



KEY FIGURES

7.8 magnitude

earthquake with more than 1,600 aftershocks

1,900 aftershocks

Particularly, on May 18, two aftershocks of 6.7 and 6.8 degrees

350,000

People in need of humanitarian assistance

200MT

Humanitarian relief items provided

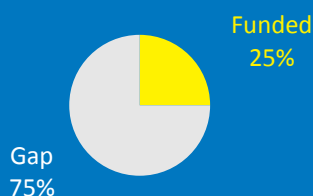
80,000

People displaced due to loss or damage to their homes

FUNDING

USD 5 million

requested for UNHCR's response



PRIORITIES

- Protection sector lead and coordination with government institutions established
- Protection training conducted to first respondents (Army Forces, police and public servants)
- 3 Field Protection teams deployed in Pedernales, Muisne and Manta working on identification and legal and psychosocial support

ECUADOR

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON EARTHQUAKE

27 June 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

On April 16, 2016, the Pacific coast of Ecuador was hit by a 7.8 on Richter's scale earthquake. The epicentre was along the coastline between Cojimías and Pedernales, in the province of Manabí. The provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas have sustained the most damage, but the provinces of Santa Elena, Guayas, Los Rios and Santo Domingo have also been affected. Thus, a state of emergency was declared in all provinces of the coastal region.

- According to official data from the National Disaster Risk Management Secretariat, the earthquake caused around 675 deaths and 4,859 medical care interventions due to injuries and other damages in the first 72 hours of the natural disaster. As result, 80,000 people were displaced due to loss or damage of their homes and around 350,000 became in need of humanitarian assistance.
- The earthquake had a strong impact on the national economy, reducing GDP by 9.7 per cent and causing an estimated loss of up to 22,000 jobs. Reconstruction costs are estimated at USD 3,344 billion, of which 40 per cent is allocated to the social sector, mainly in housing, education and health; 31 per cent to the productive sector, mostly on the commercial sector; and 26 per cent on the infrastructure sector, focused primary on water and sanitation.



Image 1: visiting 61 displaced families in Manta

- Immediately after the earthquake, UNHCR provided 60 tents prepositioned in the country and chartered two airlifts with more than 200 metric tons of core relief items to provide immediate assistance to the most affected communities.
- Limited financial support is significantly hindering the UN humanitarian operations underway in Ecuador. UNHCR calls on donors to urgently fund the Flash Appeal of US USD 72.7 million 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 25 per cent.

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

Achievements



USD 1 million

- UNHCR has been leading the protection sector response at national and local level in Manta, Portoviejo, Pedernales and Esmeraldas, and working closely with local authorities to coordinate activities related to child protection, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and other protection risks.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR deployed 2 additional field protection teams to cover the areas of Pedernales and Manta/Portoviejo. These teams will join the ones in Esmeraldas and Guayaquil and focus on the local response coordination as well as the identification of persons with specific needs.
- The Civil Registry reported that at least 5,000 people lost their documentation thereby hampering their ability to access the necessary assistance. UNHCR is providing support to the Civil Registry to ensure affected persons can obtain their basic documentation.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR has determined that those affected by the earthquake require psychosocial support to overcome the stress caused by the trauma experienced. UNHCR, together with its partner HIAS, will provide psychosocial support to the affected population in shelters and spontaneous settlements. UNHCR is also working to enhance community based initiatives in order to reduce the risk of tensions among the population.



Shelter and NFIs

USD 4 million

- UNHCR continues to support the Shelter and Non-Food Items, Camp Coordination and Camp Management, and Early Recovery sectors. UNHCR teams work to ensure safe and non-discriminatory access to protection assistance and basic services.

Achievements and Impact

- More than 3,000 members of the armed forces, 750 police officers and 300 civil servants have been trained as part of a joint exercise between UNHCR, UN Women, UNFPA as well as the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior. The main activities include: trainings in protection mainstreaming and protection issues in camp management; joint elaboration of a protocol for relocation to camps; establishment of communication mechanisms to share information on specific cases and emergency coordination and response.
- UNHCR continues to conduct mapping exercises to ensure an equitable distribution of the relief materials chartered to Ecuador in response to the earthquake.
- A MoU was signed with the Ombudsman's Office aiming at providing legal advice, information as well as linking the affected population to available social recovery programmes. In this regard, UNHCR will support and accompany the brigades designed to monitor the protection situation in shelters and informal settlements and to identify persons of concern to UNHCR.

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