



# Mexico

## Humanitarian Situation Report No.3



### Earthquake Chiapas and Oaxaca

First child friendly space installed by UNICEF in Juchitan. Oaxaca. ©UNICEFSBermejo. <sup>1</sup>

## Highlights

- On 15 September, the Government of Mexico (GoM) sent a letter to the UNRC, welcoming proposals and supplies that will help families recover, as well as the reconstruction of public spaces, such as schools and hospitals.
- After rapid assessment made by UNICEF from 9-11 September, UNICEF has prepared a response plan for 6 priority municipalities in Oaxaca and Chiapas, mainly in the areas of education and child protection.
- UNICEF's support will focus on 40 schools and 16 shelters in 6 priority municipalities, targeting approximately 20,000 children.
- This week, child friendly spaces were set-up in Juchitan and Ixtaltepec (Oaxaca); other municipalities in Oaxaca and Chiapas will soon receive child protection support.

**18 September 2017**

**2,133,238**

estimated number of children affected by the earthquake in Chiapas and Oaxaca, out of which **584,060** are children under 5 years of age.

**US\$ 1.2 million**

required by UNICEF Mexico for immediate and complementary response to the needs of children and adolescents in earthquake affected areas, and possibly in areas to be affected by simultaneously incoming hurricanes.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

### Oaxaca

- 1,075 schools are affected: 54 in the 5 priority municipalities (10,595 students). In total, there are 13,500 schools in Oaxaca.
- Census of schools has been finished by IEEPO (local education institute) in the Istmo area.
- UNICEF staff deployed in the Istmo area have visited 10 shelters where there is a fluctuating number of children and adolescents from daytime to nighttime. Stress and fear is still present among children and their parents.

### Chiapas

- There are 1,606 schools affected, 86 with major damages. 97 of these schools are in Tonalá, 40 in Mapastepec, 72 in Pijijiapan and 21 in Zinacantan.
- Main needs are: advocacy and support for a prompt return to school and to promote education continuity (support through distribution of school-in-a-box and finding temporary learning spaces).
- UNICEF staff deployed in Chiapas visited a total of 4 shelters in Mapastepec, Pijijiapan and Tonalá.



The required actions in the priority municipalities are:

### Child Protection

1. Monitoring the situation of children in formal and informal shelters.
2. Guidance to the Municipal and State Protection Attorneys on how to respond to situations of separation, abuse and exploitation in emergency areas.
3. Support for alternative emergency care for children separated from their family.
4. Advocacy activities and issuing guidelines and key messages to prevent violence, exploitation and abuse in shelters (guidelines and support on how to organize shelters).
5. Ensure 16 safe spaces for children and adolescents that allow them to recover their sense of normality and security in shelters and parks:
  - a. installation of a child-friendly space (tent) in shelters or parks

<sup>1</sup> Information on the number of schools affected come from reports from the Governments of Chiapas and Oaxaca and Ministry of Education.

- b. training of 1 coordinator and 2 facilitators to carry out recreational activities
- c. kits distribution: 2 kits Early Childhood Development, 1 recreational kit and 1 kit for adolescents
- d. integrated psychosocial support for friendly spaces
- e. development of a referral mechanism for cases requiring specialized care.

### Education

1. Design and implementation of a back-to-school campaign, in coordination with the Ministry of Education.
2. Coordination with Civil Protection, Ministry of Education and INIFED to establish temporary learning spaces (tents / prefab) and issuance of guidelines on a safe school environment (including facilitation, tools and guidelines).
3. Distribution of school-in-a-box school supplies for children and teachers and early childhood kits in schools (temporary or permanent and day care centers).
4. Teacher training on psychosocial support and emergency curriculum.

### WASH

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

### Nutrition

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

## Humanitarian Response to Date

### Education

- In coordination with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF is carrying out an inventory of schools requiring immediate assistance through establishment of temporary learning spaces in Oaxaca and Chiapas. Advocacy has been made with the Ministry to provide *aulas móviles* (mobile classrooms), while UNICEF has committed to provide school-in-a-box for schools which will receive the said mobile classrooms.
- In collaboration with Child Protection, teachers in Oaxaca and Chiapas will receive training in provision of psychosocial support for children in earthquake-affected municipalities.
- UNICEF is advocating for an early return to school and will work with the Ministry of Education for a back-to-school campaign for early psychosocial recovery of earthquake-affected children.

### Child Protection

- On 18 September, child and adolescent friendly spaces were installed in Juchitán and Ixtaltepec, Oaxaca.
- Psycho-social support is a key intervention in terms of child protection, as well as advocacy in shelters and other areas of temporary refuge to observe child protection guidelines. There is still a need to have an inventory of non-formal shelters organized by civil society and other organizations.
- Initial discussions with Office of Attorneys for Child Protection (Procuraduría de la Protección de la Niñez) is underway to ensure immediate attention to cases of separation, violence, exploitation and abuse of children in situations of emergency.

### Humanitarian Coordination

- UNICEF is closely working with World Vision, Save the Children and Universidad del Mar (Oaxaca) to establish a total of 16 friendly spaces in shelters and/or parks.
- UNICEF staff perceive challenges in Oaxaca in terms of aid coordination. There are also differences in data coming from official sources vs data from the teachers' union.
- UNICEF is closely working with government counterparts: Civil Protection, Social Welfare (DIF), Children Protection Attorneys, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education at both federal and state levels.
- A UN Emergency Team meeting is taking place on 19 September 2017 to coordinate emergency response for the UN Country Team in Mexico.

### Media and External Communication

- UNICEF continues to have a strong presence in national newspapers, both online and print version, and on TV and radio with interviews regarding the earthquake. From 8-18 September, there have been more than 248 mentions of UNICEF in national and international media (CNN, BBC, The New York Times). UNICEF has appeared in major television stations and news outlets in Mexico, including two appearances on Televisa, Canal Once, TV Azteca, among many others.
- UNICEF Mexico has positioned itself as the most visible actor on the situation of children in the emergency, reaching the top position in Twitter.

Next SitRep: 25 September 2017

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