

Peru: Enseña Perú (Teach for Peru)

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The coronavirus crisis led schools and universities to rapidly transition to a distance-learning mode, via the Internet, television or radio. This series documents some country initiatives that ensured education continuity for all using technology and provided support to teachers, students, and their families.

General description

Enseña Perú is a non-profit organisation founded in 2009, with the mission to organise a movement of collective leadership that catalyses educational transformations across Peru that aim to close gaps in educational opportunity. To pursue its mission, Enseña Peru runs experiential leadership programs for teachers, school principals, regional and local leaders in education, student leaders, and professionals from various backgrounds. Every participant of the programmes applies their learnings to impact the lives of students in their communities, either through teaching or through projects that impact student learning. Enseña Perú is part of Teach for All, a global network of 53 independent partner organisations that collaborate in accelerating the network progress as partners, teachers and alumni exchange innovations across borders. A core programme of all partner organisations includes recruiting diverse and highly qualified college graduates, and placing them as teachers in high poverty schools for two years, with the expectation that this will both support the education of the children they serve during those two years, as well as develop leadership capacities among participants that will translate into a long term commitment to addressing equity gaps in education.

Enseña Peru seeks to catalyse the transformation of education in Peru so that students and participants can achieve results way beyond what would usually be expected, thanks to the collective leadership of a growing network of diverse education leaders encompassing multiple roles and levels. Currently, there are close to 300 participants who are in the leadership programs. 130 of them are



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professionals from various backgrounds committed in a two-year programme where they teach children and learn about leadership, and 120 of them are existing teachers and principals from the public sector who enrol in a one-year programme called “Qué Maestro” (What master) to strengthen their leadership and pedagogical skills. Moreover, also in “Qué Maestro” there are 10 local district leaders who supervise and provide teachers with professional development opportunities. And finally, approximately 40 student leaders from 10th to 12th grade go through a 3 month student leadership programme. In total, the organization directly impacts over 10 000 students across 10 regions in the coast, highlands and jungle of Peru. Enseña Peru also hosts a biannual conference called Ayni, which convenes 1 300 leaders of all the country to rethink education and learn together as a way to support collective leadership on behalf of transforming education.

With the advent of the COVID19 crisis, schools in Peru closed on March 12 and the Ministry of Education led a nationwide strategy called “Aprendo en Casa” in collaboration with several private and non-profit organizations. Enseña Peru was one of those partner organisations. It developed and implemented a four pronged strategy to contribute to educational continuity for marginalized students. These included migrating all the leadership programs to a virtual learning ecosystem where participants from every program could continue to grow and support each other in a community of practice, enabling teacher creativity through virtual hackathons of educational projects and agile research-based protocols that teachers can use to help their students develop 21st century competencies through using phone calls, text messages, and WhatsApp interactions. In addition, Enseña Peru sought to augment its impact beyond the 10 000 students it served directly, partnering with the Ministry of Education to implement four system-wide impact initiatives:

1. The joint creation and production of TV and radio sessions for close to 2.5 million students from 5th to 12th grade nationwide.
2. The creation of a virtual programme for 30% of all district leaders across the country on how to develop 21st century competencies from the local policy stand point. It is offered from April 23 until June 10.
3. Mobilizing 1 000 volunteers to gather data from 15 000 families on emotional well-being, connectivity, and quality of learning, and preparing a study to amplify the Peruvian students’ voices about how they are living this crisis, so that this information could inform policy decisions.
4. Convening a national ‘Informed Dialogue’ in partnership with Harvard’s Global Education Innovation Initiative to discuss the implications of the GEII-OECD ‘framework to support a strategy for educational continuity during the COVID-19 Pandemic’.

Throughout this strategy, Enseña Peru seeks to design effective education programmes that support educational continuity, grounded on a solid combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches which continue to enable creativity and collective leadership across the country, which remains essential for sustaining quality learning during the Pandemic.

The following timeline details some of the most important dates during this case:

- During the week of March 9th the Ministry announced that students would not be going to schools.
- On March 11th, the Ministry announces that classes will be suspended in all schools starting on March 12th. Enseña Perú starts planning its internal strategy, stopping national in person retreats and initiating transportation of staff and participants to safety.
- On March 12th Enseña Peru initiates the coordination with the Ministry on possible joint efforts.
- On March 15th authorities announce the national quarantine and that teachers and school principals would also stop going to schools.
- On April 6th classes began for students across the countries through the national distance education campaign “*Aprendo en casa*” in TV, radio and the website, an initiative of the Ministry of education.

