



Photo: Ángel Esteban lives in Acapulco. His house was damaged by Otis. He found a safe place in the Friendly Spaces UNICEF has implemented in the city to offer children safe environments for their psychosocial well-being. © UNICEF México/MarcoAntonioLuna.

Reporting period: 23 November – 19 December 2023

Mexico

Otis Hurricane

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 5



Highlights

- According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center of the National Weather Service of the US, Hurricane Otis set the following records:
 - Most rapidly intensifying tropical storm ever recorded in the northeast Pacific and most rapid intensification ever observed in modern records.
 - 4th tropical cyclone with the fastest winds in history worldwide and hurricane with the 2nd highest wind speeds recorded in America.
 - Its gusts reached 330 kph, making it one of the 15 strongest ever measured at ground level in the world.
 - 1st category 5 hurricane to impact the Pacific coast and the most intense hurricane in the modern era on the Mexican Pacific coast.
- Progress in cleaning and reconstruction has focused on the urban coastal zone of Acapulco and main avenues. Gaps in assistance persist in peripheral areas, where UNICEF is concentrating its interventions. Due to remaining debris and delays in cleaning, there is an increase in cases of hemorrhagic dengue.
- The government of Guerrero, through the Ministry of Planning is currently working on a Regional Development Plan for Reconstruction and Economic and Environmental Recovery of the affected area. UNICEF will provide technical assistance in the process.
- UNICEF's interventions have reached so far 927 children with nutrition and child protection activities; 3,000 persons with WASH supplies, including 1,500 children; and almost 1,400 people with SBC messages, mainly on dengue prevention.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

- UNICEF is focusing its support in the areas of child protection (mental health and psychosocial support and case management), nutrition, WASH, education and social behaviour change activities.
- An important collaboration is starting between UNICEF and the Ministry of Planning in the development of a reconstruction and economic and environmental recovery plan, mainly with technical assistance.
- Carlos Slim, one of the most important businessmen in Mexico, convened a meeting with the Government of Guerrero, the private sector, the Army, civil society and UN agencies to agree on key interventions to speed up Acapulco's recovery. Actions on education, vector disease control and WASH are already being coordinated among these actors. ([LINK](#))
- Up to 12 December, the Ministry of Education in Guerrero (SEG) has identified 1,069 schools damaged by hurricane Otis and 193,617 children and adolescents affected by school closures.
- Of these, only 153 schools received Immediate Partial Support (APIN) funding from the federal level for \$68 million pesos MXN (approximately US\$3.9 million); over 630 schools in Acapulco and Coyuca de Benitez remain closed requiring cleaning and debris removal.

Situation in Numbers



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



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



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



193,617 students enrolled in 1,069 schools with damages in Acapulco and Coyuca
(Source: Govt. report 12.12.2023)



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 tailored 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

- UNICEF, in collaboration with implementing partner ADRA, has provided medical and nutritional care to 17 pregnant women, and over 359 children and adolescents in Acapulco, all of whom have received micronutrients or dietary supplements. Additionally, information on breastfeeding and recommended emergency feeding practices has been provided to 481 caregivers.
- Fourteen pregnant women have received multiple micronutrients.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with ADRA, delivered 11,000 packets of rehydration solution to the Guerrero Ministry of Health. These are distributed among Acapulco's affected population.
- UNICEF has distributed items such as flipcharts, posters and manuals, to the Guerrero Ministry of Health. These materials are intended to be used by primary healthcare centers and health workers in activities and counselling for parents during the first 1,000 days of their child, including home and clinic visits.
- UNICEF, in partnership with Guerrero Ministry of Health, has launched training activities for 50 primary healthcare professionals in Acapulco on child malnutrition and its treatment. This training includes the provision of 145 therapeutic food treatments for child malnutrition. The training was an 8-hour in person session held December 13th, 2023, for healthcare personnel working on Acapulco's primary healthcare centers.

Education

- UNICEF and the Guerrero Ministry of Education launched the information and monitoring tool on school and WASH infrastructure and return of students and staff. This tool was launched on 22 November and so far 400 schools have been surveyed. An interface will be enabled to cross this information with the 5W tool.
- 193,617 students enrolled in 1,069 schools that report damages in Acapulco and Coyuca, the majority remains closed since October 25th; the number of damaged schools rises constantly as the monitoring continues.
- UNICEF has provided mental health and psychosocial support to 101 supervisors and educational staff. Interventions with teachers and principals will resume on 8 January 2024, after the holiday season.
- 3, 200 children will be reached through 80 "School in a Box" and cleaning kits arrived to Guerrero and will be delivered in January 2024 to priority schools.
- An early recovery plan has been developed by the education work group focusing on school reopening, psychosocial support, learning recovery, education in emergencies and resilient schools. The 5W matrix has been completed by several actors of the education sector to map the assistance coverage.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNICEF has led the development of WASH emergency Information Management tools such as [contacts directory](#), [map of WASH interventions](#) in the field, 5W matrix and a [specific website](#), with support from UNICEF's Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO).
- In collaboration with our implementing partners, UNICEF assessed WASH critical systems and infrastructures in six Social Assistance Centers (CAS-DIF), and four primary schools. New schools will be assessed during the next weeks and rehabilitation works will start in January 2024.
- WASH supplies have been procured and will be prepositioned in late December, 2023 and early January, 2024 in the cities of Acapulco and Chilpancingo, including 5,520 hygiene kits for children and their families, and 80 cleaning and disinfection kits to support cleaning and recuperation of affected schools in Acapulco.
- Critical hygiene items have been distributed benefitting 3,000 boys, girls, adolescents, and their families, through a "[Rincón de la Dignidad](#)" mobile child-friendly space. In addition, 1,500 boys, girls, adolescents and adults received messages on [proper hygiene practices and health](#).
- Safe drinking water has been distributed directly to families into 20-liter capacity containers, benefitting over 1,500 boys, girls, and adolescents.
- UNICEF received a donation of 50,000 liters of Sodium Hypochlorite from Clorox Company. This chemical will be donated to the Municipal Water Operator (CAPAMA) and used for water treatment and disinfection at the Water Treatment Plant and for water trucks distributing water to affected populations living in areas where the water network is not yet restored. UNICEF will be delivering half of this donation in late December while the other half will be sent to CAPAMA in late January.
- Also, UNICEF received a donation of cleaning and disinfecting products from Clorox Company. These products will be donated to the Ministries of Education and Health, to contribute to the cleaning and restoration of schools and health centers. UNICEF will be delivering these products to mentioned Ministries during late December and early January.
- UNICEF benefited from a donation of 80 water tanks from Rotoplas Company. These will be used to recover water supply systems in schools and health care centers.

