

## WSPA Disaster Assessment and Needs Analysis

### FLOODING IN MEXICO

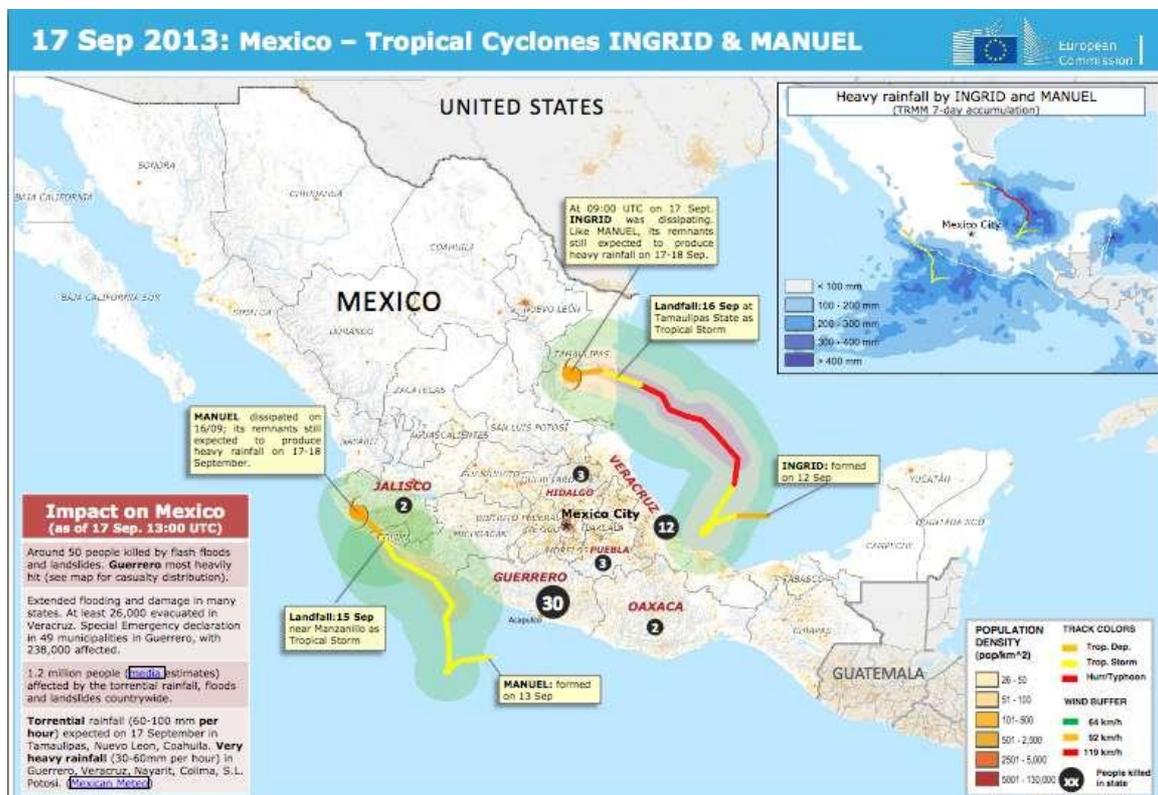
September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Prepared by: JC Murillo, J Giraldo, S Vásquez, C Díaz

Revised by: G Huertas

GLIDE number: 2013-000114

Version: 0.6



Impact of Tropical Cyclones Ingrid & Manuel (<http://reliefweb.int/map/mexico/mexico---tropical-cyclones-ingrid-manuel-17-sep-2013>)

### Emergency context

Tropical cyclones Ingrid and Manuel hit almost simultaneously the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Mexico respectively from 12 to 17 Sep 2013. Extended flooding affected numerous places in the country and a State of Natural Disaster was declared in 26 states throughout the country, of which 56 municipalities were in Guerrero alone, and 10 in Oaxaca. 43,000 schools were damaged and a total of 613,000 hectares of croplands were lost. 22 shelters have been established in Guerrero to temporarily house around 12,000 people. An estimated 59,000 people were evacuated countrywide, 20,000 of them in Veracruz alone. (ECHO, 18 Sep 2013)

## World Society for the Protection of Animals

The government of Mexico reported 139 people dead -95 in Guerrero alone- and 33 missing. 39,000 remained in shelters at the time this report was written.

