Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

On 16 April, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck coastal areas in northwest Ecuador causing widespread damage (720,000 people affected, of whom 350,000 are in need of urgent assistance) and loss of life (663 people dead). On May 18th, two aftershocks took place (6.7 and 6.8 in the Richter’s scale), intensifying pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities. The

Highlights

- Micronutrients and other nutritional supplies (5,000,000 Chispaz, 350,000 zinc, 55,000 oral rehydration salts, 1,620,000 iron and folic acid supplementation for pregnant women) have been donated to MoH and distributed to health facilities in Manabí. More than 1,500 children have benefited from these supplements.
- 17,300 children (5 to 14 years old) are receiving psychosocial support in 26 locations in the affected zones, including official and spontaneous shelters and communities. Also under “Retorno a la Alegria” 173 coordinators (community leaders) have been trained to work with 1,730 youth volunteers (15 to 18 years old).
- Despite the efforts of UNICEF and its partners, challenges faced by the national institutions (high turnover of technical staff in affected zones) could compromise continuous and systematic psychosocial support provision. In addition, affected people are frequently moving to alternative locations in host communities, therefore monitoring of psychosocial recuperation proves to be difficult.
- Lack of identification of children is another important protection barrier related to access to services for children. UNICEF is working with UNHCR and Civil Registry Office to provide and finance brigades to ensure documentation is provided to affected children.

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<tr>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>Sector/Cluster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Cumulative results (#)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of affected people with access to safe water</td>
<td>90,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of children and adolescents affected by the earthquake have access to safe temporary educational, recreational and protective spaces</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of children and adolescents are reached with psychosocial support services in CFS</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

250,000 children and adolescents need urgent assistance as well as 350,000 people who need urgent support in water sanitation and hygiene.

Earthquake toll as of May 18th:

- 663 deaths
- 12 missing
- 4,859 people injured
- 28,775 people in official shelters
- 80,000 people displaced

Houses and public buildings affected:
- 13,962 in the urban area
- 15,710 in the rural area

120,000 children with limited access to education

Funding Gap 75%

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20 June 2016
Government and international community launched a response immediately following the earthquake. Almost two months after the earthquake, roads are cleared, communication networks repaired and electricity restored in most areas. However, unmet needs remain in rural areas and communities with limited social services and higher levels of vulnerability prior to earthquake due to the majority of assistance delivered have focused on urban settings.

As of May 18th, the government reported 663 fatalities, 12 missing persons, and 4,859 injured people. Up to 560 schools\(^1\) were damaged and 50 health facilities destroyed or damaged. To that date there were currently 28,775\(^2\) people residing in official collective shelters with an unknown number of people living with host families or in spontaneous sites. Immediate assistance should be provided in the current places where people are residing whether on their own land, in an organized camp, spontaneous site or with a host family. Poor sanitation conditions in all of these places are increasing the risk of diarrhea, putting at risk the nutritional status of people, especially children. There is a high risk of mosquito-borne disease such as Zika, Chikungunya, and Dengue fever, posing an immediate public health threat. After the aftershocks on May 18th, temporary education and protection spaces established are returning to normal: people’s attendance has been gradually increasing due to the psychosocial and emotional support provided by UNICEF and its partners. Besides, the Government is establishing displacement camps and relocating people from spontaneous sites to the new camps. Demolition and assessments of houses and infrastructures are still ongoing. However, urgent needs in terms of safe water, sanitation and hygiene; emergency and temporary shelter solutions; health; protection; food assistance and education remain important. Limited funding may hinder humanitarian operations.

<table>
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<th>Estimated Affected Population</th>
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<tr>
<td>Start of humanitarian response: April 17, 2016</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children and adolescents (Under 19)</td>
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Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Government of Ecuador is leading the response and recovery efforts. Besides the National Coordination mechanisms the government has installed COEs in the most affected areas, for instance, Portoviejo, Pedernales and Esmeraldas. The COE of Portoviejo is led now by the Governor, while the COE in Esmeraldas is led by the Ministry of Interior. The international organizations participate in COE of Portoviejo to relevant sectorial working groups. The representation mechanism for the COE in Pedernales was established and meets regularly. Each Ministry and local institutions as well as for the Armed Forces and Police representatives also participate in the different coordination mechanisms.

The Humanitarian Coordinator had a meeting with the Ministry Coordinator of Security to discuss the establishment of camps and proposals for temporary shelter solutions in rural areas. The possibility of establishing multi-disciplinary working groups, to offer technical support in the most affected areas of Manabí and Esmeraldas provinces, is being considered. NGOs, not registered in the country, have to manifest their interest to SETECI (central government institution in charge of the international cooperation) to continue operating in the country after the period of the 60-day state of exception.

