MEXICO EARTHQUAKE
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

ONE MONTH REVIEW

19 OCTOBER 2017
I. A MONTH IN REVIEW. WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

On 7 and 19 September, 2017 Mexico was struck by two earthquakes of 8.2 and 7.1 magnitude on the Richter scale, respectively. The five main affected states were: Oaxaca, Chiapas, Mexico City, Puebla and Morelos. An estimated 7 million children live in these 5 states.

The earthquake of 7 September was followed by 8,054 aftershocks (two of which are of 6.1 magnitude) and the one on 19 September had 39.1

A month after the 19 September earthquake, children living in the most affected municipalities in the five states are still in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. After a rapid needs assessment by UNICEF staff in the five affected states, the top priorities of UNICEF’s Response plan are: 1) for children to be protected from violence, exploitation and abuse in shelters and public spaces of temporary refuge, as well as to be provided safe spaces and psychosocial support; 2) to promote educational continuity for children by advocating and supporting an early return to school and prevention of school drop-out; and 3) to ensure access to safe drinking water and adequate handwashing and sanitation facilities, as well as hygiene supplies. These priorities were complemented one week after the initial response with actions on breastfeeding promotion, adolescent participation through U-report and advocacy initiatives on refocusing public financing for children affected by the earthquake.

UNICEF established alliances with key partners from government, civil society and the private sector to immediately establish 26 out of 38 planned child friendly spaces; train 162 teachers and 171 child friendly space facilitators with tools and strategies for psychosocial support for children; distribute 100 schools-in-a-box, 20 early childhood development (ECD) kits and 900 hygiene kits; as well as establishment of 100 temporary learning spaces for severely damaged schools. 700 adolescents and youth participated in the first week of U-Report polls and approximately 2,400 pregnant and lactating women were reached with messages on breastfeeding promotion in 600 shelters and aid collection points. To date, the total value of funds raised by UNICEF amount to US$ 1,100,419.06, with a US$ 3,499,580.94 funding gap to implement the full response plan.

These actions are being implemented in 24 priority municipalities, identified after five rapid assessment missions of UNICEF staff to the affected areas in the first 24-72 hours after the earthquakes.

II. IMPACT

2.1 OVERALL IMPACT

Immediately after the two earthquakes, 320 municipalities were declared in a state of emergency: 41 in Oaxaca, 118 in Chiapas, 112 in Puebla, 16 in Mexico City and 33 in Morelos. An estimated 7 million children (0-17) live in these states.

Final reports from the Civil Protection Authority mention 369 deaths (228 of these in Mexico City, of which 29 were children). 155,674 homes were damaged; 38 buildings collapsed in Mexico City. A plan for demolishing affected buildings is underway.

The effects of the earthquake are scattered in different parts of the affected states. Many people were displaced from severely damaged homes and buildings, some of them sought temporary refuge in government shelters; some opted to stay near their homes to safeguard their properties. Schools that remained in good condition were also used as temporary shelters. Public services, such as electricity and telephone, were interrupted briefly. Civil society and the private sector immediately mobilized themselves to extend immediate support through distribution of food and non-food items. So far, there are no reports of children separated from their families.
2.2 IMPACT ON THE EDUCATION SECTOR

The Civil Protection Authority reports 14,908 schools affected, of which 288 require complete reconstruction. As of 17 October, Mexico City and other states have finished the first phase of the Back-to-School plan, after certification of the building’s safety by Civil Protection officials. However, overwhelming requests for safety certification were not immediately met by the limited number of personnel from the said authority, hence the re-opening of schools is facing delays. Other states like Puebla, Oaxaca, Chiapas and Morelos are still on the first phase. Some states, like Puebla, have begun adopting different strategies to re-start classes, such as integration of school children from collapsed schools to schools in good condition; establishment of temporary learning spaces (TLS) are also considered, however, there is a limitation of available open spaces where TLSs can be installed.

It is estimated that 4 million students will be temporary re-located to other schools.

2.3 IMPACT ON THE HEALTH SECTOR

There were no major impacts on hospitals. However, there are some 800 health facilities with different degrees of damages. Reconstruction will be carried out based on resources of the Natural Disasters Fund (FONDEN). Hospital infrastructure of Social Security Institutions (IMSS and ISSSTE) are insured; therefore, the policy will pay for the damaged property, while the federal hospitals will be reconstructed with funds from the FONDEN. The uninsured state hospitals will be financed with FONDEN money (50%) and a similar percentage from the state budgets.
Public Health Institutions have attended 210,913 medical consultations related to the earthquake, out of which, 39 persons remain in hospitals.9

2.4 IMPACT ON THE PROTECTION SECTOR

Children and their families are emotionally affected, which were aggravated by the numerous aftershocks, making people re-live the traumatic events of 7 and 19 September. Many have felt that their lives were significantly disrupted. The National Psychiatric Institute and other institutions have provided 52,257 psychological consultations to date.10 Some adolescents engaged in U-report have complained of inability to sleep or eat properly as a consequence of the earthquake.