Child Protection

- Through Implementing Partners La Jugarreta, Juconi and Save the Children, UNICEF provides mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) for children and their families. Eight safe spaces have been installed in Acapulco in the Hermila Galindo Elementary School, Telesecundaria Hermila Galindo, Sagrado Corazón Church, Olinala Kinder Garden and in the neighborhoods Renacimiento, Nueva Generación, Jardín Azteca and Barrio Negro, where 557 children and adolescents, as well as three female caregivers, have accessed community-based MHPSS.
- A multidisciplinary team of two social workers, one psychologist and one lawyer, was deployed to support local child protection authorities (DIF Guerrero) 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. To date, seven girls and four boys have received individual case management services.
- UNICEF is also working on prevention, response, and risk mitigation of gender-based violence against children, women and LGBTI population through the implementation of safe spaces in areas of concentration of displaced children.
- UNICEF is providing technical assistance to the State Welfare System to strengthen humanitarian care and support for children and adolescents in residential care in affected areas.
- UNICEF and implementing partners, in coordination with DIF Acapulco, carried out a multi-service brigade in which psychosocial care services, friendly spaces, menstrual hygiene kits and legal services for girls, boys and adolescents were offered. 161 children and adolescents were reached during the brigade. This intervention modality will be replicated in other communities in 2024.
- In coordination with the regional and municipal child protection authorities, the case referral route and inter-institutional coordination protocols are being reviewed to improve case management services.

SBC, Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)

- An on-site AAP survey has been activated to identify the optimal channels of message delivery regarding WASH, MHPSS, gender-based violence (GBV), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (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 Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) designated outputs to feature audiovisual materials during the interventions covering topics regarding health and nutrition, protection (PSEA and MHPSS), WASH and GBV.
- UNICEF has developed materials for the prevention of dengue and nutrition-related topics. These are in the process of being printed and distributed with implementing partners and the Governmental Health Department.
- A strategy involving loudspeaker broadcasting has been proposed to deliver targeted advice for dengue prevention. This approach leverages audio messaging to disseminate crucial information, providing the community with actionable steps to mitigate the risk of dengue and promote healthier living practices considering the difficulty to access phone signal and Wi-Fi. This strategy is shared with local health departments and community leaders to ensure maximum reach and effectiveness.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF continues leading four sectors: WASH, Nutrition, Education (UNICEF co-leads with Save the Children) and the Child Protection/GBV sub-sector. In all sectors, a first survey of the 5W matrix has been carried out and the process of information gathering continues. Progress is being made towards coordination of actions for humanitarian response and early recovery. All sectors have joined the UNDP-led early recovery/ reconstruction table.

As leader of the nutrition coordination sectoral group, UNICEF has called on various agencies, civil organizations, and academic institutions to join forces. These institutions have established communication channels to align their activities within the framework of the emergency. Communication has been initiated with the Federal Ministry of Health to channel donation proposals through the Emergency Command.

Under the leadership of the Education Authorities, UNICEF and Save the Children co-lead the education working group. The 7th session of the group was held on December 12th with participation of 27 NGOs, 3 government actors (SEP, SEG, SE-SIPINNA) and 3 United Nations agencies (UNESCO, IOM, UNDP).

UNICEF keeps leading the WASH emergency response coordination group created ad-hoc for this emergency. Regular meetings occur every Friday morning with all WASH stakeholders participating in the emergency response (NGOs, Government Counterparts, Civil Society Organizations, UN agencies and private sector). As a first result, donations of hygiene, water treatment, disinfection, and storage supplies to different government counterparts were possible.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

During this period, UNICEF's communications activities focused on cooperation with [authorities](#), [implementing partners](#), and interventions, including [psychological support](#), [WASH hygiene kits](#), as well as guaranteeing [quality education](#).

Next SitRep: 23 January 2024

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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 | 2,600 ¹ | - | - | 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 | 3,000 ² | 92 | 79 | 7 | - | 178 | 6% |
| WASH | | | | | | | |
| # of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs | 15,000 | 826 | 717 | - | - | 1,543 | 10.3% |
| # of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) | 7,000 | 737 | 649 | 984 | 626 | 2,996 | 43% |
| 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 | - | - | 73 | 28 | 101 | 67% |
| # 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 | 7 | 4 | - | - | 11 | 2.2% |
| # children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based MHPSS | 9,000 | 298 | 259 | 3 | - | 560 | 6.22% |
| 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 | 232 | 232 | 464 | 464 | 1,392 | 5% |

– Progress not available by the date of this SITREP.

¹ Target adjusted as of December 15.

² Target adjusted as of December 15.