### Highlights

- 407 School-in-a-Box kits have been distributed to strengthen capacities of 120 teachers and provide school supplies to 16,280 children and adolescents.
- WASH survey in rural areas are being implemented, to provide baseline information assessment for the most affected canton, Jama, covering 56 communities and 38 schools.
- About 1,500 children under 5 years have received support for adequate protection, promotion and support of appropriate infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF).
- A Child Protection strategy for the prevention of violence have been validated at local level and is ready to be implemented in Esmeraldas province (Muisne 3 shelter and in Chamanga) with youth and adolescents’ community support.
- UNICEF and partners have set up four Child Friendly Spaces for over 500 children and adolescents (three in Pedernales and one in Portete).
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). More than 1,800 aftershocks have been reported since the initial earthquake. On May 18th, two aftershocks took place (6.7 and 6.8 in the Richter’s scale), intensifying pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities. So far, the government has reported 663 fatalities, 12 missing persons, and 4,859 injured people. Up to 560 schools\(^1\) were damaged, leaving about 120,000 children with limited access to education. Approximately 13,962 houses and public buildings affected in urban settings, while 15,710 in the rural area. 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.

Currently the areas affected by the earthquake include a wide range of people located in urban and rural sectors. Even though UNICEF has identified important gaps, much of the humanitarian aid already underway is aimed at displaced people living in urban community areas. The distribution of affected rural areas as well as spontaneous sites is greatly dispersed and in some cases very remote. Ministry of Health (MoH) reports a total of 55 non-official sites, and 7 official collective shelters in Esmeraldas province, with a total of 8,733 displaced people. Immediate assistance should be provided in the current places people are residing whether on their own land, in an organized camp, spontaneous site and with a host family. Prior to the earthquake, an important part of this population was below the poverty line. The earthquake worsened the situation of high vulnerability for the poorest populations. Moreover, poor sanitation conditions in all of these places are increasing the risk of diarrhea, putting in risk the nutritional status of people, especially children. There is high risk of mosquito-borne disease such as Zika, Chikungunya, and Dengue fever, posing an immediate public health threat. 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. Over the last 2 weeks, and thanks to the increase of the team in field, UNICEF has focused its attention to identify needs in rural areas, as well as in official shelters and spontaneous sites. Besides, UNICEF is compiling an action plan based on field results to address the different gaps. However, limited funding may hinder humanitarian operations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Affected Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start of humanitarian response: April 17, 2016</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<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. COEs, installed since the first week in the most affected areas, are still active and running in. The COE of Portoviejo is led by the Governor, as will the COE in Esmeraldas, which meets three times a week. The international organizations participate in COEs to relevant sectorial working groups that meet once a week. 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.

Esmeraldas has a constant presence of UN agencies, as UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA and WFP. A humanitarian coordination working group has been established, including those agencies as well as others NGOs working in the emergency. This multi-disciplinary working group, to offer technical support in the most affected areas of Esmeraldas province, meets once a week to discuss about strategic issues. Coordination strengthening has been also achieved in WASH and Education sectors through the establishment of field teams ensuring UNICEF’s presence and advocacy in the sub-cluster meetings. Besides, through these meetings, UNICEF is coordinating its request for funding with other participating actors to avoid gaps and duplications.

UNICEF facilitated the Nutrition in emergency coordination group at national level. Local coordination in Pedernales with the participation of MIES, MoH, UN agencies and NGOs has been established through weekly meetings. In addition, UNICEF supports the SENAGUA in coordination for WASH topics with the humanitarian community. Coordination with other organizations, the Government and other UNICEF sectors have been crucial to make sure information is accurately gathered and disseminated, one example being WASH in Schools, where WASH and Education work for in parallel. Coordination in the field locations is going to shift to the local authorities. For instance, places like Pedernales the...
technical working groups of Water (for water quality and distribution) and Health (for vector control) led by the local authorities have been already activated showing this trend.

WASH
UNICEF is supporting the cluster coordination with dedicated WASH coordinators in the three coordination hubs: Quito, Pedernales and Esmeraldas. The WASH sub-cluster in Portoviejo has been recently reactivated with UNICEF leadership. Besides, UNICEF is supporting all the coordination hubs through a WASH Information Management Specialist.

