Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

22 September 2017

5,000,000
estimated number of children affected by the earthquake in Mexico City, Morelos and Puebla.

US$ 3.4 million
Required by UNICEF Mexico for immediate and complementary response to the needs of children and adolescents in earthquake affected areas.

Highlights

- As of 22 September, total number of deaths is 302 in Mexico City (142), Morelos (97), Puebla (43), State of Mexico (13) and Guerrero (6). (Source: Animal Politico)
- 2,247 schools affected in: Mexico City (240), Puebla (934), Tlaxcala (260), State of Mexico (600), Morelos (48), Guerrero (93) and Hidalgo (72). 5,092 schools affected by 7 and 19 September earthquakes. (Source: SEP).
- Classes are suspended in Mexico City, Puebla and Morelos until 25 September
- Mexico has strong capacities to provide aid to affected areas. A considerable amount of food, water, clothes, blankets and hygiene items have been distributed to the majority of affected municipalities.
- Civil society has significantly contributed in the majority of municipalities in the form food and non-food items, and search and rescue activities.
- The Minister of Finance has announced possible adjustments to the 2018 Budget (already presented to Congress) to provide further resources to the National Disasters Fund (FONDEN).
- UNICEF deployed two teams September 21-22 to affected areas in Morelos and Puebla for a rapid assessment of children’s situation. Devastation is less than expected, except for particular areas such as Jojutla and the north of Morelos (Tetela del Volcán).

Particular areas of Mexico City are heavily affected with a total number of 45 buildings having collapsed and several in danger of collapse. In Puebla, 122 municipalities are still under a state of emergency, as are 33 municipalities in the State of Morelos. Civil society has organized itself to provide basic items such as food and water to affected populations and to act as search-and-rescue teams. Although most of the aid is centralized in Mexico City, it has already reached most of affected areas in Puebla and Morelos. Hospitals are open and serving injured people. Government response is ongoing, mainly through Secretary of Defense and the Marines. Shelters are well equipped; however people are not sleeping there as they prefer to go to families and/or friends. UNICEF has received information of 10 children separated from their families in Mexico City who are staying in a shelter and is coordinating response with an NGO specialized in children’s rights.

UNICEF deployed two teams September 21-22 to affected areas in Morelos and Puebla to make a rapid assessment of children’s and women’s situation. In Morelos, devastation is less than expected, except for particular areas such as Jojutla and the north of Morelos. 10,000 houses are affected as well as 48 schools, 10 hospitals and 15 health centres. 95% of the state has electricity. There are 74 shelters available that have received food, blankets, and mattresses. (Source: Gobierno de Morelos).

Jojutla, Morelos.
There is a high number of buildings and houses destroyed. People are living in the streets since they do not want or do not know there are shelters. There is a need for temporary learning spaces; however there is an absence of public spaces, or parks to install them. UNICEF’s added value in this municipality is psycho-social support for children and psycho-social training for teachers.
Tetela del Volcan and Hueyapan, Morelos (northern area of the state)
90% of houses in this area are affected. A school and a household census is under way. There is significant help and donations from individuals, companies and universities. Shelters have become aid collecting centres given that people do not want to sleep there. Children are scared and in fear. Child friendly spaces are needed.

Information on Puebla will be reported in the next SITREP; along with updates of the third earthquake of 23 Sept.

**Humanitarian Strategy**

The following response actions are planned for the affected municipalities identified:

**Child Protection**
- 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)
- Advocacy and communication on advice to parents on how to protect their children during the earthquake; prevention of child separation in earthquake-affected areas

**Education**
- Temporary learning spaces 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**
- The United Nations Emergency Team meeting has met twice to coordinate emergency response for the UN in Mexico. An UNDAC team has arrived to support information management and coordination.
- UNICEF insists on the importance that all efforts are made to ensure that the current earthquake response is linked to ongoing and still needed immediate response actions in Oaxaca and Chiapas.

**Media and External Communication**
- UNICEF has continued with a strong presence and voice on the situation of children in the emergency in national newspapers, both online and print version, on TV with interviews regarding the earthquake, as well as radio.

**Security**
- No further reports on this.

**Funding**
- UNICEF Mexico requires US$3.4 million to attend to the immediate needs of children and adolescents in terms of WASH, child protection, and education, in the three affected states.
- A local fundraising campaign has been activated through all existing channels: 1) a direct appeal to house list donors, and telemarketing, digital media and F2F campaigns for prospects, and 2) an appeal to corporate allies and prospects. Total funds raised to date: US$ 353,000.

**Next SitRep:**
- 25 September 2017
- UNICEF Mexico Facebook: [www.facebook.com/unicefmexico](http://www.facebook.com/unicefmexico)
- UNICEF Mexico Twitter: [@unicefmexico](http://twitter.com/unicefmexico)

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