**Highlights**

- As of 17 May, authorities estimate that over 62,000 families are in need of assistance due to the floods that affected a large part of Paraguay’s population over the past week, mainly in Neembucú, Presidente Hayes, Alto Paraguay, Concepción, Capital (Asunción), Misiones, San Pedro and Central departments.

- Departmental-level Emergency declarations remain active in eight departments and in the Capital, however, a National Emergency has not been formally declared. The National Emergency Secretariat continues supporting the local authorities responding to the emergency (Emergency Operation Centres - COEs).

- New reports from the National Bureau of Health Surveillance indicate that the number of families affected in Presidente Hayes and Asunción is increasing.

- UNICEF and partners are providing hygiene and water-treatment supplies, repellents and mosquito nets to families affected in Neembucú. Psycho-social-support materials are also being provided.

- UNICEF is working in coordination with the Ministry of Education to restore the functionality of educational institutions, so that children can return to school as soon as possible.

- The lack of disaggregated data and difficult access to affected areas due to road closures remain the main challenges for the response.

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**20 May 2019**

- **62,119** Estimated No. of families in need of assistance (Source: National Emergency Secretariat - SEN, as of 14 May)

  Data regarding number of people and children in need is still being consolidated.

- **16** Flood-related deaths reported since April 2019 (Source: National Bureau of Health Surveillance)

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**Map 1. Departments affected by floods in Paraguay**

- This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any borders.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) reports that 62,119 families have been affected by floods in nine departments of Paraguay: Presidente Hayes, Central, San Pedro, Concepción, Cordillera, Capital, Ñeembucú, Boquerón and Alto Paraguay. Authorities indicate that Alto Paraguay, Presidente Hayes and Ñeembucú are the most affected departments in addition to the national capital Asunción. Detailed and disaggregated information of the situation and needs at department level is not yet available.

According to preliminary reports collected by UNICEF as of 17 May, the following is a summary of the situation in the affected areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Situation²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Presidente Hayes (all districts included) | • 12,667 families affected, predominantly due to road closures.  
• 266 families have been evacuated from their homes and have been relocated in seven shelters. The population at risk (children under 5, pregnant women, and over 60 years old) represents 25% of the total population evacuated. |
| Concepción | • 5,000 families affected in Concepción and surroundings have received assistance from the SEN. |
| Alto Paraguay (all districts included) | • Over 4,500 families affected have received assistance from the SEN including food and other supplies. |
| Capital Asunción (Bañado Sur, Bañado Norte, Chacarita, Sajonia districts) | • 12,583 families affected.  
• As floods are recurrent in neighbourhoods located near the river bank in Asunción, part of the affected families are unlikely to return to their homes and instead will stay for longer period at improvised shelters, resulting in new urban settlements. Therefore, the needs and caseload are subject to change in the mid/longer term. |
| Central (Mariano Roque Alonso - MRA, Limpio, Villeta, Ypane, San Antonio districts) | • 285 families affected, out of which 249 families have been evacuated and relocated. |
| Misiones (Villa Florida District) | • 1,426 families affected. |
| San Pedro (Puerto Antequera, San Pedro, Nueva Germania, San Pablo y Chore) | • 1,200 families affected. |
| Ñeembucú (Alberdi, Villa Oliva, Villa Franca, Pilar) | • 10,000 families affected, they have been evacuated and relocated in 22 shelters and neighbouring homes. |

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

As of 17 May, eight departments including Ñeembucú, Central, Misiones, Itapúa, San Pedro, Guairá, Alto Paraguay and Presidente Hayes have issued a Departmental-level Emergency. The Municipality of Asunción has also declared a State of Emergency.

The National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) is the authority coordinating the Government response at national level, while COEs are coordinating the response at the local level. The Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Emergency Team (UNETE) are in contact with the SEN to coordinate response support. UNICEF is maintaining close communication with the SEN and is identifying opportunities to contribute to the emergency response in a coordinated manner.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF has organized missions to the affected departments, deploying specialized staff to carry out assessments and to conduct immediate psychosocial support interventions.

UNICEF maintains constant communication with the Ministries and the SEN and has started a response in Health, Education and Child Protection sectors. Furthermore, UNICEF is part of the interdisciplinary government-led coordination groups in charge of the emergency response.

