Dear friends,

As our communities--locally, nationally, and globally--continue to face the challenges of COVID-19, I wanted to provide another update on how Amazon Promise is helping to support those most vulnerable in Peru.

For those that follow us on social media (particularly our Facebook page), you may have seen that Iquitos is now the fourth hardest-hit city in Latin America with COVID-19. Despite a stay-at-home order and a 4 p.m. curfew, the number of patients with COVID-19--or suspected to have it--have soared. The hospitals are totally overwhelmed, and over 70 doctors and countless nurses and other healthcare professionals have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Every day,
Hundreds of sick people are arriving at the ER of the Regional Hospital to find there are no beds, no medicines, no oxygen, no tests, and very few doctors and nurses to care for them. People are dying in their homes. One of our own dear staff members and close friends is in the hospital with COVID-19 and on oxygen. We have been deluged with requests for food and medical aid from families living in poor, outlying neighborhoods. We are also providing medicines to people already in the hospital, whose family members contact us desperately looking for prescribed medicines the hospital does not have!

With thanks to our generous, extended family of friends and supporters—including a matching gift of $5,000—we have recently provided food baskets to hundreds of families who live in the flooded, lower zone of Belen, just outside of Iquitos. These are extremely vulnerable families, who live day to day and are suffering from hunger. They are facing severe economic hardship since they cannot work or sell their goods during these times, and most cannot access the government food program or the small 'stimulus' payouts being offered. These people—the most marginalized that don’t have access to even the most basic services—are who Amazon Promise strives to reach through its healthcare campaigns during the year.

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to this relief effort so far. Thanks to this outpouring of support, these families have received food aid that will last them two weeks. Our team of superhero women educators on the ground in Belen are in charge of making sure everyone involved is safe and protected. They have also described how intense the situation has become, yet everyone has been so thankful. Some have even cried at the sight of our boat.
To see more photos of some of the families we reached over this last week, please visit this Shutterfly photo album.

Looking forward, we are going to continue these relief efforts to help those in need. This week, we are going by canoe to deliver food baskets to those living in floating huts and have no way of getting out.

We know this is a difficult time for so many. If you are able to make a gift at this time--however large or small--you will help us make a world of difference for those in need. So many people and families need our help, and together we are reaching them, one by one.

Thank you, and I hope you and your loved ones are all healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Patty Webster

Founder and President, Amazon Promise