



Figure 1 © UNICEF/ECU/2016/Castellanos

# Humanitarian Situation Report No.3



- The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit the northwestern part of Ecuador in the evening of 16 April 2016 is currently considered the biggest disaster to hit the Latin American region since the earthquake in Haiti in 2010 (OCHA).
- UNICEF and humanitarian partners require US\$23 million for their response as part of the \$72.7 million appeal launched by the UN and partners targeting 350,000 affected people.
- UNICEF is co-leading the sectorial WASH and education groups at the national and field level (with the support of ACF in Esmeraldas) and is also participating in the sectorial groups of child protection and health and nutrition in emergencies.
- WASH: Supplies in country are now being distributed in the affected zone. 60 latrines are being installed in Pedernales. Formal agreements for implementation of the CERF project will be finalized this week to start immediate implementation.
- Education and Protection: The first four education and protection spaces are being installed: two in Pedernales and two in Jama with the capacity to work with approximately 3,500 children and adolescents. Psychosocial attention for children and adolescents is currently ongoing.
- Health & Nutrition: MoH team and partners will jointly boost the Integrated Plan for maternal and neonatal health, nutrition and early childhood development within the broader earthquake response.
- UNICEF Country Office has deployed 10 staff to the field to support response operations, and 12 additional staff have been deployed from the LAC Regional and Country Offices (8) and HQ (4).

**Date: 30 April 2016**

**720,000** people affected

**350,000** people need urgent assistance, of which **250,000** are children and adolescents

**659** fatalities

**27,732 medical interventions** (4,605 people injured)

**29,067** people in shelters

Approximately **7,000** buildings destroyed and approximately **1,000** damaged

**281** schools affected (29 schools destroyed and 122 require major rehabilitation)

**Flash Appeal: \$72.7 Million**

UNICEF and Humanitarian Partners require: **\$23 Million**

WASH, Education; Protection; Health & Nutrition

## Updated Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

After the 7.8 earthquake struck on 16 April at 6:58 p.m. local time, approximately 849 aftershocks have been felt, including six with a magnitude greater than 6.0, the largest two on 19 and 20 April. Aftershocks are expected to continue in the next few weeks.

A state of emergency was declared in the six most affected provinces: Manabí, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Santa Elena, Santo Domingo and Los Ríos, with Pedernales declared a disaster zone. Exceptional financial measures have been introduced, including a tax increase and the donation of a proportion of workdays, among other measures.

It is estimated that approximately 720,000 of the 7.9 million people living in the six most affected provinces have been impacted by the earthquake. **About 350,000 people are in need of urgent assistance, of which 250,000 are children and adolescents.**

Field assessments confirm significant levels of damage. Houses have been destroyed, the public health system is in emergency status, food and water are scarce, and streets are filled with rubble. Infrastructure, including many roads and bridges, has been severely damaged, resulting in logistics and communications challenges in some areas. Due to continual aftershocks, there is a progressive displacement of population to safer areas.

Heavy rainfall is exacerbating the damage, causing floods and stagnant water, increasing the number of breeding sites for mosquitoes. This results in a higher risk of mosquito-borne diseases such as the ZIKV and dengue fever, which already pose an immediate threat to survivors.

The Government of Ecuador is providing and coordinating comprehensive response actions. Despite the strong national capacity and large efforts already being undertaken, the national response capacity is overstretched. Priority needs requiring urgent humanitarian assistance are safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), infant and young child feeding (IYCF), health and nutrition, temporary shelter, food, temporary education and protective spaces, child protection, psychosocial assistance and debris removal to support early recovery efforts. Protection services are especially needed for orphaned and separated children.

### Initial Estimate of Affected Population

The number of the casualties has reached 659 people and 42 people are still missing. Health assistance has been provided to 27,732 people (4,605 injured).<sup>1</sup> More than 29,000 people are residing in the 103 facilities being currently used as collective shelters. Of concern is the as yet unknown number of people residing in informal shelters, in particular in isolated and dispersed areas.<sup>2</sup>

The extent of the structural damage has also increased. About 7,000 buildings have been destroyed and almost 1,000 damaged. Damage assessments of school buildings are ongoing in the provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas (Muisne). According to the MoE, 281 schools have been affected: 29 were destroyed and 122 are severely damaged or require major rehabilitation. An in-depth evaluation is underway and details are expected by the end of next week, including of the numbers of students affected.