UNICEF has strengthened coordination of the Nutrition sector. On June 7th, UNICEF facilitated the Nutrition in emergency coordination group at national level with the participation of WFP, PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, Action Against Hunger and Plan International. National Government institutions (MoH, MIES, MCDS) will participate in the next nutrition meeting. Another local coordination group of nutrition sector will be activated next week in Esmeraldas (besides the other one already activated in Pedernales). Great progress has been also achieved in other sectors through the establishment of field teams ensuring UNICEF’s presence and advocacy in the most affected areas.

WASH

UNICEF is supporting the cluster coordination with three dedicated WASH coordinators in the three coordination hubs – Quito, Pedernales and Esmeraldas – to make sure the partners have the best support to fulfil their tasks. Besides, UNICEF

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1 Secretaria de Gestion de Riesgos (05/05/2016)
2 Secretaria de Gestion de Riesgos (19/05/2016)
ECUADOR SITUATION REPORT

is supporting all the coordination hubs with two WASH cluster field coordinators, one WASH national coordinator and a WASH Information Management Specialist.

Education
UNICEF leads national Education Cluster and local Education Cluster in Pedernales and has supported coordination with the educational district of Atacames-Muisne.

Protection
Both at National and local level, the Protection Cluster maintains systematic coordination while weekly meetings are also carried on in the field. Information is shared at Cluster meetings and specific protection actions are coordinated by Cluster members. UNICEF coordinates and has been actively participating since the beginning the Child Protection Cluster Group.

Inter-cluster coordination
Regular inter cluster coordination meetings led by OCHA, are now established in Quito, Portoviejo and Pedernales. Besides, OCHA has established an Information Management Working Group to support the inter-cluster coordination with information tools.

Humanitarian Strategy
UNICEF is currently focusing on the immediate provision of safe water and sanitation to 170,000 affected people, rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure, and sector coordination at both national and sub-national level. UNICEF will reinforce preparedness measures and prevention of Zika and other mosquito-spread diseases (dengue, chikungunya and malaria), as well as water borne diseases, through community mobilization. UNICEF will also continue to provide support to health and nutrition services through the provision of critical health supplies, early identification of children at risk of malnutrition and the care of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. UNICEF continues supporting the national Safe Return to School Plan, through the provision of supplies and materials, rehabilitation of schools and establishment of temporary schools safe from hazards. UNICEF will also focus on providing psychosocial assistance to affected children, through the establishment of safe environments for child-friendly centres and activities enabling children to play and have recreational activities. Family tracing activities, reunification with families and individual care for orphans will also be undertaken in close collaboration with the Ecuadorian Red Cross and Ministry for Social Protection. UNICEF will strive to address the needs of orphaned and separated children, to protect children from various risks and help them recover through provision of psychosocial support.

Summary Analysis of Programme response
Education
• After the aftershocks on May 18th, temporary education and protection spaces established in Pedernales and Jama are returning to normal: presence of children and adolescents has gradually increased, an average of 700 students attend regularly. UNICEF and its partners are now advocating to implement mobile service outside the shelters.
• As part of Children’s Day Festival, recreational and psychosocial activities for children and adolescents in the temporary education and protection spaces were organized. More than 1,000 children and adolescents participated in these activities.
• UNICEF together with the Ecuadorian Red Cross is planning activities aimed at hygiene promotion, adequate sanitation and vector control in educational spaces. A total of 150 teachers and 1,000 children and adolescents will be involved.
• A new temporary education and protection space was established in Canoa (San Vicente) to provide education and protection support for more than 600 children and adolescents. UNICEF and its partners are also working to improve and generate better conditions for 1,200 children and adolescents in the temporary education and protection space established in Muisne.
• Occupants left School “March 31st” a few days ago and renovation activities (painting, water and sanitation systems, etc.) are ongoing with the support of UNICEF and FEPP (NGO). Local authorities indicated that at least 6 schools will do the same before the end of the month to ensure regular school activities.

• Prefabricated classrooms are being installed in Jama while preparation of land for the same purpose has just started in Pedernales.

• Ministry of Education is delivering uniforms and school supplies in educational spaces. UNICEF further supports with “School-in-a-box” in temporary education and protection spaces in order to strengthen capacities of teachers and provide school supplies to children and adolescents.

• Despite the efforts of cluster partners strengthening capacities and providing psychosocial support, more than 50% of the teachers have requested relocation in the most affected cantons. A deficit of teachers is anticipated.

**WASH**

• Increasing cases of Zika and other vector borne diseases in the region are raising concern. In response, UNICEF has worked on a communication strategy for the control and elimination of breeding grounds. This strategy is perfectly in line with the WASH sector where partners have been working on information materials and kits to help in the vector control. The strategies are targeting especially pregnant women, and their families.

• Coordination with partners to assess the situation in camps both spontaneous and official, outside camps and the rural area is ongoing.

