



Photo: A school severely damaged after the impact of Hurricane Otis in Acapulco. UNICEF visited this and other schools to monitor the status the School and WASH infrastructure. © UNICEF México/Angélica Vergara
Reporting period: 15-22 November 2023

Mexico

Otis Hurricane

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 4



Highlights

- One month after Hurricane Otis made landfall in Acapulco, the Government reports there is 80 per cent of water supply (restored?). 89 per cent of households in Acapulco have electricity and all light posts damaged have been repaired (13,525). There are 6 hospitals working together with 119 first level attention units. Still there are 145 people hospitalized. Supermarkets are already open as well as bank services and 9 ATMs. As of November 20, the official report is of 49 deaths and 31 missing people. Acapulco airport is already working for national flights.
- The Ministry of Education in Guerrero announced schools that required only cleaning and minor adjustments reopened on November 21, in Acapulco and Coyuca de Benitez. Schools with further damages will remain closed until November 24. Until November 21, 650 schools present damages, of which 642 have been censused. Schools closure affects some 140,000 students.
- According to information gathered by UNICEF team in the field, first response operations are de-escalating, and people are leaving the shelters. UNICEF is supporting local efforts to identify needs towards the first reconstruction phase, during the next 3 to 6 months.
- UNICEF field operations already include an operational safe space for children, health attentions through a mobile unit, and the distribution of school in a box kits, and other WASH related kits. Also, UNICEF has provided with technical support to key government institutions on the design and implementation of kobo tools to address information needs for response planning.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

- According to data provided by official government sources and to information gathered by UNICEF team in the field, first response operations are de-escalating and people are steadily leaving the shelters in Acapulco. In this context, UNICEF is supporting local efforts to identify needs towards the first reconstruction phase, during the next 3 to 6 months.
- Only 106 Schools in Acapulco and Coyuca de Benitez returned to classes on November 21st. ([LINK](#)) In most schools' classes remain suspended since October 26th, 2023. It is estimated that there are 141,302 students affected by school closure, since there are 650 schools with various types of damages as well as debris, fallen trees and garbage. Of these, 642 have been visited by state authorities. It is critical to ensure educational continuity for children and adolescents through formal and non-formal education programmes, including early learning and skills.
- Based on information from the Ministry of Health through the directors of emergency and epidemiology services, a rapid transition is observed towards the recovery of primary and specialized health care services. The reactivation of these services is based on the diagnosis of the operational infrastructure, as well as the availability of supplies, information systems and epidemiological surveillance. Additionally, monitoring of sentinel sites and mobile units confirmed that needs have intensified in areas where there are pre-existing vulnerabilities, observing increases in diarrhea cases in children due mainly to poor water management. In this context, it is necessary to reinforce actions associated with the continuity of treatments once the population leaves primary health centers, with a focus on prevention interventions associated with water contamination. and vector-borne diseases, in addition to the prevention of malnutrition among children under 2 years of age.

Situation in Numbers



251,207
children living in the affected area
(Acapulco and Coyuca de Benítez. Source: 2020 National Census)



852,622
estimated people living in the affected area
(Acapulco and Coyuca de Benítez. Source: 2020 National Census)



125 hospitals/medical units in operation in Acapulco
(Source: Govt. report 20.11.2023)

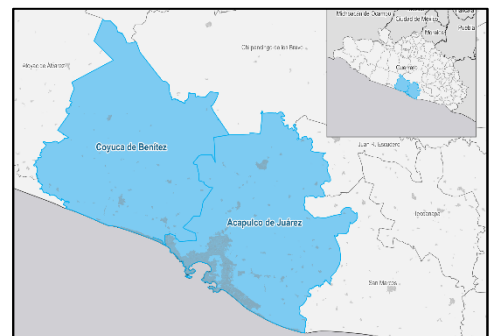


650 schools reported with damages in Guerrero
(Source: Govt. report 21.11.2023)



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 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 logistics staff 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.
- 11,000 units of oral rehydration salts and multiple micronutrients have been distributed.
- Key messages and information has been provided to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding in shelters. Support will also be provided to children under 2 years of age who cannot breastfeed.
- A list of the most urgently needed health and nutrition supplies for donation will be disseminated through UNICEF networks and various media outlets, including the Red Cross, Ministry of Health, Civil Protection, TV, radio and others. It will be explicitly stated that infant formulas can only be delivered and distributed by trained health professionals and/or certified breastfeeding consultants.
- Currently, these interventions are being carried out in three areas located in the municipality of Acapulco de Juárez, resulting in 178 children and woman accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF supported facilities, 181 children 6-59 months receiving micronutrients and 30 primary caregivers of children 0-23 receiving infant and young children feeding counseling.

Education

- UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education of Guerrero with an information and monitoring tool on the status of schools, water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure, and return of enrolment and staff. This tool will be launched on November 22nd with school principals of affected municipalities. Current needs identified encompass cleaning of schools that did not suffer structural damage for reopening in-person classes, removal of debris, psychosocial support for teachers, students and parents, school materials or kits.
- UNICEF has already started providing mental health and psychosocial support interventions with implementing partners for students, teachers, and other educational staff in learning settings. These interventions will continue until December 15th and resume in January 8th, 2024, when students return from the vacation period.
- UNICEF is also leading delivery of 80 cleaning kits for schools and 80 school in a box (SiB) that will be assigned as part of an integral response in prioritized schools.
- UNICEF and Save the Children are co-leading the education in emergencies workgroup and developed a 3-month plan with relevant actors, civil society organizations and UN Agencies. A communication strategy is being developed with the social behaviour change section to provide key messages about access to educational services and learning environments to be shared by implementing partners in strategic places with a high concentration of people.

