

MEXICO – EARTHQUAKE

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**At Least
250**

Fatalities Resulting from the Earthquake

GoM, Media – September 21, 2017

1,900

Injuries Resulting from the Earthquake

GoM – September 21, 2017

20,000

Damaged Buildings in Affected Areas

GoM – September 20, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- A magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck central Mexico on September 19, collapsing buildings and resulting in at least 250 deaths
- GoM declares a state of emergency in affected areas and requests international assistance
- USAID deploys a DART, including USAR specialists, to support emergency operations in Mexico

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE MEXICO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA¹

\$400,000

\$400,000

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- At approximately 1:14 p.m. local time—or 2:14 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time—on September 19, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck central Mexico at a depth of nearly 32 miles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The epicenter of the earthquake was located approximately 34 miles south-southwest of the city of Puebla and 75 miles from the capital of Mexico City. As of September 21, the Government of Mexico (GoM) and international media reported that the earthquake had resulted in at least 250 deaths, injured an estimated 1,900 people, and damaged more than 20,000 buildings.
- Immediately after the earthquake, the GoM declared an emergency for areas of Mexico City and parts of Guerrero, Morelos, and Puebla states. The GoM also deployed first responders, including urban search-and-rescue (USAR) teams and military personnel, to assist with rescue operations in affected areas. Additionally, the GoM activated the National Emergency Commission and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Mexico City.
- On September 20, U.S. Ambassador Roberta S. Jacobson issued a disaster declaration for Mexico due to the effects of the earthquake. In response, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), including 67 USAR specialists and five canines from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, to support emergency response efforts in coordination with the GoM. On September 20, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), in coordination with USAID, facilitated transport of the USAR team to Mexico City.
- USAID/OFDA has activated a Response Management Team (RMT) in Washington, D.C., to coordinate the U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian response to the earthquake.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

CURRENT SITUATION

- On September 19, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck Puebla State in central Mexico and caused destruction to buildings and infrastructure across Mexico City and areas of Guerrero, Morelos, Oaxaca, Puebla, Tlaxcala, and Veracruz states. The quake follows a magnitude 8.1 earthquake that struck off the southern coast of Mexico on September 7, resulting in more than 90 deaths; USGS reports that available evidence indicates that the two earthquakes are unrelated.
- As of September 21, the GoM and international media reported that the earthquake had resulted in at least 250 deaths, injured an estimated 1,900 people, and damaged more than 20,000 buildings across central Mexico. The UN reports that at least 45 buildings have collapsed in Mexico City; relief workers had cleared 11 of these buildings and rescued 52 people as of September 20. Casualty figures and damage estimates will likely change in the coming days, as humanitarian assessments and USAR operations remain ongoing.
- Immediately following the earthquake, the GoM declared an emergency for areas of Mexico City and parts of Guerrero, Morelos, and Puebla. The GoM also deployed emergency responders, including all eight of the country's USAR teams and approximately 3,400 military personnel, to assist with rescue operations in affected areas, international media reports. Additionally, the GoM has established 145 emergency shelters to assist affected populations and activated the National Emergency Commission and the EOC in Mexico City.
- The GoM temporarily closed the Mexico City International Airport, following the earthquake, and cancelled approximately 180 flights on September 19. After assessing airport infrastructure, including light damage to the facility's second terminal, the GoM resumed airport operations by 5:00 p.m. local time the same day. On September 20, GoM President Enrique Peña Nieto declared three days of national mourning to honor people affected by the earthquake.

USG RESPONSE

- On September 20, the GoM requested assistance from the USG, and U.S. Ambassador Roberta S. Jacobson issued a disaster declaration for Mexico due to the effects of the earthquake. In response, USAID deployed a DART, comprised of disaster specialists, to support the GoM and the emergency response in Mexico. The DART includes 67 USAR specialists and five canines from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, as well as more than 25 metric tons in specialized, emergency tools and other supplies. USAID/OFDA has activated a Washington, D.C.-based RMT to coordinate the USG humanitarian response to the earthquake.
- On September 20, DoD—with support from USAID—facilitated transport of the Los Angeles County USAR team to Mexico City. On September 21, the USAR team began working with GoM personnel to assess collapsed structures and conduct search-and-rescue operations in Mexico City.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- The Government of Israel has deployed a 70-member team, comprising USAR specialists and military personnel, to Mexico to provide emergency assistance, international media reports. The team will help survey buildings and other key infrastructure to evaluate earthquake-related damage and safety risks. In addition, the Government of Japan has announced the deployment of a USAR team, comprising approximately 70 personnel, to support search-and-rescue operations in Mexico, according to international media. The governments of El Salvador and Panama have also deployed dozens of USAR specialists to assist with emergency search-and-rescue operations in Mexico.

CONTEXT

- On September 19, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck Puebla State in central Mexico at a depth of nearly 32 miles, according to USGS. The epicenter of the earthquake was located approximately 75 miles from Mexico City.
- On September 20, the GoM requested assistance from the USG, and U.S. Ambassador Roberta S. Jacobson issued a disaster declaration for Mexico due to the effects of the earthquake. In response, USAID deployed a DART, comprised of disaster specialists and USAR personnel from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, to support the emergency response in Mexico. USAID/OFDA has activated a Washington, D.C.-based RMT to coordinate the USG humanitarian response to the earthquake.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MEXICO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2017¹

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²		
DART/USAR Support Costs	Affected Areas	\$400,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING		\$400,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MEXICO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2017		\$400,000

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 21, 2017.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.661.7710.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>