Guatemala Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3

12 July 2018

Highlights

• By 12 July, the death toll after the Fuego volcano erupted on 3 June has reached 113 people, 319 remain missing.
• An estimate 3,587 people are currently living in official shelters, including approximately 1,400 children.
• Around 16,000 children and adolescents who were out of school for over a month since the volcano eruption, are now back in schools as education activities resumed on 9 July.
• The Government has requested Congress to extend the State of Calamity for an additional month, for the three most affected departments: Escuintla, Sacatepéquez and Chimaltenango.
• The three most-affected departments remain in red alert, and the Emergency Operation Centers (COEs) continue operating in Guatemala City (National COE), Escuintla, Sacatepéquez and Chimaltenango.
• Authorities are currently building “temporary family shelters” as a transitional housing solution for families currently living in shelters, while the construction of permanent housing continues. Moving to family shelters will start in the coming weeks.

• UNICEF’s proposals to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) – Rapid Response Window were approved for the areas of Education, Child Protection, Nutrition, Water, sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).


Funding status 2018*

*Funds available‘ includes emergency funds received for the current appeal. In addition, non-emergency funds amounting to US$ 175,000 have been allocated to support emergency-related activities.

According to the National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), the Fuego volcano eruption left over 1.7 million people affected across several departments in Guatemala; Escuintla, Sacatepéquez and Chimaltenango were the worst affected by the emergency. After the eruption, entire communities were buried under volcanic material, resulting in the death of 113 people. Near 3,687 people are currently living in official shelters, while other families have sought shelter with relatives and friends. The number of missing people rose from 197 by 4 July, to 319 by 12 July.

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As part of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), UN System partners – in coordination with the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the European Union – have produced the first draft sectoral reports which will be part of the final report to be prepared by the Guatemalan authorities. UNICEF was responsible for preparing the Education chapter in collaboration with UNESCO, and contributed in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector. UNICEF was also part of the team responsible for the Human Impact Assessment (HIA), which covered considerations regarding livelihoods, education, social protection, food security, gender and child protection, among others. The results of the assessment were presented on July 11 to the Government through the Economic Cabinet and are expected to be published in August by General Secretariat of Planning and Programming-SEGEPLAN. Main results indicate damages of Q.926.1 million (US$ 125.1 million), losses of Q.468.1 million (US$ 63.3 million) and needs of Q. 247 million (US$ 33.4 million).

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The Humanitarian Country Team, led by the Resident Coordinator Office and with the support of OCHA, is coordinating the support to the Government’s humanitarian response. IOM, as leader of the Shelter Cluster, is the focal point for coordination with the SOSEP (First Lady’s Secretariat for Social Welfare) – the Government entity in charge of shelter’s management.

UNICEF is an active member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), which has been active since the onset of the emergency. Other coordination instances including UNDMT and UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETE), are active and maintain constant sharing of information and analysis. The Resident Coordinator (RC) and UNETE Coordinator are in close permanent coordination.

To respond to the emergency, the following national sectoral groups/clusters have been activated:

- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (Leader: UNICEF)
- Nutrition (Leaders: UNICEF / ACF)
- Education (Co-Leaders: UNICEF / Save the Children)
- Health (Leader: PAHO)
- Protection (Co-Leaders: UNHCR/UNHCHR) / Child Protection sub-cluster (Leader: UNICEF)
- Shelters (Leader: IOM)
- Rehabilitation (UNDP)

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF’s response is focused on addressing the needs of children and families living in shelters, children excluded from education and children in other affected communities. In coordination with the responsible authorities, UNICEF is carrying out activities in prioritized sectors: Nutrition, WASH, Education and Child Protection. In addition, a Communication for Development (C4D) strategy is supporting response efforts across all sectors.

Response efforts are guided by UNICEF’s Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, and are in line with the Guatemalan Government and inter-agency priorities. The initial focus of the humanitarian response has been on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable children and families, targeting those living in shelters. Moreover, after assessing the needs of other less severely affected communities, focus of response is gradually broadening to address the needs of these populations.

The Government is currently building “temporary family shelters”, with wooden barracks, where families currently in shelters are expected to move in the coming weeks. There is no clear timeline for the completion of the construction of “temporary family shelter” camps and the moving of sheltered populations to these sites, but it has been estimated to take one to three months.
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Education

Education authorities report that 21 preschools and 23 primary schools have been either destroyed, damaged or used as shelters or warehouses, in Sacatepéquez, Escuintla and Chimaltenango departments. This situation interrupted the school year for children, a learning cycle scheduled to finish in a 3-month period. Approximately 16,168 children were unable to return to classes in their communities, which posed an important risk of dropout or school failure. After one month of the emergency, all the children have returned to classes on 9 July. Children whose schools were destroyed or damaged are attending classes in temporary schools.

