



© UNICEF/Tapachula, Chiapas.

Reporting Period: 1 January to 28 February 2022

Picture: Health intervention with population on the move with partner CADENA in Tapachula, Chiapas.

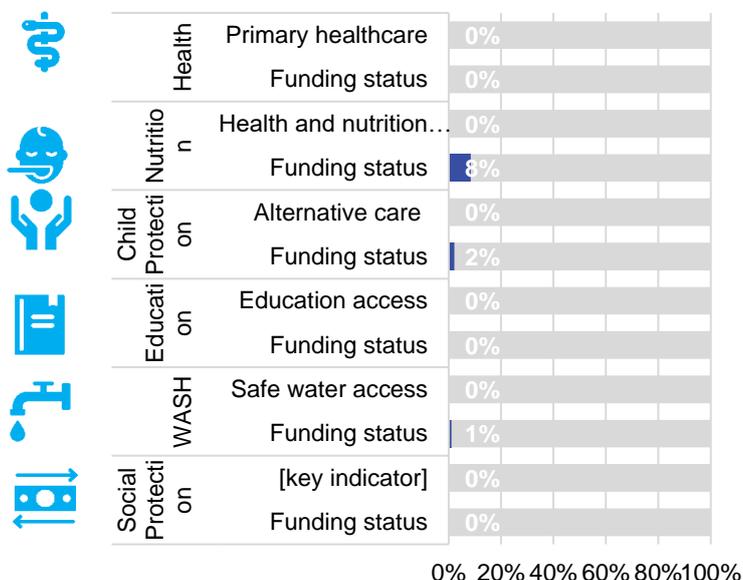
Mexico - Migration Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1 2022

unicef 
for every child

Highlights

- In Jan-Feb 2022, there has been an increase in people arriving in Mexico, mainly from Central America, Haiti, Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Cuba, Congo, Nigeria, and Ukraine. Returns under the Migrant Protection Protocol (Stay in Mexico Program) continues, as well as Title 42 expulsions.
- Protests (hunger strikes and marches) have been held at the INM office in Tapachula, requesting the delivery of immigration legal status documentation.
- INM maintains a policy of immigration control, containment, and dissolution of caravans with the assistance of the National Guard and the Mexican Army (SEDENA).
- IDPs from Michoacan and Guerrero kept arriving to Tijuana, occupying at least 70% of civil society shelters and in “El Chaparral” camp. The remaining 30% were mainly from Central America and Haiti.
- In Ciudad Juarez the situation with COVID remains complex with a high rate of contagion - there is a particular need for availability of COVID tests to benefit the children and families on the move and other vulnerable population.
- The shelters report overcapacity, with some forced to close their doors due to staffing shortages caused by an increase in COVID infections. This situation has put pressure on the system (of protection of children and adolescents) due to the lack of space for adequate care, especially for unaccompanied children. This has led to almost immediate assisted returns without appropriate assessment of the best interests of the child.

UNICEF’s Response and Funding Status

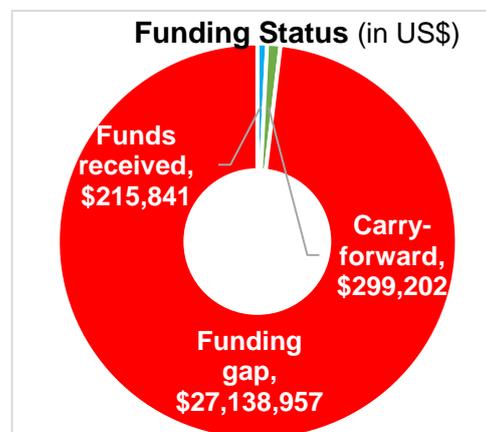


*Funding available includes: funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors. See Annex A.

Situation in Numbers



UNICEF Appeal 2022 US\$ 27.654 million



Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appeals for USD 27 million under the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal to respond to the needs of the migrant population in Mexico, including those returning under the Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP) and Title 42, internally displaced population from states with high organized crime violence and the continuous flow from Central and South America.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Tapachula, Chiapas FO

- In January 2022, 4,191 applications for refugee status were registered in Chiapas with COMAR, of which 3,751 were in Tapachula. 70.82% of the applications for refugee status in Mexico were filed in the city. The asylum seekers mainly originated from Haiti (40.7%) and Honduras (23.22%). During February, INM operations and those of the National Guard intensified in the search for migrants. Likewise, protests have, demanding INM deliver documents to facilitate the transit of migrants to the country's northern border. These demonstrations have manifested themselves as hunger strikes and "self-chaining". Ten Latin American migrants sewed their mouths to give continuity to the hunger strikes and thus pressure the INM to deliver immigration legal status documentation. At least eight malaria cases have been detected among migrants in various shelters around Tapachula. A medical team from the "Sanitary Jurisdiction VII" announced blood samples were taken, and the contagions of the disease, which had previously been eliminated from Mexico, were determined.¹
- The shelters are overcapacity with some forced to close their doors due to staffing shortages caused by an increase in COVID infections. This situation has put pressure on the system (of protection of children and adolescents) due to the lack of space for adequate care, especially for unaccompanied children. This has led to almost immediate assisted returns without appropriate assessment of the best interests of the child.