• Standards on hygiene kits and indicators for the response have been approved by the WASH partners.

• The WASH sector is helping partners in Pedernales, Esmeralda and Jama to coordinate WASH assessments using mobile phones to collect information on water, sanitation and hygiene issues in the displacement sites and communities.

• In Esmeraldas, partners continue working in the distribution of hygiene kits, hygiene promotion and the design of projects to intervene in rural areas and WASH in schools.

• In Jama, partners continue with the latrine construction and hygiene promotions activities, while in Pedernales, partners are more focused on ensuring provision of safe water in the IDPs camps and ensuring water and sanitation infrastructures in Temporary Learning School.

• During the relocation process of more than 3,000 IDPs held during last two weeks, in Pedernales, Cojimies and Jama, UNICEF and WASH partners have supported SENAGUA and MICS to ensure a proper identification and implementation of the best technical solution for Water and Sanitation infrastructures.

• In Portoviejo at the site “Antiguo Aeropuerto”, UNICEF is supporting the payment for water trucking for the next 30 days for 1300 people (Around 25 liters per person per day), at the same time, supports SENAGUA technically and with materials to reestablish the operation of the water filtration unit on site to purify water for drinking purposes (at a minimum of 10 liters per day per family of 4) across the entire camp. Distribution of jerry cans to transport and store potable water from the water treatment plant to their tents, was also carried out.

**Health**

• MoH supports “El Retorno a la Alegría” methodology as a key tool in the emergency response. More than 170 people have benefitted from the capacity in the methodology. Besides, health and hygiene promotion strengthened through “El Monito Burbuja” story in the framework of “El Retorno a la Alegría” psychosocial methodology.

• Sports and recreational activities aimed at stress and anxiety reduction have been implemented in shelters, improving the interaction between children and their mothers.

• In coordination with MoH, vitamin A has been administered to children under 5 during influenza vaccination campaign since June 3rd.

• UNICEF through Action Against Hunger are working to improve Baby Friendly Spaces established in Muisne, Pedernales and Jama for the promotion of breastfeeding and nutritional practices.

• UNICEF has supported the modification of AIEPI with the inclusion of Zinc and SRO for the treatment of diarrhea. In addition, 70 health staff have been benefitted from the training in the new AIEPI protocols.

• Elaboration and distribution of 20,000 units of the new children health card.

• Support the MoH in elaborating a protocol for the management of acute malnutrition in emergencies has been provided.

• Strengthened nutritional surveillance capacity of EAIS for the screening of acute malnutrition through the measuring of mid-upper arm circumference MUAC.

• Elaboration of communication materials with MoH for health and nutrition promotion.

• Food assistance in shelters does not meet the nutritional requirements for children, lactating and pregnant women. UNICEF and its partners are advocating to establish mechanisms to follow up food donation and rations.
Despite the efforts of UNICEF and its partners, coordination between nutrition partners is a challenge as Nutrition is not running as an official Cluster. UNICEF is working as sector lead to improve this coordination with government institutions, NGOs and UN agencies.

Child Protection

- Child protection monitoring in relocation processes (before, during and after) took place in the shelters of Jama, El Matal, Pedernales 2, La Villega and Nueva Terminal. About 3,000 people were relocated. A protection check list for relocation has been elaborated in order to verify that these procedures are performed according to child rights (availability of housing conditions, special spaces for children, violence programs and psychosocial support).
- 17,300 children are receiving psychosocial support, 1,730 youth volunteers were trained and 173 community leaders are replicating community mobilization strategies in 26 sites of affected areas under the “Retorno a la Alegria” methodology of psychosocial support. This peer to peer methodology has been officially and widely recognized by 3 key line Ministries - Health, Education and Social Inclusion - accountable for psychosocial support.
- Over 2,000 professionals have been benefitted from training process on Child Protection in Humanitarian context, including armed force Staff, Police officers, doctors, social workers and other public institutions in charge of providing attention and services in shelters.
- UNICEF organized the first specific meeting on special protection and CP system in the main affected zone of Pedernales – MIES, Cantonal Rights Protection Council, Specialized Special Protection Service (SEPE) and the Archdiocese of Porto Viejo and Pedernales among the participants. The main agreement was collection of official data on rights violations, violence, sexual crimes and child labor in order to build a coordinated and relevant strategy to address these issues.
- The main challenge encountered is aimed at the specialization of technical staff in shelters, since there is limited knowledge and comprehension of child protection standards in the emergency context. Rotation of public officers in the field, is also a limitation for installing capacity in the work with children.
- Many children have lost identification documents. And in the affected zones lack of birth certification was already identified as a barrier in access to services. UNICEF is working with ACNUR and Civil Registry Office to provide and finance brigades to ensure documentation is provided to affected children.
- Children in the province of Esmeraldas continues to receive sports and recreational activities under the partnership of UNICEF with the Ministry of Sports.

