

Panamá Country Office

Earthquake Situation Report No. 7

unicef
para cada infancia

Report period: 01 to 13 November 2026 17:00 hrs

Key Findings

- UNICEF and Global Brigades contributed to improving access to safe water for approximately 220 people displaced from Isla Cañas and relocated to La Pericada, through the connection to a potable water system, the installation of water storage facilities, and chlorination measures. In addition, training activities are being conducted on the operation and maintenance of water systems, hygiene promotion, and menstrual hygiene management. Concurrently, sanitation improvements have commenced in the Agua Buena settlement, including the construction of showers, latrines, and a septic tank with the support of local partners.

- The Education in Emergencies (EiE) response continued to expand. As of 13 November, 5 of the 12 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLSs) were operational across Veraguas and Los Santos, reaching 391 students (52% girls) and 217 mothers, fathers, and caregivers. The remaining 7 TLSs are progressing through installation, teacher training, and preparatory activities to begin educational programming and psychosocial support services.

- UNICEF and RET International trained 229 teachers, supervisors, and educational and administrative personnel (59% women) in Education in Emergencies and psychosocial support.

- A total of 98 children and adolescents, along with 17 caregivers, are participating in recreational and psychosocial support activities in Child-Friendly Spaces established in four shelters across Veraguas and Los Santos.

- A joint assessment conducted by UNICEF and Global Brigades at the Los Pozos Temporary Hospital identified priority needs to strengthen sanitation infrastructure associated with the expansion of temporary health services. As a result, support was agreed to enhance the wastewater treatment system through complementary solutions that will help ensure adequate sanitary conditions for patients, healthcare personnel, and communities served by the facility, which provides coverage to approximately 8,000 people.

Situation in figures

64,747
People affected
(Source: EDAN estimates)

16,148
Children and adolescents affected
(Source: SINAPROC)

20,466
Houses assessed
(Source: SINAPROC)

4,478
People in shelters
(Source: SINAPROC)

140
Shelters authorized nationwide
(Source: SINAPROC)

619
Schools affected
(Source: Ministry of Education)

122
Health Facilities affected
(Source: Ministry of Health)

Humanitarian Situation and Needs

Earthquake-affected communities continue to face significant challenges in accessing basic services, education and protection, particularly in the provinces of Los Santos, Herrera and Veraguas. Although recovery efforts are progressing, 4,478 people remain in temporary accommodation solutions and continue to require support to ensure adequate access to water, sanitation, health and well-being services.

Assessments conducted by UNICEF and its partners in communities hosting displaced populations identified significant improvements in access to safe water for families relocated to La Pericada, in Tonosí district. The connection of the community to an existing water supply system and the installation of complementary water storage infrastructure have helped stabilize water access for families originating from Isla Cañas. However, needs remain regarding the sustainability of these services, strengthening community capacities for the operation and maintenance of water systems, and expanding sanitation solutions in nearby settlements that also host displaced populations.

Continuity of education remains a priority for the humanitarian response. During the reporting period, progress continued in the progressive establishment of Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) in educational facilities affected by the earthquakes or facing constraints in fully resuming school activities. While some TLS are already operational, others remain in preparation phases, including teacher training, installation of temporary infrastructure and the adaptation of conditions required for educational and psychosocial support activities. Restoring safe learning environments continues to be particularly important for children and adolescents who have experienced prolonged disruptions to their school routines.

Sectoral assessments also identified priority needs to strengthen WASH infrastructure in health facilities currently operating under temporary arrangements. In particular, technical assessments carried out in health facilities in Tonosí and Los Pozos identified opportunities to improve sanitation conditions and support the safe continuity of health services while processes to expand and restore permanent infrastructure are under way.

The emergency continues to have psychosocial impacts on affected populations, particularly children and adolescents. Uncertainty surrounding the recovery of housing, basic services and livelihoods reinforces the need to integrate emotional well-being and protection approaches across the different sectors of the humanitarian response.

Education

Damage to educational infrastructure and the resulting disruption to schooling continue to limit access to safe learning environments for children and adolescents in Los Santos, Herrera and Veraguas. While education authorities are making progress in identifying temporary solutions to ensure continuity of learning, many students remain exposed to interruptions in their education and the loss of protective environments that are essential for their development and well-being.

Assessments conducted in 11 prioritized educational facilities identified needs related to the availability of adequate learning spaces, access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, temporary equipment and support for teachers and education personnel. These needs are particularly relevant in communities where damage to educational infrastructure has reduced schools' capacity to fully resume their functions.

Prolonged disruptions to education increase the risk of learning loss, school dropout and adverse effects on the psychosocial well-being of children and adolescents. They also limit access to community-based protection and support mechanisms that are typically organized around schools, increasing the vulnerability of affected children.

The identified needs highlight the importance of strengthening Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) and other temporary learning alternatives that can progressively restore educational routines, support psychosocial recovery and provide safe and inclusive environments for children and adolescents while rehabilitation and recovery efforts continue in the education sector.

