Guatemala
Humanitarian Situation Report
No. 5

18 Aug - 29 Sept 2018

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

• Following the eruption of Fuego volcano on 3 June, an estimated 3,199 people remain in official shelters, including more than 1,287 children.

• Nearly four months after the volcano eruption, the three more affected departments are now in Yellow Alert: Chimaltenango, Sacatepéquez and Escuintla. As heavy rains in the Fuego Volcano area caused lahars in late September, the National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) is constantly monitoring the situation of neighboring communities. Emergency Operation Centers (COEs) continue operating in Guatemala City (National COE), Escuintla, Sacatepéquez and Chimaltenango.

• By 14 September, authorities have relocated 315 families (1,273 people) from shelters to transitional family housing solutions (AUTS) in Escuintla and Alotenango (Sacatepéquez department).

• UNICEF continues to support actions in Education, Nutrition, WASH and Child Protection sectors. Over 4,000 children are benefiting from the provision of WASH services, nearly 1,500 children have been reached with Child Protection services, and 780 children have been screened by Nutrition brigades in shelters and affected communities.

685,754*
No. of children affected

1,714,387
No. of people affected
(CONRED, 18 September 2018)

1,287*
Approx. No. of children in shelters

3,199
No. of people in shelters, including ATUS
(CONRED, 18 September 2018)

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

Funding status 2018*

Funding requirements: US$ 997,919

Funding gap: US$ 286,937 (29%)

Funds available: US$ 711,002 (71%)

*‘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 latest reports by the National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), as of 29 September, the Fuego volcano eruption left over 1.7 million people (including an estimated 685,754 children) affected across several departments with Escuintla, Sacatepéquez, and Chimaltenango departments the hardest hit, 182 deaths have been confirmed and 246 people remain missing, mainly in Escuintla.

CONRED is constantly monitoring the situation of neighbouring communities as heavy rains in the Fuego Volcano area have caused lahars during the past weeks, while other volcanos in the country (i.e. Pacaya) have also been active. Emergency Operation Centers (COEs) continue operating in Guatemala City (National COE), Escuintla, Sacatepéquez and Chimaltenango.

Guatemalan authorities continue building transitional family housing solutions known as ATUS (Albergues Temporales Unifamiliares). In Escuintla department, 200 ATUS -with four rooms each - will be built, 151 have been completed and 128 are currently functioning. In Alotenango (Sacatepéquez department), 46 have been completed and are operational. The remaining are expected to be operational in around three months.

An estimated 3,199 people remain in official shelters in Escuintla and Sacatepéquez, including more than 1,287 children. The relocation of families from collective shelters to ATUS in Escuintla is ongoing. By 14 September, a total of 319 families (1,273 people) have been relocated in ATUS in Escuintla (169) and Alotenango (150). 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’s Office and with the support of OCHA, is coordinating the support to the Government’s humanitarian response. IOM, as lead 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 management (including ATUS). UNICEF is an active member of the HCT.

Other coordination mechanisms including the United Nations Disaster Management Team (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) (Lead: UNICEF)
- Nutrition (Leads: UNICEF / ACF)
- Education (Co-Leads: UNICEF / Save the Children)
- Health (Lead: PAHO)
- Protection (Co-Leads: UNCHR/UNHCHR) / Child Protection sub-cluster (Lead: UNICEF)
- Shelters (Lead: IOM)
- Rehabilitation (UNDP)

**Humanitarian Strategy**

UNICEF’s response is focused on addressing the needs of children and their families living in shelters (including ATUS). 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 meeting 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, targeting families formerly living in the official shelters activated immediately after the emergency hit.
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Education

UNICEF-supported temporary school camps in Escuintla and Sacatepéquez continue operating. In addition, UNICEF is supporting the installation of WASH facilities for 25 portable classrooms set nearby ATUS camps in Escuintla. As the school year ends in October, the Ministry of Education is preparing for the school year evaluation for children affected by the emergency. Education authorities have requested UNICEF’s support in the implementation of after-school activities for emotional recovery, including extra-curricular activities such as handcrafts, music and art shows, reading circles, story-telling and moppet shows for children and parents in Sacatepéquez and Escuintla, to be conducted at temporary classrooms. A communication strategy will soon be launched by the Ministry of Education regarding the upcoming school year.

Education authorities have identified preliminary needs for rehabilitation of schools that were used as shelters or warehouses during the emergency. UNICEF and Save the Children - as co-leads of the Education Cluster, have kept cluster members informed about the Ministry of Education plans. The Ministry has also engaged with civil society organisations (CSOs) and local donors for raising additional support for the rehabilitation of schools. UNICEF continues to provide technical assistance for the implementation

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

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

WASH interventions, particularly sanitation, in schools and learning spaces, including installations of infrastructure (portable toilets and sinks) and promotion of hygiene, have reached a cumulative total of at least 541 children (278 boys, 263 girls) and 42 teachers (38 women, 4 men) in Escuintla department, and 3,567 children (1,882 boys, 1,685 girls) and 122 teachers (42 men, 80 women) in Sacatepéquez department. These actions have been carried out in close coordination with CONRED, the Ministry of Education, and the WASH Cluster.

