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Reporting period: 16 March - 31 December 2020

Highlights

In 2020, Peru had the highest COVID-19 death rate in the region¹. By 31 December 2020, there were 1,017,199 confirmed cases and 37,724 deaths, including 69,585 and 223 children and adolescents, respectively. With a population of 32 million and less than 1,500 ICU beds 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 until 2021, closed borders until October 2020, and imposed a mandatory national quarantine that was gradually lifted. These actions have been complemented by various health regulations to ensure continuity of primary care, the “I Learn at Home” remote mass public education strategy, social protection measures and an economic stimulus package. Almost all schools in Peru remained closed throughout the entire 2020 school year, except for approximately 1,000 schools (1.6% of all schools) in October-November for 6 weeks.

The national political crisis in November, including an impeachment and massive protests resulted in three Presidents successions in one week. This contributed to instability during the pandemic and temporarily stopped significant government coordination efforts, including negotiations to secure vaccines.

UNICEF estimated that over 1.2 million new children and adolescents would fall into poverty by the end of 2020, over 500,000 in extreme poverty (UNICEF, October 2020). The ILO reported a 10.5 per cent fall in the average actual income over the last year and forecast 1.5 million jobs lost in 2020. The Central Reserve Bank of Peru calculated a 12.7 per cent GDP contraction. UNICEF also expects setbacks in anemia, stunting, vaccination, academic achievement and school completion in 2021 due to decreased incomes in households with children and adolescents.

This situation has increased the risks faced by the most vulnerable, especially women and girls, families living in poverty or headed by self-employed workers or single parents. Indigenous communities with limited access to health services are also affected, as well as migrants and displaced people in overcrowded living conditions with limited or inexistent local support networks.

Peru

COVID-19 End-of-year 2020 Situation Report No. 10

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for every child

Situation in Numbers



1,017,199
Laboratory-confirmed
COVID-19 cases
(MoH, 31 December 2020)



37,724
COVID-19 deaths
(MoH, 31 December 2020)



223
child deaths
(MoH, 31 December 2020)

	# cases	Mortality rate (%)
PERU	1,017,199	3.7
Lima City	417,526	3.65
Arequipa	48,405	3.37
Callao	43,504	4.55
Piura	42,862	5.2
La Libertad	37,462	6.62
Ica	32,121	5.59
Loreto	26,404	3.82
Cusco	25,475	2.09
Ucayali	20,555	1.92
Huancavelica	7,685	1.91

Funding
Requirement
HAC 2021
(US\$)

\$ 16,774,815

¹. Johns Hopkins University, 31 December 2020. <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data/mortality>

(Highlights Cont...)

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

- An estimated **26 million people reached** nation-wide through UNICEF-supported Ministry of Education (MoE) campaign "Education does not stop"
- **674,919 children** reached through distance-based learning with UNICEF support. **37,774 indigenous and rural students** received educational tablets
- Psychosocial support videos for children and families **viewed 211,087 times**
- **113,730 women and children** accessed UNICEF-supported essential health care services
- **38,559** children, adolescents and their families reached with hygiene kits and waste management information
- **34,838** people from indigenous communities in the Amazon reached with messages on COVID-19 prevention in their native tongues
- **1,930 families** received information on health, nutrition, COVID-19, child development, and activities promoting play and care through the Afinidata virtual platform
- At least **400 migrant families** with children or pregnant women (**1,569 people**) received monthly cash transfers
- **18,941,059 impressions** and **444,860 engagements** per post on social media related to COVID-19 prevention and attention
- Over **10,000 units of refrigeration equipment** purchased by the Government of Peru, facilitated by UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen



Funding overview and partners

For 2020, UNICEF estimated US\$ 3,500,000 funds required to cover the activities planned for the COVID-19 pandemic. Generous donations from CERF, PRM, DFID, SIDA, Republic of Korea, Orbia and Banco de Crédito del Perú helped reach US\$ 2,464,857, that is, 70% of the required budget, and thus allowed for the timely implementation of immediate actions in UNICEF's response plan.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF's 2020 response strategy focused on supporting the national and local health, education, social protection and child protection systems through policy development and capacity-building, drawing upon strong local partnerships and networks, especially for the most vulnerable populations, including indigenous communities in the Amazon and Venezuelan migrants settled in the northern districts of Lima. UNICEF worked closely with PAHO, which leads the inter-agency engagement with the Ministry of Health (MoH), and, with the MoE, UNICEF and PAHO coordinate engagement to provide a joint message. An inter-agency task force with WHO UNHCR, IOM, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF was set-up to review the UN system's preparedness to manage COVID-19. Each agency has been advised to update and test their business continuity plans. As part of a joint framework, agencies are sharing information on their activities and achievements.