There is currently no segregation of men, women and children in shelters. In the mega shelters, military personnel are in charge of operations and organization of food and non-food items, are housed in the same area as displaced families.

III. GOVERNMENT’S RESPONSE AND HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

3.1 GOVERNMENT’S RESPONSE

The Mexican Government is operating on an exceptionally high capacity in terms of search and rescue and provision of humanitarian assistance. Particularly in the case of Mexico City, earthquake preparedness has its foundations on the improvements in readiness, prevention and revised construction regulations made by both government institutions and the citizenry in the aftermath of the 1985 earthquake. These measures substantially lowered the number of deaths (from an estimated 10,000 deaths in 1985 to 228 in 2017 in Mexico City) and the number of buildings that were severely damaged.

Government agencies, particularly through the Social Welfare Bureau (DIF), distributed food, water, clothes, blankets and other non-food items to populations in need. Shelters were immediately opened or established in the affected areas, while the military and the navy were mobilized to initiate humanitarian response after activation of the DN-III Plan (National Disaster Plan).

Civil society contributed significantly to the response with food and non-food items, as well as search and rescue activities, which officially ended on 5 October 2017. Government efforts are now focused on reconstruction and continued response to the affected populations.

The Minister of Finance has announced possible adjustments to the 2018 Budget (already presented to Congress) to provide with further resources to the National Disasters Fund (FONDEN). It also confirmed the activation of the Catastrophic Bonus, which is a risk transfer national policy to respond to the, conditioned upon certain parameters that are confirmed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The Catastrophic Bonus has a provision of US$ 150 million for earthquakes and between US$ 100 – 110 million for hurricanes, which affect the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Mexico. For the current disaster, the Catastrophic Bonus has been approved for 100% disbursement of the provisional amount.11

10 Idem.
Selected municipalities of affected states will have access to preferential credits for household reconstruction or repairs. People in those cities who lost their houses will be exempt of paying taxes after selling the land where their houses were. Other means of support particularly for Oaxaca and Chiapas are: cards with US$ 833 for families that need to fix partial damages; credits of up to US$ 5,555 for bigger damages (at a 7% rate) and US$ 555 for small businesses that lost their stock. The Mexico City Government has provided cash assistance of US$176 on a monthly basis for a span of three months to enable displaced families in Mexico City to rent temporary accommodation. The National Disaster Fund (FONDEN) has started to distribute US$880 to families whose houses were slightly damaged, and up to US$7,000 for those whose houses were severely or totally damaged.

3.2 HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

The Mexican government did not launch an international appeal but received bilateral support from 24 countries, the United Nations and the European Union.

The UN System, with the support of UNDAC, visited the State of Morelos to accompany the response processes. UNDAC, UNHCR, PAHO / WHO, UNDR UNICEF and IOM, visited several municipalities in the state.

There is no cluster system in Mexico, however, working groups have been established among the UN agencies in the areas of: shelter; protection; water, sanitation and hygiene; education; health and nutrition; early recovery; and communication and public information. UNICEF is leading Education and WASH working groups, and is participating in 4 others (protection, health and nutrition, early recovery and communications).

The Education working group has met three times so far, led by UNICEF, and includes 20 institutions from government, civil society and the private sector. Five strategic areas have been prioritized: 1) Return to school and training of teachers; 2) Reconstruction of classrooms and temporary learning spaces; 3) School in a box; 4) Curriculum; and 5) WASH.

The UNCT met with Mexico City Governor on 4 October 2017. UNICEF offered immediate response actions and medium-term interventions for recovery and rehabilitation, especially in the areas of education, child protection and social protection.

Some of the actions implemented by other UN agencies and Funds are:

- The Early Recovery sector, led by UNDR and with the participation of UN-HABITAT, ILO, UNIDO, is working for the economic and social response and recovery, such as land use planning, comprehensive social protection policies, in the affected areas.
- UN-HABITAT and the Ministry of Urban Development agreed on eight early recovery actions for affected states, mainly Oaxaca. These actions refer to priorities of land use, housing and accommodation.
- WHO/PAHO is working with the Ministry of Health in the development of a National Mental Health Strategy for Disasters and emergency situations.