Child Protection

UNICEF continues to lead the Child Protection sub-cluster, comprising of seven organizations (including UNICEF) meeting every two weeks. The joint actions of the Child Protection sub-cluster include provision of psychosocial care services in 11 shelters in Sacatepéquez and Escuintla departments, finalizing the Return to Happiness methodology, which allowed the expression of emotions, feelings and overcoming trauma, supporting them in the return to everyday life.

Since August, children and families have been accompanied as part of the relocation process in the ATUS (temporary collective shelters). In each shelter, three age-appropriate spaces have been installed for young children, primary school-age children and adolescents, and spaces for psychosocial attention in the ATUS are currently being adapted. In addition, six workshops on self-care have been conducted reaching 36 NGO psychologists and 38 government officials in charge of the management of shelters. The participants in the workshops have managed to express emotions and feelings generated by stress and traumatic experiences, improving their ability to serve the affected population.
The Return to Happiness activities concluded reaching a total of 1,439 children (721 girls, 718 boys) and their families, providing support on issues of grief management, fears, recognition of risks in their context, trust, communication, recognition of emotions, values, development of resilience and activities oriented to family preservation, through group play activities conducted by psychologists. A second phase of priority interventions are being planned, including life skills development activities, elaboration of life projects and self-protection, and psychosocial support. Furthermore, 19 children with disabilities and developmental problems have been identified and referred to government agencies and specialized disability agencies for specialized care.

In a joint action between the Children's Procurator's Office and UNICEF, the implementation of minimum child protection standards in shelters and ATUS has been verified. Reports and follow-up actions have been carried out in cases of violence against children and referrals for psychosocial attention have been conducted accordingly. Recommendations have been provided to SOSEP in order to improve care and protection of children.

**Nutrition**

UNICEF continues supporting the response through the implementation of “Nutrition Brigades,” which are providing services in shelters and communities affected by the volcano eruption, including: acute malnutrition screening and referral to health services for treatment, individualized counselling on breastfeeding, infant and young child feeding, special counselling for people with chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, participatory educational activities on nutrition, physical activities to prevent overweight, hygiene promotion practices. A "Nutrition Brigade" with eight nutritionists, was deployed to visit 20 shelters in Escuintla during August and September. A total of 380 children were screened, 20 children with acute malnutrition were identified and referred to the Ministry of Health (MoH) supported facilities. In addition, the brigade implemented the "Nutrition School" strategy, consisting of nutrition education activities conducted at shelters, 70 group sessions and 800 individual counselling sessions were held in August and September. The promotion of physical activity in shelters has been a strategy used by nutritionists to prevent overweight and obesity.

In addition, "Communities Nutrition Brigades," consisting of a group of 12 nutritionists, are providing services to 16 communities in Escuintla, in close coordination with MoH, CONRED, Food and Nutrition Security Secretariat (SESAN) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Among the activities carried out by the brigade are educational sessions on Infant and Young Child Feeding in emergencies, breastfeeding and healthy eating, focused mainly on vulnerable groups (children under 5 years of age, pregnant women and breastfeeding women). At least 400 young children have been screened by the brigades, identifying and referring 37 children with acute malnutrition.

**Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability**

UNICEF, with CONRED and the Education and Promotion department of the Ministry of Health (PROEDUSA/MSPAS) - within SESAN's workplan framework - designed a strategy to facilitate communication with the affected communities, through community TV and radio. The strategy comprises of priority behaviour changes as defined by UNICEF's C4D plan: health, WASH, nutrition, child protection and education; and is based upon the findings of the perceptions survey conducted among parents living in shelters (June 2018).

Three workshops have been conducted reaching community leaders and community radio/TV stations, in each of the most affected departments: Escuintla (7 stations), Sacatepéquez (12 stations) and Chimaltenango (4 stations). As a result of each workshop, a package of five radio spots - one per subject (health, WASH, nutrition, protection and education) - were produced, for a total of 15 radio spots. Additionally, participants worked on the use of cell phones to build messages about priority behaviours, resulting in 15 short videos. In these workshops, all participants were trained on the use of U-Report to share information via radio and TV, and to promote their use with adolescents in affected communities.

An additional series of workshops with media and community leaders are planned on mechanisms to garner the voice of the affected communities and connect it to the relevant authorities. UNICEF will work with Protection partners (local CSO IEPADES) and PROEDUSA/MSPAS with three workshops (one per department) planned in the coming month.

**Funding**

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

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support at the onset of the crisis. Other non-emergency resources have contributed to the response, including an estimate US$ 266,000 raised through a joint campaign in partnership with the BAC Credomatic bank and CentraRSE.

The Child Protection sector and M&E are currently showing the largest funding gaps where funding is needed for psycho-social support activities for children in underserved communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Funds available (US$)**</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>173,083</td>
<td>26,917</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>302,576</td>
<td>227,576</td>
<td>75,000</td>
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<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>181,280</td>
<td>131,280</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>279,063</td>
<td>179,063</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>997,919</td>
<td>711,002</td>
<td>286,917</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* 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. During the first phase of the emergency, the response was focused in shelters. Based on the needs, UNICEF’s response plan may be extended to cover other affected communities.

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

Next SitRep: 30 November 2018

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