Highlights

- By 17 August, the death toll after the Fuego volcano erupted on 3 June has reached 169 people, 256 remain missing.
- An estimate 3,210 people are currently living in official shelters, including more than 1,100 children.
- The Congress of the Republic did not authorize the extension of the Calamity State for the three most affected departments: Escuintla, Sacatepéquez and Chimaltenango. This will limit the implementation of actions aimed at affected populations.
- Two departments remain in Red Alert: Chimaltenango and Sacatepequez, while Escuintla department is now in Yellow Alert level. Emergency Operation Centers (COEs) continue operating in Guatemala City (National COE), Escuintla, Sacatepéquez and Chimaltenango.
- On 31 July, authorities started to transfer 97 families (307 people) from shelters to transitional family housing solutions known as ATUS (albergues temporales unifamiliares in Spanish).
- UNICEF continues to support actions in Education, Nutrition, WASH and Child Protection sectors.

17 August 2018

- 685,754* No. of children affected
- 1,714,387 No. of people affected (CONRED, 17 August 2018)
- 1,100* No. of children in shelter
- 2,851 No. of people in shelters (CONRED, 17 August 2018)

Funding status 2018*

*Estimated by UNICEF, based on age group distribution projections of the National Institute of Statistics.

*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.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

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 hardest hit departments, with over 467,000 people affected – including 12,823 people evacuated. As of 17 August, 169 deaths have been confirmed and 256 people remain missing, mainly in Escuintla department. At least 3,210 people are currently living in 23 official shelters, while other families have sought shelter with relatives and friends. Two departments remain in Red Alert, and Emergency Operation Centres (COEs) continue operating in Guatemala City (National COE), Escuintla, Sacatepéquez and Chimaltenango.

The Government authorities are currently investing great efforts in building transitional family housing solutions known as ATUS (Albergues Temporales Unifamiliares). In the department of Escuintla, 200 ATUS of 4 rooms each will be built, 128 have been completed and are currently functioning. In Alotenango, 46 have been finalised and are operational. The remaining 72 are expected to be operational in around 3 months.

On 31 July, authorities started relocating 97 families (about 307 people) from shelters to ATUS, starting with families originally from the San Miguel Los Lotes community (Escuintla department), where the effects of the volcano caused extensive damage. These shelters will host the affected families while reconstruction works are in progress, which could take up to 18 months.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), 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 (including ATUS). UNICEF is an active member of the HCT.

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 (including ATUS), children excluded from education and children living 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.

UNICEF’s response is guided by its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and is in line with the Guatemalan Government and inter-agency priorities.

Although the humanitarian response has mainly focused on attending the needs of people living in shelters, after assessing the needs of other less severely affected communities, the focus of the response is gradually broadening to address the needs of these populations.

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1 The ATUS serve as a transitional housing solution implemented by the Guatemalan authorities, targeting families formerly living in the official shelters activated immediately after the emergency hit.
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Education

Education authorities report that 21 preschools and 23 primary schools were either destroyed, damaged or used as shelters or warehouses, leaving nearly 16,168 children out of school in Sacatepéquez, Escuintla and Chimaltenango departments. On 9 July, all children returned to classes in reopened schools or temporary education spaces.

All affected children (16,168) received school bags with supplies – including 9,000 distributed by UNICEF, and over 351 teachers received teaching supplies. In addition, UNICEF supported training activities benefiting 691 teachers, who are now better prepared to provide psychosocial support to children.

Two UNICEF-supported temporary educational camps are functioning in Escuintla (15 tents) and Sacatepéquez (5 tents), reaching 6,557 children. Each school camp has functioning WASH facilities and has been equipped with hygiene kits. Additionally, other nearby school facilities in Escuintla – which have regular morning shifts - have been adapted to serve as emergency classrooms in the afternoon shift, to cover the educational needs of children in the area. In order to optimize the use of spaces, the school schedule was organized in three 3-hours shifts.

The Ministry of Education procured 25 foldable classrooms to be set nearby ATUS camps in Escuintla, to reach all students living in the area. UNICEF will support the installation of WASH facilities as well as infrastructure (temporary wall) to protect the children’s spaces. Tents donated by UNICEF will be used for extracurricular activities. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education to ensure that especial support is provided to children with learning difficulties, including training for teachers and development of learning material.

UNICEF and Save the Children are co-leading the Education Cluster, actively working in coordination with the Ministry of Education. The Cluster is currently preparing a monitoring and follow-up plan.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

UNICEF assistance remains focused on ensuring availability of WASH services in shelters, schools and other learning spaces.

In Escuintla, education facilitates have been installed at the site called Finca La Industria – where ATUS are being built. At the request of the Ministry of Education, UNICEF installed toilets, sinks and containers for solid waste in Finca La Industria. About 1,000 students and 30 teachers are benefiting from these services. These actions have been carried out in close coordination with CONRED, the Ministry of Education, and the WASH Cluster.