In addition, UNICEF is developing strategies to raise funds and support from the private sector.

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2 Sources include SEN, Municipality of Asuncion Bulletins, National Health Bulletins,
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

**Health**
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) and influenza-like illnesses, especially in children under 5; diarrhoea and dehydration, mostly due to food contamination; vector-borne diseases (dengue, zika and chikungunya), arterial hypertension and skin lesions remain the most frequent pathologies among the affected population. As of 17 May, 16 flood-related deaths have been reported (25% children and adolescents, 33% indigenous).

UNICEF is working in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the NGO “Fundación Alda” to provide hygiene kits (including soap, towels and diapers), repellents and mosquito nets (to prevent vector-borne diseases) and psychosocial-support materials (including toys, books and crayons) for families affected in Ñeembucú. UNICEF is planning on scaling up its response to other prioritized departments.

As part of the ongoing health surveillance promoted by UNICEF and carried out by the National University in Pilar, 8,315 affected families have been registered so far in 14 districts in Ñeembucú department (see table).

**Nutrition**
UNICEF deployed a Nutrition Consultant to Ñeembucú department to assess the situation and to provide counselling on Nutrition in Emergencies and breastfeeding.

UNICEF is working in coordination with the Ministry of Health to provide orientation on breastfeeding to mothers living in the affected areas, with materials validated by the Ministry with UNICEF’s technical assistance.

**WASH**
UNICEF has deployed staff to assess the WASH situation in the Affected Departments. According to information collected, the Chaco region (Alto Paraguay, Boquerón and Presidente Hayes departments) is the most severely affected, with potable water being the most urgent need.

UNICEF is working on strategies to respond to the situation. However, the difficult access to the affected areas due to road closures, and the lack of sufficient information represents the main challenges.

**Education**
As per the Ministry of Education, 151 educational institutions are currently affected by the floods in Presidente Hayes, Central, San Pedro, Concepción, Cordillera, Capital, Ñeembucú, Boquerón and Alto Paraguay departments; impacting a total of 28,665 students. A Red Alert remains active for the education sector.

UNICEF is working in coordination with the Ministry of Education to restore the functionality of educational institutions, so that children can return to school as soon as possible. The Country Office team is in contact with Education authorities at national level and participates in the “Risks Management for Emergencies and Crisis” board, activated by the Ministry. Strategies to support the return to classes include: use of transitional classrooms for schools that experienced severe infrastructure losses, repair of damaged classrooms, provision of educational materials with UNICEF’s technical assistance and psychological support to teachers and students.

**Child Protection**
In Pilar city (Ñeembucú), UNICEF continues to coordinate with the local authorities and the Ministry of Childhood (Ministerio de Niñez) to collect data regarding the situation of children at risk living in the affected areas, and in the development of containment strategies to decrease the risks faced by affected children.

UNICEF is continuing to co-leading - with the Red Cross and the National NGO Jakaira- the implementation of psychosocial support activities, including workshops and recreational activities for 380 children and adolescents living in shelters in Pilar. Mid and long-term strategies remain cooperation with local authorities to prevent risk situations by establishing friendly spaces for children and working with educational institutions and Social Programs’ leaders.

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**Preliminary registry of families affected in Ñeembucú department**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>No. of affected families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pilar</td>
<td>2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan Ñeembucú</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor Martínez</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isla Umbú</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerrito</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacuaras</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desmochado</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villalbin</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberdi</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Díaz</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guazucúú</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laureles</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villa Oliva</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villa Franca</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,315</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Asunción, UNICEF is developing mid and long-term strategies for preventing risks including working with the local authorities to create warning systems to detect vulnerable situations, ensure minimum safety standards and provision of gender-segregated bathrooms.

In the Chaco region, access remains challenging due to road closures. UNICEF is working on strategies that promote creation of employment opportunities, so that situations of children labor and exploitation could be prevented.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF has deployed staff to Ñeembucú and affected areas in Asunción to assess and document the situation of children affected, collecting images and testimonies of the impact that the floods have had on their lives. The information is shared on social media channels (UNICEF Paraguay official Facebook, Twitter and Instagram account).

Next SitRep: 27/05/019

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