

PRESS RELEASE

UNICEF PROVIDES SUPPORT TO THE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Lima, August 16, 2007.- Within the United Nations cooperation framework with Peru, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) responded to the emergency through the Ministry of Health's National Defense Bureau by providing supplies that will help alleviate the serious situation of the victims of the earthquake that hit Peru yesterday.

UNICEF's representative for Peru, Guido Cornale, stated that *"an immediate response is essential in order to prevent diarrhea in children, which is quite frequent when entire neighborhoods collapse, no safe water is available and sanitary conditions are very limited"*. In view of such circumstances, this afternoon 90,000 chlorine tablets were delivered, along with 540 large plastic containers with lids and faucets, 300 chlorine measuring device and 20,000 DPD tablets which will help provide safe drinking water to the affected children and families.

Other supplies such as 3,000 plastic spoons, 1,500 measuring jars (1 liter) and 3,000 plastic cups (300 ml.) will allow children to receive oral rehydration therapies, in addition to 100,000 units of rehydration salts that will arrive today from Panama.

As prevention and educational materials, UNICEF delivered flyers for families to learn how to handle safe water (4,500), how to prevent conjunctivitis (3,000) and skin diseases (4,300), the importance of food hygiene practices (4,100) as well as recommendations to avoid pneumonia (6,500) and acute diarrheic diseases (3,300).

With regards to education issues, UNICEF is considering the possibility of supporting this sector with school materials and a strategy for psycho-emotional recovery for children. Moreover, in relation to the protection of rights, the presence of boys and girls in children-friendly shelters where the abovementioned strategy could be undertaken, jointly with the Ministry of Women and Social Development, will be assessed.

OCHA Coordinator, Gerard López, will arrive to Peru this weekend to visit the disaster areas along with the group UNETE made up by the agencies of the United Nations system. Two UNICEF officers will join this party as well to perform an in-depth analysis on the needs of response and rehabilitation that will allow taking care of the affected families and children.

It is worth mentioning that as a first estimate, UNICEF will assign US\$ 200,000 for the response phase and around US\$300,000 for the reconstruction phase.

For future information please contact
Marilú Wiegold, e-mail mwiegold@unicef.org, telephone (511) 213-0706 / cel. (511) 9757-3218
Elsa Ursula, e-mail: eursua@unicef.org, telephone (511) 213-0745 / cel. (511) 9352-6944