Child Protection

Psychosocial support activities - based on the “Return to Happiness” methodology - supported by UNICEF and partners, continue in shelters.
UNICEF with the National Human Rights Prosecutor Office (PDH), the Welfare Social Secretariat (SBS) and the General Attorney Office (PGN), undertook an assessment on the situation of children with disabilities living in shelters, 17 cases were detected. An additional report is being prepared assessing the risks of children on their way to schools (i.e. accidents, security incidents, violence, flaws in drainage infrastructure). Potential risks and dangers at “Finca La Industria” were also assessed. Among the identified risks are: (a) the perimeter wall is made of plastic which allows easy access; (b) bathrooms and showers are located at a long distance, without sufficient lighting; (c) lack of coexistence guides or conduct manuals; (d) access controls must be improved; (e) psychosocial support spaces for children and adolescents are still needed. A detailed report will be presented to authorities in mid-August.

In collaboration with SOSEP, UNICEF conducted three workshops on self-care were, targeting staff who is in direct contact with families and children affected by the emergency.

UNICEF supported the Governmental Human Rights Office (through IEPADES NGO) to develop a tool to verify the application of minimum standards of child protection in emergency situations. IEPADES started the assessment on 1 August at the shelters of Escuintla and Alotenango, to be concluded by the end of December 2018.

Nutrition

With UNICEF support, eight Nutritionists continue to support Nutrition interventions in shelters in Escuintla, in coordination with the Ministry of Health. From 5 June to 9 August, six children with moderate acute malnutrition have been identified (2 in Escuintla, 4 in Alotenango), identified cases are being treated and closely followed.

Activities in communities affected remain a priority. Thirteen Nutritionists from local communities (Escuintla, Alotenango), were trained in participatory methodologies and are already providing support to families with small children, and pregnant and lactating women in the affected communities, especially in communities where WFP is providing cash transfers, in order to guide mothers on adequate nutrition practices. Nutritionists will continue to support the ATUS, conducting nutrition surveillance, ensuring adequate complementary food for small children and supporting mothers to continue breastfeeding.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

UNICEF has shared the results of a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) study with the Protection Sub-cluster, Nutrition Cluster and nutritionists who have been working with communities. Based on these results, the nutrition team produced messages and communication strategies for the communities.

In addition, in coordination with with local radios and community leaders, UNICEF has produced a series of messages on health, nutrition, WASH, protection and education, there are being conveyed in community-level activities.

UNICEF is also preparing three workshops that will be conducted in: Chimaltenango, Sacatepéquez and Escuintla, in coordination with Ministry of Health (MoH) and Secretariat of Food and Nutrition Security (SESAN). These workshops will promote the use of information generated by U-Report.

UNICEF has continued to use U-Report Guatemala to provide important information and a feedback mechanism. As a result of the information sent specifically to pregnant women, it has been observed that 72 per cent of U-Reporters who knew pregnant women shared information with them. U-Report Guatemala has been launched as part of a pilot project with WhatsApp (one of just five countries globally) and over 500 people have joined via WhatsApp. Radio Public Service Announcements promoting U-Report have also been created. The strategy for U-Report is now to ensure that whilst emergency information and feedback is still promoted via U-Report, those not in affected areas are still able to take part in the regular programme polls.

Media and External Communication

The emergency profile and media coverage has decreased during the past month. Through its social networks, UNICEF Guatemala has shared progress of its work in response to the emergency, with key messages supporting programme response priorities. In coordination with the Regional Office, UNICEF has produced and disseminated stories focused on how U-Report helped UNICEF to gather information on needs of adolescents in affected locations.

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**CONRED – Capsula informativa (video) (9 July 2018)**
<https://www.facebook.com/conredgt/videos/10156472049650349/>

**Funding**

UNICEF initial appeal of US$ 1.4 million has been adjusted to US$997,919 after a comprehensive review of the current needs vis-à-vis the response plans. UNICEF has reduced the funding requirements per sector, to match the revised sectoral plans and budgets. UNICEF’s funding requirement for the response in Guatemala is currently covered at 71 per cent by emergency resources. The amount of funds available includes contributions from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) – Rapid Response Window for WASH, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection projects, for a total of US$ 581,002. Flexible funding received through UNICEF’s Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds mechanism helped to provide immediate support at the onset of the crisis.

UNICEF launched a joint campaign in partnership with the BAC Credomatic bank and CentraRSE, an estimate US$ 266,000 were raised by the campaign, between 4 June and 31 July. The Child Protection sector is currently showing the highest funding gap. Additional funds will be used to fund psychosocial support activities for children in underserved communities.

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

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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.

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

**Next SitRep: 10/September/2018**


UNICEF Guatemala Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/unicefguatemala/](https://www.facebook.com/unicefguatemala/)


**Who to contact for further information:**

Carlos Carrera  
Representative  
Guatemala  
Tel: +502 2327 6373  
Email: ccarrera@unicef.org

Ramiro Quezada,  
Health and Nutrition Specialist  
Guatemala  
Tel: +502 23276373  
Email: rquezada@unicef.org

Esteban Cuevas  
Operations Manager  
Guatemala  
Tel: +502 23276354  
Email: ecuevas@unicef.org

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