### Humanitarian Response Coordination

- The Government of Ecuador leads the response and coordinates it through the existing system of thematic groups. Four new coordination groups have been created by the National Risk Management Secretariat (SGR), including a group for the coordination of humanitarian assistance.
- Cross-coordinated sectorial groups have been established, which are represented in and linked with

<sup>1</sup> Source: Ecuadorian Secretariat for Risk Management and OCHA, Situation Report No. 07.

<sup>2</sup> Source: OCHA, Situation Report No. 07.

the government thematic groups.

- UNICEF co-leads the WASH and education sectorial groups along with government ministries and is an active member of the health sectorial group, which includes nutrition. UNICEF also leads the child protection sub-sector. WASH and education coordination meetings are in place at field level.
- UNICEF field presence is being reinforced through the establishment of two field offices in the cantons of Pedernales and Esmeraldas.
- The WASH sectorial group is currently composed of more than 30 organisations. To work efficiently, four subgroups have been established to address specific issues: i) sanitation and hygiene; ii) Flash Appeal and CERF; iii) water quality; and iv) rehabilitation of water systems and exit strategy.
- Education and shelter representatives have been invited to participate regularly in the WASH sectorial group to ensure cross-sectorial coordination.

### Humanitarian Response

- On 16 April, the Government requested international assistance in needs assessments and in response coordination. The humanitarian partners continue to mobilize national and international assistance in coordination with local counterparts.
- The UN and national and international agencies and organisations are supporting the Government with the emergency response, mobilizing support for immediate and life-saving assistance to bolster relief, intensify recovery and help people get their lives and livelihoods back on track.
- The UN and international partners have finalized overall sectorial objectives and projects that inform the Flash Appeal for \$72.7 million released last week. CERF projects for a total of \$7.5 million were also submitted for CERF Secretariat consideration.
- The Multi-sectorial Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) will be finished next week with initial results of field data, and the MIRA report will be finalized and presented this week by OCHA. It is expected that its results will provide a more precise picture of where resources are most needed to inform the Flash Appeal review process.

### UNICEF Response

- UNICEF has supported the Government to address the emergency since they declared a State of Exception. Preparedness measures already in place before the earthquake allowed for the early deployment of assessment teams and immediate provision of emergency supplies for WASH, health, and education.
- A first airlift of 106,4 tons (620 m<sup>3</sup>metric tons) of UNICEF relief items landed in Quito, Ecuador, on 22 April, with 10,000 fleece blankets, 300 plastic tarps, over 100 large tents, 4,000 insecticide treated bed nets, 250,000 Vitamin A capsules and kits for the treatment of diarrhea.
- UNICEF has deployed five emergency teams to Pedernales, Muisne, Jama, Portoviejo and Manta, for both rapid needs assessments and support to immediate response in WASH, health and nutrition, education and child protection sectors.
- The UNICEF communication response to the emergency started immediately after the earthquake struck on the night of 16 April. Communication teams of UNICEF Ecuador and the UNICEF Regional Office were mobilized to identify needs, prepare and disseminate materials and deploy staff to the field to support the communication strategy. A large audience has been reached through press releases, traditional national and international media, and widespread social media coverage. As of

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29 April, 50 posts have been published on Twitter since the beginning of the emergency, receiving more than 20,000 visits—1.15 million impressions and 850 mentions—and nearly 1,6 million people were reached through Facebook.

- UNICEF has activated fundraising initiatives for the Ecuador emergency across the private sector in over 27 countries. A regional deal was secured with a mass media company for free air space on Ecuadoran television and across other Spanish speaking markets and for digital banner advertising on the media sites of the company.
- In the framework of the overall appeal, UNICEF is also working to launch Humanitarian Action for Children aimed to cover the current funding gap of \$13 million.

