

## ECUADOR






# EMERGENCY UPDATE ON EARTHQUAKE

31 May 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS

One month after the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that claimed the lives of over 650 people in north-western Ecuador, humanitarian needs in the country remain acute. People are struggling to rebuild their lives and there are continuing aftershocks. Two such aftershocks of 6.7 and 6.8 degrees occurred on May 18, causing one death, injuring some 90 people, and adding to widespread damage across the provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas.

- The two recent aftershocks panicked and traumatized the population resulting in the damage of shelters and a new wave of displacement. As reported by the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES), some 205 shelters remain active and almost 1,700 people are currently housed by some 429 hosting families.
- As the leader of the protection sector, UNHCR initiated the elaboration of a relocation checklist and the formation of an interagency training team (including IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA) to provide guidance to the authorities on key protection concerns, particularly regarding camp coordination and camp management. The interagency team will also support the authorities with feedback on the relocation that took place last week aiming to improve the coordination of upcoming relocations in Cojimies, Pedernales and Jama.
- UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ombudsman's Office aimed at coordinating interventions within the emergency. In this regard, UNHCR will support and accompany the brigades designed to monitor the situation of human rights in shelters and informal settlements; provide information and legal counsel to the affected population; and identify persons of concern to UNHCR.
- According to UNHCR's records, some 17,000 people of concern lived in the provinces affected. In a recent monitoring visit to a spontaneous settlement, it was noted that, at this time and despite the difficulties faced, Colombian refugees have no intention to return to their country of origin.
- Over the past month, UNHCR chartered two airlifts to provide immediate assistance to the most affected communities, including tents, sleeping mats, solar lamps, kitchen sets and mosquito nets. UNHCR is conducting mapping exercises and providing guidance to ensure an equitable distribution of relief materials.

	<b>A 7.8 earthquake with more than 1,600 aftershocks</b>
	<b>350,000 are in need of humanitarian assistance</b>
	<b>2 airlifts with more than 200MT of humanitarian relief items provided</b>
	<b>Protection sector lead and coordination with government institutions established</b>
	<b>Protection training conducted to first respondents (Army Forces, police and public servants)</b>
	<b>3 Field Protection teams deployed in Pedernales, Muisne and Manta working on identification and legal and psychosocial support</b>

- The Civil Registry reported that at least 5,000 people lost their documentation. This is hampering the ability to access the necessary assistance. UNHCR is supporting the Government's efforts to reissue documents to those who have lost their identification, asylum and refugee documents, as well as property and land titles.
- UNHCR is leading the protection response in Quito, Manta, Pedernales and Muisne, and working closely with local authorities to coordinate activities relating to child protection and fighting sexual and gender-based violence. UNHCR continues to support the Shelter and Non-Food Items, Camp Coordination and Camp Management, and Early Recovery sectors.
- Limited financial support is significantly hindering the humanitarian operations underway in Ecuador, and UNHCR calls on donors to urgently fund the UN Flash Appeal of US \$72.7 million which was launched on 22 April to respond to the life-saving, protection and self-reliance needs of 350,000 people. UNHCR's portion of the Appeal is currently funded only at 14 per cent.

## UNHCR's prioritized response requirements as part of the Flash Appeal are USD 5 million and are outlined below.



### Protection

USD 1 million

- UNHCR continues to work to ensure safe and non-discriminatory access to protection assistance and basic services, including capacity building on Human Rights in emergency contexts to military and public service providers as well as the establishment of identification and referral pathways for persons of concern and specific vulnerable cases.
- UNHCR continues to deliver workshops in coordination with UN Women and the Ministry of Defense (Human Rights Directorate) to officials (including naval, aerial, ground and Special Forces), as well as to public servants from the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion to share key operational protection tools. A joint working plan between the protection sector and the Ministry of Coordination of Security was established. The main activities will be related to trainings in protection mainstreaming and protection issues in camp management; joint elaboration of a protocol for relocation to camps; communication mechanisms to share information on protection cases and emergency coordination and response.
- UNHCR, together with partners of the protection sector, is working to consolidate a common strategy for the prevention and response to SGBV and to address the increased psychosocial trauma among the affected populations and first responders.
- UNHCR deployed two specialized protection teams on the ground, including additional protection and community services officers. Currently, the teams are in charge of monitoring formal shelters, host families and spontaneous settlements, providing recommendations on how to protect and provide security measures to the population in order to prevent the risk of violence, SGBV and tensions. Additionally, the team participates and provides recommendations on the distribution and use of relief items.

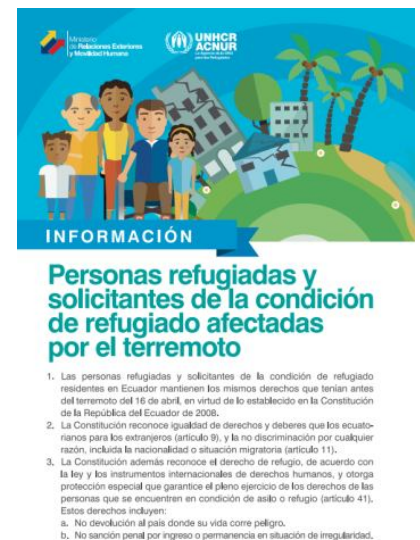


Figure 1. UNHCR together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs produced information material for refugees and asylum seekers affected by the earthquake

 Shelter and non-food items

**USD 4 million**

- UNHCR continues to monitor and assist in the distribution of the core relief items transported in the two airlifts as well as ensure access to humanitarian assistance, cash assistance and shelter for the most vulnerable affected population, including refugees and asylum seekers.
- UNHCR's livelihoods strategy is currently under revision to adapt to the changing conditions on the ground. UNHCR will provide technical assistance for the implementation of inclusive strategies for early recovery with a focus on livelihoods protection activities.
- UNHCR and partners continue to advocate to ensure that protection concerns are taken into account in case of relocation; improve camp safety and increase efforts for the prevention of sexual abuse through the distribution of solar lamps; strengthen community participation throughout the emergency response, disseminate information to people in shelters and affected people outside camps and establish platforms to support family reunification.



Figure 2. UNHCR's NFIs distributed in affected zones

PROTECTION	SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS
<b>USD 1 million</b>	<b>USD 4 million</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child protection</li> <li>▪ SGBV prevention</li> <li>▪ Psychosocial assistance</li> <li>▪ Protection presence, emergency advocacy and monitoring</li> <li>▪ Legal counseling and documentation</li> <li>▪ Emergency response training (of military and other public service providers) on protection issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distribute core relief items</li> <li>▪ Monitor access to humanitarian assistance</li> <li>▪ Provide solar or rechargeable lamps provisions to improve safety</li> <li>▪ Identify extremely vulnerable population that require relocation</li> <li>▪ Provide conditional cash grants to support host families and community activities, including refugee population in the affected area</li> <li>▪ Strengthen capacity of Government and other institutions to manage displacement and coordinate early recovery efforts</li> <li>▪ Provide technical assistance for site planning, management and coordination</li> </ul>

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