



Photo: Through its implementing partner, UNICEF is providing access to medical, nutritional and psychosocial care to children affected by hurricane Otis in Guerrero, in coordination with local health authorities. © UNICEF México/Angélica Vergara

Mexico

Hurricane Otis

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3

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Highlights

- On October 25, Hurricane Otis made landfall in the Mexican Pacific coast as a Category 5 hurricane, impacting with greatest force in Acapulco and Coyuca de Benítez and five other municipalities of Guerrero state. On October 30, the Mexican government declared a state of emergency, officially concluding on November 9 and launching a recovery phase through the [“General Plan for Reconstruction and Support for the Population affected in Acapulco and Coyuca de Benítez by Hurricane Otis”](#).
- Basic public services in the seven affected municipalities have been disrupted, including schools’ closure, child protection services, water, electricity, internet services, etc.
- As of November 11, official sources report 48 people dead and 30 missing. 852,000 people living in the affected area (including over 251,000 children) are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance.
- As of November 11 public services have been partially restored. Around 93 per cent of the electric service has been reestablished. Between 45 and 90 percent of telephonic services have been restored. 55 percent of population have access to drinking water in the affected area. 94 per cent of 110 first level health units and 66 mobile medical units are in operation. There are 10 shelters operating in Acapulco and Coyuca (551 people). The Federal Government has directly counted 284,752 households and small business as affected.
- The Government has distributed 465,282 food baskets, more than 19 million liters of water and 3,568 household goods (e.g. refrigerators, stoves, mattresses, blenders). 10,000 elements of the National Guard have been deployed to support security in critical points such as gas stations, banks, commercial venues, and main avenues and streets. As of November 11, the Federal Government report that 34 per cent of streets and public spaces have been cleaned.
- Since October 28 UNICEF deployed a team to assess the situation and coordinate the response with the local and national authorities. Since November 5 UNICEF is on the field with child friendly spaces, a mobile medical unit, psychosocial, nutrition and WASH services and kits, as well through a multidisciplinary team seconded to the local child protection authority.

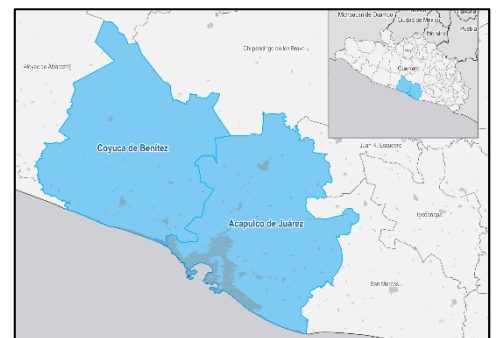
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

- 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 food baskets and household 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.
- 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 around 55 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 [originally identified](#).
- Between November 2-5, along with UNICEF, the National Welfare Agency (DIF) visited 12 spots, including schools and social assistance centres where children are sheltered. The main needs identified 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.

Situation in Numbers

-  **251,207**
Estimated number of children living in the most affected area (Acapulco and Coyuca de Benítez in Guerrero. Source: 2020 National Census)
-  **852,622**
estimated number of people living in the most affected area (Acapulco and Coyuca de Benítez in Guerrero. Source: 2020 National Census)
-  **120** hospitals with damages in Acapulco (Source: Govt. report 29.10.2023)
-  **393** schools reported with damages in the state of Guerrero (Source: Govt. report 13.11.2023)
-  **80%** Hotels damaged. (Source: Govt. report 26.10.2023)

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 the support of implementing partners and in close coordination with authorities. UNICEF's response focuses on the following actions:

Health & Nutrition

- A health team consisting of a doctor, nutritionist, nurse, psychologist, and two logisticians has been deployed, in response to the request of Guerrero's Ministry of Health.
- This deployment aims to strengthen healthcare in emergencies, focusing on the first level of care and early diagnosis of cases of acute malnutrition, with a special emphasis on children under 5 years of age. The intervention aims to reach 2400 children and adolescents and 600 pregnant women in the most vulnerable areas.
- Additionally, 11,000 units of oral rehydration salts have been distributed and multiple micronutrients will be distributed to pregnant and lactating women.
- Within this framework, actions will be taken to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding in shelters and in essential supplies gathering points. Support will also be provided to children under 2 years of age who cannot breastfeed.
- A list of the most urgently needed products for donation will be disseminated through UNICEF networks and various media outlets, including the Red Cross, Ministry of Health, Civil Protection, etc. Messages are distributed via community channels and radio to inform that infant formulas can only be delivered by trained health professionals and certified breastfeeding consultants.
- Currently, these interventions are being carried out in three locations (Renacimiento, Costa Azúl and La Venta), within the municipality of Acapulco. As of November 14, the team provided 42 medical attentions, 107 nutritional attentions, and 159 psychosocial attentions. These include consultations and workshops for girls, children, adolescents, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers.

