



Photo: General view of damages in Punta Diamante – a touristic zone -, Acapulco, 3 days after the hurricane Otis made landfall. © UNICEF México/Andrés Ramírez
Reporting period: 25 - 31 October 2023

Highlights

- Tropical Storm Otis strengthened into a Category 5 hurricane on 25 October and made landfall on Acapulco (Guerrero state). On 30 October, the Government of Mexico declared the state of emergency in Guerrero. After this declaration, the Natural Hazards Emergency Response Programme was activated, identifying Acapulco as the most affected municipality. Six additional municipalities report widespread damages in infrastructure, housing, etc. Basic public services in these municipalities have been disrupted including schools' closure, child protection services, electricity, internet services etc. Official sources report 46 people dead and 58 missing. At least 1 million people (including over 323,000 children) are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in seven municipalities.
- Five days into the impact of OTIS, a Census of Damages is being conducted by the Ministry of Social Wellbeing, having covered 32,644 households and small and medium businesses in rural and urban areas (overall 273,844 households are affected). Government humanitarian aid is being provided by the Navy and the Army.
- Although media attention has focused on the metropolitan area of Acapulco, OTIS impacted almost the entire coast of Guerrero. Damage quantification can take weeks. Available data indicates that the damage is widespread and devastating both in public and private infrastructure.
- According to satellite information, 4,685.20 hectares of the coastal area were affected (65%) as well as 865 kms of roads and 2,487.30 hectares of construction. *Initial* estimates indicate damages of US\$15 billion. It is the first category 5 hurricane to impact a city with that number of population (in the world). (*Special Report, Integralia Consultores*).
- UNICEF is already on the field, working in coordination with local authorities to provide immediate relief and to assess short-, medium- and long-term needs for affected communities.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

- Tropical Storm Otis strengthened into a Category 5 hurricane on 25 October and made landfall on Acapulco (Guerrero state). On 30 October, the Government of Mexico declared the state of emergency in Guerrero.¹ After this declaration, the Natural Hazards Emergency Response Programme was activated, identifying Acapulco as the most affected municipality. Six additional municipalities (Atoyac de Alvarez, Benito Juárez, Coyuca de Benitez, San Marcos, Florencio Villarreal, Tecpan de Galena) present damages in infrastructure, housing, etc.
- The Ministry of Education of Guerrero (SEG) has suspended academic activities between 30 October and 3 November in Acapulco and Coyuca de Benitez. Access to updated information on the number of affected schools, the degree of impact on enrollment due to Otis is limited. Guerrero state local education authorities estimate damages to 33 schools, 22 basic education (5,242 students), 6 secondary education (6,942 students) and 5 higher education (11,253 students) facilities. According to official numbers for the 2022-2023 cycle, Guerrero has 10,513 basic education schools with 776,955 students, and 875 upper secondary education schools with 143,246 students.
- Damages to government infrastructure have challenged access to information and the overall relief operations. It is necessary to determine the alert mechanisms available to the population to address situations of serious violence at this time, for example, kidnappings of children, disappearance of children, sexual violence.
- Due to the damages in health facilities, it is not certain which facilities can provide specific services for children and adolescents. Mapping the current status and capacities for service provision in health facilities is critical to prioritize interventions, particularly to ensure availability of sexual violence response services, which require intervention in less than 72 hours.

Mexico

Otis Hurricane

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1

Situation in Numbers



323,000

estimated children in need of humanitarian assistance
(7 municipalities in Guerrero)

(Source: 2020 National Census)



1,070,000

estimated people in need
(7 municipalities in Guerrero)

(Source: 2020 National Census)



120

hospitals with damages in

Acapulco

(Source: Govt. report 29.10.2023)



33

schools reported with

damages in Guerrero

(Source: Govt. report 29.10.2023)



80% Hotels damaged.

(Source: Govt. report 26.10.2023)

Map 1. Main areas affected by Otis in Guerrero.



Summary Analysis of Programme Response

As the situation evolves and information on sectoral needs and gaps is becoming available, UNICEF is shaping its response plan, with partners and in close coordination with authorities. Given the current situation, initial UNICEF's three months response will focus on the following actions:

Health & Nutrition

- Deployment of a health team made up of doctor, nutritionist, nurse, psychologist, and two logistics staff. At the request of the Ministry of Health of Guerrero, the health team will be located at the smart building of the Federal Ministry of Health.
- Strengthening health care in emergencies for the first level of care and early diagnosis of cases of acute malnutrition, with emphasis on children under 5 years of age.
- Distribution of 30,000 units of oral rehydration salts (*Suero Vida Oral*).
- Distribution of multiple micronutrients to pregnant women and lactating women. Within the framework of the above interventions, actions will be supported to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding in shelters and collection centers. Support will be provided for children under 2 years of age who cannot be breastfed.
- A list of most urgent products to be donated will be disseminated on UNICEF networks and media outlets (Red Cross, Ministry of Health, Civil Protection, TV, radio, etc.), specifying that infant formulas can only be delivered and distributed by trained health professionals and/or certified breastfeeding consultants.

Education

- UNICEF co-leads the education working group with Save the Children, to ensure a coordinated and effective response in the education sector (first meeting held on 31 October).
- Ensure educational continuity for children and adolescents through formal and non-formal education programmes, including early learning and skills.
- Support with information and monitoring systems on the status of schools, water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure, and return of enrolment and staff.
- Mental health and psychosocial support interventions for students, teachers, and other educational staff in learning settings.
- Ensure that children and adolescents have equal access to inclusive and quality learning opportunities.
- Provide access to temporary educational spaces if required.
- Provide timely information and key messages about access to educational services and learning environments.

