



UNICEF staff visits a shelter in Tonalá, Chiapas. ©UNICEF. NORTEGA.

Mexico

Humanitarian Situation Report No.2

Earthquake



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

Earthquake Chiapas and Oaxaca

- UNICEF Mexico deployed three teams on 9 September to the affected areas of Chiapas and Oaxaca for a rapid assessment of the needs of women and children.
- All schools in Chiapas and the affected areas of Oaxaca are closed until further notice; children and adolescents show signs of stress from the earthquake and subsequent aftershocks.
- UNICEF Mexico, together with the Social Welfare Department and the National Protection Agency, will provide assistance in terms of child protection in shelters and communities, as well as a return to school campaign in the earthquake-affected areas in both Chiapas and Oaxaca states.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Oaxaca

- The most affected village in Oaxaca is **Juchitan**. UNICEF staff have met with local authorities and there is no detailed assessment of damages as of yet. However, it is estimated that there are approximately 5,000 houses damaged, 30 deaths and some 300 injured. 120 schools are estimated to be damaged. There are eight shelters, of which only one is official. There is no information on how many people are received in these shelters. UNICEF staff have detected a strong need for psycho-social support.
- Another severely affected site is **San Mateo del Mar**. Schools are heavily damaged and classes are suspended indefinitely. Children are observed to be emotionally and mentally impacted by the earthquake.

Chiapas

- UNICEF staff visited **Tonalá**, the most affected municipality in Chiapas. The village is now home to 10,000 people evacuated due to the tsunami threat. Schools and sport centres are currently used as shelters, where men, women and children are housed altogether. People are observed to be scared of returning to their homes due to the frequent aftershocks, some without houses to return to. UNICEF will advocate *inter alia* for prevention of sexual exploitation and other abuse in these kinds of shelters.
- 18 schools were assessed without much damage. 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).
- In the biggest shelter in Tonalá, UNICEF has distributed diapers for children under 2 and handwashing soap for each family.
- The municipalities of **Mapastepec** and **Pijijiapan** (epicentre) were also visited, where issues of psychosocial support and educational continuity were noted.
- Another team visited the state's capital of Chiapas, **Tuxtla Gutierrez**, and **Chiapa de Corzo**, where there are no major damages, with the exception of some houses in poor urban areas. The team also visited two indigenous municipalities: **Zinacantan** and **San Andres Larrainzar**. Child protection authorities in these municipalities have no resources to operate. UNICEF staff detected a strong need of psychosocial support.
- Schools are being set-up to shelter people; however, families have yet to arrive. There are eight shelters in Tuxtla and six in Chiapa de Corzo.
- UNICEF staff met with Civil Protection authorities who have identified three remote communities (closer to Juchitan, Oaxaca) with apparently severe damages. However, they have not been able to reach them yet. The Army is said to travel to these communities shortly. In this area, the geographic dispersion of communities makes it difficult to send help.

10 September 2017

2,133,238

estimated number of children living in the States of Chiapas and Oaxaca most affected by the earthquake, 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.



Humanitarian Strategy

- UNICEF sent three teams on 9 September to two severely affected sites in Chiapas and one in Oaxaca (Juchitan) to conduct a rapid assessment of the needs of women and children and to estimate supply needs.
- UNICEF foresees intervention in Oaxaca and Chiapas through promoting temporary learning spaces and provision of *schools-in-a-box* in mobile schools that should be provided by the National Protection Agency. There is a need to advocate for an early return to school in the earthquake-affected areas.
- Psychosocial support is a key intervention in terms of child protection, as well as to insist on protection guidelines in shelters. There is also a need to have an inventory of non-formal shelters organized by civil society and other organizations.

Humanitarian Coordination

- A humanitarian coordination meeting with the UN Country Team under UNETE (led by OCHA and PAHO/WHO) will be convened on Monday, 11 of September. The presence of UNICEF is highly visible in the most affected areas, as is that of UNDP's disaster risk reduction team.

Media and External Communication

- UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassadors (Thalia and Alex Syntek) have been sending messages on Twitter and Facebook, which will contribute also to the fundraising efforts. UNICEF has been mentioned in national newspapers, both online and print version: interviews regarding the earthquake were given on Televisa (8 September), BBC (9 September), Canal Once (10 September), as well as for a number of local newspapers and radio.
- More interviews are foreseen for 11 September and two press releases have been distributed to both national and international media, which has been used and posted in various media channels.

Security

- There are no immediate security threats in earthquake-affected areas, except for occasional aftershocks. Staff on mission were advised for early return to their accommodations and close coordination with UNDSS is required.

Funding

- UNICEF Mexico requires US\$1.2 million to attend to the immediate needs of children and adolescents in terms of sanitation and hygiene, child protection, health and education.
- At this stage UNICEF will not have the capacity to receive any in-kind donations. This will be communicated through UNICEF social media messaging. Some local donations from the local populations include milk substitutes. UNICEF will be advocating for adhering to the official government (DIF) list, with the exception of milk substitutes.

Next SitRep: 12 September 2017

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