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15 OCHA. Sitrep no. 2. 26 September 2017.
Mexico Earthquakes
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT / ONE MONTH

Update: 19 October 2017

UNICEF Response (to date)

- **24 municipalities** prioritized by UNICEF in 5 most affected States
  - Ciudad de México
  - Morelos
  - Puebla
  - Chiapas
  - Oaxaca

- **26** Child Friendly Spaces
- **100** School kits
- **100** temporary learning spaces
- **162** teachers trained on psychosocial tools
- **900** hygiene kits

**UNICEF’s appeal for Humanitarian Response Plan**

- **US $4.6 million**
- **60,000 children**

**Casualties**
- **369**

**Damaged homes**
- **155,674**

**Damaged schools**
- **14,908**

**Students to be relocated**
- **4M**

**Children living in affected States by the earthquakes**
- **7M**
IV. UNICEF RESPONSE

1. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

PLANNED ACTIONS IN WASH INCLUDE:

- Disseminate information on hygiene practices.
- Advocacy in shelters and child friendly spaces on the need to provide children with at least 1.5 liters of water a day, safe and adequate sanitation and handwashing facilities.

A. KEY HUMANITARIAN PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>UNICEF Target</th>
<th>UNICEF Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td># of families that receive complimentary hygiene kits</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of children that attend Child friendly spaces (CFS) and have access to sanitation and handwashing facilities.</td>
<td>5,700</td>
<td>No data yet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. ACHIEVEMENTS

3,930 hygiene kits have been assembled with in-kind donations from private sector partner SCA. 600 of them were delivered to two child friendly spaces in San Mateo del Mar in Oaxaca on 10 October and 300 in Tonalá, Chiapas. UNICEF’s implementing partner (Cántaro Azul) implemented hygiene promotion activities with 200 people in the said spaces on 11-12 October 2017.

Assembling of hygiene kits in Chalco Solidaridad Valley in the State of Mexico to be delivered to families affected by the two earthquakes that struck Mexico in September 2017. These hygiene kits were provided by Essity, one our corporate donors.
2. Nutrition

PLANNED ACTIONS IN NUTRITION INCLUDE:

- Promotion of breastfeeding in shelters.
- Advocacy activities with authorities to make sure adequate food is distributed for children under 5 years old.

A. KEY HUMANITARIAN PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>UNICEFTarget</th>
<th>UNICEF Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td># of pregnant and lactating women informed on breastfeeding</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>2,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. ACHIEVEMENTS

600 shelters and collection centres received posters on the benefits of breastfeeding, developed by UNICEF with government counterparts, benefiting an estimated 2,400 pregnant and lactating women. Other current and upcoming activities to promote breastfeeding are: 1) advocacy with key decision makers in the Ministry of Health to protect breastfeeding in emergency situations; 2) documentation of the experience of breastfeeding during the emergency and the violations of the International Code of breastmilk substitutes; 3) develop communication and information activities with breastfeeding mothers in child friendly spaces.

\[17\text{ A shelter has an average population of 100 persons at night, 50\% of which are women; an estimated 7\% of these women are pregnant and/or lactating.}\]
3. Education

PLANNED ACTIONS IN EDUCATION INCLUDE:

- Design and implementation of a Back-to-school campaign, with Ministry of Education;
- Establish temporary learning spaces and issuance of guidelines on a safe school environment (including facilitation, tools and guidelines);
- Distribution of School-in-a-box supplies for children and teachers and early childhood kits in schools; and
- Teacher training on psychosocial support and emergency curriculum.

A. KEY HUMANITARIAN PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND RESULTS

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<th>UNICEF Target</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td># of children that attend the temporary learning spaces</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>No data available yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of children that benefit from School in a box (SiB)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of teachers receiving training on psychosocial Support and emergency curriculum</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD</td>
<td># of children under 5 that benefit from ECD kits in pre-school temporary learning spaces</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. ACHIEVEMENTS

- 162 teachers (training of trainers) were trained on psychosocial support in education in Chiapas, Oaxaca and Mexico City, benefiting 4,400 school-age children. It is expected that each teacher could replicate the training with 15 other teachers, reaching 2,430 teachers directly and 65,610 children indirectly.
- 100 kits of School-in-a-box were delivered to the Ministry of Education in Puebla, together with UNICEF Mexico Goodwill Ambassador Cesar Costa, directly benefiting 4,000 children.
- The first 20 ECD kits have been distributed in Puebla (6) and Oaxaca (14). In total, these kits will benefit 230 children between 3 and 5 years old. 96 ECD kits will be distributed in affected pre-schools in Puebla, to benefit 6,497 children between 3 and 5 years old.
- 100 tents for temporary learning spaces (TLS) have been ordered to Supply Division. These tents will provide 4,000 children with a safe learning space while reconstruction is ongoing. These TLS are planned to be installed with a disaster risk reduction (DRR) lens: elevated platforms are provided for each space to prevent flooding.
- The first draft of a radio and social media campaign on “Back to school” has been designed.
4. Child protection

