








Photo: UNICEF staff assessing damage to a drinking water storage system in Acapulco, Zona Diamante.  
Reporting period: 1-7 November 2023

# Mexico

## Otis Hurricane

### Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2

#### Situation in Numbers

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**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)
- 
**44%** of 110 first-level medical units are in operation  
(Source: Govt. report 06.11.2023)
- 
**190** schools reported with damages in Acapulco and Coyuca  
(Source: Govt. report 04.11.2023)
- 
**600** hotels and condominiums damaged  
(Source: Govt. report 26.10.2023)

## Highlights

- Twelve days after hurricane Otis made landfall in Acapulco (October 25), the government's standing position vis-à-vis the emergency has evolved with mixed messages. On November 2, the Federal Civil Protection Authority declared 47 municipalities affected by OTIS in an emergency ([LINK](#)). However, on November 3, an explanatory note was published declaring an emergency only in two municipalities: Acapulco and Coyuca de Benitez, where the most significant part of the resources and mitigating measures will be implemented during the reconstruction phase.
- Public services have been partially restored. Almost 55 per cent of the electric service has been reestablished as of November 3. Access to drinking water remains the main problem in the affected area. Only 44 per cent of 110 first level health units and 45 mobile medical units are. There are 7 shelters operating in Acapulco (613 people) and 5 in Coyuca (875 people).
- Official sources report 48 people dead and 48 missing. The Government has distributed 171,000 pantries and almost 9 million liters of water. There are 10,000 elements of the National Guard deployed to support security in critical points such as gas stations, banks, commercial venues, and main avenues and streets. More than 2,000 tons of debris and trash have been collected. ([LINK](#))
- UNICEF is already in the field with child friendly spaces and a mobile medical unit.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

- The Government's strategy to address the destruction of one of the most important touristic cities in the country includes actions and measures costing approx. US\$ 3.4 billion, including tax exemptions, credits, delivery of pantries and electro- domestic appliances, advanced payment of pensions and double delivery of education scholarships. Additionally, 377 hotels have asked for credits to make repairs, 35 of which plan to reopen in March 2024 ([LINK](#)).
- As of November 5, and despite the catastrophic impact of hurricane Otis on the electrical grid and the subsequent black out in Acapulco city and surrounding villages, CAPAMA (municipal water and sanitation service provider) managed to restore 57 per cent of its water pumping capacity, providing water services to over 612,000 people (75 per cent of Acapulco total population). Although water supply and wastewater treatment plants have also been damaged by hurricane Otis, further field visits are needed to assess impacts on such infrastructures.
- On November 6, a caravan organized by civil society marched into Mexico City, claiming stronger support from the Federal Government and more transparency in the number of damages, deaths, injured and missing people. They also demand to maintain the emergency declaration in the 47 municipalities.
- Between November 2-5, the National Welfare Agency (DIF) visited 12 spots, including schools and social assistance centres that shelter children. The main conclusions and identified needs are food and water, medical and psychological support, and special attention for people with disabilities.
- The Ministry of Education of Guerrero (SEG) has extended the suspension of academic activities until November 10 in Acapulco and Coyuca de Benitez.

Map 1. Main areas affected by Otis in Guerrero.



## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF has refined its response plan including recovery actions within a 6-month timeframe, with partners and in close coordination with authorities. UNICEF's response will focus on the following actions:

### Health & Nutrition

- Deployment of a health team consisting of a 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 Federal Ministry of Health.
- Strengthening health care in emergencies for the first level of care and early diagnosis of acute malnutrition cases, with emphasis on children under 5 years of age.
- Distribution of 30,000 units of oral rehydration salts (Suero Vida Oral), of which so far 7,500 units has been delivered.
- Distribution of multiple micronutrients to pregnant women and lactating women. Within the framework of the above interventions, UNICEF will support actions to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding in shelters and collection centres. Support will be provided for children under 2 years of age who cannot be breastfed.
- A list of the 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 or certified breastfeeding consultants.

### Education

- 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.
- Provide school materials for children and adolescents.

### WASH

- Coordination with the education sector to support restoring water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure in schools.
- Strengthening water and sanitation state and municipal institutions to restore the distribution of water to the affected areas, mainly schools and health care facilities (HCF).
- Provide timely information and key messages about access to WASH services in churches, shelters, and kitchens.
- Coordinate with NGOs to canalize the hygiene supplies to the different counterparts and to the population.
- Distribution of cleaning and janitorial supplies to the Guerrero Education Secretary to reach 80 schools.
- Continuous assessments to analyze the evolution of the emergency related with the WASH priorities.
- Provide hygiene kits to state institutions and NGOs to reach more than 5k children.
- UNICEF is working on expanding or strengthening the WASH response or intervention through new partnerships with local institutions.

### 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. One safe space for children has been installed in Elementary School 152 in Acapulco and three more will be installed in Unidad Deportiva Jorge Campos, Sagrado Corazón Church (known as Costa Azul), and Technical School Number 1.
- A multidisciplinary team composed of 4 professionals (2 social workers, one psychologist and one lawyer) has been deployed to support DIF Guerrero and child protection authorities in the identification and protection of unaccompanied and separated children or children at risk of abuse, 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)

- 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 to identify the optimal message delivery channels regarding WASH, MHPSS, GBV, PSEA, Child Protection, nutrition, etc., and information regarding service delivery and improving decision-making is ongoing with low response rates due to connectivity issues. This assessment will define the priority message streamline for the rest of the emergency in the upcoming phases.
- Collaborative work with the authorities has led to an informal agreement to share and replicate the key messages and communication materials through their official channels.
- With Implementing Partner, ADRA, there are agreements to share and place comms materials in strategic places with high concentration of people, including tarps or loudspeaker systems.
- The U-Report and U-Report on the Move flux for the emergency response are being prepared and will be reviewed for dissemination in the following days.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

Under the UNETE umbrella, sectoral tables have been installed, four of them led by UNICEF: WASH (two meetings held: November 3; and November 10), Health and Nutrition, Education (UNICEF co-leads with Save the Children, two meetings held on October 31, and November 3) and Child Protection and GBV (two meetings held on November 2 and November 6). All four sectoral tables have already met mainly with the participation of other UN agencies and civil society organisations. An initial mapping of sectoral actions is being raised through 3W matrixes, and mechanisms to monitor the progress of interventions will be installed.

Additionally, UNICEF supports the Civil Protection Authorities of Guerrero in strengthening their data collection and monitoring mechanisms. This support aims to effectively map the progress of response actions, enabling a better understanding of the impact and effectiveness of ongoing interventions.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF continued to keep a low media profile due to operational considerations; however as a result of a press release issued at the beginning of the emergency, media articles continued to appear ([UNICEF warns about affectations to children after Hurricane Otis](#)). There was also a solid social media presence highlighting the need for individual donors to contribute to support the organization's efforts. ([Instagram – Attending WASH needs](#), [X – Children after the Hurricane](#)).

## Next SitRep: 15 November 2023

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