An estimated 58% of the damage concentrated in 14 states (Aguascalientes, Campeche, Coahuila, Colima, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Durango, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Estado de México, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Puebla, Querétaro, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tamaulipas, Veracruz and Zacatecas)

The Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries & Food (SAGARPA) continues to assess damages nationwide. According to preliminary reports dated September 25:

- In the livestock sector, damages are estimated over 100,000 animal units. Of these, 45,000 were reported in Guerrero; Oaxaca 25,000; 20 thousand in Veracruz; Michoacán 9,000; 4,000 in Jalisco; and 3,000 in Sinaloa, among others.
- Among the main affected crops, 213,000 hectares of corn may also bear on farm animal populations. Of these loses, the state of Guerrero has 103,000 hectares.
- In the case of sorghum (also used as fodder), the loss was estimated at 102,000 hectares, of which, Tamaulipas was the most affected state.
- Of the total crop affectation, 329,000 affected hectares may be recoverable.

WSPA DART deployed on 29<sup>th</sup> September to visit the most affected states: Guerrero, Sinaloa and Tamaulipas

**Note:** Special thanks to World Vision and Mexican Red Cross for their valuable support during this assessment.

### Impact of disaster on animals and the community

Impact on community
<p><b>State of Guerrero</b></p> <p>The communities visited in the State of Guerrero were isolated for at least 4 days.</p> <p>World Vision indicated that 16 communities were severely impacted in the Ometepec District, as the river hit them with most fury, affecting more than 600 families. The greater impact in animals was observed in four communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comaltepec</li><li>• Miguel Aleman</li></ul>

- Banco de Oro
- Arenal

Floods caused losses of 70-100% in crops, 501 houses damaged from mild to total as well as access roads also wrecked, in addition to a significant death toll of backyards animals.

The Municipality of Cuajinicuilapa is currently restoring affected roads and re-habilitating alternative routes to access the community.

### **State of Sinaloa**

The communities visited at Culiacán and Navolato districts were caught by surprise by an unprecedented amount of rains that caused the overflow of the many streams coming down the Sierra; the force of the water destroyed most of the levees (300) necessary to secure water for the families, animals and agriculture during the summer.

Several corrals got ruined and at least 5 meters of riverbanks used as animal shelter near houses disappeared, forcing owners to move their animals to remote areas, making it difficult to care for them.

Although most family members work in agriculture, 38% of the plantations were lost. Family savings quickly vanished as replanting and recovery was not planned to happen this year, and locals are now hoping on temporary jobs in reconstruction projects promised by the federal government as an aid measure, plus on any eventual secondary jobs in the unaffected plantations.

### **State of Tamaulipas**

There are two main communities affected by the flooding of river Panuco, located on the peri-urban areas of Ciudad Madero and Tampico cities:

- Andrea González Colony
- Sahop Colony

These communities are the poorest, more marginalized at the side of the main cities. The Panuco river caused the destruction of roads, making it difficult for families to mobilize to their areas of work.

Most of these families have spent their meagre savings on food, waiting for roads to be restored.



Photo WSPA. Roads affected by floods.  
Andrea Gonzalez and Sahop communities.

### Impact on livelihoods

#### **State of Guerrero**

Most families in the communities of Comaltepec, Miguel Aleman, Banco de Oro and Arenal depend on agriculture and livestock production to survive. Nearly 70 to 100% of crops were lost in this region and an estimated 50% of the animals died due to the overflow of Santa Catarina river, or perished when structures collapsed over them.

