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 652,037 confirmed cases and 28,944 deaths, including 122 children and adolescents, as of 31 August. With a population of 32 million and only 1,686 ICU beds nationwide, the health system has struggled to cope with the pandemic.

In response to the pandemic, on 16 March the Government of Peru declared a national state of emergency, extended to 30 September, closed borders, and imposed a mandatory national quarantine, extended to 30 June. These actions have been complemented by various health regulations, the “I Learn at Home” public education strategy, social protection measures and an economic stimulus package.

However, Peru’s National Institute of Statistics and Informatics reported a 30 per cent GDP contraction in August. This 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. The harsh economic impact and some discontent with the response have led to two cabinet changes.

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

- On UNICEF social media, information and messages on COVID-19 had a reach of 16,950,692, and 427,253 engagements.
- UNICEF’s C4D informative material for mothers and health professionals had significant reach in MoH’s digital platforms, with up to 3.9 million in a single post.
- Two of three webinars promoting behavior changes among ECD service providers with the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion.
- 400 Venezuelan households received the first of three rounds cash transfers, reaching 1,519 beneficiaries (500 women, 374 men, 280 girls and 365 boys, of which 107 were pregnant or lactating women).
- Delivery of hygiene kits benefitted 32,599 people, among them 9,682 girls and 10,566 boys. This includes 28,878 people in indigenous communities in the Amazon, 140 migrants and refugees, and 3,581 children and adolescents in residential care facilities and juvenile deprivation of liberty centres.
- 160,402 children continue to access home-based education thanks to UNICEF pedagogic support to teachers and content developers.
- Seven videos with socioemotional support and tips for families as a part of the “I Learn at Home” public education strategy have been viewed 13,149 times and will be broadcast on TV.
- High-level technical assistance to the education and sanitation sectors resulted in the approval of a school reopening protocol to ensure a safe return.

### Funding (US$)

$1,535,000

Available against the total $3,500,000 required
**Highlights (cont.)**
- Guidelines to ensure safe reopening of primary health services benefitted 2,644 women and 2,537 children (1,358 girls, 1,179 boys) in four prioritized districts, including 101 migrants and refugees.
- Participation in interagency studies about the socioeconomic impact of COVID on children and migrants, and generation of evidence on monetary child poverty and on the impact of the State's intervention.

**Funding overview and partners**
Since the launch of the HAC, the humanitarian needs and the original funding requirements of US$ 3,500,000 have changed and continue to do so every day. 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, BPRM, DFID, SIDA, Orbis and COVID thematic funds, 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 MoH, and, with the MoE, UNICEF and PAHO coordinate engagement to provide a joint message. An inter-agency task force has also been 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 organizations and the United Nations System led by OCHA, UNICEF leads Education, Protection and WASH working groups, and actively participates in 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)**
During the reporting period, UNICEF's messages on Facebook had 391,216 impressions per post, 6,958 engagements per post and 624,291 video views.

With the Peruvian Press Council, UNICEF launched the #SigamosCuidándonos campaign ("Let's keep taking care of each other") on 4 August. The first part consisted of a series of three webinars – with experts and representatives of the public and private sectors – on retaking the streets, learning at home and adolescents. The webinars have had 147,915 video views to date. The second part, an ad campaign launched on 25 August, promotes proper use of masks, handwashing and social distancing through a video, audio pieces and a series of ads. The campaign is being disseminated in 8 print publications, 7 TV channels and 3 radio stations, as well as the digital platforms of at least 19 media organizations and various government channels.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion carried out the second of three webinars to promote behavioral changes among ECD service providers in the COVID-19 context, emphasizing children with disabilities. This was based on the findings from a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices study with participation of parents and service providers of children under 3 with disabilities.

UNICEF carried out a webinar with the MoH, presenting an informative pamphlet for health service providers on caring for pregnant mothers with COVID-19 or at risk of infection, disseminated C4D materials for families to promote breastfeeding, and pamphlets for health care workers to debunk rumours on the care of infected or at-risk mothers and children. Three pieces on early warning signs and tips for mothers, mother self-care in case of COVID-19 infection, and warning signs in babies, had a reach of over 3 million on Facebook, and over 84,500 interactions on Instagram.
Provision of critical medical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and improving infection and prevention control (IPC)

UNICEF distributed 2,018 hygiene kits in Loreto and 1,249 in Ucayali, reaching a total of 12,012 people that also received key messages on hygiene practices and COVID-19 care and prevention. As co-lead in the WASH sectoral group, UNICEF helped organize the table's 8th session to share and present WASH needs regarding PPE, family hygiene kits, requirements for WASH interventions in markets, water treatment materials for water supply systems and for domestic use. This is aimed for Loreto, Ucayali, Puno, Pasco, La Libertad, Piura, Lambayeque, Ica and Tacna, which are the prioritized regions due to their vulnerability.