- On April 21st the ‘Informed Dialogue’ took place with nearly 300 education leaders in Peru. At the same time, during the following weeks the task force of volunteers started gathering data from families.
- On April 23rd the virtual programme for district leaders was launched, with first sessions attended by close to 700 district leaders.
- On May 4th the Ministry aired the second season of “*Aprendo en Casa*”. The task force of Enseña Peru alumni and the Ministry of education jointly created the TV and radio education programmes of this second season. The programmes were offered to all Peruvian students from 5th to 12th grade.

The process of strategy development was collaborative. The different initiatives were discussed by representatives of both organisations and once key concepts were developed, Enseña Peru involved alumni from their programmes, teachers on the ground, staff members, and allies, to develop the specific details of implementation.

For Enseña Peru, this strategy was possible partly through redirecting resources of their own team to these initiatives, mainly those in charge of relationships with the government both nationally and locally. The course of district leaders was ran by staff using courses developed internally for the participants of the leadership programs.

Main problems addressed

This strategy aimed to address several problems:

- *Reaching students in rural and urban areas without internet connection.* Out of the more than 7.5 million students in Peru, more than 1.3 million live in rural areas, where less than 5% have access to internet. In urban areas there are also many students without access to the Internet. The potential risk of the crisis was that these students would be left behind with little learning opportunities. This is the reason why the initiative includes developing high quality educational materials to be broadcast on national TV and radio.
- *Making families and students to provide information and feedback and contribute to the country’s management of the crisis.* In this rapidly evolving crisis, students’ family members became even more important as contributors to the educational process and students’ learning outcomes. Moreover, students were rarely asked to contribute their input to be part of the solutions of the COVID19 strategy. Gathering information from these local actors was a way to inform the strategy of the Ministry of Education, and to include these key stakeholders’ voice as part of the collective solution.
- *Supporting teachers in their adaptive challenge.* Over 500 000 primary and secondary teachers faced this one in a lifetime challenge to teach without being in the presence of their students. In the midst of adapting to an already ongoing curriculum reform (in 2016 Peru launched a 21st century competency based national curriculum), they now also had to adapt this competency-based teaching and learning through distance education.
- *Supporting local education district leaders.* Similar to teachers, local leaders were also grappling with how to lead their districts to continue to improve their students’ competencies during the crisis. They were at the crossroad of the curriculum reform, the COVID19 strategy guidelines of the Ministry, and the demands of teachers. While comprised of valuable master teachers, district leaders have historically not received consistent training to help drive change in their regions.
- *Developing institutional resources to ensure education continuity.* As was the case around the world, the Ministry needed to expand its capacity through alliances to achieve two goals: sustain the production of TV and radio materials for 7.5 million students, manage the change with teachers, school principals and local leaders in education, and keep receiving bottom up feedback to steer the COVID19 strategy.

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The main feature of this strategy is its aim to activate collective leadership at all levels of the system. All actors are viewed as potential leaders who can contribute to find educational solutions, and are key to generate processes and initiatives that effectively combine each stakeholder's value added. Also, the strategy of the organisation was completely integrated with the strategy of the Ministry. Enseña Peru has strong connections at all levels of the system and that is why the organisation contributed with national priorities in this multi-stakeholder strategy. Furthermore, the crisis also presents opportunities to move forward in changing traditional education paradigms. Enseña Peru's approach to change management allows for every initiative to become an opportunity to collectively change education in deep ways (such as how to teach, how to learn, how to collaborate, how to lead local policy).

Mobilising and developing resources

Across all initiatives, three main factors enabled the strategy: 1) the mind-set of collective leadership (cultural), 2) the networks created at all levels around the alumni of the leadership programmes (networks), and 3) previously created content modules of education and leadership and a team already trained to develop more content (knowledge and practice). In each of the initiatives, some resources were already developed and just needed to be enhanced or redirected, but new resources were also developed.