Communications for Development (C4D)

Educational materials for schools focusing on Zika prevention and vector control were technically reviewed by the Ministry of Health (Health Promotion, Communication, and Epidemiology departments). These materials consist of two booklets with age appropriate content for children (ages 7-12) and teenagers (ages 13 to 18), including activities, games and comics which promote practical recommendations for personal protection and prevention of mosquito breeding sites. Currently, these materials are being adapted after the MoH review. In the following weeks, these materials will be used to educate 11,000 children inside classrooms at temporary education and protection spaces in earthquake affected areas. The strategy is also being implemented effectively in WASH: strategic communications in terms of vector control will be included in the hygiene promotion strategy. Partners have been sharing their hygiene promotion material, to make sure there is a common understanding of the issue and a harmonization of materials.

Supply and Logistics

Since 24 May; 172,628 USD of supplies have been distributed to end users. UNICEF delivered 5 trucks of 30 m³ full of medicine and health items to the Ministry of Health in Portoviejo and Esmeraldas. The key items supplied were:
- 350,000 Zinc 20mg tablets
- 1,620,000 Micronutrient tabs, pregnancy
- 507,000 Multiple micronutrient pdr,sach
- 55,000 ORS low osm. 20.5g/1L
- 250,000 Retinol 200,000 IU soft gel.caps
- 8 Diarrhoeal Disease Set Packing

The Supply Plan for the coming month has been finalized and an approximate 100 m³ of WASH (water tanks, latrine slabs, water purification unit, etc.) and Health items (mosquito nets and multiple medicines) are being ordered through Supply.
Division in Copenhagen. Local market will be prospected in the coming two weeks in order to reduce costs and delivery delays.

Media and External Communication
UNICEF produced several human interest stories in order to illustrate the situation of children after the earthquake. Testimonies collected shed light on the situation of children living in informal shelters and convey children’s desire to go back to school or the urgent need to access safe water while also showing the results of the response. UNICEF also disseminated high quality video content about supplies arrivals and it was one of the first to evidence the situation of children after the earthquake. Emotional pieces for Mother’s Day, Day of the Child and Father’s Day have been also produced. Furthermore, UNICEF launched a campaign for the Day of the Child called “Communicating Smiles” in order to bring children’s messages to children affected by the earthquake. Within the framework of this campaign, UNICEF disseminated messages related to disease prevention and vector control through recreational activities, games and puppet theatre.

UNICEF is preparing and disseminating messages related to Zika outbreak and associated risks using the media outlets (radio, TV and social media) targeting the general population and particularly those affected by the earthquake.

UNICEF organized a race for hope called 240 k. This initiative has mobilized famous athletes, tennis and football players, celebrities, journalists as well as football clubs in order to put children first in the agenda of the emergency and raise funds for the response.

UNICEF is constantly informing about its actions and engaging through its social media platforms, which has increased with more than ten thousand followers in the last month. In order to show an integral response in the field, UNICEF has designed an image for the response which will be used by all our implementing partners.

Security
A VHF communication network installed between UNICEF Pedernales’ office and the different residences of the UN Agencies located on the road Pedernales – Cojimíes (aprox. 40 Km). This installation has been established and tested by UNICEF under the supervision of UNDSS. The VHF network will allow UNICEF staff members to communicate in an emergency situation where telephone and cellular networks are not available or reliable.

All staff of Pedernales’ office have been trained on use of the satellite equipment. The office now has 5 satellite phones, distributed between field coordinators and drivers ensuring daily coverage in the most affected areas.

Funding

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received*</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>8,200,000.00</td>
<td>2,801,631.90</td>
<td>5,398,368.10</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>3,850,000.00</td>
<td>53,000.00</td>
<td>3,797,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
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<td>558,881.40</td>
<td>1,441,118.60</td>
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<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>1,000,000.00</td>
<td>405,000.00</td>
<td>595,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross sectoral and Cluster Coordination</td>
<td>250,000.00</td>
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<td>250,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15,300,000</td>
<td>3,818,513</td>
<td>11,481,487</td>
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UNICEF Ecuador Crisis: [www.unicef.org/ecuador](http://www.unicef.org/ecuador)
UNICEF Ecuador Crisis Facebook: [www.facebook.com/unicef](http://www.facebook.com/unicef)
UNICEF Ecuador Crisis Social Media: Facebook; Twitter; YouTube

Who to contact for further information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Reimer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dreimer@unicef.org">dreimer@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Advisor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and Caribbean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Leaity</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gleaity@unicef.org">gleaity@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF Ecuador</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Schembri</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hschembri@unicef.org">hschembri@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Specialist</td>
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