Water, sanitation and hygiene and health

Assessments conducted in affected communities and temporary health facilities continue to identify needs related to sustainable access to safe water, adequate sanitation services and hygiene practices. Although some communities have partially stabilized access to water through temporary solutions, challenges remain regarding storage capacity, water quality monitoring and the sustainability of the systems that have been put in place.

In temporary settlements hosting displaced families from Isla Cañas, needs remain to strengthen sanitation infrastructure and ensure adequate services for all households, particularly given the protracted nature of displacement and the need to maintain dignified living conditions.

Technical assessments carried out in temporary health facilities in Tonosí and Los Pozos identified opportunities to improve sanitation systems, wastewater management and hygiene services in order to ensure appropriate conditions for the continued provision of healthcare and reduce public health risks for patients, health workers and surrounding communities.

Furthermore, assessments conducted in 11 sites supporting educational continuity identified WASH infrastructure and service gaps that need to be addressed to ensure adequate conditions for learning and the well-being of children and adolescents.

Child protection and psychosocial support

Protection needs remain a significant concern in the earthquake-affected provinces, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach communities where families face prolonged recovery processes. The geographical dispersion of affected populations, combined with the mobility of some households, continues to hinder the timely identification of protection concerns and regular access to specialized services for children and adolescents.

Affected families continue to report concerns related to the recovery of housing, livelihoods and conditions in temporary accommodation. These pressures can increase stress within households and affect the care and support mechanisms available to children, particularly in communities that continue to rely on temporary living arrangements.

Assessments and field visits continue to highlight the need to strengthen community-based protection mechanisms and support spaces for children, adolescents and their caregivers. There is also an ongoing need to ensure that affected populations have access to information on available services, referral pathways and specialized support whenever required.

As the response increasingly transitions into an early recovery phase, integrating child protection and psychosocial well-being considerations across the education, health and WASH sectors remains a priority to promote a safe, inclusive and child-centred recovery for affected children and adolescents.

UNICEF Humanitarian Response

UNICEF continues to support the response led by the Government of Panama through technical assistance, inter-agency coordination, field monitoring, and the provision of essential supplies and services for children, adolescents, and their families. During the reporting period, UNICEF strengthened its support to early recovery efforts in the affected provinces, with a focus on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), education, and child protection, prioritizing displaced communities and populations facing heightened vulnerabilities.

UNICEF is focusing its efforts on supporting government institutions in the following areas:

- **Water, sanitation and hygiene:** UNICEF, in coordination with Global Brigades and local authorities, continued strengthening access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for populations affected by the earthquakes in Los Santos and Herrera. In the temporary settlement of La Pericada, where approximately 220 displaced people from Isla Cañas reside, including 35 children, the community was connected to a nearby water supply system, two 4,300-litre storage tanks were installed, and chlorination measures were implemented to ensure a safe water supply. In parallel, community activities were conducted on hygiene promotion, menstrual hygiene management, and capacity strengthening for the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation systems.
- UNICEF also supported actions to improve sanitation conditions in Agua Buena, a community hosting approximately 45 displaced persons, including 14 children, through the construction of basic sanitation infrastructure comprising two toilets, two showers and a septic tank. The intervention is being implemented with support from local donations, community contributions and specialized technical assistance, contributing to safe and dignified living conditions for displaced families.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF and Global Brigades conducted technical assessments in temporary health facilities in Tonosí, Los Pozos and Pesé to identify priority WASH needs. As a result, an intervention to strengthen the wastewater treatment system at Los Pozos Temporary Hospital, which provides services to approximately 8,000 people, was prioritized to ensure adequate sanitary conditions for patients, health personnel and user communities while the expansion of temporary infrastructure continues.
- In addition, WASH needs assessments were carried out in the 11 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) prioritized by the Ministry of Education to identify requirements related to sanitation facilities, handwashing facilities, safe water and hygiene supplies necessary to ensure adequate conditions for learning and well-being.

- **Child protection and GBV**: UNICEF continued strengthening the child protection response through the progressive establishment of Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) that integrate psychosocial support activities and protective environments for children and adolescents affected by the earthquakes. During the reporting period, the five operational TLS in Veraguas and Los Santos began providing recreational, educational and socio-emotional support activities for students affected by the emergency.
- In addition, UNICEF and its partners established Child-Friendly Spaces in four shelters: San José and La Feria in Soná district centre, and Madre Vieja (near Hicaco) in Veraguas Province, as well as Llano de Osorio in Macaracas, Los Santos Province. Through these spaces, 98 children and adolescents (55 girls and 43 boys) and 17 caregivers (16 women and 1 man) participate in recreational and psychosocial support activities. Together with the TLS, these spaces facilitate the early identification of protection needs and the referral of cases to specialized services.
- The protection strategy was complemented by the deployment of mobile protection teams that conducted regular visits to shelters, temporary settlements and affected communities to promote the participation of mothers, fathers and caregivers, facilitate the identification of protection needs and strengthen referral mechanisms to specialized services when needed.
- UNICEF also continued coordinating with education authorities, community actors and implementing partners to ensure that Temporary Learning Spaces incorporate emotional well-being, community participation and child protection approaches from the outset of their operation. These actions contribute to restoring protective routines, strengthening community resilience and supporting the psychosocial recovery of children and adolescents affected by the emergency.