Within the National Humanitarian Network, the cluster coordination mechanism between Government, civil society 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.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Throughout the pandemic, UNICEF leveraged partnerships with the media, public and private sectors to run high impact COVID-19 communication and advocacy campaigns that had 18.9 million in reach on Facebook, 15.5M multiplatform ads, and mobilized 9,500 people.

UNICEF partnered with ATV Group to raise awareness and \$150,000 for children affected by the pandemic. At no cost to UNICEF, the **#MissionPossible** campaign included a live television programme, 1,080 TV ads (US\$ 866,439 value) and 4.3 million digital ads. Among TV viewers, the campaign reached 66 per cent of adults and 57 per cent of children.



UNICEF also partnered with the Peruvian Press Council for the **#SigamosCuidándonos** (#LetsKeepSafe) campaign to reinforce COVID-19 prevention messages. The top-down strategy included webinars with experts, Op-Eds and 2.35 million ads on multiple platforms, amplified by 130 public and private institutions and influencers, resulting in 12.3 million in digital reach.

UNICEF reinforced the MoE's **#AprendoEnCasa** (#learnAtHome) campaign with national UNICEF ambassadors promoting distance learning, and the **#EducacionNoPara** (#EducationDoesNotStop) campaign to combat school dropout with stories of young people who have thrived through education. This campaign had a national TV reach of 40.8 per cent of adults and 26.8 per cent of adolescents.

With UNICEF's support, 9,500 children and families mobilized virtually through drawings, stories and videos around topics like COVID-19 prevention, education and mental health. The initiative, co-designed with adolescents, sought to **#ReimagineaBetterPeru** through an online petition, series of research webinars and 6.5 million digital and print ads, resulting in a digital reach of 9.2 million.

UNICEF issued **guides on COVID-19 for families** (adapted to Quechua and sign language), produced videos for separated parents and foster families, and released a guide for journalists on reporting on children during the pandemic.

1,569 Venezuelan migrants and refugees from received messages to facilitate access to services and strengthen COVID-19 prevention, as part of UNICEF Peru's first ever cash-based intervention. UNICEF also provided culturally-relevant information on COVID-19 prevention and care and proper use of hygiene equipment to 157 Amazonian indigenous communities in 5 native languages, reaching 34,838 people.

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

UNICEF delivered 8,488 hygiene kits to 38,559 people in a vulnerable situation, including 34,838 in 157 indigenous communities in the Amazon and 3581 children and adolescents in residential care facilities and juvenile deprivation of liberty centres. 11,196 girls and 12,059 boys were reached in total. Sanitary pads were included in kits delivered to indigenous communities, as well as information on pads waste disposal.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation co-led the WASH Sector Group with the active participation of 15 institutions, including the MoH and the National Sanitation Authority. As a result of the continued work and coordination, vulnerable regions of Peru were identified, a diagnosis of their WASH needs was elaborated, and a sectoral work plan was developed to address COVID-19. The Group coordinated the adoption of an app for online registration, data updating and sharing to facilitate availability of timely, public information related on the WASH COVID-19 response plan and engage potential donors. At the National Humanitarian Network, the WASH group also presented the progress achieved, upcoming challenges and next steps.

WASH (cont...)

UNICEF trained regional and local authorities in the subnational region of Huancavelica on the management of temporary shelters for families who were returning from other regions due to the pandemic. The training materials developed for this training were used to provide guidance to the management of transit returnees shelters in the Lima region.

Continuity of health care for women and children

113,730 women and children accessed essential health care services where UNICEF helped create the conditions to ensure that health personnel provide services in person as well as remote monitoring when necessary. 1930 families with children under two years of age received information on health, nutrition, COVID-19, child development, and activities promoting play and care using the UNICEF and the MoH chatbot platform (“Afinidata”) in 28 primary health care centres. The technology allowed health professionals to identify 668 children at risk and increased availability of care by 359%, saving 8,390 hours of health personnel’s time.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the MoH to guarantee safe national reopening of primary health services. This included technical guides for ECD, adolescent, and mental health services in the context of COVID-19, with an intercultural model for disperse indigenous communities. As a result, MoH’s national Office of Adolescence adopted UNICEF-proposed criteria for evaluating service reactivation conditions.