Education
UNICEF leads the National Cluster, with the support of a Coordinator and an Information Manager as well as a sub-cluster in Pedernales. Two other sub-clusters are functional in Atacames (Esmeraldas) and Portoviejo with the support of cluster member organizations.

Protection
Protection Cluster maintains systematic coordination at National level. At the local level, the Protection Sector maintains weekly meetings, where information is shared and specific protection actions coordinated. Technical Coordination Round Tables are active in Pedernales since the end of June. 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
- The MINEDUC, with the support of UNICEF, will establish 5 more temporary education and protection spaces in Jama and Pedernales to provide education and protection support for over 12,000 children and adolescents in a double-shift.
- 5 new temporary education and protection spaces were established for 1,340 students, which contributed to a total of 9 temporary spaces that include water and sanitation facilities for 11,160 student capacity in a three-shift system. UNICEF and its partners are also advocating to improve and generate better conditions in these spaces.
- Field teams are permanently in contact with the Educative Units in the affected areas in order to assess WASH and other inter-sectorial needs. Renovation activities (painting, water and sanitation systems, etc.) are still ongoing with the support of UNICEF and FEPP.
- In coordination with the Red Cross-Ecuador, 64,512 packs with 200 ml of milk have been distributed for children in temporary education and protection spaces.
- 407 School-in-a-Box kits have been distributed to schools and temporary education and protection spaces to provide essential education materials to 16,280 students. Over 120 educative authorities were trained in the use of these materials to strengthen their capacities.
Despite the efforts of UNICEF and its partners, rural education represents one of the main sector priorities because it does not receive as much assistance as the urban or peri-urban areas. Moreover, a deficit of teachers, especially in rural areas, is still a concern.

**WASH**

- WASH assessment, led by UNICEF and its partners, for the canton Jama with 56 communities and 38 schools assessed, most of them in rural areas.
- Support for safe water supply and sanitation facilities in 9 temporary education and protection spaces, established by UNICEF and its partners, for about 11,160 students.
- Support to (SENAGUA) to strengthen it capacities and improve the quality of the resources supplied to the affected population in the most affected areas. Besides, UNICEF supports water supply in Portoviejo’s Airport camp through water trucking and willing to support the SENAGUA to expand their capacity to provide safe water in camps in five other sites.
- Most of the intervention from implementing partners have been focused on communities in urban and rural areas, not official or non-official camps. Implementing partners that are part of the WASH Cluster are mainly involved in the construction of water supply and sanitation systems in communities.
- The minimum standards are not covered outside the official camps. In addition, supplies and funds for operating water trucking and desludging of chemical latrines are becoming scarcer as time goes by.
- UNICEF, through the WASH Cluster, is assuring the WASH response complies with the minimum standards, especially in rural areas where even the national legislation is vague on roles and responsibilities of authorities and standards alike.
- Increased reports of vector and water borne diseases makes it is mandatory to monitor closely the situation and to assure prompt distributions as well as the correct handling and disinfection of water as well as massive communication campaigns on prevention methods and good hygiene practices.
- Despite the efforts, a lot of informal and spontaneous settlements, as well as rural communities affected by the earthquake are not receiving aid. The dispersion of spontaneous settlements makes it difficult to guarantee enough supply points and to make sure all the people receive the complete WASH package.

**Health**

- The Health and Nutrition response of UNICEF has been focused in official camps and health facilities. As a next step, the health and nutrition intervention of UNICEF at community level will be strengthened.
- Micronutrients and other nutritional supplies were donated to MoH, and they are now being distributed to children in Esmeraldas and Manabí provinces. The key health items supplied were:
  - Multiple micronutrients in powder to treat 11,148 (6-12 months) and 73,087 (12-59 months) children.
  - Micronutrients tabs to treat 16,720 pregnant and 10,032 lactating women.
  - 350,000 zinc tablets to treat 12,500 children under 5 with persistent diarrhea and short stature.
- 4 Baby Friendly Spaces for the provision of Infant and Young Child Feeding support, breastfeeding promotion, monitoring and stimulation of early childhood development are still working in 4 official shelters. Those Friendly Spaces are opening 7 days per week in order to attend women and children under 5. Besides, 130 mothers have participated in nutritional education activities in Baby Friendly Spaces.
- 750 children, 101 mothers and caregivers have participated in health promotion activities in 15 Child Friendly Spaces in Pasadero, San Roque, el Zapote y La Ciénega.
- Approximately 485 children have participated in Health and Hygiene promotion campaigns through “El Monito Burbuja” story in the framework of “El Retorno a la Alegria” psychosocial methodology. This methodology is strongly supported by MoH as a key tool in the emergency response.
- Sports and recreational activities aimed at stress and anxiety reduction have been implemented in shelters (Baby Friendly Spaces), improving the interaction between children and their mothers. Approximately 72 women have been benefitted.
- 119 health staff have been benefitted from the training in the new AIEPI protocols (with the inclusion of Zinc and SRO for the treatment of diarrhea) in Esmeraldas and Manabí provinces.
• 5,000 MUAC (mid-upper arm circumference) for children and 3,000 MUAC for women have been distributed to strengthen the nutritional surveillance capacity of EAIS for the screening of acute malnutrition.

