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Highlights

Peru is the country with the highest COVID-19 mortality rate in the world, is the second most affected in the region and has the sixth highest number of cases in the world, with **902,573 confirmed cases and 34,476 deaths**, including 167 children and adolescents, as of 31 October 2020. With a population of 32 million and only 1,526 ICU available 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 to 30 November 2020, closed borders until October, and imposed a mandatory national quarantine that has been gradually lifted as of July. These actions have been complemented by various health regulations, the “I Learn at Home” remote mass public education strategy, social protection measures and an economic stimulus package.

Nevertheless, the ILO reports a 10.5 per cent fall in the average actual income over the last year and predicts 1.5 million jobs lost by December, while the Central Reserve Bank of Peru predicts a 12.7 per cent GDP contraction for 2020. UNICEF also projects that more than 1.2 million new children and adolescents will fall into poverty by the end of 2020, over 500,000 in extreme poverty (UNICEF, October 2020).

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 whose livelihoods have been impacted by the quarantine, indigenous communities with limited access to health services, and migrants and displaced people in overcrowded living conditions with limited local support networks.

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

- **Psychosocial support and violence prevention videos** for the “I Learn at Home” remote public education strategy have been **viewed 187,130 times**.
- On UNICEF social media, information and messages on COVID-19 have had a **reach of 17,676,495** and 432,547 engagements.
- UNICEF-supported “I learn at home” TV ads reached **409,063 people** in two Amazonian regions, and 221,000 in other regions.
- **Hygiene kits reached 38,559 people**, including 23,255 children and adolescents.

Peru

COVID-19 Situation Report No. 8

unicef 
for every child

Situation in Numbers



902,503

Laboratory-confirmed
COVID-19 cases
(MoH, 31 October)



34,476

COVID-19 deaths
(MoH, 31 October)



167

child deaths
(MoH, 31 October)

	# cases	Mortality rate (%)
PERU	897,594	3.83
Lima City	375,492	3.73
Arequipa	44,506	3.26
Piura	38,226	4.97
Callao	36,991	4.97
La Libertad	32,615	7.02
Lima Region	20,411	4.75
Ica	29,597	5.65
Lambayeque	28,578	6.21
Ancash	26,019	5.23
Cusco	22,304	2.07
Loreto	21,969	4.42
Ucayali	17,753	1.90

Funding (US\$)

\$ 1,919,310

Available against the
total **\$3,500,000** required

55%

(Highlights Cont...)

- **Primary health service reopening** supported by UNICEF benefitted 10,656 women, 6,906 girls and 9,529 boys, including 411 migrants.
- **1,548 migrants** benefitted from two monthly payments of cash transfer, and messages on COVID-19, mental health, breastfeeding, access to services..
- **853 children who lost parental care** during COVID-19 are being taken care of by foster families.
- Strengthening of Ministry of Education (MoE)'s **school dropout prevention strategy** "La educación no para") and **school completion strategy** "Somos Promo 2020".

Funding overview and partners

Since the launch of the 2020 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal, the humanitarian needs and the original funding requirements of US\$ 3,500,000 are constantly changing. UNICEF estimates that its financial requirement will increase in relation to the March 2020 HAC appeal, and the revised figure will feed into the next Global HAC revision. In the meantime, UNICEF Peru has received generous donations from CERF, PRM, DFID, SIDA, Republic of Korea and Orbia, 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 settled in the northern districts of Lima. UNICEF works 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 Nacional 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.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

In October 2020, UNICEF's messages on Facebook had 364,748 impressions per post, 2,161 engagements per post and 48,483 video views.

UNICEF co-designed a media campaign entitled "[Stand up and raise your hand](#)" with a diverse group of adolescents to highlight COVID-19's impact on young people in Peru and reimagine their future. The campaign includes an [online petition](#) and [a series of webinars](#) focused on adolescence, in partnership with La República national newspaper.

To complement MoE's #LaEducaciónNoPara ("Education does not stop") campaign, UNICEF produced and broadcast [videos](#) with stories from youth on the positive impact of education, as well as a [video message](#) from young actress and singer Isabela Merced, encouraging youth to stay in school. UNICEF-supported "I learn at home" TV ads broadcast in August and September reached an estimated 409,063 people in two Amazonian regions via ATV and 221,000 people nationally via TV Peru.

(RCCE Cont...)

As part of its community engagement and migrant integration strategy in 4 selected neighbourhoods, 267 Peruvian and migrant adolescent and adult leaders came together in workshops on COVID-19 prevention, social integration and solidarity for Venezuelan families. Participants produced key messages, shared in [banners](#) on UNICEF social media, with a reach of 10,645.

In UNICEF's monitoring of the Communication for Development strategy in Amazonian Communities, community leaders expressed the usefulness of prevention messages and the convenience of using their native tongues. Leaders proposed to receive more information about pandemic, especially for children and adolescents, so UNICEF designed more banners on the use of hygiene products and prevention practices. To date, 148 indigenous communities receive COVID-19 communication materials in Amazonian districts.



