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Highlights

Peru has the third highest COVID-19 mortality rate in the world¹, with **967,075 confirmed cases** and **36,076 deaths**, including 195 children and adolescents, as of 2 December 2020. With a population of 32 million and only 1,436 ICU beds available 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 7 March 2021, 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. To date, close to 700 rural schools out of the total of 82,000 public schools nation-wide (including ECD centres) have opened through a specific regulation passed on October 2020.

During November, a national political crisis including impeachments and massive protests resulted three Presidents in one week, contributing to instability during the pandemic and temporarily paralyzing coordination efforts.

Meanwhile, 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 the end of 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 or headed by self-employed workers, whose livelihoods have been impacted by the quarantine, as well as indigenous communities with limited access to health services, and migrants and displaced people in overcrowded living conditions with limited or inexistent local support networks.

Peru

COVID-19 Situation Report No. 9

unicef 
for every child

Situation in Numbers



967,075

Laboratory-confirmed
COVID-19 cases
(MoH, 2 December)



36,076

COVID-19 deaths
(MoH, 2 December)



195

child deaths
(MoH, 2 December)

	# cases	Mortality rate (%)
PERU	967,075	3.73
Lima City	399,218	3.68
Arequipa	46,477	3.31
Piura	41,047	5.15
Callao	41,027	4.65
La Libertad	35,587	6.68
Ica	31,010	5.58
Ancash	28,848	4.95
Loreto	24,744	4.00
Ucayali	19,495	1.90
Huancavelica	7,685	1.73

Funding (US\$)

\$ 2,464,857

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

70%

¹. Johns Hopkins University, 3 December 2020. <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data/mortality>

(Highlights Cont...)

UNICEF's response strategy focuses 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", which ran during October
- **18,652,339 impressions** and **444,337 engagements** per post on social media² related to COVID-19 prevention and attention
- **Documentation of the Communication for Development (C4D) strategy** for COVID-19 prevention, including work with indigenous communities.
- New round of **hygiene kit delivery, including sanitary napkins**, and messages on COVID-19 prevention and waste management for 19 indigenous communities
- **66,443 women and children** accessed UNICEF-supported essential health care services
- **37,774 indigenous and rural students** received educational tablets
- Delivery of fourth **cash transfer to 400 migrant families (around 1,570 people)**, including 124 pregnant and lactating women
- **700 families** received information on health, nutrition, COVID-19, child development, and activities promoting play and care through the Afinidata virtual platform
- **78 out-of-school migrant children, whose families participate in the cash transfer programme, are now enrolled** and attending public school services

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, Orbia and Banco de Crédito del Perú, 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 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)

26 million people nation-wide were reached by messages aiming to create awareness on the gravity of dropping out of school, and to place the issue in the public agenda through the UNICEF-supported MoE campaign #LaEducaciónNoPara (“Education does not stop”).

UNICEF's campaign to ["#Reimagine a better Peru for every adolescent"](#) post-COVID-19, co-designed with a diverse group of adolescents, has had a digital reach of 9.2 million. In traditional media, campaign ads reached over 410,00 in targeted territories. The [campaign petition](#), co-designed with adolescents who included their demands for better connectivity for distance learning, has 7,130 signatures as of 23 November.

1,570 Venezuelan migrants and refugees from 400 families received messages to facilitate access to services and strengthen COVID-19 prevention, as part of UNICEF Peru's first ever cash-based intervention. Finally, during November 2020, UNICEF's messages on Facebook had 975,843 impressions per post, 11,790 engagements per post and 148,677 video views.

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

A new round of hygiene kit deliveries to 19 indigenous communities began in November, including sanitary napkins for approximately 2,800 women. This complements the informational banners and messages disseminated in the same communities, in Spanish and in their native tongues.

At the same time, the national WASH roundtable is coordinating the adoption of an app for online registration, updating and sharing of the COVID-19 action plan, meeting minutes and requirements. This app will facilitate availability of timely, public information related on the WASH COVID-19 response plan.



Strengthening handwashing practices among children in indigenous communities in the Amazon
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Continuity of health care for women and children

66,443 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.

700 families with children under two years are receiving information on health, nutrition, COVID-19, child development, and activities promoting play and care using the UNICEF and MoH chatbot platform (“Afinidata”), which also provides alerts for health personnel regarding children identified with any risks.

The MoH designed 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. It includes micro-videos on newborn care, premature baby care, breastfeeding, complementary feeding, play, sensitive interaction, mental health, vaccinations and risk signs.

Collaboration with the MoH continued to strengthen and reactivate services to prevent vertical transmission of HIV during COVID-19, reaching some of the populations most affected by COVID-19.

Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

37,774 students received educational tablets during November thanks to UNICEF's technical assistance to the MoE. Support focused on pedagogic design, acquisition, and coordination for delivery for indigenous and rural students.

UNICEF, Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and UNESCO are backing the MoE's national school reopening strategy, including the design of education and communication materials on compulsory education completion (texts and video design, and training of teachers and other education personnel).

Jointly with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, training of residential care centre and detention facility caregivers on psychosocial care model and resilience building will benefit 2,400 children and adolescents.



Social protection

The fourth cash monthly payment of Peru's first ever cash-based intervention (out of the six planned) reached 1,570 Venezuelan migrants and refugees.

The intervention seeks to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 amongst Venezuelan migrant households not covered the national social protection programmes. The CBI is complemented with the following components: gender-based violence, violence against children, education and COVID-19 prevention messages.

Families and beneficiaries that ranked as "high risk" according to the scorecard (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). 301 out-of-school children and adolescents (including 3-year-olds looking to start early education in 2021) were referred to public education services, of which 78 enrolled and are currently attending school remotely.

Preliminary highlights of the UNICEF-led study estimating the COVID-19 impact on education and health for 2020-2021 predicts setbacks in anaemia, stunting, vaccination, academic achievement in primary and secondary students, and school drop-outs, due to decreased incomes in households with children and adolescents. This study highlight the need for children and adolescents to be prioritised in the social protection programmes

UNICEF supported design of two out of twenty-four sub national government post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan, (Loreto and Huancavelica).

Human Interest Stories and External Media

In November, UNICEF generated 132 media mentions to highlight COVID-19's impact on children and advocate for a child-centred response, with almost US\$ 288,000 in free press. Around 61 per cent of the media mentions contributed to positioning adolescents as a part of the [#Reimagine campaign](#). For the regional [Education on Hold report](#) launched in November, UNICEF produced a [multimedia package](#) highlighting the challenges of distance learning in Indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon.

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

[In the Peruvian Amazon, loudspeakers help keep indigenous children learning](#)

[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: 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: 31 January 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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