

## ACTION SHEET



# Strengthening the Support Network for Elderly People at High Risk and People with Severe Disabilities (the AMACHAY Network)

Line of action:  
**CARE POLICIES**

Areas:  
**SOCIAL POLICIES**

Scope:  
**PERU**

## ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES, PRIORITISED GIVEN THE RISK OF COVID-19

The spread of the coronavirus and the challenges the pandemic has imposed on the Latin American countries has forced governments to adopt short-term measures that prioritise care for population groups likely to present a greater risk of severe clinical conditions or death as a result of their vulnerability in terms of their health, economic and social situation.

In Peru, people over 60 years of age, with comorbidities and people with severe disabilities, have received preferential attention given the situation in order to reduce the effects of the virus and contain its spread. In addition, since this group normally already suffers from difficulties in accessing basic social services, care policies have become even more crucial.

The Peruvian government has, therefore, implemented the Support Network for Elderly People at High Risk and People with Severe Disabilities (AMACHAY). It is an intersectoral and intergovernmental intervention, which is also a step towards more comprehensive care policies oriented to a Social Protection System in Peru. For this reason, and due to its importance with respect to the current emergency, the Network has the support of the EUROsocial+ Programme with a view to strengthening its design and implementation.

The initiative goes beyond being purely a health-related public policy design, moving




**AMACHAY**  
La fuerza del cuidado

“The AMACHAY Network has an organisational, intersectoral vision towards citizens and towards the territory, for effective implementation of public policy” (Peruvian Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion).

towards more comprehensive solutions that consider the social, economic and political dimensions on which the crisis has had such an impact. Its purpose, in short, is to

contribute to improving care policies in the country and to generate social change, in which prevention and protection are essential elements.

## SUPPORT FROM EUROSOCIAL+

The EUROsociAL+ Programme's support to the AMACHAY Network focuses on technical support in order to strengthen care action. The process began with a diagnosis of the architecture, operation, services and local management of the Network, in order to identify and propose improvements in its implementation.

This diagnosis, carried out by the expert Paula Forttes, who had previously developed Chile's Policy for the Elderly, included reviewing the regulatory framework and highlighting a series of elements that underline the importance of intervening on behalf of this population group. These include the importance of the elderly and people with disabilities receiving sufficient income, the lower value that is usually given to the death of these people compared to others, their low levels of social and digital integration, inequality that increases during periods of lockdown and the so-called "care crisis", which means a decrease in the state's capacity for social and health care, as well as a reduction in family capacities. It also covers the difficulties involved in accessing attention in the same conditions as the rest of the population due to the distances involved, the lack of contact such people experience and other measures resulting from the pandemic.

Once the diagnosis was made, a Plan for Strengthening the implementation and sustainability of the Support Network for the Elderly at Risk and People with Severe Disabilities was presented, which will strengthen the



Services for elderly people at high risk and people with severe disabilities: 60%

10% of alerts dealt with are for women suffering violence



AMACHAY Network and lead to a system to care for and protect people with dependency and/or any type of disability.

EUROSociAL+ has supported proposals to improve the AMACHAY Network and has also led to reflection on the design for its continuity. The spread of COVID-19 in 2021 has led to the approval of an Emergency Decree with additional measures to care for people with vulnerability. It authorises the organisation of a Support Network for high risk elderly citizens and people with disabilities by 2021, which includes funding for local governments.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND TERRITORIAL COORDINATION

The AMACHAY Network is an initiative in which teams participate in a coordinated manner from the Peruvian Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS), the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable

The strengthening of the AMACHAY Network is the basis for the construction of a Social Protection System in Peru.

Populations (MIMP), the Ministry of Health (MINSA) and local and regional governments.

Worthy of special mention is the coordinated work with other social care programmes for the elderly and people with disabilities, such as Pensión 65 and Contigo. This structure makes it possible to strengthen the Network within the COVID-19 framework and steer it towards a social protection system that offers comprehensive services, as is already the case in Chile or Uruguay, countries where EUROsociAL+ has fostered dialogue and sharing activities.

The strengthening of the AMACHAY Network provides for the systematisation of good practices at the municipal level; training and study plan design as well as training of trainers to care for the population groups mentioned to overcome the pandemic and establish this protection system in Peru. The network has especially been strengthened regionally, as resources have been transferred to the municipalities, which contributes to more effective coordination. The AMACHAY Network has also developed a visibility strategy that is responsible for its own image and identity and the impact it has on citizens. This strategy is part of its dissemination and awareness strategy, through informative and graphic materials with messages relating to social inclusion, the power of care and its beneficial effects for vulnerable people.

"The AMACHAY Network is good news. It shows the collective, sectoral and territorial interest in responding to the needs of people in vulnerable situations" (Paula Forttes, EUROsociAL+ consultant).

### Beneficiary groups of the AMACHAY Network:

- Elderly Adults at High Risk (PAMAR). - people aged 60 years and over with at least one comorbidity from the list described by the Ministry of Health.
- People with Severe Disabilities (PcDS). - those who have serious difficulty or are unable to carry out their daily activities, requiring the support of devices or personal assistance either permanently or for a majority of the time, regardless of their age.

## For more information



Sharing experiences on social protection systems with an emphasis on the elderly and people with disabilities