



Photo: Children at primary school Narciso Mendoza attending class after the reopening of the school with the support of UNICEF, Acapulco, Gro. © UNICEF Mexico - Jaime Almeida  
Reporting period: 2 – 29 February 2024

# Mexico

## Otis Hurricane

### Humanitarian Situation Report No. 7



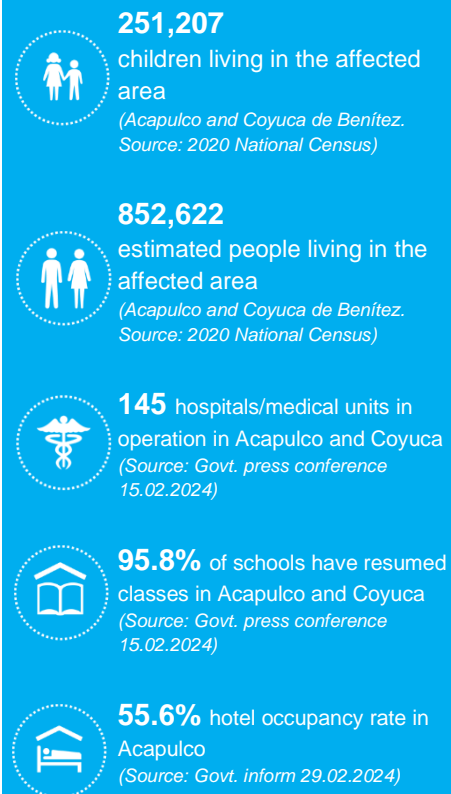
## Highlights

- Despite progress in the economic reactivation process in Acapulco, including the reopening of hotels and the organization of [events](#) such as the Tennis Open, the construction industry is facing a shortage of available workforce. This shortage is forcing them to seek personnel from other states, thereby increasing the cost of services and delaying the rehabilitation of hotel infrastructure until [2026](#).
- In this context, [protests](#) have arisen among the population, demanding the continuation of food supplies and economic support following the announcement of the withdrawal of these supports by the Ministry of Welfare as of March. Transport strikes are accompanying these protests, resulting in significant increases in taxi fares. Incidents of violence against transporters remain concentrated in Chilpancingo.
- Despite the implementation of government public policies and programmes, such as the [Violet Zone app](#) to report gender based violence incidents, [economic support for GBV victims](#), and the establishment of a state interagency committee for gender equality, the Acapulco Women's Institute [reports](#) a 48% increase in cases of violence against women following Hurricane Otis, primarily concentrated in 13 neighborhoods.
- Dengue infection rates continue to rise. According to the Ministry of Health data, Guerrero state has the highest number of cases nationwide (2,071).
- UNICEF's response in Acapulco continues in key sectors such as education (school rehabilitation), WASH, Health and Nutrition, and Child Protection, reaching 43,700 children and 17,000 adults.
- Having transitioned from the humanitarian response phase, UNICEF has developed a plan for the early recovery phase. The aim is to strengthen development actions implemented to reactivate basic education, WASH, nutrition and protection services for children and adolescents in the affected areas. Additionally, the plan seeks to enhance the coverage and quality of services in line with the principles of building back better.

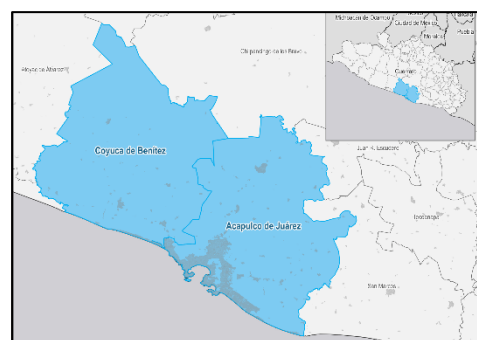
## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

- Dengue cases in Acapulco persist its prevalence due to the lack of adequate preventive and response interventions. UNICEF's mobile medical unit continues to detect cases of malnutrition among children.
- In terms of education, cleaning of schools remains a priority. In cases where schools have opened, needs have been identified for items such as perimeter walls, roofs, painting, books, uniforms, furniture, etc. In the medium and long term, there is a need to focus on learning outcomes and psychosocial support for affected children, as reported by staff in social assistance centers.
- Statistics on violence against women and girls continue to increase after hurricane Otis in Acapulco, particularly in areas with a high degree of marginalization located in the periphery of the city.
- It remains essential to invest in programmes to prevent violence against children, particularly in areas with pre-existing security concerns, where violence and child protection risks are likely to increase after this type of disasters.