- *The “Aprendo en Casa” strategy of TV and radio lessons for students.* The Ministry of Education established a TV and radio production team to turn lessons into TV and radio programmes. They selected a number of theater and TV drama actors and educators to record the sessions in TV and radio format. For the sessions that started on May 4, Enseña Peru mobilized a taskforce of 25 education specialists, most of whom were experienced alumni from its leadership programmes: they represented nearly 30% of the overall staff that developed the TV lessons for all the country (including the TV production team). This Enseña Peru task force creates 30 lessons per week from 5th to 12th grade, so approximately 250 sessions in a 2-month period and nearly 60% of the total lessons produced by the Ministry. At this point, the alliance will reassess its course of action with the Aprendo en Casa campaign. The Ministry also developed a Youtube channel and a web portal where all the lessons are uploaded for students who have Internet, and where other organisations also upload educational content (such as Khan Academy, Check, ANIA, Fundación Telefónica, among others).
- *The development of protocols and guidelines to learn and teach during COVID19.* Enseña Perú developed research-based policy documents and trainings designed specifically to help teachers lead competency-based education during the quarantine. For example, it developed a 4-stage process for teachers to interact with students who have only a phone connection as well as new tools for teachers to monitor constantly the development of students' competencies and agency. A protocol was developed specifically for leading and evaluating 21st competencies in contexts of large groups that included the training of teachers in four principles: how to automatize feedback without internet connection, how to lead peer based feedback, how to code qualitative data for large groups, and how to target students who need 1 on 1 support (Box 1). Teachers in the field reviewed the protocols to ensure they responded to their more pressing needs.
- *The transformation of all leadership programmes to a virtual ecosystem.* All of the already existing sessions of the leadership programmes were transformed to virtual formats designed to be ran with Zoom in a highly dynamic and collaborative way. They combined teachers and principals from different regions. The education team at Enseña Peru developed new online sessions and modules of leadership and education, relying on the contributions of alumni from the programme and other specialists. Enseña Peru invested in expanding its capacity to hold online collaborative learning sessions of 100 to 300 participants.
- *The competency based virtual module for local district leaders:* Enseña Perú coordinated with the Ministry of Education to invite all districts leaders to take its training module on how to lead 21st century competency based education. It is comprised of 10 sessions, including personalised feedback on demand, simulations, professional learning communities, and focalised lectures, and

selected readings. Close to 1000 of the nation's 3000 district leaders responded to the call and signed themselves in, with 22 of the 24 regions represented. To sustain this effort, Enseña Peru invited alumni from the leadership programs to become teaching assistants of the virtual module, and started to train them virtually before the launch of the course with the local leaders.

- *The student voice study*: a group of student leaders, alumni and participants from the leadership programs and staff members of Enseña Peru are coordinating a study that will survey students across the country to understand how they are living distance education and to bring their voices into the national discussion.

Box 1. The 4 stage process to develop 21st Century Competencies during COVID19

1. **Connecting with the student and aligning expectations about competency development:** this is typically a phone conversation where the teacher and the student get to know each other and discuss the competencies they will develop. For small children the conversation may be with the guardian.
2. **Agreeing on a project or challenge that mobilises the competencies:** both student and teacher clarify expectations and procedures, taking into consideration the Aprendo en Casa content and contextualizing to their context.
3. **Gathering and analysing competency-based evidence:** students, exercising agency in their learning, provide teachers with evidence of their growth, whether in video, pictures, audios, or personal interviews. The teacher analyses the evidence and crafts a transformational feedback.
4. **Joint feedback and reprioritising:** teachers deliver feedback to their student to value their progress and further challenge them. The student provides feedback to the teacher about the experience, and then they both align again to continue the process (back to 1.)

Fostering effective use and learning

The strategy of Enseña Peru includes all levels of leadership. Enseña Peru seeks to help stakeholders feel that they are a part of the creation, implementation or the reshaping of the strategy.

- *Seeing students, teachers and local districts as shapers of the initiative*: Examples of this are the co-creation of protocols with teachers in the field, the creation of sessions ran by participants of the leadership programme, the participation of students in the student voice study.
- *Providing mechanisms for bottom-up feedback to the initiatives*. Examples of this are the survey to local district leaders to reshape the virtual module they are taking, peer action groups where district leaders are starting to gather to reshape teacher education using the competency based principles, the communication channel between teachers and designers of the TV and radio lessons.
- *Highlighting examples from the field*. Managing change implies a technical aspect and an emotional aspect. Therefore, to continue to inspire adoption and reshaping of new ways of teaching and learning, Enseña Peru highlights examples of best practice from the field constantly through WhatsApp groups and communications. It also fosters the culture for those examples to be shared spontaneously by members of the movement.
- *Collaboration and collective creativity with purpose*. Implementation is enhanced if participants see the initiative as an inspiring and practical way to solve their most pressing problems, whether it is the use of a protocol or a course or a collective action strategy. An example of this is part of the module of 21st century competency based education, which involves hackathons between teachers

from different disciplines creating educational projects to implement with their students during the quarantine.

