integrate the COVID-19 response with the Venezuelan migration crisis, as well as an additional \$120,370 USD for WASH, which will be used to deliver CBI to Venezuelan families to provide them with WASH essential supplies. An additional contribution of \$730,000 USD was received from BPRM allocated for COVID-19 response in the country. It was also received USD \$81,768 USD Thematic Funds for WASH. UNICEF CO is also allocating USD \$279,000 of its regular programme to support Venezuelan families living in Ecuador to acquire hygiene items through collaborative measures with WFP.

In total, **USD \$2.7M has been reallocated from the regular programme** to attend the COVID-19 emergency.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The first confirmed COVID-19 case in Ecuador was identified on February 29th, and on March 11th the Ministry of Health declared a National Health Emergency through the Ministerial decree 00126-020. This triggered the activation of the national COE (Committee for Emergency Operations) on March 13th and therewith the installation of sectoral working groups (mesas) as established by the national emergency response framework. **As of the 30 of September, 137,047 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases were identified, and 112,296 people recovered. Additionally, there are 7,546 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, plus 3,809 deaths with COVID-19 as probable cause of death.**

**UNICEF is leading the WASH and Education clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility.** These coordination efforts directly support the National Government in the emergency response by identifying the most pressing needs and gaps while advocating for keeping children healthy, reaching every child with water, sanitation and hygiene, ensuring that every child keeps learning, protecting children from violence and supporting families to cover their needs and care for children. UNICEF is also actively participating in the Health, Logistics and Protection clusters.

UNICEF, together with UNESCO, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank, is part of a **Technical Advisory Committee** set up by the Minister of Education to advise her on continuity plans for education, that include, connectivity, ensuring WASH in schools and, eventually, orderly return to schools.

The work of UNICEF contributes to outbreak control and to mitigation of the collateral impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including of the risks to the continuity of essential social services for children, women and vulnerable populations. Through its interventions, UNICEF also aims to address the protection issues that are a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, youth and their care providers, especially for the most vulnerable.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

During September, UNICEF Ecuador continued to deliver Early Childhood Development content and published the article **“Toys for a lifetime”** in collaboration with UNICEF Paraguay to offer mothers, fathers and caregivers possible games ideas with materials easily found at home and thus stimulate the development of babies. This article contains 8 games and are being shared in September and will continue to do so in October. The publication of the mentioned article reached **28,485 people**. The publication can be found at <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/estimula-tu-beb%C3%A9-con-juguetes-para-toda-la-vida>

A complete photo essay (<https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/orbia-y-unicef-donan-lavabos-para-promover-el-lavado-de-manos-en-ecuador>) was launched in September to highlight the global agreement between UNICEF and Orbia and its representation in Ecuador, Plastigama Wavin. [A video](#) accompanied the photo essay where UNICEF emphasizes the importance on collaboration with the private sector to promote water and sanitation sustainability strategy. The video was published on September 22 and already reached **127,127 people**.

2 children stories were actively promoted in social media in the framework of the COVID19 emergency:

- **“Moni stays at home”** is a story to explain to children that in some cases staying at home is necessary to take care of others. The book contains different fun activities that can be done with the whole family or caregivers. **59,615 people** were reached in social media.
- **“Monita Pis Pis”** is a story about how love and understanding is the best way to cope with fear and stressful situations that children may experience because of the emergency caused by COVID-19. **60,520 people** were reached in social media.

In September, our social media networks launched a call to action for children, adolescents and young people from Ecuador to participate on the Regional Consultancy for Children’s Rights generating interactions with **60,520 people**.

As part of the humanitarian response to the COVID-19 emergency, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) together with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) delivered **1,000 Dignity Kits**, containing reusable masks, hand sanitizer, underwear and sanitary pads, to the Secretariat of Human Rights (SDH), with the aim of supporting women who have experienced gender-based violence and now live in shelters or are users of the Comprehensive Protection Service (SPI) throughout the country. <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/unfpa-y-unicef-entregaron-1000-kits-de-dignidad-para-mujeres-que-han-sufrido>

### Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

Since the beginning of the response, UNICEF has reached more than 500,000 people with interventions that include the delivery of chlorine to disinfect the water systems in urban and rural hospitals and other health care facilities, the delivery of water by tankers to vulnerable neighborhoods, personal protective equipment and hygiene kits. During September 2020, UNICEF installed the 35 handwashing stations with 50 tanks of 500lts through the company WAVIN as a result of the global agreement between UNICEF and Orbia. The stations are being distributed in eight cities in Ecuador and are being installed in high-turn locations such as markets, municipalities and health centres. These portable sinks will also be installed in different schools in the country so that children have access to hand washing when schools reopen.

