



unicef 
for every child

Protecting Peru's indigenous children in the time of COVID-19

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The challenge

COVID-19 has upended the lives of children, adolescents and their families. On 6 March 2020, Peru's first case was confirmed. As of 12 August, there are **498,555 confirmed cases** and **21,713 dead**, including 81 children and adolescents. ^a

In response to the pandemic, the Government of Peru declared a national state of emergency, closed borders and imposed a **mandatory national quarantine**, which started on 16 March and was extended to 30 June. While the government has adopted a range of social protection measures, many families have abruptly lost their livelihoods and are struggling to cover their basic needs.

The emergency affects everyone, but **indigenous people** in the Amazon **are particularly vulnerable**. They live in communities with high levels of poverty and historically limited investment in public services. Public information isn't always available in indigenous languages. Hand washing isn't so easy without safe water at home. Many local health centres have just one health worker and minimal intensive care capacity. With limited access to TV and internet, not all indigenous children can learn at home.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, José Francisco Cali Tzay, warns that "COVID-19 is devastating indigenous communities worldwide, and it's **not only about health**"^e. Peru must work to guarantee the rights of indigenous children and adolescents, including them in the COVID-19 response now and going forward.

IN PERU:

848,841

children and adolescents
grow up speaking
indigenous languages ^b

61%

of Amazonian indigenous
children live in poverty ^c

26%

of Amazonian indigenous
communities have access
to safe water ^d

10%

of Amazonian indigenous
communities have access
to Internet ^d

The goal



UNICEF aims to help keep indigenous children and adolescents in Peru healthy, protected and learning in the time of COVID-19.

UNICEF in action

We work with the government and partners at the national level, and have targeted interventions for indigenous people in Ucayali and Loreto.

We support the government's response for indigenous peoples

Highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on indigenous children and adolescents, we advocate for an equitable response. We provide support and technical assistance to the government to help prevent the spread of the virus in their communities and ensure children and adolescents have access to inclusive education at home.

We disseminate risk prevention messages

With the government, we have developed practical guides on COVID-19 for families in five indigenous languages and two regional forms of Spanish. The messages are being disseminated via radio, digital platforms and targeted in-person delivery.

We provide critical resources to communities

We have delivered oxygen concentrators to health centres and hygiene kits and messages to targeted communities in the Amazon. The kits include soap and hand sanitizer, as well as masks for those who distribute the supplies in the communities.



Our partners



National and sub-national governments

International cooperation, NGOs, academia, media, and the private sector



Children, adolescents and their families

Funding (US\$)

\$1,535,000

resources mobilized, including own resources, of the total **\$3,500,000** required

44%

NGO Non-governmental organization

Impact

Our actions aim to impact the lives of indigenous children and adolescents in targeted regions, as well as their peers across the country who will benefit from a more equitable response to COVID-19.

16,866

indigenous people reached with hygiene kits and messages

40

oxygen concentrators delivered to health centres in the Amazon

145,628

students in rural areas, including indigenous communities, access distance education

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