## Situation in Numbers



**Map 1. Main areas affected by Otis in Guerrero.**



## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

After the onset of the emergency, 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 focused on the following actions during the reporting period:

### Health & Nutrition

- UNICEF, in collaboration with implementing partner ADRA, has provided medical, psychological and nutritional care to 41 pregnant women, and 1,260 (638 boys and 623 girls) children and adolescents in Acapulco. All pregnant women received micronutrients or dietary supplements. Additionally, information on breastfeeding and recommended emergency feeding practices has been provided to 803 caregivers.
- Thirty-four pregnant women have received multiple micronutrients.

### Education

- UNICEF and the Guerrero Ministry of Education (MoE) have completed the data collection process for upper secondary schools and universities that suffered damages during the Hurricane. The [dashboard](#) on school and WASH infrastructure now contains data from 463 schools.
- The MoE has reported that 95% of schools in Acapulco and Coyuca have resumed classes; and is no longer providing updates on school damages for the EiE workgroup. Nevertheless, concerns remain among education sector partners as there is evidence that students are returning only few hours per week and gaps persist in several schools, preventing the return to full time in-person classes.
- UNICEF concluded the [first phase of school reopening](#), which focused on rehabilitation, cleaning, debris removal and WinS infrastructure rehabilitation on 20 elementary schools, directly benefiting 5,707 children and adolescents. Out of the reached schools, 4 had a partial return due to major damages to school infrastructure.
- UNICEF has concluded the second phase on mental health and psychosocial support to teachers and education staff. On 29 February, 500 teachers were reached as part of Save the Children-UNICEF workshops on psychosocial support; 358 early childhood education (ECE) teachers, 86 parents and caregivers, and 112 children under 5 years old participated in IEPAAC-UNICEF workshops.
- The joint strategy on learning recovery in elementary schools has started, led by UNICEF and Save the Children, aiming to reach 200 teachers in face-to-face interventions.
- In February 2024, 262 teachers were trained by IEPAAC on DRR and Resilience in School Environments.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNICEF continues leading collaborative efforts between the municipal water authority (CAPAMA) and implementation partners to streamline resources and ramp up WASH infrastructure rehabilitation efforts in educational institutions and affected communities.
- In collaboration with implementing partners, UNICEF is undertaking repairs of critical WASH infrastructures in 10 educational centers including Social Assistance Institutes and orphanages. To date, repairs in 6 educational centers have been completed to provide safe and functioning bathrooms, laundry and kitchen facilities to 465 children and staff. The rehabilitation of 4 more educational centers has been approved with repairs ongoing, while 6 are pending final approval.
- Rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure in educational centers will continue through March and will focus on vulnerable groups, including people living in rural and low-income areas, indigenous groups and children with access and functional needs.
- UNICEF has delivered 5,520 hygiene kits to the Ministry of Health, World Vision and Operation Blessings, of which 2,604 have been distributed to 2,604 children in schools and communities.
- To date, 10,261 critical hygiene items have been distributed to girls, boys, adolescents, and their families, through a ["Rincón de la Dignidad"](#) mobile child-friendly space. The most sought-out items are toothbrushes.
- Safe drinking water has been distributed directly to families into 20-liter capacity containers, benefiting over 8,845 boys, girls, and adolescents.
- Through collaborative efforts between the Ministry of Education, 80 tanks of 1,500L were provided to schools and education centers supporting approximately 11,540 students and staff. These tanks will enhance educational centers' ability to collect and store water from municipal water supply network for longer periods of time during water service interruptions.
- The distribution and installation of portable hand washing stations has started in 7 healthcare centers.
- UNICEF continues developing 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).