At the subnational level, the Health Directorate of Loreto approved the technical guide for protective and intercultural primary health care facilities, while the Regional Health Directorate of Huancavelica adopted and implemented



UNICEF’s checklist to identify needs and gaps in resources and equipment. Collaboration with the MoH continued to strengthen and reactivate services to prevent vertical transmission of HIV, reaching some of the populations most affected by COVID-19.

Support to the MoH included the design and dissemination of a distance counseling strategy and methodology named “[24 months with your baby... every day counts](#)” targeting families with children under two years in the 8,000 primary health care establishments nationwide. UNICEF also helped in the design of an education campaign for the dissemination of guidelines on the care of pregnant women and newborns, a dissemination plan with regional-local radio stations to reach indigenous communities with COVID-19 prevention messages, and campaigns to promote breastfeeding and early childhood care for children with disabilities.

UNICEF delivered 55 oxygen concentrators, PPE to 213 health operators in juvenile deprivation of liberty centres to cover a period of 3 months, and 700 protection and care kits for pregnant women and newborns and 1,500 toy kits to improve child-parent interactions through play and communication. The UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen, Denmark, supported the Government of Peru’s purchase of over 10,000 units of refrigeration equipment to enhance the cold chain system needed to transport and store vaccines across Peru vaccine delivery.

Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

UNICEF focused its strategy on providing high-level technical assistance to the MoE in the design, implementation and communication of its national distance-based education strategy, assisting in the development of pedagogic content for radio and tablets for secondary students in rural and disperse areas with a focus on intercultural and inclusive education. This includes the development of self-learning tools for seven indigenous groups, to be included in specialized applications for Amazonian and Andean students.

Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services (cont...)

UNICEF designed an active search programme to identify and monitor students at risk of dropping out in 60 schools in northern Lima, which was presented to the MoE to complement its national strategy to promote timely school completion. A school reopening protocol was also developed, in coordination with the MoE, the sanitation sector, UNESCO, the World Bank and the IDB to ensure a safe return to schools in 2021.

Coordination with local governments and education authorities facilitated MoE's delivery of 37,774 tablets for indigenous and rural students with low connectivity. UNICEF also trained teachers on digital tools, including strategies for areas of low connectivity and to continue dialogue with adolescent leaders, and increased the scope of measures to include the most marginalized students (with disabilities, indigenous, and those living in rural or vulnerable urban areas).

In Child Protection, videos with tips on home-based learning and psychosocial support were developed and shared on UNICEF and MoE platforms, which had 211,087 views. In coordination with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP), UNICEF trained residential care centre and detention facility caregivers on the psychosocial care model and resilience building to benefit 2400 children and adolescents. Together with the MoH, UNICEF began the implementation of an adolescent mental health telephone line in prioritized subnational regions.

With MIMP, UNICEF strengthened alternative care model through delivery of food baskets to foster families and a video on the right to live in a family, and financial and technical assistance for the implementation of a child violence hotline. UNICEF also produced a special reportage in a prominent newspaper in Peru to provoke changing the mindset of institutionalization as the first option for alternative care.

Social protection

UNICEF designed and implemented its first ever cash-based intervention in Peru to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 amongst Venezuelan migrant households, not covered by the government's social protection programmes. The cash was complemented with education, child protection and violence prevention information and assistance, and COVID-19 prevention messages. 5 monthly cash transfers were been carried out, benefitting 400 families, 1,569 people.

Beneficiaries that ranked as "high risk" (due to illness, violence, extreme poverty, out of school children, among others), were referred to health, child protection and education services, as well as to other support services provided directly by our implementing partner (regularization of migratory status assistance, economic inclusion actions, and mental health support).



UNICEF generated evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on children and adolescents to inform decision-making. Studies included a rapid assessment of the Government's response to the pandemic, an analysis of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on children and adolescents, and a micro-simulation analysis to estimate the impact of COVID-19 on child poverty (monetary), inequality, and a set of health, nutrition, and education indicators.

UNICEF supported the design of two out of twenty-four sub national government post-COVID19 Recovery Plans in Loreto and Huancavelica.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

During the pandemic, UNICEF generated 850 media mentions, including interviews with adolescents and UNICEF specialists, to highlight COVID-19's impact on children and advocate for a child-centred response, with almost US\$ 2.9 million in free press. In addition to media coverage, UNICEF wrote 12 Op-Eds, released the report '120 days of COVID-19, 120 days of action in Peru' and produced a range of multimedia packages that illustrated the pandemic's impact on the health, education and protection of children, particularly in indigenous and migrant communities.

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

[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: 28 February 2021

UNICEF Peru website: www.unicef.org/peru

UNICEF Peru Facebook: www.facebook.com/unicefperu

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

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