PLANNED ACTIONS IN CHILD PROTECTION INCLUDE:

- Monitoring the situation of children in shelters;
- Friendly spaces for children and adolescents to recover normality and security in shelters and parks;
- Guidance to the Municipal and State Protection Attorneys on how to respond to situations of separation, abuse and exploitation in emergency areas;
- Support for alternative emergency care for children separated from their family; and
- Advocacy and issuing guidelines and key messages to prevent violence, exploitation and abuse in shelters.

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<th>UNICEF Target</th>
<th>UNICEF Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td># of children with access to Child friendly spaces</td>
<td>5,700</td>
<td>1,300.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>% of cases of abuse, exploitation and violence received by local Child Protection Attorneys</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>No data yet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. ACHIEVEMENTS

- 26 out of 38 child friendly spaces (CFS) for psychosocial support have been installed fifteen in Oaxaca (4 in partnership with Save the Children and 3 with World Vision), plus 6 in Puebla, 3 in Mexico City and 2 in Chiapas. These spaces benefit 1,300 children directly each week.
- 171 facilitators for the CFS have been trained: 54 in Puebla, 60 in Oaxaca, 20 in Mexico City, 24 in Morelos and 13 in Chiapas, to provide psychosocial support in 26 child friendly spaces.
- 150 kits for facilitators have been distributed including a backpack, T-shirt, stress ball, markers and notebooks.
- Guidelines for shelter standards, underlining protective measures for children and with emphasis on children’s rights to access adequate water and sanitation facilities, protection, nutrition and health, were developed and submitted to various government ministries.
- Work with the Special Attorneys for Child Protection is ongoing, and some cases of child rights violations have been reported and referred to the Special Attorneys in Oaxaca State.
- Agreement has been reached with Foundation Football Mas, with whom 5 sports spaces will be established in Oaxaca, Morelos and Mexico City. There, trained facilitators will work with adolescents on resilience and related activities to provide psychosocial support.

A Child Friendly Space is supporting affected children in Ixtaltepec, Oaxaca.

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5. Communication for Development in Emergencies

- An intersectorial plan on key messages on nutrition, protection and education using diverse channels of communication has been developed.
- On 12 October, UNICEF Mexico launched the first of six polls through U Report to approach adolescents for inputs on children’s situation and response needs. Polls cover a range of topics: 1) Identification of people affected; 2) Health issues; 3) Mental health; 4) Return to school; 5) Voluntary aid during the emergency; and 6) Information on what to do before and after an earthquake. 700 adolescents and youth participated in the polls, some of them expressing difficulties in sleeping and eating meals regularly because of the earthquake.

V. CHALLENGES

In spite of Government efforts and investment plans to help families recover from the earthquakes, there are no clear targeted compensation plans for the affected population. Financial subsidies will be given only to those who are classified to be under ‘patrimonial’ poverty, wherein they could receive up to US$ 600 per household. UNICEF foresees the increase in the number of poor families, especially those which have lost their properties and other assets. Research and advocacy efforts will be increased to propose targeted cash transfers in emergencies for families with children under 5 and female-headed households.

Particularly in Oaxaca, a state with high numbers of indigenous population and high prevalence of poverty, UNICEF identifies concrete challenges on protection and hygiene issues. There are no standard guidelines or operating procedures for shelters. There are also problems with outdoor food storage, which is exposed to pests and other animals. Notable health and hygiene issues are: presence of head lice, bedbugs and fungal infections like athlete’s foot.

In such a context, there are a number of logistical and programmatic challenges facing a continued humanitarian response in the affected states:

- Implementation of waste and excreta management systems in shelter and public spaces of temporary refuge;
- The role of child protection authorities needs to be emphasized in monitoring shelters and addressing cases appropriately if required;
- Relocation of affected populations from shelters to temporary housing has impacted the strategic placement of child friendly spaces;
- Availability of updated information: the states do not send timely information on the need for temporary learning spaces, the opening or closure of schools, the need of school materials, among others. This is partly due to the delayed certification of schools by official authorities;
- Established dates by the Ministry of Education for school return do not always respond to the needs or reality in the states. This creates pressure on local authorities and they become reluctant to share information with UNICEF or other actors.
VI. LOOKING FORWARD

UNICEF foresees that the next two months of the initial response will require strengthened humanitarian assistance. For such purposes, UNICEF will continue working with partners to:

- Maintain a steady support for the psycho emotional recovery of earthquake-affected children;
- Prevent school dropouts due to delayed return to school;
- Advocate to maintain sanitary conditions in shelters, particularly in Oaxaca;
- Strengthen local capacities in disaster risk reduction; and
- Advocate for strengthened social protection schemes, which are child-focused.

