

PRESS RELEASE

Peru wins UN public service award for giving children the right to an identity

Almost 10 million Peruvian children now have a national identity card

LIMA, 28 June 2013 – Peru’s National Identification Registry Office (RENIEC) has won a United Nations Public Service Award for providing national identity cards to millions of undocumented children. Peru placed first among Latin American and Caribbean countries in the award category “Improving Delivery of Public Services.”

In 2002, when Peru first started providing national identity cards to children, only 0.1 per cent of children had a card. Without identification, children can be denied access to social services and cannot enrol in school. Undocumented children are also more vulnerable to child labour and trafficking.

Between June 2010 and December 2011, RENIEC provided free registration services to families in marginalized urban, Amazonian and Andean communities. By 2012, an estimated 94.5 per cent of Peru’s child population – 9,967,034 children – had a national identity card. UNICEF has partnered with RENIEC to continue reducing the number of undocumented indigenous children in Peru.

“It is my pleasure to congratulate RENIEC for winning the United Nations Public Service Award,” said UNICEF Representative in Peru Paul Martin. “Without a doubt, this prize recognizes RENIEC’s efforts to ensure that all children and adolescents in Peru have the right to an identity.”

In Peru, there are two systems of identification: national identity cards and birth certificates. Prior to 2002, only adults were eligible to receive a national identity card.

About the United Nations Public Service Awards

The United Nations Public Service Awards programme honours projects that fight poverty and support sustainable development. In 2013, the programme received 601 nominations from 82 participating Member States. The awards ceremony took place at the annual UN Public Service Forum in Manama, Bahrain on 27 June 2013. For more information about UNPSA visit: <http://www.unpan.org/2013unpsa>

About UNICEF

UNICEF works in more than 190 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world’s largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments. For more information about UNICEF and its work visit: <http://www.unicef.org>

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