Additionally, UNICEF distributed with the support of our implementing partners COOPI and ADRA, **900 E-coli tests, 1,282 Jerry Cans, 2.5 boxes of water disinfection tablets** intended for household water treatment in the provinces of Esmeraldas and Manabí. With these actions, **1,795 girls, 1,845 boys, 3,126 women** and **2,984 men** were reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services.

Continuing the partnership with WFP, UNICEF continues delivering a **cash transfer for WASH supplies to Venezuelan families**. This cash is included in the WFP cards to shop at supermarkets. This intervention has reached **1,250 households** during the month of September.

## Continuity of health care for women and children

UNICEF Ecuador continues supporting community-based surveillance of COVID-19 in the provinces of Imbabura, Guayas and Pichincha. In Guayaquil, this initiative has reached over **1,700 children**, pregnant women and teenagers, who have been supported in accessing essential health services in their communities. This month, implementing partner DYA signed an agreement with the Guayaquil municipality to strengthen efforts to prevent COVID-19 through the support of community contact-tracers. Moreover, DYA has also supported community nutrition interventions by conducting rapid nutritional assessments using the MUAC tape and providing nutritional supplement PlumpyDoz to over **240 vulnerable children** across Monte-Sinai in Guayaquil.

In Pichincha, UNICEF's health and nutrition staff actively participates from the health working group organized by the municipality of Quito, in this space UNICEF is supporting risk communication strategies as well as providing support to strengthen strategies to prevent COVID-19. In Pichincha, UNICEF supports the implementation of community-based surveillance systems through a MoU with the municipality and the MoH, and through this initiative over **250 medical students** have been trained in the prevention, control and management of COVID-19.

UNICEF, together with implementing partner Ecuadorian Society of Public Health signed a new agreement to implement community-based surveillance strategies and monitoring essential health services to improve the health situation of approximately **14,000 rural indigenous families** in key areas of Imbabura.

The health and nutrition programme has been supporting the development of edu-communicational material, and so far, **3 animated clips** on topics of health and nutrition and **over 24 TV segments** on early childhood development have been broadcasted nationally as part of the TV educational initiative "A-prender la Tele" supported by UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Finally, together with the MoH, UNICEF Ecuador has supported the illustration of **2 children stories** on the prevention of the COVID-19: [La liga cósmica de la salud vs los coronavirus](#) and on strategies to cope with grief and loss during COVID-19: [Duele](#).

## Continuation of education and access to child protection and GBV prevention services

As part of the **Education programme**, UNICEF continues to support the development and implementation of a learning platform for the emergency context and the design for distance learning strategy. UNICEF is also providing technical support to the MoE on the construction of the national framework for reopening schools. *Juntos aprendemos y nos cuidamos* is the **national plan for learning continuity, school retention and progressive use of school spaces**. UNICEF's technical assistance included not only the collaboration for the development of the framework but also the training to MoE core staff in charge of socializing the continuity education plan with the 9 zonal directions and with the 140 educational districts.

The **Education programme** conducted **1,600 telephone surveys** applied to teachers and student counselors to have a better understanding of their requirements, challenges and improvements opportunities proposed for learning continuity, school retention and to provide pedagogical and psychosocial support. This exercise allowed to identify that the main difficulty for learning continuity is the lack of connectivity and that the role of teachers in providing psychosocial support to the educational community has increased since the beginning of the pandemic.

UNICEF Ecuador concluded the design of the national telephone and online communication guide to provide psychosocial support to the educational community, and in collaboration with our implementing partner SURKUNA we concluded the training for **440 teachers**, **312 student counselors** and **inclusion staff** (DECEs and UDAls) and **29 authorities** of educational units. In total **780 teachers and student counselors** will be providing psychosocial support to **17,600 children and adolescents** and their families and when necessary they will be referring child protection cases to relevant bodies. The mentioned guide encompasses gender, disability, and intercultural approach. This action was possible thanks to the contribution of our donor ECW.

