Highlights.

- To date, both earthquakes have resulted to 407 casualties, 190,000 buildings and 10,000 schools damaged in 8 states. *(Source: Reforma 24.09 and El Financiero 25.09)*
- The Ministry of Education has announced an 8 step plan for a gradual return to school. All public schools need to be officially certified for safety conditions in the buildings to reopen.
- The Ministry of Education has announced UNICEF’s support in schools to help students deal with their fear or trauma. *(El Financiero 25.09)*
- After UNICEF’s deployment to all affected areas to make a rapid assessment of the situation of children and women, 26 municipalities have been selected for interventions, mainly in education and child protection.
- Overall, the number of children targeted will be the 20,000 already identified in the South of Mexico, plus 40,000 in Central Mexico.
- Two UNICEF child friendly spaces were installed in Oaxaca, providing psycho-social support and accommodating 150 children/day.

**Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs**

In the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas, there have been more than 4,000 aftershocks, affecting again the municipalities damaged by the 7 September earthquake. UNICEF staff deployed in those areas report that people are living in shelters or in improvised tents on the streets. Both parents and children demonstrate significant stress and fear from the earthquake and aftershocks. Due to continuous rains, communities near the sea, like San Mateo del Mar, are at risk of a dengue outbreak.

A strong aftershock of 6.2 magnitude hit Oaxaca on 23 September, affecting the same areas as were hit by the 7 September earthquake. Shelters have been relocated, opening mega-shelters with no toilets or showers, in sports fields and football camps. There is a shortage of electricity and water in these municipalities. The Army has relocated in these mega-shelters with families and children. Some government programs have been initiated, such as cash-for-work programmes for house reconstruction.

After a rapid assessments of children’s and women situation, the main needs identified are on education and child protection, mainly psycho-social interventions and establishment of temporary learning centers.

UNICEF had received information on children separated from their families in Mexico City who were staying in a shelter. The name and number of the Protection Attorney of Mexico City was provided to the contact person that made the report. Also, UNICEF prepared a Q&A on what to do in case of finding lost or children separated from their families.
Humanitarian Strategy and Response
The following response actions are planned for the affected municipalities identified:

**Child Protection**
- 36 child friendly spaces for psycho-social support distributed in the 5 states of intervention. Of these, 2 have already been installed in Oaxaca. The week of 25 September, UNICEF will open 2 more spaces in Tonalá, Chiapas and 8 in Oaxaca. Each one should accommodate 150 children/day. Plans are to install 16 spaces in total in those two states, so the following week (2 October), the remaining four should be opened in Oaxaca. Also in response to the Central Mexico earthquake (19 Sept) UNICEF is planning to open 20 child-friendly spaces, in Puebla, Morelos & Mexico City.
- Guidelines for the protection of children against exploitations and violence have been created together with local Child Protection Attorney Offices in Oaxaca. Similar actions will be taken in Morelos and Puebla.
- Other activities planned are:
  - Supplies for physical protection of children in areas of displacement.
  - 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**
- UNICEF is targeting 40 schools in Chiapas and Oaxaca, and another 66 in Puebla, Morelos, Mexico City.
- Temporary learning spaces will be installed in 14 municipalities of Puebla, where 36 schools collapsed.
- Distribution of school-in-a-box and ECD kits:
  - Agreement reached with a health provider (IMSS Prospera) to provide ECD activities in shelters.
  - 100 school in a box kits will be delivered in Puebla this week.
  - Ministry of Education has asked for 1,600 School in a box kits.
- Psychosocial support training for teachers: this week 80 teachers are being trained on psychosocial skills in Oaxaca (28-29.09) and Chiapas (3-4.10). Other 40 teachers will be trained in Mexico City (6-7.10).

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

**Humanitarian Coordination**
- The United Nations Emergency Team has organized sectorial working groups in response to the emergency.
- UNICEF Mexico has received support of regional and HQ with the deployment of specialists on Protection, Communications, PFP, WASH and C4D.
- Cooperation agreements for child friendly spaces have been signed with Save the Children and World Vision for Oaxaca and Chiapas, and with Juconi for Puebla and Morelos.
- A programme cooperation agreement will be signed with Fundación Cántaro Azul for WASH activities.

**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. 12 interviews with national and international media took place this weekend.

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

**Funding**
- UNICEF Mexico requires US$4.6 million to attend to the immediate needs of children and adolescents in terms of WASH, child protection, and education, in the five affected states.
- The local fundraising campaign has continued through all existing channels: 1) a direct appeal to house list donors, and telemarketing, digital media and F2F campaigns for prospects 2) an appeal to corporate allies and prospects. Donations are on its way also from National Committees and Goodwill Ambassadors, namely Thalia and Salma Hayek. Total funds raised to date: USD$352,000.

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

**Who to contact for further information:**

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