• Elaboration of communication materials with MoH for health and nutrition promotion. Approximately 380 banners of breastfeeding and complementary food have been distributed in shelters in Esmeraldas and Manabí provinces.

• Food assistance in shelters does not meet the nutritional requirements for children, lactating and pregnant women.

• A major concern is the situation in spontaneous sites, where the presence of health staff is limited and incidences as children’s diarrhea, parasites and weight loss for children have been increased. Monitoring and control of diseases of vulnerable groups (especially children under 5 and pregnant women) are not adequately being fulfilled.

Child Protection

• About 20,000 children are receiving psychosocial support under the "Retorno a la Alegría" methodology. 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.

• Psychosocial support with adolescents’ participation have been carried on, reaching more than 1,500 children in Muisne, where UNICEF had not had access until now.

• Child rights violations are being followed up and reported by a team of psychologists. More than 10 child rights violations per day have been identified by the team of experts.

• Professionals have been benefitted from training process on Child Protection in Humanitarian context. Teachers and public servants have received psychosocial support through 82 individual psychological sessions and 47 working groups’ sessions. In addition, 200 armed forced Staff and Police officers have been benefitted.

• 512 families have been supported to provide adequate care and protection and prevent family separation in Pedernales, Portoviejo and Chamanga.

• 3 more Child Friendly Spaces have been set up in Pedernales for 400 children and adolescents. An additional protection space has been established in Portete to attend 80 children and adolescents.

• 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. The risk of violence towards children, teenagers and women in shelters and spontaneous sites, is also a constant and an ongoing concern.

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. 15,000 of these booklets will be printed.

Efforts to reduce Zika require hygiene and vector control information and education; campaigns in these topics are under implementation. On July 13th the national campaign will be launched with the Ministry of Health in the province of Manabí.

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

• Delivery of 407 kits of “School-in-a-Box” for schools and shelters in the areas impacted by the earthquake, about 16,208 children benefited from this distribution through RET implementing partner.

• 10 Tents distributed to be used as temporary schools in areas affected by the earthquake.

• Shipment with 9TM of emergency supplies, (water test, micronutrient, etc.) arrived this week in country, to be distributed in the following weeks.

• Local market will be privileged 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 spontaneous sites and convey children’s desire to go back to school or 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. Also, UNICEF will be undertaking the Mapping activity on the disaster areas in order to foster youth participation.

UNICEF is constantly informing about its actions and engaging through it 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. As for upcoming visits to Ecuador, in July the NatCom Italy and the Us Fund will be arriving to the earthquake most affected areas.

Security

The situation remains stable as in previous weeks. Province of Esmeraldas is still considered a high risk area for security reasons (crime). Consequently, it has to be borne in mind the security measures to be taken:

- Personal sent to the area must make the mandatory courses BSITF and ASITF and receiving a Security Briefing. They must have a UN credential and elements of visibility.
- Vehicles must have visibility of UN System.
- It must have an appropriate communication equipment (cellular, satellite VHF and HF radios).
- Temporary modification (until July 31st 2016) for the official mission timing by road enabling to travel outside the timeframe of 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM previously stated as restricted.

Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received*</th>
<th>Funding gap $</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
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<td>$4,889,108.84</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Cross sectoral and Cluster Coordination</td>
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<td>$4,327,773</td>
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UNICEF Ecuador Crisis: [www.unicef.org/ecuador](http://www.unicef.org/ecuador)
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UNICEF Ecuador Crisis Social Media: [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/unicef) ; [Twitter](https://twitter.com) ; [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

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