- Two temporary educational camps were established in Sacatepéquez and Escuintla. The one in Sacatepéquez has 5 tents/temporary schools and the one in Escuintla has 15 tents/temporary schools where 6,557 children are receiving classes.
- Additionally, other nearby school buildings in Escuintla that normally have morning students, have been conditioned as emergency classrooms in the afternoon shift.
- UNICEF provided 20 temporary schools each with 12 tables, 72 chairs and 2 blackboards, WASH facilities were installed in the sites and personal health care kits were provided for 6,557 children.
- To optimize the spaces, the school schedule was organized in three 3-hours shifts. Children and teachers were also organized around this setting. Parents were informed through special communication material about the temporary school settings.
- Out of the 16,168 children affected by the emergency, UNICEF reached 9,000 with school bags and education supplies.
- Out of 691 teachers, UNICEF reached 250 teachers with a set of teaching materials.
- UNICEF supported the training of 691 teachers in the implementation of the emergency curriculum.
- UNICEF’s partnership with private sector (BAC – CentraRSE) allowed for the donation of 9,000 kits of learning supplies and 250 teaching supplies sets. Through the partnership with Ferreterías EPA, UNICEF was able to purchase 240 foldable tables and 1,440 foldable chairs for the temporary schools at cost price.
- As part of the initiative between UNICEF, BAC and CentraRSE, a communication campaign was jointly launched to enhanced awareness among the population about the importance of rapid access to education and the need to support children and teachers with a set of minimum supplies to finish the school year.

The Ministry of Education prepared educational material for recreational activities and developed an emergency curriculum. Through UNICEF-supported activities, 691 teachers in the affected areas received psychosocial support to help them overcome the crisis of the emergency and to be best suited to provide adequate caring attention for children. Envisaging the next stage of the response, the Government has purchased 25 temporary classrooms to be set around the “temporary family shelter” camps, currently under construction. It is expected that students currently attending temporary education spaces will remain there until the end of the current school year (October 2018).

UNICEF and Save the Children are co-leading the Education Cluster, which has been actively working in coordination with the Ministry of Education. Cluster members’ engagement in articulated activities has been key to achieving results for children. More civil society organisation (CSOs) have reached out to be part of the Education Cluster. Messages regarding the importance of the rapid return to school to increase parental awareness, were agreed upon between the Ministry of Education and the Cluster’s members, and have been disseminated through social media, radio and TV stations. Technical assistance will be provided for the implementation of the emergency curriculum. 691 teachers have been trained by the Ministry of Education with the support of UNICEF to ensure the best return to school possible, including psychosocial support for teachers, recreational activities for children and subject area lessons.
The Education Cluster is in the process of preparing a monitoring and follow-up plan to continue its support to the Ministry of Education, which includes rehabilitation of school infrastructure and end-of-the-year evaluation for all children in affected locations. In Guatemala, the promotion to the next school year is not automatic, it depends of the minimum achievement in prioritized subject areas.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

Assistance has focused on the provision of WASH services in schools (learning spaces). UNICEF support consisted of 60 sanitary batteries, 32 portable sinks, 6 containers for solid waste and provision of cleaning kits (including hand-washing soap, cans and garbage bags for each temporary classroom). These actions have been carried out in close coordination with CONRED, the Ministry of Education, and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster. At least 4,600 children and 500 teachers are benefiting from these services. The Ministry of Health (MoH) monitors the quality of water at the shelters level and field evaluations of water system in affected communities.

**Child Protection**

UNICEF continues leading the Sub Cluster of Child Protection, integrated by seven organizations (including UNICEF). Organizations in this Cluster are providing services – including psychosocial attention - in 15 shelters in Sacatepéquez and Escuintla. Three self-care workshops were conducted for 36 psychologists of NGOs and 13 government officials in charge of managing those shelters. Three age-appropriate child-friendly spaces have been implemented in each shelter for young children, primary school age children and adolescents. The Return to Happiness methodology is being implemented in shelters, with children and their parents, 1,439 affected children are receiving support with this methodology (721 girls and 718 boys). Support is being sought from other organizations to provide psychological care to adults (parents of affected children).

On a complementary initiative, the Child Ombudsman’s Office and UNICEF have developed an instrument for monitoring minimum standards of child protection during emergencies. The hiring process for technical support staff has already started.

**Nutrition**

During the first phase of the response, 20 nutritionists were deployed to shelters as part of the “Nutrition Brigades” in Emergencies; 32 shelters (official and unofficial) were reached in Escuintla and 4 in Alotenango (Sacatepéquez department). Activities conducted by the team included monitoring of weight and height of 200 young children, screening and referral of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases - children with acute malnutrition were identified and referred to the Ministry of Health (MoH); each screened children was provided with a child feeding kit. Educational sessions on Infant and Young Child Feeding in emergencies, breastfeeding and healthy eating were carried out at shelters, focused mainly on vulnerable groups (children under 5 years of age, pregnant women and breastfeeding women).
Counselling was provided to people with chronic diseases (diabetes, hypertension). In Alotenango, 150 children were screened for acute malnutrition using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC), four children were referred to MoH.

