Highlights

- The number of people in the camp near the border river and in Alberca Chavez is unknown. There is still no official census. Numbers available are:
  - 1,700 people in the camp (of which there are approximately 400 children). Families arrive to the camp on a daily basis, but numbers tend to decrease when asylum requests are rejected.
  - The population in Alberca Chavez has also decreased, but there is an estimated number of 200 people (of which there are approximately 40 children).

- Protection activities, mainly the child-friendly spaces from UNICEF, have been positively perceived, reaching 293 children and adolescents.

- UNICEF, in coordination with other UN agencies such as UNHCR and IOM has designed a Protection and Attention Route for migrant children which will soon be implemented in Matamoros.

- UNICEF made an assessment on possible education interventions and needs in the main camp from 26 February 26 to 2 March.

- It is important to mention that, on 28 February, the US Court reversed the “Remain in Mexico” (MPP) policy, which required Central American asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico pending US approval. It is yet unclear what the implications of this decision will be. (Source: BBC News).

UNICEF’s Response and Funding Status

Mexico - Matamoros  
Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2  
UNICEF Appeal 2020  
US$ 500,000
Funding Overview and Partnerships

The Mexico Country Office made an appeal for a US$ 500,000 EPF to respond to Matamoros and Tapachula, of which US$ 375,000 are needed for child protection response in Matamoros and US$125,000 for WASH support. No funds have been received yet so there is still a funding gap for the response.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Although the number of people in the camp has decreased, every day new families arrive looking for refuge and support. Thanks to the efforts from different humanitarian actors with presence in Matamoros life conditions of the migrant population have significantly improved. However, both in the camp and in Alberca Chavez there are humanitarian conditions that need to be progressively addressed such as: housing conditions, WASH, protection and access to education for children.

The lack of a population census makes the situation of children invisible: there is no information on how many children there are, their gender, ages, relationship with the main caregiver, the increase or decrease in their numbers and in general what their situation is.

Despite efforts to facilitate the co-existence between the migrant population and the hosting population in Matamoros, there persists an atmosphere of rejection and discomfort with the presence of migrants by some sectors of the society. As time passes tensions and xenophobic expressions increase.

Between 26 February and 2 March 2020, UNICEF carried out an assessment on the education needs in the main camp. To date, there are at least 3 temporary learning spaces established by American NGOs that reach approximately 100 children (6-12 years old). None of the current interventions has a set curriculum and only one of them includes literacy and numeracy. A new initiative, from the American NGO Yes We Can, which includes a set curriculum and focuses on bilingual literacy (Spanish-English), is expected to be set up in April 2020. This intervention is planned to substitute and unify the current initiatives with a larger capacity for 200 children.

Regarding formal education, only ICRC and local NGO Ayudándoles a Triunfar are promoting this alternative. ICRC pre-registered in school around 50 families but later on parents decided not to send their children to school. Ayudándoles a Triunfar managed to ally with the elementary school Vicente Guerrero to provide places for 10 migrant children and has helped parents to register and transport them to and from school. Some barriers identified by ICRC and Ayudándoles a Triunfar for this type of initiative are that parents feel unsafe in Matamoros and do not want to send their children alone to school and that families cannot afford transportation to and from school.

In addition, the Tamaulipas Ministry of Education has plans to implement a twofold strategy: 1) the installation of an official temporary learning space with local teachers and an adjusted curriculum; 2) finding vacancies in nearby schools and facilitating enrollment so that the children of families that foresee spending an extended period of time in Mexico can access regular schools and get their proper certification.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF’s response plan focuses on protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse in shelters and in the encampment, as well as providing safe spaces and psychosocial support. Distribution of WASH dignity kits are underway, in coordination with UNHCR. After a rapid assessment made by Education staff in Matamoros, some education actions are being considered.

Child Protection

- There are three child-friendly spaces already functioning for children: 2 in the camp and 1 in Alberca Chavez. Attendance per site is as follows: a) the two spaces in the camp have been attended at least once by 233
children (81 0-5 years old; 137 6-12 years old and 15 13-18 years old); b) in the space at Alberca Chavez, 60 children 0-13 years old.

- The Protection and Attention Route for migrant children was socialized with the Protection Group (composed of UN Agencies and CSOs). Presentation to the Child Protection Authorities is still pending.

**WASH**

- The acquisition and distribution of hygiene kits (complementary to the distributions made by UNHCR) is in process.
- UNICEF is analyzing, together with other UN Agencies, the main gaps to cover WASH needs and are exploring complementary mechanisms to cover these gaps.
- Continuous communication is established with other actors such as ICRC, Mexican Red Cross and MSF to implement coordinated actions on hygiene promotion.

**Education**

- Based on the above-mentioned assessment, UNICEF’s recommendation regarding temporary learning spaces is to provide technical assistance to the NGOs already on the ground and to the upcoming MoE intervention. Regarding the transition towards formal education, UNICEF could lead and have a significant role by providing: sensibilization on formal education advantages, identifying educational and non-educational barriers that are preventing children’s access to formal education, serving as a bridge between the multiple actors involved on education, designing a roadmap with the education authorities and deploying a communication campaign, among others.

**Supply and Logistics**

ECD and psycho-social kits were delivered on time to La Jugarreta (UNICEF’s implementing partner).

**Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy**

- Coordination and communication between the different humanitarian actors with presence in Matamoros continues to be a challenge, although it has improved in the last weeks, basically through informal coordination spaces that facilitate the exchange of information among key actors.
- Communication, information exchange and cooperation between UN Agencies with presence in the area (UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF) and other key actors, such as MSF and ICRC-Mexican Red Cross has improved substantially with the establishment of periodic coordination meetings (once a month).
- Under the leadership of UNHCR, there is a Working Group on Protection already functioning in which UNICEF participates, leading Child Protection issues.
- There is still no formal coordination mechanism, where all humanitarian actors can meet under the leadership and coordination of local authorities.
- It is necessary to undertake inter-agency efforts to sensitize and train on minimum humanitarian standards (i.e. Sphere), which are practically unknown by authorities and by some of the humanitarian actors present in Matamoros.

**Human Interest Stories and External Media**

Due to security reasons the CO made the decision of not publishing anything in media.

**Next SitRep: 3 April 2020**

Who to contact for further information:

- Christian Skoog
  - Representative
  - UNICEF Mexico
  - Tel: +525552849550
  - Email: cskoog@unicef.org

- Pressia Arifin-Cabo
  - Deputy Representative
  - UNICEF Mexico
  - Tel: +525552849573
  - Email: parifincabo@unicef.org

- Soraya Bermejo
  - Chief of Communications
  - UNICEF Mexico
  - Tel: +525552849555
  - Email: sbermejo@unicef.org
Annex A

Summary of Programme Results - Matamoros

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Overall needs</th>
<th>2020 target</th>
<th>Total results*</th>
<th>Change since last report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of child protection cases referred to authorities as per the referral pathways</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>NA*</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children receiving psycho-social assistance in child friendly spaces;</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WASH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hygiene kits distributed</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>NA*</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Given that the response has just started, there is no consolidated information on progress yet.

Annex B

Funding Status*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Humanitarian resources received in 2020</td>
<td>Resources available from 2019 (Carry-over)</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>$ 375,000</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>$ 125,000</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 500,000</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>