Highlights

Category 1 Hurricane Earl entered the Bay of Campeche on Aug. 5 after crossing through Belize, northern Guatemala and southern Mexico. A vivacious low-level center stayed intact across the Yucatan peninsula, and thunderstorms regrew around the circulation. Earl briefly restrengthened to 60 mph before landfall in eastern Mexico south of Veracruz. Earl weakened to a tropical depression early on Aug. 6, 2016, after moving back over land and it then dissipated over the mountains later that day.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Javier formed off Mexico's Pacific Coast on August 6 and headed northward. Javier had sustained winds of about 50 mph and was centered about 210 miles southeast of Cabo San Lucas late Sunday. It was moving west-northwest at about 13 mph. Heavy rains of between 4 and 8 inches were expected, along with high winds. A tropical storm warning was in effect for the southern portion of the Baja California.

The death toll after heavy rains caused by the Earl passing through Mexico rose to 41 - of whom 18 are children -, after the authorities reported at least 11 people dead in the state of Veracruz, 29 dead in the central state of Puebla and 1 dead in Hidalgo. In addition, Earl left thousands of people affected by floods and landslides.

The Mexican Ministry of National Defense immediately activated its DN-III Plan of rescue and aid to the population. Within 24 hours 1,700 families were evacuated and taken to various shelters in the states of Veracruz and Puebla.

A total of 20 communities have been affected. Further risks persists since heavy rains are continuing in the highlands and hillsides inhabited irregularly, where it is necessary to maintain special vigilance to avoid any further landslides, floods and mud slides.

UNICEF has been in close coordination with civil protection and local government through formal and informal means, and awaits the results of continued assessments of impact in affected areas, and specific requests for support.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The authorities do not rule out that the number of deaths continues to increase since the Army rescue efforts are still ongoing in areas affected by landslides and floods. Over 8,000 people have been affected and over 1,650 households have been damaged in the states of Veracruz and Puebla. Civil Protection authorities are conducting impact assessments along Earl’s passing route, and will be reporting detected needs in the following days.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

Preparedness and response was coordinated at all times by Mexico’s National Civil Protection System. Headed by the President, it brings together all sectors (including security forces) and levels of government (federal, state and municipal) together with civil society and the private sector, through the National Emergency Committee.

Within the UNCT, the Emergency Committee UNETE was called by the Resident Coordinator, who maintained contact with the National Emergency Committee, through the Foreign Ministry. With confidence in its own capacity, Mexico does not activate the Cluster System.

Humanitarian Strategy

The Mexican government has declared emergency in three municipalities of Puebla: Huauchinango, Tlaola y Xicotepec. With this action the Mexican Fund for Emergency Response (FONDEN) of the Civil Protection System has been activated with resources to meet the nutritional needs, shelter and health of the affected families.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

Since October 2015, MCO has signed a cooperation agreement with the National Protection System, focusing on risk reduction and building resilience with the participation of children and adolescents, and ensuring appropriate attention to them in emergencies, through training in all five regions of the country. This agreement allows the scaling up of ongoing activities to build capacity for DDR school plans, psychosocial support to children, and the use of Rapid FTR for family reunification. If needed, this could be implemented in areas affected by Tropical Storm Earl.

Communications for Development (C4D)

In coordination with the National Center for the Prevention of Disasters (CENAPRED), the National Institute of Indigenous Languages and the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous People, a series of emergency preparedness and prevention communication materials for children and families have been developed including: a child friendly infographic and a radio PSA in 15 indigenous languages of 7 states in risk of heavy rains, floods and landslides.

Supply and logistics

In anticipation of major impact, UNICEF MCO has a stock of 550 School in a Box sets, and 170 Recreation Kits. LTAs are also in place for prepositioning of supplies.
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