In line with the ECW activities, UNICEF supported the MoE in the development of a **Pedagogical Support Guide** for teachers, which includes adaptations for special education needs associated or not with a disability, in the COVID19 context, based on play and art activities. The Guide has 150 booklets for all levels of education, from pre-school to high school, that help teachers adapt curricular content to different special needs associated or not to disabilities. Each education level has 10 booklets that correspond to different curricular content or subjects (math, literature, history,

science). In October, a three-day teacher training will be held where teachers as well as DECEs and UDAs will be tutored on the use of the guide and the pedagogical support booklets.

With the support of the Danish government, **149,695 intercultural bilingual education guides** were delivered to the MoE to ensure the continuity of pertinent education to indigenous children in Ecuador. UNICEF is supporting IBE authorities for a timely delivery of the mentioned guides that will benefit almost **150,000 children and adolescents** from elementary (7 years) to upper-middle school (15 years).

Phase 2 of *A-prender La Tele*, the national educational program, concluded satisfactorily with a total production of **360 programmes** broadcasted in **160 national, local and regional channels**. Together, with the educational radio programmes transmitted daily in **25 community radios**, it is estimated that the audience reached is approximately **2 million people per month**. Thanks to the valuable contribution of BPRM funds, a third phase of *A-prender La Tele* will continue being one of the main strategies for educational continuity during the pandemic and will emphasize on aspects related to human mobility to reach migrant children and adolescents and host communities such as Guayaquil, Manta, Santo Domingo, Esmeraldas, Ibarra, Quito y Cuenca.

The **Child Protection programme**, continued to support children in **8 major cities** in Ecuador: **396 girls** and **369 boys** benefitted from the services provided by the Child Friendly Spaces run by HIAS. Regarding the protection of children and families on the move, counseling has been provided to girls and boys accessing special protection services emphasizing on COVID-19 prevention. Key messages that promote the prevention of violence in this population group are being socialized delivered as well, through our implementing partner HIAS.

As schools are closed due to COVID19, UNICEF continues supporting the efforts to prevent violence and to provide **comprehensive attention to violence cases**, especially on Gender Based Violence situations. In this sense, a new cooperation agreement was signed with Fundación Idea Dignidad for the dissemination of violence prevention material, non-violent practices and violence care routes for direct attention to cases, legal advice and psychosocial support in the provinces of Esmeraldas and Manabí. Community strengthening and violence prevention is also addressed in the provinces of Manabí, Sucumbíos and Esmeraldas thanks to generous contribution of USAID funding that allowed the signature of a new programme document with our new implementing partner Fundación Lunita Lunera. Both interventions will benefit directly more than **3,000 people**.

Actions related to **mental health and psychosocial support** for children, parents and primary caregivers continued in September thanks to the cooperation agreement with the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador both in the Quito and Manta campuses. The second guide of positive parenting "[Me voy a volver](#)" was released as a way to promote parental or caregiver behaviour based on the best interest of the child that is nurturing, empowering, non-violent and providing recognition and guidance which involves setting of boundaries to enable the full development of the child.

The **Social Inclusion programme** shared essential information with the IMF on the results of the study of the **micro-simulation on monetary and multidimensional poverty in households with children and adolescents**. Precisely, this information served as an input to endorse the new loan granted to Ecuador which includes a specific component for social protection allowing the expansion of coverage of social assistance programs and protecting vulnerable segments of the population.

The delivery of **cash transfers for migrant and refugee families** with children and adolescents continues, to cover basic needs and installation. UNICEF is currently implementing, together with partner HIAS, the pilot phase for the new CBI modality.

With regards to the **gender response**, winner projects from the initiative *Hackaton Hackea la Crisis Mujeres + Niñas* organized in April 2020 and supported by UNICEF Ecuador continued to be implemented to support women victims of GBV. The initiative called "**La receta de la vecina**" has finalized the designing and printing of the cookbook with "secret recipes" for survivors of domestic violence to discretely report abuse with GIZ, UNICEF, WFP and the Human Rights Secretariat. Printed copies have been delivered to HIAS for distribution. As a complement of the delivery of **Dignity Kits**, the initiative **No más Sangre** allowed to include message of relief and help through a secret code that circulates only in female circles, using sanitary pads.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

Since March 2020, UNICEF has published press releases and articles regarding UNICEF's response to the COVID:

1. Breastfeeding needs to continue, there is no evidence that COVID-19 is pass through breastmilk: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/la-lactancia-debe-continuar-no-hay-evidencia-de-que-el-covid-19-se-transmita-en>
2. UNICEF delivers life-saving supplies to the Government of Ecuador to support the emergency response: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/unicef-entrega-suministros-vitales-al-gobierno-de-ecuador-para-apoyar-la>
3. Education must continue during the health emergency, UNICEF and UNESCO says: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/la-educaci%C3%B3n-debe-continuar-durante-la-emergencia-sanitaria-afirman-unesco-y>
4. The Health Emergency threatens children and adolescents' learning: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/la-emergencia-sanitaria-supone-un-desaf%C3%ADo-para-el-aprendizaje-de-los-ni%C3%B1os>
5. COVID-19: How to ensure continues learning of children without internet access: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/covid-19-c%C3%B3mo-asegurar-el-aprendizaje-de-los-ni%C3%B1os-sin-acceso-internet>
6. How to guarantee children rights during COVID-19: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/c%C3%B3mo-garantizar-los-derechos-de-los-ni%C3%B1os-en-el-contexto-del-covid-19>
7. Photo Essay: supplies donation, key point in the response to COVID-19 Emergency: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/fotos-donaci%C3%B3n-de-suministros-punto-clave-en-la-respuesta-la-emergencia-por-covid-19>
8. Stories to talk about COVID-19 with children: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/cuentos-infantiles-para-hablar-de-covid-19-con-los-ni%C3%B1os>
9. Could mothers continue breastfeeding during COVID-19?: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/%C2%BFpueden-las-madres-dar-de-lactar-sus-beb%C3%A9s-en-tiempos-de-covid-19>
10. We must prevent the pandemic from COVID-19 from becoming a health crisis for children, says UNICEF: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/hay-que-evitar-que-la-pandemia-por-el-covid-19-se-convierta-en-una-crisis-de>
11. More UNICEF support arrives to Ecuador: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/covid-19-m%C3%A1s-ayuda-de-unicef-llega-ecuador>
12. Educational television programming kicks off: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/arranca-programaci%C3%B3n-educativa-en-televisi%C3%B3n>
13. How children imagine the world after the pandemic: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/los-ni%C3%B1os-cuentan-c%C3%B3mo-reimaginan-el-mundo-despu%C3%A9s-de-la-pandemia-por-covid-19>
14. How parents can build a protective environment at home: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/%C2%BFc%C3%B3mo-hacer-que-los-hogares-sean-espacios-seguros-para-los-ni%C3%B1os-y-ni%C3%B1as-durante-la>
15. WASH intervention in 15 neighborhoods of Esmeraldas, where UNICEF delivers safe water to 3,000 families: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/unicef-distribuye-agua-en-los-hogares-de-los-ni%C3%B1os-m%C3%A1s-vulnerables-en-esmeraldas>
16. UNFPA and UNICEF delivered 1,000 Dignity Kits for Women Who Have Experienced Gender-Based Violence: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/comunicados-prensa/unfpa-y-unicef-entregaron-1000-kits-de-dignidad-para-mujeres-que-han-sufrido>
17. ORBIA and UNICEF donate handwashing stations: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/orbia-y-unicef-donan-lavabos-para-promover-el-lavado-de-manos-en-ecuador>
18. DIY Toys for Baby Development <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/historias/estimula-tu-beb%C3%A9-con-juguetes-para-toda-la-vida>

UNICEF has also developed a series of videos:

1. COVID-19: launching of "A-prender la Tele", educational programs on TV for children: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4igFbJ8p4M&feature=youtu.be>
2. Can mothers breastfeed during COVID-19 emergency? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuJgQQ3xyso>
3. UNICEF's humanitarian help to Ecuador: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7\\_LZ17UvXs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7_LZ17UvXs)
4. Education during emergency is not the same as distance learning: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wvRMr3tpBA>
5. What can we do to ensure learning continuation if children do not have access to internet? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOSICwdwI9o>
6. More than 1 million supplies for health professionals!: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjtRZMJyKm0>

7. Karla Kanora, our GWA, reads the story "El Monito Burbuja aprende a combatir al coronavirus": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-f2RwOia5k>
8. Boys and girls need you in this TVC pandemic (15sec): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IETIHf0RniU>
9. ORBIA and UNICEF donate handwashing stations: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRWo9\\_u5VHc&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRWo9_u5VHc&feature=youtu.be)

## Next SitRep: 30 October 2020

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office: [www.unicef.org/lac](http://www.unicef.org/lac)

UNICEF Ecuador Office: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/>

UNICEF LAC Facebook: [www.facebook.com/uniceflac](http://www.facebook.com/uniceflac)

UNICEF Global Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/covid-2019.html>

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