Highlights

- On May 18th, two aftershocks took place at 2:57am and 11:46am of 6.7 and 6.8 in the Richter scale, respectively. Buildings and water systems already damaged from the earthquake on April 16th were further affected, there was an increase in the number of people injured and the psycho-social situation of affected families and children has worsened and requires support.

- Following these aftershocks, one 72m² plastic tent, tarpaulin, 90 kg HTH, 6,000 water purifying tablets (60,000 liters) and 400 collapsible jerrycans (10 l) were immediately distributed for the most affected people in canton Muisne.

- UNICEF’s presence in COEs is steadily increasing; in field coordination, response and advocacy activities are now enhanced through a more permanent response teams in the affected area.

- Marita Perceval (UNICEF LACRO Regional Director) and Grant Leaity (UNICEF Ecuador Representative) visited the local COE in Pedernales and had meetings with the Minister Coordinator of Security, Minister Coordinator of Social Development, Governor of Esmeraldas, among other authorities.

- UNICEF is providing Child Protection information and training 450 emergency first responders and armed force officials in charge of camp management in a joint effort with UNCHR and IOM, from the protection sector, in particular.

- 600 teachers in the municipalities of Muisne, Jama and Pedernales have benefitted from the capacity in risk management, preparedness and appropriate response in order to be ready for new aftershocks.

- Sports and recreational activities aimed at psychosocial recuperation of 4,000 children and adolescents in the province of Esmeraldas, continues to be provided under UNICEF partnership with the Ministry of Sports and FUDELA, after the training offered by Caravana de Deporte y Arte with the support from the Brazil UNICEF Country Office.
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) which killed one person. As consequence of pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities, humanitarian needs persist particularly in rural areas and amongst highly vulnerable communities. The impact and priority needs of the population are now clearer and response plans are more detailed now.

As of May 18th, the government reported 663 fatalities, 9 missing persons, and 6,274 injured people. Some 7,000 buildings were destroyed. Up to 560 schools1 were damaged and 50 health facilities destroyed or damaged. There are currently 28,7752 people residing in official collective shelters with an unknown number of people living with host families or in spontaneous sites. Assessments, especially in rural areas, are still ongoing and numbers of affected people are still changing. Infrastructure, including many roads and bridges, was severely damaged, resulting in logistics, access and communications challenges for the delivery of assistance. There is high risk of mosquito-borne disease such as Zika, Chikungunya, and Dengue fever, posing an immediate public health threat. The aftershocks have worsen more the vulnerabilities and urgent needs: affected families and children are now even more in need to receive psycho-social and emotional support; buildings and water systems, already damaged from the earthquake on April 16th, were further affected. Safe water, sanitation and hygiene, emergency and temporary shelter solutions, health, protection, food assistance and education remain important in urban settings, and are particularly profound in rural communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children and adolescents (Under 19)</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Cooperation participates in COE of Portoviejo according to the sectorial affinity of each organization. The representation mechanism for the COE in Pedernales is rather institutional and regular daily meetings have been established. There is a fixed participation established of each ministry and local institutions as well as for the Armed Forces and Police representatives.

UNICEF presence in COEs is steadily increasing. Last week, Marita Perceval (UNICEF LACRO Regional Director) and Grant Leality (UNICEF Ecuador Representative) visited the local COE in Pedernales and also had several meetings with Ministers and Governors. On May 24th, UNICEF was invited to participate and discuss the main concerns about nutrition and Zika in the COE of Portoviejo. UNICEF will continue its active participation in this COE through a coordinator who will provide support and advocacy. Great progress has been achieved through the establishment of a team on the field to ensure the UNICEF presence and advocacy in COEs in the most affected areas.

WASH

UNICEF leads national WASH Cluster and two local WASH Cluster (Pedernales and Jama). Besides, UNICEF provides support to other one coordinated by NGOs in Portoviejo.

Education

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

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1 Secretaria de Gestion de Riesgos (05/05/2016)
2 Secretaria de Gestion de Riesgos (19/05/2016)
Protection

During this week, the Humanitarian Local Team has been invited by the Ministry of Environment to participate regularly during COE sessions in Esmeraldas.