Agriculture represents the primary source of food for their farm animals. These are used in most of cases as the family piggybank to be used on medical emergencies or to send their children to school also, the meat of these animals is used for trade or for self-consumption.

Producers reported that recovery from this emergency will take several years, as animal replacement will depend on breeding and reproduction rates, because purchasing new ones was ruled out as they have no means to do so.

#### **State of Sinaloa**

Although communities here depend on agriculture as an important economic activity, livestock rearing is used as a saving system for difficult times or special events. Having lost many of their animals and the source of food for the remaining ones (corn, beans leftover, pasture plots), local producers stopped caring for their animals, and the destruction of the land is going to force them to use their savings for family survival and will force them to sell their animals before its condition deteriorates further. According to those interviewed, recovery of the animal stocks and the family economy might take up to 2 years.

#### **State of Tamaulipas**

Families at Andrea Gonzalez Colony used poultry as piggybank & food source. Men in the families work in various activities but their backyard animals helped the family with extra income for emergencies and for self-consumption

In the Sahop Colony families depend entirely on their horses to survive, working on pulling carts to collect and recycle garbage

The emergency collapsed the routes of access to the many cities, thus making access to the work sites nearly impossible, collapsing in turn the family's economy and forcing them to invest their savings to survive. At the moment, these families do not have the resources to

feed their animals and have been forced to leave them animal fodder.

### Impact on food security

#### State of Guerrero

Significant impact on food security It is not expected as remaining animals will cover alimentary needs of inhabitants until the recovery of the agriculture sector, which was severely damaged.

#### State of Sinaloa

The state of Sinaloa has an agriculture-based economy but no impact on food security is expected as thousands of hectares were left untouched.

#### State of Tamaulipas

No impact on food security is expected as local entities and organizations collected food and basic items for the families affected that will supply alimentary needs of inhabitants of the community until they recover their normal economy activity.

### Impact on livestock *(and agriculture if relevant)*

#### State of Guerrero

We found 15,595 animals affected, belonging to approximately 605 families. These animals are suffering from weight loss, lameness and weakness; there is not enough food available for them and pastures are covered with mud and contaminated water that animals are consuming.

#### State of Sinaloa

We found 8,130 animals affected, belonging to approximately 237 families. The animals in these communities need food and water, as there is not enough available and pastures are covered with mud and contaminated water that animals are consuming.

#### State of Tamaulipas

We found 2,080 animals belonging to 300 families in the communities visited by the DART. The animals in general are suffering from lack of food, weight loss and weakness; there is not enough food available and the owners do not have the resources to feed their animals.

80% of horses in the Sahop community present injuries on their neck and chest, product of the harnesses and the weight they must pull or carry on their backs.



Horse presenting injuries in their chest due the harnesses.  
Photo WSPA/ J Giraldo

### Impact on companion animals

#### State of Guerrero

Companion animals are very common in this region. However, dogs were seen in poor shape as their owners allow them to roam around and they only feed them if there are leftovers.

Dogs and cats show chronic bad physical condition as owners do not look after them and are left behind and abandoned.

In the community of Comaltepec, WSPA was specifically requested to establish a dog and cat control programme, which was redirected to the Secretary of Health representatives in the district.

#### State of Sinaloa

Dogs were seen in good condition as they are used for working with the cattle and as home guards, however, they were routinely kept on a leash and many drowned during the emergency. Roaming dogs were also seen and their condition seemed good and showed no diseases.

Upon meeting with local SPCA "Fundación LAIKA" it was noted that several tons of food were donated by an international NGO (HSI) and distributed among local SPAs, foster homes were established and adoption campaigns were launched, and at least 150 dogs were rescued from different locations and taken to temporary homes.

#### State of Tamaulipas

At Andrea Gonzalez and Sahop communities, companion animals are very common.

Dogs here were seen in fair body condition, but families reported that the presentation of cough followed by neurological symptoms in the dogs is always common after the rainy and hurricane season in the non-vaccinated dogs, symptoms compatible with Distemper virus.

