Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.1 Richter scale struck Mexico City, Puebla and Morelos at 13:14 hours on 19 September 2017, two hours after a nationwide earthquake simulation. Mexico City is heavily affected with a total number of 45 buildings that have collapsed, while in Puebla, 122 municipalities are declared under a state of emergency, as are 33 municipalities in the State of Morelos. Some parts of Mexico City are chaotic with civil society organizing themselves to provide basic items such as food and water to affected populations and to act as search-and-rescue teams. Most of the aid is centralized in Mexico City, while efforts are underway in Puebla and Morelos. Hospitals are open and serving injured people. Health desks are also established in government shelters and open spaces, where affected families have camped temporarily. Government response is ongoing, with the Secretary of Defense and the Marines activated to lead the response. Mexico City is declared to be in an extraordinary state of emergency. The Rebsamen School, in the south of the city, collapsed, with 21 school children dead, 14 rescued and 30 still missing. Children separated from their families have been reported in shelters and hospitals.

Given high capacities of the Government in Mexico City, UNICEF’s efforts will concentrate in the south of Mexico City, Puebla and Morelos. This will be confirmed after rapid evaluation made by two teams deployed to the southern area of Mexico City. UNICEF Mexico will prioritize response to immediate needs in WASH and child protection, and will be followed by education response in the next two weeks as data from the Protección Civil and the Ministry of Education becomes available.

Highlights

- On 19 September 2017, at 13:14 hours, an earthquake of 7.1 magnitude on the Richter scale struck Central Mexico, with its epicenter in Axiochapan, Morelos.
- As of 5:15 am, 20 September, 216 deaths were reported.
- The highest number of deaths were in Mexico City (117), and Morelos, followed by Puebla.
- 212 schools were affected in Mexico City and 217 schools affected in Puebla. *(Source: Televisa).*
- Government has activated the PLAN MX, which coordinates federal aid efforts for the population through the National Emergency Committee.
- Classes and government offices have been suspended until further notice in Mexico City, Puebla and Morelos.
- UNICEF has an ongoing response effort in Oaxaca and Chiapas, which were both affected by the 8.2 Richter scale earthquake on 7 September 2017 and will respond simultaneously in the affected areas of Central Mexico.

Situation in Numbers

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<th>20 September 2017</th>
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<td>estimated number of children affected by the earthquake in Mexico City, Morelos and Puebla.</td>
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| US$ 3.4 million | required by UNICEF Mexico for immediate and complementary response to the needs of children and adolescents in earthquake affected areas.

Information on deaths come from newspaper sources *(El UNIVERSAL).*
Humanitarian Strategy
UNICEF will deploy rapid assessment teams in the south of Mexico City and prepare response plans for Morelos and Puebla. The following response actions are planned:

**Child Protection**
- Advocacy and communication on advice to parents on how to protect their children during the earthquake; prevention of child separation in earthquake-affected areas
- Child friendly spaces for psychosocial support (tools, guidelines, facilitators & psychologists to organize spaces and facilitate activities/support)
- Activities to prevent violence, exploitation and abuse (guidelines and support for how to organize shelters – i.e. who adults vs children – advocacy)
- Support to emergency foster care for separated children
- Supplies for physical protection of children in areas of displacement (blankets, rainwear, tarpaulins)

**Education**
- Temporary learning spaces (school tents) and school safety guidelines (including facilitation, tools and guidelines)
- Distribution of school-in-a-box, ECD kits (to schools, both temporary or permanent; and day-care centres)
- Psychosocial support training for teachers

**WASH**
- Provision of safe drinking water in highly affected municipalities of Puebla and Morelos
- Provision of mobile toilets in temporary shelters and open spaces
- Distribution of complementary hygiene items (handwashing soaps, menstrual pads, diapers, antibacterial hand gel)

**Humanitarian Coordination**
- A United Nations Emergency Team meeting, led by OCHA, is taking place on 20 September to coordinate emergency response for the UN Country Team in Mexico.
- It is important that all efforts are made to ensure that the current earthquake response is linked to ongoing and still immediate response actions in Oaxaca and Chiapas.

**Media and External Communication**
- UNICEF will seek to have a strong presence in national newspapers, both online and print version, on TV with interviews regarding the earthquake, as well as radio.
- UNICEF has already conducted interviews with BBC World and ITV.
- After the earthquake in Oaxaca and Chiapas, UNICEF Mexico has positioned itself as the most visible actor on the situation of children in the emergency.

**Security**
- There are some reports of theft in Mexico City. (http://www.animalpolitico.com/2017/09/reportan-usuarios-twitter-asaltos-la-zona-santa-fe-ante-la-confusion-sismo/)

**Funding**
- UNICEF Mexico requires US$3.4 million to attend to the immediate needs of children and adolescents in terms of WASH, child protection, and education, in the three affected states.
- For those purposes, UNICEF is activating online appeals (www.donanunicef.org), 01-800 number and bank account.

**Next SitRep:**
- 22 September 2017

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