Education

- Coordinate the intersectoral and multistakeholder Education in Emergencies (EiE) working group, co-lead with Save the Children. This group currently includes 21 civil society organizations, 4 UN agencies and 3 government dependencies.
- Mental health and psychosocial support interventions for students, teachers, and other educational staff in learning settings.
 - Currently underway: psychological attention and psycho-social support to teachers, in coordination with Protection implementing partner ADRA, which will benefit around 500 teachers.
 - Through implementing partner Save the Children, UNICEF will provide capacity building to teachers on mental health and tools to attend students back to school, creating a safe environment. This component will be complemented with key messages on wellbeing, mental health, the importance of education continuity, and tips to be better prepared for emergency situations.
- Provide school materials for children and adolescents.
 - Currently underway: preparation of purchase of 80 "school in a box" with learning and classroom materials, which will benefit 3,200 students.
- Support with information and monitoring systems on the status of schools, water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure, and return of enrolment and staff, through the development of a monitoring tool for identification of damages.
- Ensure educational continuity for children and adolescents through formal and non-formal education programmes, including early learning and skills.

WASH

- Leading WASH response Team Group by managing the chat group created ad hoc for this emergency as well as the meetings occurring every Friday morning among all WASH stakeholders participating within the emergency.
- Developing Information Management (IM) WASH emergency tools such as contacts directory, map of WASH interventions in the field, 3W matrix and a specific website, with support from the WASH IM based in LACRO.
- Coordination with the education, health, and social welfare (DIF) governmental counterparts to support future rehabilitation of water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure in schools, health facilities, shelters and Social Assistance Centers (CAS-DIF).
- Coordination with NGOs and civil society to properly canalize donations of hygiene, water treatment, disinfection and storage supplies to different government counterparts.
- Support with the administrative procedures to procure and transport to Chilpancingo (around 100 km from Acapulco) 5,520 hygiene kits and 80 cleaning and disinfection kits.

- Humanitarian Program Document preparation to start WASH emergency interventions with the NGO Operación Bendición México (OBMX).

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 (two 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 will be activated to identify the optimal channels to deliver messages regarding WASH, MHPSS, GBV, PSEA, Child Protection, nutrition, etc., and information regarding service delivery and improving the decision-making process of the affected population. 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.
- The U-Report and U-Report on the Move flux for the emergency response is being reviewed by the technical teams. The following steps are producing the broadcasting materials to socialize the service, launching them in the different points of the programmatic response through implementing partners and counterparts.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

Under the UNETE umbrella, inter-sectoral working groups have been established, four of them led by UNICEF including: WASH (two meetings held on November 3 and November 10), Health and Nutrition (UNICEF leads the nutrition sector with two meetings held on November 3 and November 11); 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 working groups have already met mainly with the participation of other UN agencies and civil society organizations. An initial mapping of sectoral actions is being raised through 3W matrices, and mechanisms to monitor the progress of interventions will be put in place.

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

In terms of social media outreach, on November 2, contact was established with the medic-influencer Dr. Mauricio González, a regular UNICEF supporter with 1.5 million followers on his Instagram [account](#), to encourage him to share our content. Since then, he has shared at least five stories on his Instagram account and one [X](#), with appeals to donate to affected children.



Sample human interest story: Baltasar

"I was tucked in when I felt the windows explode and glass started to fall. That's when they moved us to another room and there was no glass anymore. The table and things fell, and the oldest classmate helped us put beds in the window so it wouldn't explode."

Baltasar, 12 years old, tells us about his experience during #HurricaneOtis. Today he is staying at a shelter run by DIF Acapulco.



Post from UNICEF's response from the ground:

- Mental health and psychosocial support: <https://twitter.com/UNICEFMexico/status/1722629113360404669>
- Medical, nutritional and psychosocial orientation through our mobile medical unit: <https://twitter.com/UNICEFMexico/status/1722764757109965031>

Next SitRep: 22 November 2023.

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