## WASH

- Access to safe water as well as proper sanitation and hygiene remain priority concerns in the affected areas. Initial results indicate severe needs in the WASH sector. Damage and needs assessments are still ongoing.
- The public water distribution system has been impacted by the rupture of water pipes and damage to other key infrastructure. Homes and local stores have collapsed and access to safe drinking water is limited. All these factors significantly increase the risk of water contamination and outbreaks of water-borne diseases.
- Support to ensure adequate sanitation and hygiene in shelters and temporary schools, proper waste management, and effective cleanup efforts are also needed to avoid the deterioration of hygiene and sanitary conditions in shelters and affected communities.
- While response efforts are focused on the rehabilitation of water supply services, water supply remains very limited with little information on water quality. In the case of Pedernales, only 30 per cent of the downtown population has access to service. Other communities lack access to operational water systems and are in urgent need of water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies.
- The overall WASH sectorial response, as indicated in the Flash Appeal, targets 350,000 people in the most affected provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas.
- SENAGUA is leading the thematic emergency group on WASH, which coordinates the response of national institutions and the Government. UNICEF, in collaboration with other partners, is supporting SENAGUA with the coordination of WASH response both at national and local levels.
- A second set of 40,000 water purification tablets—complementing the previous 20,000 initially provided—were purchased locally for distribution through SENAGUA.
- 60 latrines are being installed in Pedernales. Additional WASH supplies and equipment have been distributed in the municipalities of Pedernales, Jama, Manta and Esmeraldas, as well as in the municipalities of Portoviejo and Muisne to facilitate the provision of safe water.
- Critical WASH needs have been identified in close cooperation with all WASH cluster members, and the response is being coordinated to address immediate needs identified by SENAGUA.
- UNICEF has recently reached an agreement among the WASH sectorial group on the WASH ABC document in shelters. This tool will enable a common understanding to standardize response activities.
- The WASH sectorial group in Esmeraldas is being coordinated by ACF.

### Core objectives of UNICEF response to WASH needs

- Immediate provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene services.
- Water and sanitation in shelters for displaced people and temporary schools:
  - ✓ Chemical latrines in first phase and semi-permanent latrines in second phase.
  - ✓ Connection to semi-permanent water supply grid.
- Provision of safe water and hygiene services in areas where the damaged water grid is hampering WASH conditions through the installation of communal WASH services in strategic places:
  - ✓ Water trucking to bladders or tanks in first phase.
  - ✓ Repair of water mains and establishment of a temporary grid in second phase.

### Education

- The destruction and temporary closure of schools in the affected areas along with a large number of facilities being used for shelter or as temporary refuges has disrupted children's education. UNICEF is maximizing its efforts for prompt continuation of education and identified the following objectives to respond to education needs:
- The establishment of educational and temporary protection spaces for children and adolescents is a key priority. These spaces will integrate various components of the response, such as child protection, health care, and hygiene promotion and vector control to prevent the spread of ZIKV, dengue and chikungunya.
- UNICEF is supporting the Government efforts to get children back to their regular school routine through the installation of 50 temporary learning spaces for 20,000 children and the distribution of basic school supplies to 60,000 children and adolescents in 700 schools.
- The education coordination group of humanitarian partners is regularly functioning in Jama and Pedernales to support the MoE with the coordination for the establishment of educational and protective spaces called "educational institutions."
- UNICEF and its partners, in close coordination with the MoE, have already started the first phase of the back to school and protection strategy. During this week, field teams will be installing four temporary education and protection spaces (educational institutions): two in Pedernales and two in Jama. These four spaces will have the capacity to work with approximately 3,500 children and adolescents.
- Distribution of basic school supplies (school-in-a-box kits) will also start this week through two strategies: (i) Direct distribution by the MoE to 30,000 children in Chone, Manta and Portoviejo, with MoE and UNICEF jointly carrying out the monitoring of activities; and, (ii) Distribution by UNICEF to 30,000 children in Jama, Pedernales and Muisne. The UNICEF Regional Office Education in Emergency Specialist will provide support in the delivery of the school-in-a-box activities.
- The Education sectorial group validated the Education in Emergency (EiE) tools currently being used by local partners: Plan International, *Desarrollo y Autogestion* (AyE), Vicariate Apostolic of Esmeraldas, and UNESCO.
- UNICEF, its partners and the MoE are defining the scope of the implementation of the C4D component and required actions to mobilize technical support for community engagement and delivering key messages.