For the second phase, eight nutritionists will continue to provide support in shelters. In addition, 12 nutritionists will start supporting children in other communities in coordination with the Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat (SESAN), MoH and CONRED. Nutritionists will be trained on 19-20 July, to initiate the implementation of activities in affected communities.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

A baseline survey of perceptions about relevant issues for children in emergencies - with parents and mothers of children and adolescents in shelters - was concluded. In coordination with CONRED, SESAN and MoH. It was agreed that work with affected communities will be carried out in two streams: i) inform / update / consult the communities about the current state of the recovery process (activity carried out mainly by CONRED); and ii) educate / prevent to promote behaviours that allow people to be well even in an emergency situation (based on the key messages elaborated in the C4D Plan).

Since 3 June, 3,000 new U-Reporters have been recruited in the affected districts, as a result of the promotion strategy applied during the emergency. This strategy has focused on promoting U-Report via Facebook and working with WhatsApp to launch the platform via this channel too. UNICEF also worked with Facebook Disaster Maps to ascertain that affected areas have 2G and 3G coverage, and undertook a field assessment on the use of smart phones in shelters in the affected districts. This confirmed the use of U-Report as an effective strategy for accountability to affected populations and to increase access to information. Bite-sized messages about diseases prevention, situation in shelters and WASH have been shared with U-Reporters, as well as asking U-Reporters about their situation. Through this, UNICEF found that 19 per cent of U-Reporters do not have access to drinking water and their location was spotted. This information was shared with WASH section and cluster partners to adjust the response as appropriate.

The latest flow of information is focused on health and, as 9 per cent of U-Reporters inform they know of a pregnant woman who have been affected by the eruption, U-Reporters have been asked to share specific information with pregnant women and young parents, to ensure as wide a reach as possible of this key health information. Results of the surveys are being shared with partners via bulletin, and through Cluster meetings where appropriate. Hence, the use of U-report will continue to support the C4D strategy since it is seen as a trusted source of information during emergencies. Additionally, information shared for U-Reporters during the first days of emergency was included in the Human Impact Assessment of the PDNA to reinforce the voice and views of adolescents and youth affected.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF officials have conducted interviews with local and international media highlighting the situation of children and UNICEF’s work. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) to prepare a campaign and key messages regarding return to school. UNICEF remains in continuous collaboration and working with CONRED COMM Division to prepare and implement the communication strategy and key messages, in coordination with UN Communication Group. Below are some links of recent media reports with UNICEF’s mentions:


Funding

UNICEF’s funding requirement for the response in Guatemala is $1.46 million is currently covered at 48.5 per cent by emergency resources. The amount of funds available includes new contribution from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) – Rapid Response Window for WASH, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection projects, for a total of US$ 581,002.1 Flexible funding received through the Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds mechanism helped to provide immediate support at the onset of the crisis.

In addition, and thanks to donor's flexibility, non-emergency funds were rapidly available to cover immediate gaps, including additional funds made available by the Swedish Government for Child Protection activities (US$115,000) and in-house funds from UNICEF USA for Nutrition support (US$ 60,000). These funds contribute to lower the overall gap for emergency response.

In alliance with the BAC Credomatic bank, UNICEF has launched a temporary local fundraising campaign for the children affected in the emergency. This campaign is ongoing until July 15, in partnership also with CentraRSE. BAC Credomatic’s commitment is to match the funds raised at maximum of US$ 130,000.

Also through partnerships with private sector at country level, in coordination with MoE, BAC Credomatic, CentraRSE and some of its partners (Empresarios por la Educación, Fundación Carlos Novella and Porta Hoteles), education kits for a value of US$ 90,000 are being included in 9,000 school backpacks distributed by UNICEF. Corporate partners have been supportive of UNICEF’s response efforts, this is the case of EPA - a large hardware store chain in Guatemala – which sold to UNICEF 240 school tables and 1,440 school chairs at cost price to equip 20 UNICEF tent/schools.

Through UNICEF’s internal channels, and in order to speed the distribution of school supplies, UNICEF’s Supply Division covered the freight charge amounting to approx. US$ 90,000.

Initial response efforts focused on addressing the needs of children and families living in shelters, however - as found in recent assessments - many communities are still in need of support. With additional funds, UNICEF will be able to continue supporting children still living in shelters and will support response efforts to reach vulnerable children and families in other communities, with a multi-sectorial approach.

### Preliminary Funding Requirements (as of 11 July 2018)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Funds available (US$)**</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>US$</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>274,400</td>
<td>173,083</td>
<td>101,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>481,000</td>
<td>227,576</td>
<td>253,424</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>220,276</td>
<td>131,280</td>
<td>88,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>454,488</td>
<td>179,063</td>
<td>275,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,465,164</strong></td>
<td><strong>711,002</strong></td>
<td><strong>754,162</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Funds requirement for the response in Guatemala fall under the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional HAC appeal, which reflects the resources needed to respond to crises in countries that do not have humanitarian appeals. In the first phase of the emergency, the response was concentrated in the shelters. It is planned to assess the needs of other affected communities in the coming weeks. It is possible that UNICEF’s response plan will be expanded as a result of this analysis.

** Funds available includes emergency funding received for the current appeal.

Next SitRep: 09/August/2018

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