

# MEXICO – EARTHQUAKE

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**At Least  
305**

Fatalities Resulting from the Earthquake

GoM, Media – September 23, 2017

**2,632**

Injuries Resulting from the Earthquake

GoM – September 23, 2017

**20,000**

Damaged Buildings in Affected Areas

GoM – September 23, 2017

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Earthquake toll rises to at least 305 deaths and more than 2,600 injuries; majority recorded in Mexico City
- DART, including USAR specialists, supports coordination and emergency interventions in affected areas
- GoM reports sufficient health response capacity, with 98 percent of health facilities in Mexico City operating normally

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE MEXICO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup>

\$500,000

**\$500,000**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Government of Mexico (GoM) continues to coordinate a robust national and international response to the magnitude 7.1 earthquake that struck central Mexico on September 19, killing at least 305 people, injuring more than 2,600 people, and damaging more than 20,000 buildings, according to the latest GoM and international media reports. The majority of deaths and injuries occurred in the capital of Mexico City, where GoM officials recorded 167 earthquake-related deaths and nearly 2,000 earthquake-related injuries.
- In coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and USAID/Mexico, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)—including urban search-and-rescue (USAR) specialists from the Los Angeles County Fire Department—is supporting GoM National Civil Protection System officials to conduct damage assessments and respond to critical humanitarian needs. As of September 23, the USAR team remained engaged in delaying operations—removing collapsed floors with great caution, floor-by-floor, to avoid accidentally harming people who may be trapped—at a multi-story office building in Mexico City, where an estimated 80–100 people remain unaccounted for.
- On the morning of September 23, a magnitude 6.1 earthquake struck southern Mexico’s Oaxaca State, more than 300 miles from Mexico City. The GoM Emergency Commission in Mexico City remains activated in response to the September 19 earthquake, and the National Civil Protection System is coordinating nationwide emergency response operations for earthquake-affected areas. GoM civil defense authorities temporarily halted rescue operations immediately after the earthquake as a safety measure, but activities have since resumed, according to international media. The GoM has reported some infrastructure damage due to the September 23 earthquake, with preliminary damage assessments by GoM authorities ongoing in affected areas.

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

## CURRENT SITUATION

- As of September 23, the September 19 earthquake had resulted in at least 305 deaths, including 167 deaths in Mexico City, 73 deaths in Morelos State, 45 deaths in Puebla State, 13 deaths in Mexico State, as well as others in Guerrero and Oaxaca states. In addition, the earthquake destroyed more than 5,600 homes, and damaged an additional 14,250 homes in Mexico, Morelos, and Puebla; Mexico City data remained pending as of September 23.
  - The GoM is implementing a three-phase response comprised of a first phase focused on shelter assistance, the provision of food commodities, and the total restoration of basic public services; a second phase focused on assessing damage to affected infrastructure; and a third phase of reconstruction and debris removal.
  - GoM health officials report sufficient capacity to respond to health needs following the earthquake. Health facilities in Mexico treated more than 2,600 earthquake-affected people, and nearly 98 percent of health services were operating normally as of September 22. As of September 21, the Mexican Red Cross was supporting 25 USAR teams and more than 130 ambulances for the emergency response, as well as providing assistance to support people who lost contact with relatives following the earthquake.
  - Nearly 65 emergency shelters in Mexico City and Guerrero and Oaxaca states are housing more than 3,000 people, and more than 100 shelters remain operational in Mexico, Morelos, and Puebla states. The GoM also reports the Federal Electricity Commission had restored electricity to 95 percent of those affected as of September 22.
  - GoM civil protection officials are also disseminating standard post-earthquake guidance to people in the affected areas, including recommendations to review household conditions and relocate to shelters as needed, to remain hydrated, and to adhere to hygiene best practices.
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## USG RESPONSE

- In coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and USAID/Mexico, the USAID DART is supporting GoM officials to conduct damage assessments, including surveys of collapsed buildings, and address critical humanitarian needs. The DART USAR team—comprised of 67 USAR specialists and five canines—visited 20 sites in Mexico City from September 21 to 23, and has not conducted any live rescues to date. As of September 23, the USAR team remained engaged in delayering operations at a collapsed multi-story office building in Mexico City, where an estimated 80–100 people remain unaccounted for at the site.
  - USAID/OFDA has provided \$100,000 in emergency funding to the Mexican Red Cross to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs of disaster-affected populations in Mexico. A USAID Response Management Team (RMT) in Washington, D.C., continues to coordinate the U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian response to the earthquake. DART and RMT staff are conducting day and night shifts to support emergency operations in Mexico.
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## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- In addition to emergency responses by at least five other international governments, the Government of Switzerland (GoS) established an operations team and offered assistance to the GoM following the September 19 earthquake. The GoM accepted the GoS offer—through Swiss Humanitarian Aid—to dispatch a team of structural engineers to affected areas to assist GoM authorities in identifying buildings and public infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools, and bridges, that may be at risk of collapse to mitigate the potential for additional loss of life.
- In addition to the GoS team of engineers, eight Mexican USAR teams have supported search-and-rescue operations in affected areas, as well as USAR personnel from Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Panama, and Spain. In addition, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) has deployed two experts from the regional office in Nicaragua's capital city of Managua to contribute to ongoing needs assessments.

## CONTEXT

- On September 19, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck Puebla State in central Mexico at a depth of nearly 32 miles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The epicenter of the earthquake was located approximately 75 miles from Mexico City.
- On September 20, the GoM accepted the USG offer of assistance, 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 2017<sup>1</sup>

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>		
Mexican Red Cross	Affected Areas	\$100,000
DART/USAR Support Costs	Affected Areas	\$400,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>		<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MEXICO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2017</b>		<b>\$500,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 23, 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](http://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](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.661.7710.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://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>