Intercluster

Regular inter cluster coordination meetings led by OCHA, are now established in Quito, Portoviejo and Pedernales.

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

- Due to the aftershocks on May 18th, UNICEF together with the Ministry of Education are planning the strengthening of recreational activities for children and adolescents in the four temporary education and protection spaces established (3 in Pedernales and 1 in Jama). Besides, UNICEF and its partners are advocating to implement afternoon snack for children in the temporary education and protection spaces.
- UNICEF and its partners are working to improve temporary education and protection spaces established in Pedernales and Jama. UNICEF further supports three temporary spaces set up by the Ministry of Education in Chamanga and Muisne (Esmeraldas).
- New assessments are ongoing in La Chorrera to establish temporary spaces to provide education, health, nutrition and protection support.
- UNICEF is identifying urgent needs, especially in rural areas and amongst highly vulnerable communities, to guarantee the participation of all children in educational activities.
- A total of 600 teachers in the municipalities of Muisne, Jama and Pedernales have benefitted from the capacity in risk management, preparedness and appropriate response in order to be ready for new aftershocks. This capacity is conducted by RET, DYA, Plan International and UNICEF.

WASH

- Water tanks, bladders and wells are operating in several urban and rural distribution points since the first week. Improving activities are ongoing in order to guarantee treated and safe water to people in priority cantons.
- Established water and sanitation infrastructure in 27 shelters (official shelters and temporary spaces) and in 4 temporary education and protection spaces. Approximately 12,220 people have been supported with WASH minimum packages (WASH cluster).
- Support the progressive re-establishment of public water supply in the canton of Pedernales. Assessments of public water systems, led by SENAGUA and EUCC, are ongoing in Pedernales and Jama. UNICEF will support these activities through the national and local WASH cluster.
- Following strong aftershocks, immediate distribution of one 72m² plastic tent, tarpaulin, 90 kg HTH, 6,000 water purifying tablets (to purify 60,000 liters) and 400 collapsible jerrycans (10 l) for the most affected people in canton Muisne.
- UNICEF has strengthened its team and presence on the field with two WASH coordinators (Esmeraldas and Pedernales) and one WASH Information Management Specialist. UNICEF is implementing new Information Management Tools and sharing them with our partners.
Despite the efforts of cluster partners with the available resources, less than 30% of the shelters in the cantons of Pedernales and Jama have organizations implementing or planned implementation WASH minimum packages. This situation is more critical in canton Muisne. UNICEF has adopted a strategy of direct implementation in some interventions and activities due to the limited operational capacity of partners.

Health
- Reported increase of incidence of acute malnutrition (moderate and severe). While the number of cases is still low there is a significant risk of rapid increase in case of diarrheal epidemic because of poor conditions in shelters, temporary places and displacement sites. There have been a rise in the number of reported diarrheal cases.
- Underestimation of risk of undernutrition and no capacity for community based care for acute malnutrition. While in the past prevalence of acute malnutrition in the areas affected has been very low (1.4-3.4) this has the potential to rapidly increase.
- Health services coverage before the earthquake was only 60%. This capacity has been reduced in the aftermath and while major efforts are ongoing to rapidly increase the response capacity this is unlikely to cope adequately in case of an epidemic.
- UNICEF has facilitated the first Nutrition in emergency coordination group at national level and in the canton of Pedernales.
- Supported the MoH in issuing a position statement on the importance of Infant and Young Child Feeding in emergencies and in particular to stop donations of breast milk substitutes which had been received and distributed in the first few weeks since the earthquake.
- Supported the MoH in developing a supply chain management plan for Nutrition and Health supplies to the affected areas.
- Conducted nutrition counselling sessions with mothers of children under 2 yo in 12 shelters. Approximately 200 mothers have benefited.
- Ongoing support the MoH in developing an emergency protocol for the detection, referral and care of children under 5 with acute malnutrition.