### Core objectives of UNICEF response to education needs

- Guarantee children and adolescents between 3 and 17 years of age have access to educational, recreational and protective spaces (ETEP), providing activities for stress relief, nutritional complements, and safe water and latrines.
- Train teachers and other education staff on how to use UNICEF school-in-the-box kits, provide recreation and psychosocial support, and provide education community actors with key life-saving messages.
- Support MoE to implement education-in-emergencies protocols in schools used as shelters and liberate them for educational activities.
- Support MoE in repairing and relocating totally and partially damaged schools.
- Track excluded children and adolescents in the hardest hit and most vulnerable municipalities and ensure their inclusion in education spaces.

### Health and Nutrition

- The main health and nutrition needs are: immediate recovery of the cold chain in 16 health centers and reestablishment of the regular vaccination programme; assessment of the main distribution center infrastructure located in Quito, which was affected by the earthquake, and the reassessment of 35 affected health centers in order to define reconstruction or repairs; repair and reposition of the equipment of 14 inoperative health centers; provision of psychosocial care and protection for health staff, sheltered persons and communities in affected areas; and development of health promotion activities for disease prevention in affected populations.<sup>3</sup>
- The displacement of large numbers of people to temporary locations with high population densities combined with the degradation of environmental conditions and the lack of health and nutrition assistance has greatly increased the risk of transmission of communicable diseases and other conditions, particularly from outbreak-prone diseases, exposing especially children to great risks.
- UNICEF field reports also indicate direct observation of critical dehydration and diarrhea and other diseases due to sudden worsening of already poor sanitation, reduction of access to food, safe water and deterioration in living conditions. Consequently, under nutrition and mortality risks need to be immediately monitored and addressed.
- A maximum health alert exists with great concern about health and water and hygiene and sanitation in the affected areas (Manabí and Esmeraldas) that were already considered hotspots for the spread of ZIKV, dengue, chikungunya and other epidemics such as water borne diseases.
- UNICEF plans to support the health and nutrition services with prevention and mitigation of the nutritional status of children and in the recovery of livelihoods, especially for female-headed households, widows, and families with children under five years old and children with disabilities.
- A meeting took place with the Ministry of Health team and partners to agree on a proposal for the Integrated Plan for maternal and neonatal health, nutrition and early childhood development within the broader earthquake response.
- An interagency mission including PAHO, UNFPA and UNICEF took place this week to Manabi to assess the health and nutrition needs of the affected population. Key recommendations based on the mission findings include the establishment of better flow of information between different levels of the health system, the strengthening of district health management capacity, the provision of a minimum package of care for priority groups—including pregnant women, young children, elderly and people

<sup>3</sup> Source: OCHA, Situation Report No. 07.

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with disabilities— and the development of a communication strategy with an emphasis on the prevention of vector and water-borne diseases as well as violence.

- UNICEF delivered 20 tents and set up in affected areas to cover the health needs of the population; 18 have been used to replace damaged health centers or to create health posts close to shelters and 2 to accommodate health staff who themselves have remained homeless.
- A module on health promotion, hygiene and nutrition in emergency settings is being prepared to be included in the Return to Happiness strategy.

#### Core objectives of UNICEF response to health and nutrition needs

- Provide health and nutrition response for children under three years old, pregnant and lactating women and women of reproductive age.
- Support the management of acute malnutrition cases and ensure adequate protection, promotion and support of appropriate infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF) for children under five years old and lactating women.
- Ensure provision of life saving maternal, newborn and childcare.
- Support prevention of ZIKV and other mosquito borne diseases such as dengue and chikungunya along with prevention of other epidemics such as water borne diseases within an emergency context.