Map 1. Location of UNICEF Mexico Field Offices



Tijuana-Mexicali, Baja California FO

- During January and February 2022, Haitian and Central American families, with different migrant status, traveled from Chiapas to Mexicali and Tijuana. Internal displaced Mexican families mainly from Michoacán and Guerrero are still arriving mainly in Tijuana; deportation of unaccompanied Mexican adolescents, from United States to Mexico, is still increasing. Thus, civil society shelters have been constantly up to maximum capacity. Additionally, due to uptick of COVID confirmed cases, and constant overcrowding, there is a need to strengthen bio-security measures to prevent contagion, in public and private shelters.
- School re-openings were suspended. Since mid-January, education authorities of Baja California tried to reinstate school attendance, nevertheless due to COVID uptick, they stopped re-opening until March, under the guidance of the National Strategy for a safe return to schools.
- "El Chaparral" camp in Tijuana was disintegrated. In early February 450 people, from Mexico, Haiti and Central America were living in tents in this camp. By February 6th, authorities removed the camp and transferred migrants to the Migrant Integration Center and Refugio Salesiano.
- Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP) program was reactivated in Tijuana. So far an average of 7 people arrive daily basis.

Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua FO

- In Ciudad Juárez the situation with COVID remains complex – high rate of contagion with "epidemiologic traffic light" station in orange; there is a particular need for availability of COVID tests.
- Access to the health system continues to be complex- due to issues of capacity and bureaucracy - some migrant children face challenges in both, accessing the health system and being referred to specialized care in specialty health units (typically located in the state capital).
- Starting February 14th, the state of Chihuahua has begun transitioning to the return to schools. Access for migrant children continues to be a challenge.

¹ <https://www.inm.gob.mx/gobmx/word/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Tarjeta-Migratoria-110222.pdf>

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

- UNICEF provides medical assistance and medicine in communities and shelters through partner CADENA, serving approximately 150 children, adolescents, and pregnant women per week in Chiapas.
- UNICEF hired a gynaecologist to work with the Ministry of Health for the care of pregnant women.
- A donation of paediatric medicines and hygiene kits was made to the Ministry of Health for the migrant community.
- In Tijuana, through implementing partner CADENA-ADDRA, UNICEF will provide medicines, medical assistance with a nutritionist, psychologist, odontologist, in local communities, and migrant shelters, plus technical and logistic support will be given to the Ministry of Health.

Child Protection

- Care is provided to children and adolescents in migration situations through a multidisciplinary team hired by UNICEF to work within the DIF system in Chiapas, Baja California and Chihuahua. UNICEF has continued to provide psychosocial support in shelters as well as referring cases in need of assistance to the child protection authorities (Procuraduría de Protección a la Niñez and/or DIF). Advocacy is carried out to prevent the automatic assisted return of children and adolescents to their countries of origin.
- Implementing partners impact with psychosocial support activities, educational, child protection and sport activities, in 13 shelters in Tijuana and 6 in Mexicali. 25 girls and adolescents receive care and attention on a weekly basis, including psychosocial activities in a DIF municipal shelter in Tapachula 172 children and 155 adolescents received psychosocial and sports activities on a weekly basis, through the partners Futbol Más and Jugarreta in Tapachula. Training is provided in nine shelters by UNICEF on PSEA and GBV topics.
- UNICEF continues to implement the alternative care model, such as first reception with YMCA shelter, that receives unaccompanied adolescents, and strengthening DIF's case resolution to protect the right to live in family (origin or extended family). Expansion of the model is currently ongoing in Chihuahua, as well as Durango.
- In Tijuana, Refugio Salesiano, initiated operations (with UNICEF support by hiring and training personnel) with the objective of providing single parent family-headed by women- shelter, legal orientation and psychological assistance support
- The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) area, applied the "Team care strategy" to DIF and CIM authorities in Tijuana, offering 6 sessions each, reaching 50 civil servants. Technical support was provided to the psychologists of implementing partners and assistance for cases analysis. Articulation of local MHPS area with MHPSS community of practice, with UNHCR – UNICEF HQ, has been made, in order to execute improvements on service continuity between Mexico and USA.

