Operational Context

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, Peru ranked 89 in the human development index. Despite persistent political uncertainty, its upper middle-income economy showed a steady growth largely driven by mining production and exports. This resulted in significant reductions in hunger and poverty. However, the pandemic has unveiled a structural inequality gap that threatens the food security of millions of Peruvians. With one of the highest informality rates in the region (72.5 percent), the strict lockdown measures drastically affected the livelihoods of millions of households that rely on their daily incomes for subsistence. Peru is currently among the top three countries with confirmed COVID-19 cases in the region and among the top ten worldwide.

WFP Peru has adapted its operation to provide cash-based transfers to directly support the government’s response. This is combined with its well-positioned capacity strengthening role that integrates communications, social mobilization and generation of evidence.

WFP has been present in Peru since 1968.

Operational Updates

- The COVID-19 state of emergency has been extended until 7 March 2021.
- WFP subscribed cooperating agreements with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Ayuda en Acción, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), World Vision and UN AIDS to scale-up its food assistance to Venezuelan migrants.
- WFP presented strategies and alternatives to reduce childhood anaemia in the Annual Conference of Executives (CADE). The CADE talks foster a coordination space with top-level private sector partners compromised with Zero Hunger.
- WFP Peru conducted the first Nutrition Stakeholder and Action Mapping exercise in the region that will serve as a baseline for decision-making to strengthen nutrition multi-sectorality and scale-up. This exercise was published by the UN Network for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN).
- The WFP Country Director was invited to Acuerdo Nacional to present our recommendations for the country’s new Zero Hunger Plan, which include expansion of cash-based transfers in social protection, support for family farming, approval of the rice fortification law and innovative digital mechanisms.
- As part of the joint WFP/PAHO-WHO intervention in Ancash, 900 community health agents received biosecurity kits to support their direct work with families. This includes home-visits complemented with a communications campaign to promote food security and nutrition.
- Through its PROSAN Project, WFP provided materials and basic equipment to 18 health centres in Sechura to improve the quality of assistance provided to pregnant and lactating women and children aged 0 to 59 months.
- In coordination with the Municipality of Sechura, WFP is supporting smallholder farmers to introduce irrigation systems to improve nutrition and incomes through enhanced agricultural production.

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### Capacity Building

- As part of WFP’s commitment to the enhancement of the National Risk Management System, a series of webinars were organized in coordination with the National Centre for Disaster Risk Analysis, Prevention and Reduction (CENEPRED, for its Spanish acronym). These spaces focused on strengthening capabilities among key government officers to better address climate risks related to excessive or insufficient rainfall.

### Challenges

- Peru experienced a deep political crisis that ended with the appointment of Francisco Sagasti as interim President. The political crisis and the continuous changes of government authorities temporarily paralyzed the logistics operations. However, discussions with newly appointed government officers have proven successful and operations are slowly resuming. The continuous effects of the socioeconomic crisis triggered by the pandemic will require continuous support, particularly to address the needs of Venezuelan migrants with no access to the National Social Protection System.

### Donors

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