The canine centre located in the Sahop community was also affected by the flooding, forcing them to move their animals to higher ground until the shelter is being recovered. Right now, they are returning to their shelter. They reported that after the flooding, an outbreak of diarrhoea among dogs and cats appeared, where the identified agents were Giardia & Coccidia.



Dogs in the canine centre with evidence of diarrhoea

Location	Pop. census (livestock & pets )	# of families	# of animals affected	# of animals killed by disaster
Guerrero state	NA	605	15,595	NA
Sinaloa state	NA	237	8,130	345
Tamaulipas state	NA	300	2,080	NA



*Cattle eating wet forage at Navolato (Photo Navolato Cattle Association)*

*A herd of goats, drowned after being caught in the corrals during the flooding at Navolato (Photo NCA)*



*Affected pastures at Navolato; +800 hectares destroyed, plus 500,000 haystacks & silos got ruined, leaving no reserves for the animals. (Photo NCA)*

## Animal welfare needs

- General health conditions of animals post disaster

### **State of Guerrero**

Surviving animals are showing weight loss, weakness and are still covered with mud. Although most animals are not presenting symptoms of illness yet, in the near future and due to the lack of food and contaminated water, it is expected they will begin to show malnutrition that can develop to a risk to the health of these animals.

### **State of Sinaloa**

Al Culiacán and Navolato district, animals are forced to walk long distances searching for food and water as the levees broke, and this is causing weight loss on most of them although no trauma or disease were apparent during the assessment.

### **State of Tamaulipas**

Surviving animals are suffering mainly due to lack of food, weight loss and weakness.

Dogs are in the worst condition and are presenting symptoms of illness. These symptoms are compatible with Distemper virus and the dogs and cats from the canine centre are presenting diarrhoeas product of the dirty water of the flooding and damp living conditions.

Although almost all animals were found in acceptable condition, it is expected that if they do not receive food supplements and veterinary care soon, their situation can get worse and they could begin to suffer from other illnesses and diseases.

- Immediate animal welfare needs

### **State of Guerrero**

Immediate animal needs are mostly fodder, minerals & vitamin supplements to help the animals to recover their health status.

### **State of Sinaloa**

Immediate animal needs are fodder & drinking water reservoirs for the coming dry months.

### **State of Tamaulipas**

## World Society for the Protection of Animals

Immediate animal needs are mostly food, minerals & vitamin supplements to help the animals to recover their health status and prevent infection with other diseases.

- Longer term priorities and welfare needs

### **State of Guerrero**

Improvement of the animals' body condition and recovery of health status.

### **State of Sinaloa**

Securement of water availability for animals, as the state is suffering from extended drought; water is the most valuable asset because forage is always possible to find in areas where water reservoirs are available to allow for forage plantation to thrive.

### **State of Tamaulipas**

Improvement of the animals' body condition and recovery of their health status.

\* Long-term priority for dogs will be the vaccination against Distemper virus to prevent the presentation of the disease every rainy season.

- Local actions to cope with identified animal welfare needs

### **State of Guerrero**

At the time of the DANA, there were no official actions to cope with the identified animal welfare needs in these communities, only the individual efforts of impoverished producers who strive to maintain the remaining animals with even less leftovers than before the emergency. The municipality requires assistance to provide food and fodder to ensure survivability of the remaining animals.

### **State of Sinaloa**

At the time of the DANA there were no official actions to cope with the identified animal welfare needs in these communities, the Cattle Association at each municipality is coordinating with the city hall the reconstruction of levees. Temporary jobs are intended to help people no matter their actual occupation and should include animal owners.

### **State of Tamaulipas**

There are no official actions to cope with the identified animal welfare needs in these communities, only the individual efforts of impoverished producers who strive to maintain

the remaining animals with even fewer leftovers than before the emergency. The municipality requires assistance to provide food and fodder to ensure survivability of the remaining animals.

### **Proposal for intervention**

To provide food for 23,625 animals, and as a result helping 1,142 families.