ECUADOR SITUATION REPORT

Highlights

- On March 26th an earthquake took place at 11:28 p.m. with an epicenter 11.79 km from Esmeraldas on the coastal profile, with a magnitude of 6.0 MLv (Local Magnitude calculated in the vertical component) and a depth of 10 km. After this event, at 11:39 p.m., the Geophysical Institute of the National Polytechnic School (IGEPN) confirmed another earthquake again in the province of Esmeraldas, this one being of magnitude 3.3 MLv and at a depth of 4.0 km. At 00:53 a new earthquake of 5.1 MLv originates.

- The Municipality of Esmeraldas indicated that the effects of the earthquake exceed their local capacity to respond to the emergency.

- The Municipality of Esmeraldas implements two temporary shelter (schools, given that children are in their summer break) with a capacity for 185 and 192 people. Currently, there are 187 and 40 people in those temporary accommodations.

- There is a need to improve the WASH facilities in both temporary shelters to better respond to the needs of the population.

- Current psycho-social situation of affected families and children requires support.

- The damage evaluation of houses in the most affected neighborhoods is at 50%. One on the main challenges for the implementation of this work has been safety.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

As of April 7th, 2022:

- 1130 affected families
- 4651 affected people
- 227 people in temporary shelter (among them 117 children and adolescents)
- 1610 houses damaged
- 573 houses severely damaged
- 15 health centres damaged
- 16 schools affected
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The province of Esmeraldas occupies a territory of about 14,893 km², being the seventh largest province of the country by extension. 643,654 people live in the province, according to the demographic projection of the INEC for 2020. Esmeraldas is among poorest in the country: 45.6% of people living below the income poverty line compared while the national average is 32.4%\(^1\), its maternal mortality ratio exceeds in almost 50 percent the national ratio (85.3 vs 57.6 per 100,000 live births)\(^2\). The challenges the province face: lack of drinking water and sewage, few medical canters, unemployment, underemployment, and high cost of services. There is a high risk of mosquito-borne disease such as Chikungunya and Dengue fever, posing a public health threat, which may increase due to the earthquake and its consequences.

Since 2021 the levels of violence have grown, now in several neighbourhoods such as the Rivera del Río neighbourhoods and the upper neighbourhoods of the city, they are submerged by violent acts and common crime, with adolescent men being the most vulnerable to approach to this type of activities, causing a school dropout of adolescents, women and girls from educational institution due to the violent acts that occurred in the city.

The earthquake has increased the vulnerabilities and urgent needs of the population of Esmeraldas, in particular families and children. Affected families and children have greater need to receive psycho-social and emotional support, safe water, sanitation and hygiene, emergency and temporary shelter solutions, health, protection, food assistance and education support. It is noteworthy Esmeraldas has received people seeking refugees and migrants from Colombia for decades. The city of Esmeraldas, capital of the province, is one of the cities that receives people on the move from Venezuela as well.

Humanitarian leadership and Coordination

UNICEF is present in the cantonal Emergency Operations Committee (COE). UNICEF maintains permanent coordination both with the UN agencies in Esmeraldas (UNHCR, UNFPA, UNDP, WFP, UNWOMEN), and with national and international organizations.

UNICEF, through the Esmeraldas focal point, participates in the working groups in charge of child protection and Water and sanitation.

Humanitarian Strategy

\(^1\) CNII based on INEC – ENEMDU 2020.
\(^2\) INEC 2020
UNICEF in Ecuador deployed a rapid response team on April 3rd to better assess the needs on the ground and develop a first stage response strategy. This short-term strategy of the response includes three programmatic approaches:

**Children Protection:** In this area, UNICEF Ecuador aims to implement violence prevention activities with children, adolescents and their families; strengthen protection monitoring and service provided to detect and refer cases in need of child protection services. Specifically, the activities to be carried out:

- Trainings to the teams allocated in the temporary shelters about PSEA, case management and child protection standards on the humanitarian action.
- Implement two child friendly spaces.
- Protection monitoring and referral to protection services.
- Implement gender based violence prevention activities with children, adolescents and their families.
- Delivery of GBV kits and baby kits.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene:** Considering that temporary shelters are schools (in summer break at the present moment), some repairs will be developed to assure adequate provision of water, toilettles. The activities to be implemented include:

- Refurbishing 4 individual showers. Two of those to be placed in one of the temporary shelters where no showers are available.
- Improvements to the already existing hand washing and toilettes, including a new laundry area for each shelter.

These activities will be implemented in both temporary shelter

**Education:** The main effects on the educational system related to the earthquake have been on infrastructure and teaching materials that were completely destroyed. The Ministry of Education has made a prioritization of actions, which are described below:

- Improvements to hand washing and toilettes in 16 schools affected. Two of them are in San Lorenzo city and one in Eloy Alfaro.
- Replacement of technological resources
- Educational kits
# Budget

## Funding Requirements (for two months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH (shelters)</td>
<td>$ 25,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$ 25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>$ 95,000</td>
<td>$ 23,000</td>
<td>$ 72,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$ 300,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$ 300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 420,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 23,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 397,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Sector          |  |  |  |
|-----------------|  |  |  |
| **Funding gap** | $  |  |  |
| **$**           |  |  |  |
| **%**           |  |  |  |

WASH (shelters) 100%
Child Protection 76%
Education 100%
Total 95%

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