Education

- RADIX (UNICEF implementing partner) provided emergency educational activities in 3 shelters in Tijuana, in January, 58 children in weekly interventions were benefited with this program; in Tapachula, 93 children and adolescents were benefited on a weekly basis.
- Centrito 32- (best known as baby bus-UNICEF implementing partner) took their activities to 4 shelters, providing early childhood tips and training to their parents and caregivers.
- Collaboration with Education authorities to push forward school attendance by socializing the initiative "health in your hands"
- CADENA- due to COVID, school re-leveling, psycho-emotional assistance support and school transition-adaptation have been applied within methodology of "learning circles" (Círculos de Aprendizaje). In January 53 children were benefited by weekly interventions
- Puppet shows with C4D content have continued regularly in shelters during the month.

WASH

- An inter-institutional working group was established to plan for responses during emergencies.
- Infrastructure improvements are being made to six shelters in Tapachula, 10 shelters in Tijuana and 2 in Mexicali, with cleaning products provided by UNICEF.
- UNICEF has an agreement with INM (Immigration Regulation offices) to install drinking fountains and hand wash modules in Tapachula.
- A donation of two mobile WASH stations was made to the Municipal Civil Protection Office. These stations have the capacity to provide services to 120 people per day.

- 2, 796 hygiene kits reached children, adolescents, and their families in various shelters in Tapachula; in Tijuana, hygiene kits were delivered in 14 shelters in Tijuana and 15 in Mexicali: 620 hygiene kits for girls, 620 hygiene kits for boys, and 920 families family hygiene kits.

Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP)

On February 1st, the skills for life and work programs in Tijuana and Ciudad finalized after 7 months, having trained 3180 adolescents and youths (12-24, 45% women and 55% men, both internally displaced and foreign migrants) in life skills, including communication with others, managing emotions and skills needed to find employment (e. g. resume building). Technical skills in various occupations (e.g. culinary management, video game development, etc.) were also provided to those who were able to enrol (lack of required documentation was an obstacle) and approximately 70% were certified. Furthermore, skills development was complemented by mentoring and role modelling sessions. A skills development program began operating in Chiapas at the end of 2022, however, due to COVID related closures training in life and technical skills began in February 2022. So far 65 participants have started the program in the cities of Tapachula and Comitán.

Social and Behavioural Change (SBC)

During the first two months of 2022 UNICEF restarted the work that had been suspended due to COVID-19, regarding the T4D (Theater for Development) intervention in shelters, now reaching more than 600 children on the move, alongside their caretakers. Regarding the Haitian population, the information materials that were produced in Nov-Dec 2021 in Tapachula, were tailored to both the Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana offices, since there were registries of Haitian population arriving to the border cities. On the other hand, both the interactive miniseries and the CartonClub partnership began production and reviewing from the technical teams and are due to be delivered to begin implementation in March. Alongside the partnership building strategies, the team began talks with ADRA to launch an intervention against Discrimination and Xenophobia, with support of U-Report on The Move, due to launch the upcoming month.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF participates in several humanitarian coordination mechanisms focusing on the migration situation, such as the Protection Working Group, the Health and Migration Working Group, the GBV and Migration Sub-Working Group, the PSEA Sub-Working Group. Moreover, UNICEF leads the WASH Working Group and the Child Protection in Migration Discussion Group, the later in which key NGO and UN agencies participate and have prepared key advocacy documents to advance the protection of accompanied and unaccompanied children on the move to be presented to the Government.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Mexico published a video in which UNICEF Mexico ambassadors Angie, Abe and Gus from the musical group Vázquez Sounds participated in motivational talks under the "Skills for life and employment" program in Tijuana that seeks to give opportunities to young Mexicans and migrants (from 12 to 19 years old) in a situation of vulnerability who sometimes do not study or work. The program consists of the development of socio-emotional and cognitive skills, as well as skills to work in high-demand formal jobs. <https://www.instagram.com/p/CaAavDfsDOc/>

Next SitRep: 31 March 2022

Who to contact for further information:

Fernando Carrera Castro
Representative
UNICEF Mexico
Tel: +525552849573
Email: fecarrera@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

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (USD)	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2022	Resources available from 2021 (Carry-over)	\$	%
Health	\$3,596,000	-	-	-	100%
Nutrition	\$2,552,000	\$215,814	-	\$2,336,186	92%
Child Protection	\$12,644,000	-	\$270,585	\$12,373,415	98%
Education	\$5,034,400	-	-	-	100%
WASH	\$2,668,000	-	\$28,617	\$2,639,383	99%
Social Protection	\$1,160,000	-	-	-	100%
Total	\$27,654,000	\$215,814	\$299,202	\$27,138,957	