WASH

Immediate focus on ensuring access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, including distribution of critical personal and family hygiene kits, chemical water disinfection and cleaning supplies, as well as promotion of proper hygiene habits and behaviours practices. Through strategic partnerships with local governments, and implementing partners, UNICEF will deliver goods and services for the most affected children and their communities, through the following specific actions:

- Support in the assessment of damages and needs.
- Lead the WASH working group, to ensure a coordinated and effective sectoral response with national and international NGOs, private sector and government counterparts.
- Support efforts to provide safe drinking water to the affected population through installation of water purification/treatment plants, water trucking (transportation) and distribution through water tanks located at key points in the affected communities
- Provision of mobile sanitation and hygiene infrastructure such as chemical toilets and handwashing stations, including access to basic hygiene supplies and guaranteeing cleaning and disinfection services to the mobile infrastructure.
- Distribution of hygiene and sanitation kits to affected children and their families.
- Rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure in healthcare centers, social care centers (CAS-DIF) and schools affected by the hurricane.
- Training on use, operation and maintenance of the rehabilitated WASH infrastructure to ensure its appropriation and sustainability.
- Development of response plans, together with health authorities, in the event of possible epidemics that arise from the disaster (dengue, malaria, vector-borne diseases, gastrointestinal diseases, respiratory infections)
- Design and development of communication materials to prevent and control of infections, as well as for safe water storage management, sanitation and hygiene practices.

Child Protection

- Mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) for children and their families through actions that promote resilience and prevention of possible psychosocial effects derived from the emergency, as well as the installation of safe spaces for children.
- Identification and protection of separated and unaccompanied children or children at risk of abuse and exploitation through the deployment of multidisciplinary teams (psychologists, social workers, and lawyers) in support of DIF systems and Child Protection Authorities to facilitate family reunifications, as well as the issuance of required protection measures.
- Prevention, response, and risk mitigation of gender-based violence against children, women and LGBTI population in shelters and areas of concentration of displaced children, and technical assistance in the deployment of mechanisms to prevent and respond to the risks of commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Strengthening humanitarian care and support for children and adolescents in residential care in affected areas.

SBC, Accountability to Affected Population (AAP), Localization

- Dissemination of messages to raise awareness of the situation of children, useful messages in emergency contexts, through UNICEF Mexico's communication channels (social networks, press).
- An on-site AAP survey will be activated to identify the optimal channels of message delivery regarding WASH, MHPSS, GBV, PSEA, Child Protection, nutrition, etc., and information regarding service delivery and improving decision making. This assessment will define the priority message streamline for the rest of the emergency in the upcoming phases.
- The SBC plan includes capacity building with NGOs, civil society, and implementing partners that will have an SBC kit to disseminate and socialize within affected communities.
- Based on two agreements already in place with the cluster of public and education TV, radio broadcasters and community radio stations, messages on child safeguarding, PSEA, MHPSS and WASH can be promoted.
- According to programmatic needs identified, audiovisual and audio materials are being developed for subsequent deployment missions to the field.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

- The main emergency coordination centre is located at the Acapulco naval base, where the National Guard, Navy, SEDENA (Army), and Civil Protection participate. The Governor of Guerrero and federal authorities also participate in this space. A second operational coordination centre, is located in the Mundo Imperial Forum, in Acapulco-Diamante. This space serves as a collection center for humanitarian aid. Food can only be delivered by SEDENA, who are responsible for distribution to the communities. UNICEF has a working space at the operational coordination centre, and an additional space in Chilpancingo city, provided by the local Civil Protection Authorities.
- At the moment, the main presence in the affected area is of firefighters, Civil Protection, Women's Secretariat, Immigration Secretariat, among others. As for non-governmental organizations, only the Red Cross, CADENA and Operation Blessing NGO are currently in the area. CADENA is on the ground with search and rescue teams and, reaching affected communities with Civil Protection to carry out a need assessment.
- In Chilpancingo, several warehouses and collection centres have been enabled, in which humanitarian aid is received and then delivered to SEDENA for management. Civil Protection has informed that civil society organizations and NGOs can deliver donations in Chilpancingo for further distribution.
- Overall, coordination and information sharing between the two coordination centres remains challenging, specifically between decision makers and operational personnel.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Mexico CO has focused its digital communication strategy on the importance of protecting child physical and mental well-being during the stressful situations they were facing, with messages such as:

- https://www.instagram.com/p/Cy3oofTSpk8/?img_index=1
- <https://twitter.com/UNICEFMexico/status/1718652410141323348>
- https://www.instagram.com/p/Cy4I25jOpVs/?img_index=3

This has been combined with messaging aimed at ensuring good nutrition and water safety, for example, as well as video clips of UNICEF staff with messages on the situation and response efforts in the field, for example:

- [What to donate in kind](#)
- How to ensure [water safety](#)

Fundraising efforts were also supported in all [social media outlets](#) and through UNICEF [website](#).

A first press release was issued on 30 October, mentioning the estimated number of children and their needs, and focused on UNICEF's close collaboration with federal and state authorities to identify and address the most pressing needs of children and adolescents.

- [Press release](#)
- [On social media](#)
- [Representative, Fernando Carrera, social media](#)

Next SitRep: 7 November, 2023.

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