Protection
- Following strong aftershocks, immediate psychosocial support has been provided to families and their children in Muisne and Chamanga. Approximately 100 people have been attended.
- 45 MIES’s personnel have received psychological first aid and emotional support in Esmeraldas. Provision of psychological support to teachers and students after the aftershocks on May 19th.
- Violence prevention community based methodology developed in Esmeraldas canton is being adapted to be implemented in affected zones in this province, since formal mechanisms and protection systems are not fully available and consistently present in these areas.
- Sports and recreational activities aimed at psychosocial recuperation of 4,000 children and adolescents in the province of Esmeraldas, continues to be provided under UNICEF partnership with the Ministry of Sports and FUDELA, after the training offered by Caravana de Deporte y Arte with the support from the Brazil UNICEF Country Office.
- Psychosocial activities under Retorno a la Alegria methodology are undergoing in both of the most affected provinces of Esmeraldas and Manabí, and 6,000 cases of children attended will be monitored to measure the impact of recuperation. Children requiring specialized assistance are being referred to specialized teams of psychologists from the Ministry of Health. UNICEF has also established cooperation agreements to ensure that emergency first responders, in particular those providing psychosocial support, will receive specialized therapeutic attention and tools for building self-care skills.
UNICEF provided technical support and accompanied MIES during relocation of families to the Divino Niño shelter in Pedernales through the establishment of a recreational area for children (Child friendly Space) and facilitation of activities in partnership with Terre des Hommes. Approximately 250 children participated every day.

**Communications for Development (C4D)**

A plan is being developed to integrate and expand the regional response of the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Manabí in vector control and C4D to prevent the spread of Zika in the earthquake affected areas, with emphasis on government-run shelters, informal shelters and surrounding rural communities. The plan will include dissemination of key prevention messages on local media (radio), community engagement led by social workers (Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion – MIES) and health promoters (MoH), and working with children in schools while raising awareness among parents.

A C4D strategy is being drafted to promote key behaviors among mothers affected by the earthquake living in shelters, mainly promoting maternal breastfeeding over formula feeding. Besides highlighting the superior nutritional value of breastfeeding, it will make additional emphasis on the health risks associated with using unsafe water for preparing formula. Other topics to be addressed include proper feeding of children with complementary food (in addition to breastfeeding) on ages 6-24 months.

The health module of the *Retorno a la Alegría* methodology for children's psychosocial recovery is ready to be implemented in the 4 temporary learning spaces installed in cities affected by the earthquake. The module titled “The Bubble Monkey” promotes basic health behaviors such as hand washing, use of safe water, how to prevent gastrointestinal infections, and environmental hygiene. These behaviours are promoted through the use of storytelling and puppeteering with the interaction and participation of children. The content was recently pre-tested and prior to its rollout among school children, teachers and facilitators will be trained on such module.

**Supply and Logistics**

- Since the beginning of the emergency, UNICEF Ecuador has ordered and received 760,239 USD of supplies (745,789 USD of which have been imported from Copenhagen Supply division and from the Panama hub).
- High impact items distributed are tents, tarpaulin and water tanks.
- The Supply Plan for the coming months is on the verge of being finalized. Local procurement will be privileged in order to reduce costs and delivery delays.

**Security**

- Approval for United Nations Personnel to travel on Military Aircraft. This authorization remains effective until June 17th. The UN Designated Official, with the support of the UNDSS Security Advisor, should record the use of the military aircraft under this authorization, including names of United Nations Personnel, date of flight, destination, and type of aircraft used.
- There is a clear increase in criminal activities in cities and populations affected by the earthquake of April 16th; even UN staff members have been victims. Robberies, assaults, micro trafficking, illegal possession of weapons etc., are continually being presented in this area. 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 (vest, cap).
  - Vehicles must have visibility of UN System.
  - It must have appropriate communication equipment (cellular, satellite, VHF and HF radios).
Funding

<table>
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<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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<td>Child Protection</td>
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<td>Cross sectoral and Cluster Coordination</td>
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<td>$250,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,300,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,675,921</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,624,079</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next SitRep: 10/06/2016

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