**DELEGATE NAME:** SUVEEKSHA SANJAY SHANBHAG

**COUNTRY:** PERU

**INSTITUTION:** UNICEF

**TOPIC:** Providing Stable Medical Supplies to Regions in Need

***“The goal of real healthcare reform must be high-quality, universal coverage in a cost-effective way.”***

**~Bernie Sanders, United States Senator**

With a significant increase in unexpected conflicts, wars, calamities and other compromising situations, regions grapple with providing timely and adequate medical supplies; the most valued necessity after food and water in such conditions. The excessively affected demographic due to this incompetence would be children, who hold the country’s future in theirs. UNICEF's network of supply hubs across the globe is able to deliver pre-positioned life-saving supplies within 72 hours of an emergency, regardless of whether it's a conflict or a disaster. As the world's largest purchaser and supplier of children's vaccines, UNICEF plays a key role in implementing immunization programs in GAVI supported countries.

While the country keeps healthcare as its topmost priority, Peru’s health system currently is facing a financial shortage and is unfortunately equipped with one of the lowest health budgets in South America (about 3.6 percent of its GDP). Peru’s total medical device market, while projected to grow, remains small compared to other countries in the region. This affects many children who are exposed to malnutrition due to poverty, lack of vaccinations and medical supplies and are prone to communicable diseases. Adding to that, there is a shortage of medical staff like pediatricians, specialists, and critical supplies, particularly in rural and more underdeveloped areas. The government has made attempts prior to COVID-19 pandemic to develop the health sector. Peru's healthcare budget underwent a 14% increase from 2018 ($4.8 billion) to 2019 ($5.4 billion). However, Peru has received help and donations for the sector through countries like Germany, which donated $1.17 million worth of medical equipment to Peru to help improve medical care and reach about 90,000 people from indigenous and rural sectors in the Peruvian Amazon. The Japanese contribution of the $ 2.7 million to Peru has also benefitted people in underdeveloped areas.

Based off current situations, Peru suggests some solutions for timely and adequate supply of these medical goods. Establishment of mobile clinics and partnerships with the local hospitals to acquire medical professionals (in addition to international volunteers) can help provide urgent medical care to the most affected regions. Proper emergency and skill training to the local professionals and citizens can help ensure mitigation of minor issues. Technological aids such as drones and other facilities can also be used for transport of medical supplies such as vaccines, injections, drips, etc. with cost efficiency. Overall, though Peru has mainly been the beneficiary of donations in terms of medical supplies, following further advancements and self- sufficiency, it aims to be one of the major contributors to the healthcare sector in times of crisis, especially to the vulnerable youth and children.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

[**https://www.unicef.org/supply/stories/one-un-health-supply-chains**](https://www.unicef.org/supply/stories/one-un-health-supply-chains)

[**https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/6024833/medical-supplies-and-equipment-unicef**](https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/6024833/medical-supplies-and-equipment-unicef)

[**https://www.unicef.org/supply/media/20346/file/Supply-chains-save-lives.pdf**](https://www.unicef.org/supply/media/20346/file/Supply-chains-save-lives.pdf)

[**https://airlinkflight.org/a-promise-to-peru-provides-medical-and-surgical-care-to-rural-peru/**](https://airlinkflight.org/a-promise-to-peru-provides-medical-and-surgical-care-to-rural-peru/)

[**https://www.meddeviceonline.com/doc/peru-s-growing-medical-device-market-in-latin-america-0001**](https://www.meddeviceonline.com/doc/peru-s-growing-medical-device-market-in-latin-america-0001)

[**https://www.arise.tv/germany-donates-medical-equipment-to-peru/**](https://www.arise.tv/germany-donates-medical-equipment-to-peru/)

[**https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/peru-generous-support-from-canada-and-japan-to-help-the-country-response-to-the-pandemic**](https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/peru-generous-support-from-canada-and-japan-to-help-the-country-response-to-the-pandemic)

[**https://reliefweb.int/report/peru/peru-minsa-sends-over-51-tons-medical-supplies-17-regions**](https://reliefweb.int/report/peru/peru-minsa-sends-over-51-tons-medical-supplies-17-regions)