Continuity of health care for women and children

UNICEF concluded its campaign "Your milk is the best choice; without hesitation, breastfeed" with the MoH, creating awareness among health service providers and families on the importance of breastfeeding and rooming in, even when COVID-19-positive or at risk of infection. The campaign had wide media coverage and was featured as good practice by UNICEF.

With technical assistance from UNICEF and Uruguay's family accompaniment and home visiting programme, national ECD programme CunaMás approved the syllabi for early and continuous training of technical teams and community actors. UNICEF continues its ongoing support in reopening ECD services in prioritized regions, including for Venezuelan migrant children, and plans to adapt attention routes for pregnant women, newborns and toddlers, and adolescents. The Office of Adolescence in the MoH adopted UNICEF-proposed criteria for evaluating health service reactivation conditions, which is being applied on the field by the regional health directorates. UNICEF provided technical support to the MoH in elaborating a condensed Technical Guide for Mental Health Care during COVID-19, and, with MIMP, initiated an online mental health counselling, detection and attention service for adolescents and their families. Also with UNICEF support, the Loreto Health Directorate approved the technical guide for protective and intercultural primary health care facilities during COVID-19, with criteria to adapt primary care services in the region.

Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services

UNICEF continues providing support to the MoE’s offices of indigenous and rural education with pedagogical guidelines for the tablets to be distributed, and in improving the procedure to develop material for the I Learn at Home education strategy. UNICEF distributed education kits to migrant and vulnerable students in northern Lima, especially primary schools, reaching close to 70% of its 10,400 target; a second delivery is programmed to reach the remaining students. 180 teachers, principals and MoE officials also began a training programme on school climate, sexual education and inclusion, emphasizing non discrimination and non xenophobia against migrants.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Secondary Education Directorate to develop a national plan for the last year of compulsory secondary education, which would ensure timely completion and prevent dropout for 477,000 students nation-wide. Moreover, distance-based education support continues in 55 prioritized secondary schools, where UNICEF reinforces training through online courses on digital tools and psychosocial support, and provides direct technical assistance to improve remote activity planning and implementation, new strategies for staying in touch in areas without internet, and reinforced dialogue with student leaders.

With MIMP, UNICEF reached agreements on joint work to strengthen GBV services for children and adolescents, and began a study on GBV regulations, bottlenecks and service gaps for children and adolescents. UNICEF also helped forge a strategic alliance between MIMP and MoE, generating a National Adolescent Participation Network that include 45 adolescent organization. To date, this network reaches 3,000 adolescent members, as well as adolescents in UNICEF’s 52 prioritized schools. The Network is focusing n strengthening adolescent protagonism and active participation, especially during COVID-19. 5 virtual, adolescent-led regional summits took place between July and August, where 131 male and 254 female adolescents participating in sharing their needs with regional authorities and proposing solutions.
Access to continuous education, child protection and GBV services (cont.)
In Child Protection, UNICEF concluded delivery of food baskets to foster families, reaching a total of 148 children and adolescents who benefitted from this support. Coordination is ongoing with MIMP to see if there is a possibility of extending this support. UNICEF is also negotiating a PCA with Futbol Mas NGO to provide psychosocial activities for a total of 2400 children without family care in MIMP’s Residential Care Centers and the Ministry of Justice’s centres for adolescents in conflict with the law. The project is planned to commence in September.

UNICEF received a request from the National Migration Authority to support regularization of migration status of 75,000 Venezuelan children registered in the national education system. In close coordination with IOM and UNHCR, UNICEF is exploring the possibility of financing this project, which would contribute directly to drop-out prevention and protection of children.

During the reporting period, UNICEF psychosocial support videos in the MoE’s platform for “I Learn at Home” public education strategy had a total of 5,763 views. These 7 videos on prevention of violence, psychosocial care and harmonious co-habitation at home are confirmed to be broadcasted in the TV version of the strategy, and are expected to reach a much wider audience.

Social protection
400 Venezuelan households received the first round of three monthly cash transfers, reaching 1,519 beneficiaries (500 women, 374 men, 280 girls and 365 boys, of which 107 were pregnant or lactating women). UNICEF finalized the first draft of a micro-simulation analysis for estimating COVID-19 impact on monetary poverty and inequality. As part of a global study, UNICEF advanced in the rapid-assessment on social protection response to COVID in Peru, and other inter-agency studies on impact on general and migrant population.

Human Interest Stories and External Media
Through media engagement, UNICEF generated 101 media mentions during the reporting period to highlight COVID-19’s impact on children and advocate for a child-centred response, with almost US$132,000 in free press. Media coverage included an OpEd on guaranteeing the right to education during the pandemic.

To strengthen reporting on Venezuelan migrants in Peru during this crisis, UNICEF launched a series of workshops for media organizations focused on applying an inclusive, rights-based approach and the best interests of the child. To date, 156 journalists have participated in the first two sessions.

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

In Peru, 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 September 2020
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