Implementation challenges

Learning from the experience, Enseña Peru faced the following challenges:

- *As the strategy is network based, changes in peoples' lives lead to turnover:* when Enseña Peru organised the taskforces to design and deliver the course of district leaders and the production of instructional lessons of *Aprendo en Casa*, some staff from Enseña Peru and members of the taskforce (alumni from the leadership programmes) who were in charge of designing lessons, recording sessions, or providing personalised feedback, had to leave the initiative because of changes in their professional or personal lives (e.g. they lost their job, relatives became in need). Replacements came in fast, but without a strong pipeline of leadership at all levels this would make the solution difficult to implement.
- *Prioritising within the healthy flow of divergence and convergence in ideas:* a strategy that combines top-down and bottom-up collaboration naturally spurs a number of creative ideas. While it is important for leaders to allow for creativity, choosing 2 to 4 strategic priorities or programmes infused by the collective creativity was essential to remain effective on the ground.
- *Cost of connectivity:* before the launch of *Aprendo en Casa* (the ministry of education TV and radio strategy), Enseña Peru's leadership programmes included approximately 10 to 12 sessions per week for teachers, principals and local education leaders. It became clear that this became too costly in data use for people connecting through their personal devices. Some participants of the virtual module for district leaders also had problems to engage due to problems of connectivity. The government solved part of the problem by making the virtual platform of *Aprendo en Casa* free to users in terms of internet data.

Monitoring success

The strategy's success is measured through its reach, its use, and users' competency growth. For this, Enseña Peru is using data from the Ministry and its own data and evaluation and monitoring systems.

- *Reach:* It is estimated that 1.5 out of the 2.5 million students followed the TV or radio sessions. 70% of students are being reached to develop their 21st century competencies.
- *Quality and satisfaction:* students' competency growth is monitored through the use of portfolios of student work. Each teacher enrolled in the leadership programme accumulates evidence in the form of videos, WhatsApp audios, pictures of student work, and monitors progress through the 4-phase protocol described above. Regarding the quality and use the training in the leadership programs and in the virtual module offered to district leaders, Enseña Peru uses a satisfaction survey, teacher portfolios, and performance of district leaders in a simulation.

Adaptability to new contexts

Some of the ideas of this collective leadership strategy are transferable to countries or states where a significant percentage of students are in rural schools lacking internet connectivity. However, the ideas of being network based, becoming learning coalitions of organizations, and combining top-down and bottom-up actions are applicable to all countries alike.

If programmes, communications, and collaboration are designed for a context of distance education, it is highly scalable as long as teachers, principals, and local education leaders have internet connection.

Enseña Peru will continue to implement the core of the solutions after the COVID19 crisis is over: virtual trainings; in-person school education combined with WhatsApp materials created from many parts of the country; professional virtual learning communities of district leaders; data and research from the field to inform policy making decisions.

Key points to keep in mind for a successful adaptation

1. Transform programmes to digital experiences, while keeping in touch with connectivity issues of and costs for participants.
2. Mobilise your existing networks to catalyse system change projects, and provide clear explanations on how they can serve the country.
3. Understand the priorities of the Ministry of Education and regional authorities and create alliances that build on each other's strengths, while actively managing the health of the collaboration.
4. Include a solid combination of top-down and bottom up dynamics in the programmes: provide guidelines, have a feedback mechanism, promote collective creativity, and make the programme visible.
5. Sustain relationships at all levels of the system, from the ministry to the student. Collect information to influence design and redesign.
6. Create the conditions for learning across organisations, with shared data input to take decisions.
7. Work with leaders who can manage the programme content, the change management, and the communication.
8. Understand the variety of school dynamics from the perspective of users, and iterate programmes, sessions, and protocols quickly.
9. Devote part of the time to think about how the strategy will continue in the future.

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