In terms of social protection and policy, UNICEF has identified the need to start working with government counterparts and other partners on:

- A study to assess the direct and indirect impacts of the earthquake on children from a social protection perspective;
- The possibility of joint work with the World Bank in early recovery, specifically on supporting the return to school of some children from the most affected communities.
VII. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

A media and communication strategy was designed and implemented to generate and sustain public awareness on the needs of children affected by the earthquake, focus on children’s for the Federal and State response, and support fundraising for UNICEF’s emergency appeal.

UNICEF’s media presence has been critical in highlighting the importance of protection, education and lifesaving actions for children from day one of this emergency. During the reporting period, 11 press releases were timely issued (gaining widespread media coverage in Mexico), and more than 70 interviews were carried out with national and international media. As a direct result of these actions, UNICEF has achieved 1,415 media hits in radio, TV, print and online media, reaching an estimated 1.5 billion people (impacts).18

UNICEF’s voice has been permanent and strong in social media channels throughout the period. More than 30 videos (including human interest stories, media statements, Goodwill Ambassador calls to action and behavioral chance messages) have been produced and posted on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, an effort which has facilitated National Committee efforts and which, in Mexico, has yielded unprecedented increases in the number of followers and in social media engagement:

- 513 Tweets with an 6,518 increase in new followers and an engagement of 21,825
- Facebook posts with an 12,807 increase in new followers and an engagement of 159,878 followers
- Instagram posts with an 1,559 increase in new followers and an engagement of 12,678 followers

During this period, UNICEF Mexico has positioned itself as the most visible actor in the country on the situation of children in the emergency.

A “Back to School” campaign is under production and joint branding and dissemination of related radio spots is under discussion with relevant government bodies like the Ministry of Education.

VIII. FUNDING UPDATE

UNICEF Mexico made an appeal for USD$4.6 million for the 4 sectors included in the response plan. As of October 19, 2017 UNICEF has received thanks to very generous contributions from a number of public and private donors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Appeal USD</th>
<th>Funds received USD</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US $</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$ 2,000,000.00</td>
<td>$ 700,000.00</td>
<td>$ 1,300,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>$ 1,800,000.00</td>
<td>$ 300,000.00</td>
<td>$ 1,500,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation &amp; Hygiene</td>
<td>$ 600,000.00</td>
<td>$ 100,419.06</td>
<td>$ 499,580.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>$ 200,000.00</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$ 4,600,000.00</td>
<td>$ 1,100,419.06</td>
<td>$ 3,499,580.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18 This number refers to the target people impacted at least once by a campaign over a period of time. It takes into account the duplications as well as the net audience. It is calculated by dividing the net audience among the target audience and multiplied by 100.
IX. PARTNERING FOR CHILDREN

Over the past month, the international and national communities have responded generously to the immediate needs of children and adolescents in Mexico.

UNICEF Mexico would like to extend its gratitude to local partners such as Canal Once who provided free messages on children’s TV on psychosocial support or Cinepolis Foundation who made a special campaign in their cinema theatres for donations, as well as to Liomont Laboratories.

We are also grateful to UNICEF’s National Committees in Spain, Italy, the United States Fund, and Denmark, as well as the UNICEF Country Office in Ecuador for their support. Special thanks to Lego Foundation (Denmark), Riu Hotels (Spain and Mexico), FC Barcelona (Spain), and many other private sector donors.

In particular, UNICEF Mexico wishes to extend its deepest gratitude to our individual donors and to the companies that support us, who all make a difference in children’s lives. Thanks to: Liomont, GPTW, Mercado Libre, Yakult, Fundación Cinépolis, Benevety Causes, Essity, Best Day, Canon, Banco Autofin and Grupon.

In the coming months, UNICEF Mexico is looking forward to continue working with partners and donors to restore normality and well-being in the lives of affected children in Chiapas, Oaxaca, Puebla, Morelos and Mexico City.

UNICEF thanks both private and government donors for their support in the initial response phase. An additional funding of $3.5 million is required for UNICEF Mexico to continue providing humanitarian assistance in the next 2 months.