WASH

- UNICEF is leading the WASH response Sectoral Table by managing the WhatsApp group created ad-hoc for this emergency as well as by regular meetings occurring every Friday morning among all WASH stakeholders participating to the emergency response.
- Developing Information Management WASH emergency tools such as contacts directory, map of WASH interventions in the field, 5W matrix and a [specific website](#), with support from our WASH Information Manager (IM) based in UNICEF's Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO).
- Coordination with the education, health, and DIF governmental counterparts to support future rehabilitation of water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure in schools, health facilities, shelters, and Social Assistance Centers (CAS-DIF).
- UNICEF is coordinating with NGOs and civil society to properly canalize donations of hygiene, water treatment, disinfection and storage supplies to different government counterparts.
- Administrative procedures activated to purchase, transport and preposition 5,520 hygiene kits and 80 cleaning and disinfection kits to Chilpancingo city.
- Humanitarian Program Document approved and about to start WASH emergency interventions with Operación Bendición México (OBMX) implementing partner.
- Continuous assessments to analyze the evolution of the emergency related with the WASH priorities.

Child Protection

- UNICEF is supporting mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) for children and their families. 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 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.
- UNICEF is also working on 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 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)

- 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 includes collaborative work with UNHCR and the corresponding workgroups
- Collaborative work with the authorities has led to an informal agreement to share and replicate key messages and communication materials through their official channels.
- With implementing partners: ADRA, Save the Children and La Jugarreta UNICEF has integrated RCCE designated outputs to reproduce audiovisual materials during the interventions covering topics regarding health and nutrition, protection (PSEA and MHPS), WASH and GBV.
- The U-Report and U-Report on the Move flux for the emergency response continues to be reviewed by the technical teams. Following steps are producing the broadcasting materials to socialize the service and launch them in the different.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

Under UNETE umbrella, sectoral coordination tables have been activated, four of them led by UNICEF including WASH, Health and Nutrition, Education (UNICEF co-leads with Save the Children) and Child Protection/GBV subsector. All four sectoral coordination tables have regular meetings mainly with the participation of other UN agencies, private sector and civil society organizations. A common tool to register and report sectoral actions is being raised through a unique 5W matrix for these 4 sectors. In particular, an appeal to assist cleaning of schools and prepare them for reopening has been launched at the WASH, Early Recovery and Education in Emergencies coordination tables; a prioritized list of schools was shared by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF is working to ensure coordination of allies that wish to participate

Regarding the strengthening of humanitarian response mechanisms carried out by UNICEF with Civil Protection Authorities of Guerrero, progress has been made in presenting them a proposal to enhance information management and sectoral work approach. As a result, state secretaries are already working towards a unified information collection system through Kobo and have a greater level of understanding and participation in sectoral work.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Given ongoing constraints regarding proactive outreach to traditional media, UNICEF's efforts continued to focus on social media stories aimed at promoting fundraising efforts through public outreach. As part of this, Mexican actor Cristo Fernández recorded a video clip encouraging donations to UNICEF, which further to being disseminated in Mexican social media, will be shared with UNICEF USA to promote donations among Spanish speaking audiences in the USA. Overall, digital communication efforts on reporting UNICEF's action on the ground in the context of collaboration with local and state authorities, for example:

- [Video](#) on health and nutrition interventions carried out to strengthen healthcare in emergencies and support local health authorities, focusing on the first level of care and early diagnosis of acute malnutrition.
- [Video](#) on psychosocial support, with the testimonies of Elias (12) and Bruno (5) and UNICEF's explanation on how child friendly spaces help children's emotional recuperation.
- [Tweet](#) on work being carried out in cooperation with the Naval Ministry, the Mexican Red Cross and the Guerrero Ministry of Health to address the nutritional, mental and physical health of children and adolescents.

Next SitRep: 20 December, 2023

Who to contact for
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Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector Indicator Country	UNICEF Target*	Results					
		Girls	Boys	Women	Men	Total	% PROGRESS
Nutrition							
# primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	2,400	-	-	7	23	30	1%
# children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder	2,400	98	83	-	-	181	7%
Health							
# children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities	2,400	92	79	7	-	178	7%
Water, sanitation and hygiene							
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)	7,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education							
# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	3,200	-	-	-	-	-	-
# children receiving learning materials	3,200	-	-	-	-	-	-
# Teachers and other education personnel are trained to provide quality learning in ECE, EiE and PSS	150	-	-	-	-	-	-
# of children accessing PSS in their schools/learning programmes	3,200	-	-	-	-	-	-
# parents/caregivers of children under 5 receiving parenting support to improve care and development of their children with support of UNICEF	400	-	-	-	-	-	-
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA							
# children who have received individual case management	500	3	2	-	-	5	1%
# children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based MHPSS	9,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
SBC / AAP							
# affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services	30,000	50	50	100	100	300	1%

– Progress not available by the date of this SITREP.

*Targets as of November 22, 2023