### Child Protection

- Through implementing partners La Jugarrera and Save the Children, UNICEF has provided mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) for children and their families. The following friendly spaces are

currently operating: Icacos Park, Technical Secondary School 191 and Technical Secondary School No.1, Olinala Children’s Garden, Cancha, Azteca Garden, Costa Azul Church, Brigada DIF Colonia and in the neighborhoods Hogar Moderno, Coloso Unidad 1 and Mangos Garden. From November to date, 954 girls and 918 boys (1,872 children), as well 107 female caregivers and 38 men caregivers, have accessed community-based MHPSS.

- A multidisciplinary team of two lawyers and one psychologist, 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, 30 girls and 24 boys have received individual case management services.
- UNICEF in coordination with implementing partner JUCONI has installed two safe spaces in areas of concentration of displaced children reaching 1520 people with actions to prevent, respond, and mitigate risks of gender-based violence against children, women and LGBTI population. Safe spaces were installed in Clinic Renacimiento and Cancha Colonia Tres Palos.

### SBC, Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)

- AAP on-site surveys were deployed to identify optimal channels for delivering lifesaving information on water, sanitation, and hygiene, gender-based violence, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, child protection, nutrition, etc., as well as information on service delivery and improved decision-making. Based on the surveys collected on AAP, WhatsApp was identified as the optimal communication channel to provide information on legal services, advice to prevent diseases, mental and emotional health care, location of water treatment plants, food delivery, and other services related to the emergency. This communication mechanism was deployed through a Rapid Pro flow, which was accessible via QR code in both printed and digital materials that were deployed, this was a result of collaborative work with other UN agencies, such as UNHCR and IOM.
- Collaborative work with authorities has resulted in an informal agreement to share and replicate key messages and communication materials through their official channels, as well as printed materials for the main population care centres.
- With implementing partners ADRA, Save the Children and Operación Bendición, UNICEF delivered printed and digital Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) materials in Acapulco to inform and update the affected population on emergency services and for lifesaving information on water, sanitation and hygiene, child protection, mental health and psychosocial support, violence prevention, etc. These materials were deployed on key intervention sites, such as schools, shelters, food distribution centers, healthcare centers, as well as safe spaces for displaced children, reaching directly over 2,708 girls, 2,443 boys, 2,643 women, and 352 men.

### Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

- UNICEF's leadership continues in the three sectors and one sub-sector under its mandate: WASH, Education (UNICEF co-leads with Save the Children) and the Child Protection/GBV sub-sector. Coordination efforts persist but with reduced activity. The 5W tools are being expanded and improved, and the dashboard is [publicly available](#) on Microsoft Power BI. The Nutrition group is no longer convening meetings since participating organizations are no longer implementing activities.

Sectors led by UNICEF participate and report in the reconstruction workgroup led by UNDP. In addition, coordination is being carried out with the Secretary of Planning of the State of Guerrero (SEPLADER) and UNDP to support SEPLADER's work in this new phase of the response.

### Plan for the Early Recovery Phase

The humanitarian needs of children and adolescents resulting from Hurricane OTIS continue to be significant. The UNICEF team that has been deployed in the affected area since October 2023 has detected situations that put children’s integrity and well-being at risk, particularly in terms of education, health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and protection. For each of these sectors, UNICEF has designed, hand in hand with counterparts from the State Government (DIF, Civil Protection, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Education, among others) a medium- and long-term response plan in order to support the State beyond the phase of immediate attention to the emergency, but also in the phase of early recovery:

