



Paraguay Floods

Humanitarian Situation Report No.2

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- As of 14 May, authorities estimate that over 62,000 families are in need of assistance due to the floods that affected a large part of Paraguay's population over the past week, mainly in Ñeembucú, Presidente Hayes, Alto Paraguay, Concepción, Capital (Asunción), Misiones, San Pedro and Central departments.
- Departmental-level Emergency declarations have been issued in eight departments and in the Capital, however, a National Emergency has not been formally declared. The National Emergency Secretariat continues supporting the local authorities responding to the emergency (Emergency Operation Centres-COEs).
- UNICEF deployed field missions to Ñeembucú and affected locations in Asunción to provide support that will initially benefit 262 families, a wider reach is intended.
- UNICEF and partners are conducting psychosocial support activities reaching approximately 380 children and adolescents living in shelters in Pilar city (Ñeembucú department).
- The lack of disaggregated data and difficult access to affected areas due to road closures remain as the main challenges for the response.

15 May 2019

62,119

Estimated No. of families in need of assistance
(Source: National Emergency Secretariat - SEN, as of 14 May)

Data regarding number of people and children in need is still being consolidated.

16

Flood-related deaths reported since April 2019
(Source: National Bureau of Health Surveillance)

Map 1. Departments affected by floods in Paraguay



This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any borders.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) reports that 62,119 families have been affected by floods in nine departments of Paraguay: Presidente Hayes, Central, San Pedro, Concepción, Cordillera, Capital, Ñeembucú, Boquerón and Alto Paraguay. Authorities indicate that Alto Paraguay, Central and Ñeembucú are the most affected departments in addition to the national capital Asunción.¹ Detailed and disaggregated information of the situation and needs at department level is not yet available.

According to preliminary reports collected by UNICEF as of 14 May, the following is a summary of the situation in the affected areas.

Department	Situation ²
Presidente Hayes (all districts included)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9,192 families affected by road closures.• 201 families have been evacuated from their homes and have been relocated in seven shelters. The population at risk (children under 5, pregnant women, and over 60 years old) represents 25% of the total population evacuated.
Concepción	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5,000 families affected in Concepción and surroundings have received assistance from the SEN.
Alto Paraguay (all districts included)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over 4,500 families affected have received assistance from the SEN including food and other supplies.
Capital Asunción (Bañado Sur, Bañado Norte, Chacarita, Sajonia districts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 36,550 people (11,422 families) affected.• As floods are recurrent in neighbourhoods located near the river bank in Asunción, part of the affected families are unlikely to return to their homes and instead will stay for longer period at improvised shelters, resulting in new urban settlements. Therefore, the needs and caseload are subject to change in the mid/longer term.
Central (Mariano Roque Alonso - MRA, Limpio, Villeta, Ypane, San Antonio districts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 285 families affected, out of which 249 families have been evacuated and relocated.
Misiones (Villa Florida District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,426 families affected.
San Pedro (Puerto Antequera, San Pedro, Nueva Germania, San Pablo y Chore)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,200 families affected.
Ñeembucú (Alberdi, Villa Oliva, Villa Franca, Pilar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10,000 families affected, they have been evacuated and relocated in 22 shelters and neighbouring homes.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

As of 14 May, eight departments including Ñeembucú, Central, Misiones, Itapúa, San Pedro, Guairá, Alto Paraguay and Presidente Hayes have issued a Departmental-level Emergency. The Municipality of Asunción has also declared State of Emergency.

The National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) is the authority coordinating the Government response at national level, while COEs are coordinating the response at the local level. UNICEF remains in constant communication with the SEN and is identifying opportunities to contribute to the emergency response in a coordinated manner.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF has organized missions to the affected departments, deploying specialized staff (Emergency Focal Point, Communication and Health Officer) to carry out assessments and to conduct immediate psychosocial support interventions.

UNICEF maintains permanent communication with the Ministries and the SEN to identify potential support starting in prioritized areas including: Ñeembucú, Chaco region (Boquerón, Alto Paraguay and Presidente Hayes departments) and Asunción, with focus on Health, Education and Child Protection sectors. Furthermore, UNICEF is part of the interdisciplinary boards in charge of the emergency response.

In addition, UNICEF is developing strategies to raise funds and support from the private sector.

¹ Secretaría de Emergencia Nacional, SEN prosigue hoy con la asistencia alimentaria a 10.000 familias de Ñeembucú, < <https://www.ip.gov.py/ip/sen-prosigue-hoy-con-la-asistencia-alimentaria-a-10-000-familias-de-neembucu> >, accessed on 14 May 2019.

² Sources include SEN, Municipality of Asuncion Bulletins, National Health Bulletins,

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) and influenza-like illnesses, especially in children under 5; diarrhoea and dehydration, mostly due to food contamination; vector-borne diseases (dengue, zika and chikungunya), arterial hypertension and skin lesions remain as the most frequent pathologies among the affected population.

The Ministry of Health has requested UNICEF's support to provide Hygiene Kits (including soap, towels and diapers) as well as repellents and mosquito nets to prevent vector-borne diseases. These requests are being assessed in coordination with the Ministry of Health and are subject to budget availability and to the infrastructure required to distribute them.

Education

The Ministry of Education is reporting that 151 educational institutions are currently affected by the floods in Presidente Hayes, Central, San Pedro, Concepción, Cordillera, Capital, Ñeembucú, Boquerón and Alto Paraguay departments; affecting a total of 28,665 students. A Red Alert remains active for the education sector.

At national level, 347 educational institutions are under alert for floods, affecting a total of 28,665 students in ten departments. UNICEF is refocusing its current resources in order to increase capacity in the Education sector, with needs assessment as the main priority currently. The Country Office team is in contact with Education authorities at national level and will participate in the Education sector coordination instances.

Child Protection

In Pilar city (Ñeembucú), UNICEF is working in coordination with the local authorities and the Ministry of Childhood (Ministerio de Niñez) in the collection of data regarding the situation of children at risk living in the affected areas, and in the development of containment strategies to decrease the risks faced by affected children.

As a part of the initial response, UNICEF is co-leading - with the Red Cross and the National NGO Jakaira- the implementation of psychosocial support activities, including workshops and recreational activities for children and adolescents living in shelters in Pilar. Mid and long-term strategies include cooperation with local authorities to prevent risk situations by establishing friendly spaces for children, and working with educational institutions and Social Programs' leaders.

In Asunción, UNICEF is developing mid and long-term strategies for risk prevention that include: working with the local authorities to create warning systems to detect vulnerable situations, minimum safety standards and segregation of bathrooms by gender.

In the Chaco region, the main challenge is the lack of access to the affected areas due to road closures. UNICEF is working on strategies that promote creation of employment opportunities, so that situations of children labor and exploitation could be prevented.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF has deployed staff to Ñeembucú and affected areas in Asunción to assess and document the situation of children affected, collecting images and testimonies of the impact that the floods have had on their lives.

Next SitRep: 16/05/019

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