- **Education:** UNICEF continued supporting the Ministry of Education (MEDUCA) in implementing temporary solutions to ensure educational continuity for children and adolescents affected by the earthquakes. During the reporting period, progress was made in the installation and operationalization

of 12 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS), operating across 14 educational facilities in the provinces of Veraguas, Los Santos and Herrera. Together, these spaces have the capacity to serve more than 6,800 students from affected communities.

- As of 12 November, five TLS were operational: Miguel Alba Bilingual Basic General Education Centre (CEBG), José Bonifacio Alvarado School and El Hicaco School in Veraguas Province; as well as Rudecinda Rodríguez School/Rafael Antonio Moreno School in Macaracas and Llano de Piedra School in Los Santos Province. These spaces are serving 391 students (204 girls and 187 boys) and 217 mothers, fathers and caregivers (190 women and 27 men), representing 13 per cent of the HAC target of 3,000 students.
- The remaining seven TLS continue progressing through installation, teacher training and operational preparation phases: Nicanor Villalaz School (La Villa de Los Santos), Rosa María Angulo de Arce School, Pablo Barrios School and the Isla Cañas/La Pericada temporary learning space in Los Santos Province; and Sergio Pérez Delgado School, Las Pipas School and Gloriela N. Barría/IPT Las Minas in Herrera Province.
- As part of this strategy, UNICEF and its implementing partner, RET International, trained 229 teachers, supervisors and educational and administrative personnel (135 women and 94 men) in Education in Emergencies (EiE) and psychosocial support, strengthening local capacities to provide socio-emotional support and ensure safe learning environments. Actions also include the progressive provision of educational, recreational and early childhood development materials to support the educational and emotional recovery of students affected by the emergency.
- Educational interventions continue to be implemented in close coordination with MEDUCA and regional authorities to ensure that Temporary Learning Spaces respond to the needs of the most affected communities and contribute to the gradual restoration of educational activities under safe and inclusive conditions.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF continued to support Government-led coordination mechanisms, contributing to needs analysis and the identification of priorities for the early recovery and resilience of affected communities. In close collaboration with national authorities, local governments, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and implementing partners, UNICEF supports response and early recovery efforts in the most affected provinces by strengthening local capacities for the sustainable operation of services and response to future emergencies.

In support of the Government-led response, UNICEF participates in needs assessments, joint monitoring missions, information analysis and humanitarian gap identification processes to guide decision-making and the prioritization of interventions. During the reporting period, visits conducted in the communities of Soná, Río Grande and Mariato contributed to strengthening the understanding of needs related to temporary shelter, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, and child protection.

Through its Education, Child Protection, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programmes, UNICEF continues to provide technical assistance to national authorities to support the planning and implementation of actions aimed at restoring essential services for affected populations. This support includes the exchange of technical information and the promotion of integrated approaches that link humanitarian response with early recovery.

In the education sector, UNICEF maintains close coordination with the Ministry of Education (MEDUCA) to support impact analysis, needs identification and the planning of Education in Emergencies (EiE) interventions. In the WASH and Child Protection sectors, UNICEF continues working with national authorities, local governments and implementing partners to strengthen access to basic services, promote safe spaces for children, and support the recovery of communities affected by the emergency.

External Communication and Mobilization of Funds

UNICEF continued strengthening its communication and accountability efforts to inform affected communities, authorities, donors and the general public about progress in the earthquake response. Efforts focused on highlighting both the results achieved and the remaining needs in water, sanitation and hygiene, education, child protection, and psychosocial support.

During the reporting period, UNICEF highlighted through print and mass media the progress of the response led jointly with the Ministry of Education (MEDUCA) to support the emotional well-being, protection and educational continuity of students affected by the earthquake. Efforts have focused on restoring safe learning environments, strengthening the education system's capacity to respond to emergencies, and promoting the psychosocial recovery of children, adolescents, teachers and families. This effort forms part of a comprehensive response aimed at accelerating recovery in the most affected communities and strengthening the resilience of the education sector in the face of future adverse events

At the same time, UNICEF continued its resource mobilization efforts and engagement with strategic partners, sharing information on the progress of the response and promoting support to sustain priority interventions during the early recovery and rehabilitation phase of affected communities.

As of 12 November 2026, UNICEF has **USD 823,352** available for the earthquake response, equivalent to 32 per cent of the USD 2,572,416 required under its Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal, leaving a significant funding gap to sustain early recovery efforts and expand assistance to affected communities. UNICEF especially acknowledges the support of the European Union, through Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and UNICEF Regional Emergency Funds, whose contributions have made the results described in this report possible.

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Contacts:

Olga Isabel Isaza
Representative
Panama Country Office
T+18762798334
oiisaza@unicef.org

Yohanna Amaya Pinzon
Coordinator of Programs
Panama Country Office
T +507 6406-8055
ypinzon@unicef.org

Clara Inés Luna
Advocacy and Communication Officer
Panama Country Office
T +507 6493-1656
cluna@unicef.org