Sector	Interventions
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the development of an early recovery plan, taking into account the identified needs and the cost of damages in the educational sector.</li> <li>• Design and implementation of a strategy for the continuity of educational services and learning recovery for basic education.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the capacities of teachers in education in emergencies, psychosocial support and resilient schools.</li> <li>• Implementation of “Schools in Action for Equality (ESCAI)”, to prevent and mitigate risks of violence, including gender-based violence in schools.</li> <li>• Implementation of socio-emotional skills programs with adaptation to the post-emergency scenario.</li> </ul>
<b>Child Protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the Child Protection Authority system through an exercise to evaluate the needs of the PPNNA and a restructuring proposal.</li> <li>• Institutionalization of safe spaces for children and women and scaling the model in other regions affected by armed violence.</li> <li>• Finalization of the state policy for the prevention and response to child recruitment.</li> <li>• Prevention of violence and increased use of violent discipline methods in the face of disasters, stress and socioeconomic instability by piloting the national positive parenting program in areas affected by the hurricane.</li> </ul>
<b>WASH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitation of the water supply, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure in health centers, shelters, social assistance centers (CAS-DIF) and schools, affected by the hurricane (includes training on use, operation and maintenance of the rehabilitated infrastructure, to ensure its sustainability).</li> <li>• Donation of chemical supplies for water treatment and disinfection, tools, kits, special parts and other technological equipment to ensure the correct functioning of all drinking water supply systems and basic sanitation systems.</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening capacities of first-level medical personnel in emergencies for children and adolescents through a hybrid training course.</li> <li>• Support to the state for the development of a recovery plan for the health and nutrition sector.</li> <li>• Knowledge generation through a study on the health and nutrition needs of children and adolescents in Acapulco, in partnership with the <i>Universidad Iberoamericana</i>.</li> </ul>

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

Communication efforts have been focused on return to schools, and following [school reopening's](#), the [efforts to clean schools](#) and [learning after the emergency](#). A human interest story tells the [story of two girls after all this months of the hurricane](#).

Who to contact for further information:

**Fernando Carrera Castro**

Representative  
UNICEF Mexico  
Tel: +525552849573  
Email: fecarrera@unicef.org

**Maki Kato**

Deputy Representative  
UNICEF Mexico  
Tel: +525552849573  
Email: mkato@unicef.org

**Laurent Duvillier**

Chief of Communications, OIC  
UNICEF Mexico  
Tel: +525552849555  
Email: lduvillier@unicef.org

## Summary of Programme Results

Sector Indicator   Country	UNICEF Target	Results					
		Girls	Boys	Women	Men	Total	% PROGRESS
<b>Nutrition</b>							
# primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	2,600 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	728	75	803	33%
# children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder	2,400	148	194	-	-	342	14%
<b>Health</b>							
# children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities	3,000 <sup>2</sup>	623	637	41	-	1,301	44%
<b>WASH</b>							
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	15,000	1,877	1,645	2,955	2,368	8,845	59%
# of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)	7,000	2,466	2,374	3,902	1,519	10,261	100%
<b>Education</b>							
# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	3,200	2,853	2,854	-	-	5,707	100%
# children receiving learning materials	3,200	1,600	1,600	-	-	3,200	100%
# Teachers and other education personnel are trained to provide quality learning in ECE, EiE and PSS	150	-	-	560	561	1,121	100%
# of children accessing PSS in their schools/learning programmes	3,200	7,746	7,746	-	-	15,492 <sup>3</sup>	100%
# parents/caregivers of children under 5 receiving parenting support to improve care and development of their children with support of UNICEF	400	-	-	64	22	86	21%
<b>Child protection, GBViE and PSEA</b>							
# children who have received individual case management	500	37	28	-	-	65	13%
# children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based MHPSS	9,000	2,402	2,265	1,016	224	5,907	66%
<b>SBC / AAP</b>							
# affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services	30,000	2,708	2,443	2,643	352	8,146	27%

– Progress not available by the date of this SITREP.

<sup>1</sup> Target adjusted as of December 15.

<sup>2</sup> Target adjusted as of December 15.

<sup>3</sup> The high increase in the number of children reached is due to an increase in the number of workshops implemented.