HIGHLIGHTS

• An earthquake (16.04.16 at 6:58 p.m. local time) of 7.8 at 19 km deep (USGC) impacted northwest of Pedernales, or 27 km (17 miles) southeast of Muisne.

• Six provinces have been most affected: Manabí, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Santa Elena, Santo Domingo and Los Ríos, whereof the first three have the higher impact.

• Government has declared the Emergency State (State of Exception).

• Pedernales has been declared “disaster zone”.

• Preliminary reports indicate that approximately 370 buildings were destroyed and 151 are damaged.

• 120 schools are damaged affecting 88 thousand students.

• Power outages are still reported across the region, with a total blackout in Santo Domingo - one of the country’s largest cities - and power outages.

• Only 41% of communication lines are working.

• Maximum Health alert. Two mobile hospitals are being mobilized and installed in Pedernales and Porto Viejo.

• Widespread material damage in Guayaquil, Puerto Viejo, Manta and other coastal areas. School damage and partial collapse of roof of Secretaría de Gestión de Riesgo

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Date: 17 April 2016

246 Dead people
(Situation Report #14. Secretaría de gestión de Riesgos)

2,527 People injured (El Telégrafo quoting, Vice-President Statement)

6 Most Affected Provinces
Manabí, Esmeraldas, Santa Elena, Guayas, Santo Domingo and Los Ríos. (Situation Report #14. Secretaría de gestión de Riesgos)

150,000
Initial estimate of affected children

$US 300 million of Multilateral Contingency Funds activated for the reconstruction process. (Secretaría de gestión de Riesgos, Deputy Director press statement, CNN)
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

On April 16th at 6:58 p.m. local time an earthquake of 7.8 at 19 km deep (USGC) impacted northwest of Pedernales, or 27 km (17 miles) southeast of Muisne. So far, more than 189 aftershocks have been registered, some of them quite severe (6,1 of magnitude at 2.00 am 17.04/2016)

USGS estimated 15.2 million people across the region might have felt the earthquake, including an estimated 350,000 people who may have experienced "very strong" to "severe" shaking and up to 150,000 children directly affected.

The Government of Ecuador did not issue a Tsunami alert, however, initially it had recommended some preventive evacuations due to possible waves but now this measure has been cancelled. The latest assessments indicate there is NO risk of tsunami.

In some regions where the earthquake hit, several mudslides also occurred due to the saturation of the slopes during the winter season causing an increase of infrastructural damage as well as problems for the access of relief teams and supplies.

Some cities remain with partial power outage, though it is gradually being re-established. Only 41% of communication lines are working.

There is a Maximum Health alert and there is concern about health and WASH conditions in the coastal areas that were already considered hotspots or risk areas for the spread of Zika, Dengue, Malaria and Chikungunya.

The government has confirmed that there is no major impact affecting the areas of dams.

Initial Estimate Affected Population

As of today, initial estimations indicate a toll of 246 dead people and 2,527 persons injured. (Situation Report #14. Secretaría de gestión de Riesgos)

As a result of the widespread infrastructural damage the GoE indicates a preliminary figure of 370 destroyed buildings, 151 damaged buildings. 120 schools are damaged affecting 88,000 students.

Humanitarian coordination

- The entire national Emergency Operations Center is activated, in addition to the military and the National Police, Ecuador +911, and national health system.
- The Under Secretary General Statement confirmed today that the United Nations and humanitarian partners stand ready to support the GoE. A UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Team of 12 members, led by OCHA, is on its way to support the efforts of the authorities.
- OCHA has convened a coordination REDLAC meeting for Monday 17 of April.
- UNICEF LACRO – The Senior management team and the Emergency team are in permanent contact with the CO since Saturday evening. All LACRO sections are engaged to support the CO necessities at scale.
- Conference call with HQ (EMPOS SD), LACRO and CO for a more comprehensive assessment of the situation and action plan took place on Sunday 16:00 pm (Panama time).
- Regional Emergency Brief – first report was shared on Saturday night, just few hours after the earthquake event.
UNICEF ECUADOR Humanitarian Situation Report No.1

Humanitarian Strategy

- The Government of Ecuador has officially requested, through the Vice minister of Foreign Affairs and Political Integration, the UN System to complement the national relief efforts.
- While the government and the humanitarian country team, with the support of the UNDAC team, moves further into the rapid assessments and establish clear priorities, UNICEF LACRO is moving forward to jump start fundraising processes in support of the UNICEF Country Office.
- Supply and logistics – UNICEF LACRO is preparing for airlift from RO Panama and or SD Copenhagen to rapidly reach the affected zones (prioritizing the supplies for UNICEF intervention in the sectors of WASH, Education, Child Protection and Health as well as Shelter and NFIs).
- UNICEF will provide the best possible support and sectoral leadership for international actors in their efforts to complement the government actions in the sectors of WASH, Education and Protection. Nutrition and health issues will also be addressed mainly through technical assistance and supplies where necessary.
- UNICEF rapid assessment teams are in place in Pedernales and Esmeraldas, covering wider needs, WASH, health and child protection sectors. Esmeraldas team travels to Muisne tomorrow.

WASH

- There are significant concerns about WASH issues considering chronical gaps in some affected zones with higher priority at health centers, schools and for displaced families.
- All efforts should be made to prevent a wider Zika propagation in the affected areas.
- UNICEF has made available 20,000 Aquatabs to the immediate response efforts targeting the most affected areas.
- There is great demand for tanks and bladders needed for refuges.

Education

- Minister of Education suspended academic activities in the 6 provinces covered by the National State of Emergency (Esmeraldas, Manabi, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Los Rios, Guayas and Santa Elena) and also educational institutions with high and medium level of damage in the provinces of Pichincha; Cotopaxi; Bolivar and Cañar.
- The national technical group for education in emergency was set up in Ecuador with the leadership of the Ministry of education.
- The children, adolescents and youth situation is still undetermined and it has not been considered in the official reports.
- Until now, 120 schools have been reported as damaged and approximately 88,000 students directly affected by the earthquake.
- The most affected areas in the country are located in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Manabí y Guayas.
- A rapid assessment of damage and needs in Education is ongoing at the national, and local levels.
- In the provinces of Esmeraldas, Manabí and Los Rios there is a high risk of new cases of Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya that could increase quickly, because of the increasing mosquito breeding sites.
- The Local Governments of Manabi and Esmeraldas have disposed shelters in schools that will require to identify other alternatives for the education services and organize a water and sanitation response.

Health

- The National Health Network has been put to the maximum alert.
- Provincial emergency operation centers have also been activated.
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- Infrastructure assessments are going to be rolled out from tomorrow.
- World Health Organization has deployed a mobile medical emergency team and PAHO’s Regional Response Team, including experts in emergency management, health facilities, safety assessment, EMT coordination, damage and needs assessments, information management and logistic are being deployed to Ecuador while PAHO’s Emergency Operation Center is coordinating with the country office and Ecuadorian Health authorities regarding EMT and health needs.
- Three mobile hospitals are being mobilized and installed in Pedernales and Porto Viejo both in the Province of Manabí.

Security

There are several routes interrupted that limit access to the most affected communities in Esmeraldas and Manabí provinces.

The province of Esmeraldas (mainly cantons of Esmeraldas, Eloy Alfaro y Muisne) is considered a high risk area for security reasons (crime). These areas require special attention to security measures in case assessment and response missions are carried out.

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