### Child Protection

- Initial estimates from the Government indicate that 17,900 people have requested asylum in the provinces of Manabí, Esmeraldas, Santo Domingo, Guayas and Los Ríos. Actions are coordinated between different actors, and advocacy to establish response protocols for protection risks is taking place through two Government thematic groups on protection and livelihoods.
- Main child protection needs that have been included in the sector response strategy are: separated children, unaccompanied and orphans; increased risks associated with diverse forms of violence in shelters; and psychosocial disturbance of children and adolescents.
- UNICEF and its partners (including Red Cross, *Aldeas SOS* and Plan International) are supporting the development of instructional instruments and procedures with the MIES to locate separated orphans and unaccompanied children using two operating models for family reunification and family support for host families (*Aldeas* and RELAF).
- UNICEF has supported the Government with diagnosis of psychosocial disturbance of children in the most affected communities. It is providing assistance in the design of a psychosocial attention model, including diagnostic tools and adaptation of the Return to Happiness methodology. In the first three months, 10,000 children will be attended with the Return to Happiness methodology. Implementation has started in three of five priority areas, where professional staff has been identified and is being trained.
- A team of psychologists and community communicators has been in the most affected areas (Pedernales, Jama and Muisne) since 17 April. They support the Government with psychosocial attention for children and adolescents based on the UNICEF Return to Happiness methodology.
- UNICEF, jointly with UNHCR, is working with the Government on guidance, instruments and procedures to identify family separations and establish a reunification strategy. Assessments on this situation are ongoing.
- SGBV guidance has been developed jointly with UNFPA and UNWOMEN. The guidance will be used to train shelter personnel and other actors delivering services for children in emergencies. A specific methodology to identify sexual abuse in shelters has been developed jointly with PLAN International

to be applied in the most affected and vulnerable areas with a high concentration of children.

- UNICEF is establishing Child friendly spaces in partnership with World Vision.

### Core objectives of UNICEF response to protection needs

- Establish and monitor child protection services focusing on orphans, and family tracing and reunification of separated children.
- Provide trauma counseling and psychosocial assistance and support to affected children and adolescents.
- Provide legal counseling and documentation through mobile brigades for children who lost documentation to avoid rights denial, trafficking, disappearances and illegal adoption.
- Provide girls, boys, women and all community members in affected areas with life-saving information about protecting themselves from violence, including SGBV, and apply referral mechanisms when appropriate.

## Logistics

- In addition to the supply airlift, UNICEF deployed a warehouse management team to support local operations, which is now running initial warehouse operations in Pedernales until the arrival of an Emergency Logistics Specialist.
- A UNICEF mobile warehouse has been installed in Pedernales, establishing a logistics structure including procurement, proposition, human resources and a transportation plan.

## Security

- Power supply in most of the affected sectors has been reestablished and most of telecommunications and Internet services have been restored through the installation of private sector provisional towers.
- The national road network has been rehabilitated. The Government has started a detailed survey of damage to buildings.
- The province of Esmeraldas, mainly the cantons of Esmeraldas, Eloy Alfaro y Muisne, is considered a high-risk area for security reasons due to crime. These areas require special attention to security measures while case assessment and response missions are carried out.

## Resourcing

- The UN, together with its humanitarian partners, launched an international Flash Appeal for \$72.7 million to assist 350,000 people with immediate relief and initial recovery assistance within the next three months. CERF allocated \$7 million to kick-start vital operations in logistics, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, and emergency health. To date, only 13 per cent of the Flash Appeal has been covered, most with CERF funds.
- As a part of the overall appeal, UNICEF and its humanitarian partners have issued an appeal for \$23 million to provide for the needs of 250,000 children over the next three months. A significant portion of this amount, \$14 million, is required to provide water, sanitation and hygiene in temporary shelters, health centers, learning spaces and communities. The remaining funds will cover education, protection and health needs.
- Significant funding support is needed. UNICEF has to date received only \$472,000 from donors and is waiting for confirmation of a \$2.2 million allocation from the CERF funds for WASH, health and



nutrition and protection. Private fundraising has also generated pledges of \$1.4 million to date.

Targeted population and funding requirements of UNICEF and its humanitarian partners for response to WASH, health and nutrition, protection and education needs

Sector	Total Required (US\$)	People Targeted	UNICEF Requirement (US\$)	UNICEF targeted People	Received from CERF (US\$)
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	14,000,000	350,000	8,200,000	• 170,000 people	1,750,073
Health and Nutrition	4,500,000	110,000	2,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40,000 children under 5 years</li> <li>• 8,000 lactating women</li> <li>• 50,000 people</li> </ul>	300,000
Protection	3,000,000	200,000	1,000,000	• 150,000 children and adolescents	160,500
Education	5,500,000	120,000	3,850,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 120,000 children and adolescents</li> <li>• 1,000 teachers</li> <li>• Parents, caretakers and community</li> </ul>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,750,000</b>		<b>15,300,000</b>		<b>2,210,573</b>

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