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

UNICEF distributed 805 hygiene kits including COVID-19 prevention key messages in indigenous communities in Loreto, benefitting 3,021 people, including 1,574 children.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation continue to lead the WASH Sector Group meetings, engaging potential donors that could support sectoral implementation activities. UNICEF participated in an analysis of the sanitation sector's response to the pandemic, including lessons learned and remaining challenges for the WASH sector. UNICEF also participated in the approval of the protocol to restore sanitation services in Lima in the event of a major earthquake, identifying actions and responsibilities with local governments, the Lima Regional Government and sanitation service providers.

Continuity of health care for women and children

UNICEF developed a checklist to reopen prioritised health establishments and reactivate the services. The Regional Health Directorate of Huancavelica has implemented the checklist in all their 403 primary health care centres. This is helping identify needs and gaps in resources and equipment.

As part of the health and ECD service reactivation, UNICEF assisted targeted health establishments through training and strengthening the monitoring of pregnant women and children at risk. Health establishments in Loreto were outfitted to provide health services to pregnant women and children meeting the COVID-19 requirements. As a result, care in these health establishments increased by 30% between July and September 2020, reaching over 1,000 children and pregnant women, while in the rural district of Acoria in Huancavelica, immunisation and iron supplementation coverage benefitted approximately 480 children under 3 years of age.

UNICEF and MoE jointly compiled UNICEF audiovisual materials from Latin America on the "Rights of the Child and COVID-19" to strengthen the ECD component of the "Aprendo en Casa" national distance learning strategy. On 20 October, UNICEF co-hosted with MoH and the German International Cooperation Society a webinar entitled "Telehealth in comprehensive care services for girls and boys during COVID-19". Colombia, Kyrgyzstan and Peru shared their experiences on the use of telemedicine to strengthen the health system, especially for children and their families.

UNICEF continues working with the MoH to reactivate and strengthen services to prevent vertical transmission of HIV in the context of COVID-19, including monitoring of maternal services in Amazon regions, designing and implementing a virtual course on "Prevention and management of mother-to-child transmission of syphilis, HIV and Hepatitis B".

Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

The distribution of tablets with relevant content for indigenous and rural students began in October. UNICEF is developing self-learning tools for students of seven different indigenous groups to ensure distance learning. These tools will be included in specialised apps for Amazonian and Andean students.

UNICEF continues its active search strategy to find at-risk students and prevent dropouts in 60 targeted schools. The strategy is being modeled for scale-up and is being linked to the national early warning system as part of UNICEF backing of the national dropout prevention strategy "La educación no para". UNICEF and MoE co-designed school completion strategy "Somos Promo 2020", including materials for teachers and students. In coordination with the MoE, UNICEF and key allies are carrying out an open dialogue to mobilize public opinion to endorse safe school reopening conditions.

As of 30 September, an additional 853 children who lost parental care during COVID-19 are being cared for by foster families. Due to a significant increase in number of children in family based alternative care, UNICEF is negotiating with the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP in Spanish) for a second phase of food basket delivery for these families. A promotional video was also produced on the rights to live in a family.

Thanks to UNICEF's support to MIMP's #1810 hotline, 1099 calls were registered between July and September. Of 991 cases of child protection, 209 were of neglect and inappropriate childcare, and 98 were of physical violence. Over 400 cases referred to special protection units in regions and 512 to other specialised services.

Videos with tips and messages on psychosocial support were viewed 17,117 times during October in UNICEF's and MoE's YouTube channels, reaching a total of 187,130 views. Psychosocial support in juvenile deprivation of liberty centres will start in November, as well as a hotline for adolescent mental health.

Social protection

The second monthly tranche of cash transfers was completed during October. Of the 400 households evaluated for risk and vulnerability, 20 were identified as "high risk" mainly due to poverty, school unattendance, physical and mental disease and irregular migration status.

186 children and adolescents were not attending remote education services and were referred to the local authorities (UGEL), who are approaching families to find alternatives for their children to access to remote school. As for October 10, 33 of them were already enrolled and attending "Aprendo en casa", whereas UGEL keeps looking for school spaces for the rest of the children.

Since the beginning of the intervention, the 400 households have received digital messages every week on COVID-19 prevention, breastfeeding, access to services, violence prevention and mental health, among others.



UNICEF presented its study on the projected effects of COVID-19 on monetary child poverty and inequality in Peru, finding that child poverty will increase 10 points to 39.9 per cent in 2020. This means more than 1.2 million new children and adolescents will fall into poverty (over 500,000 in extreme poverty), with harsher effects in rural areas, and a considerable increase among people under 18 years of age in Lima and urban coastal areas.

The socioeconomic impact of COVID in targeted regions (Huancavelica, Loreto, Ucayali and Northern Lima) is being monitored and reported regularly, with emphasis on households with children and adolescents. Field teams are advocating with government counterparts and civil society organizations to prioritise children and adolescents within the subnational social protection and economic recovery measures designed and implemented so far.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF generated 72 media mentions during October to highlight COVID-19's impact on children and advocate for a child-centred response, with almost US\$ 179,000 in free press. Highlights included Op-eds by UNICEF Representative in Peru on the importance of [reopening schools](#) and [reimagining education](#), as well as a joint Op-ed with the World Bank on [letting children and youth go outside safely](#) during the pandemic. The [webinar](#) presenting UNICEF's study on COVID-19's impact on child poverty and inequality had 10,307 views.

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

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

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

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

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

[Video: Delivery of oxygen concentrators for indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon](#)

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

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

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

Next SitRep: 30 November 2020

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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