

MEXICO – EARTHQUAKE

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**At Least
325**

Fatalities Resulting from the September 19 Earthquake

GoM, Media – September 25, 2017

4,837

Injuries Resulting from the September 19 Earthquake

GoM – September 25, 2017

41,700

Damaged Buildings in Mexico, Morelos, and Puebla States

GoM – September 25, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fatalities from the September 19 earthquake increase to at least 325 people
- The DART USAR team remains prepared to support additional emergency interventions and structural assessments in Mexico City, as needed
- GoM coordinates emergency response efforts, providing shelter, food, and other assistance

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE MEXICO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA¹

\$1,794,416

\$1,794,416

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Government of Mexico (GoM) continues to coordinate a strong response to the magnitude 7.1 earthquake that struck central Mexico on September 19, resulting in at least 325 deaths, injuring more than 4,800 people, and damaging more than 41,700 buildings in Mexico, Morelos, and Puebla states. The majority of casualties occurred in the capital of Mexico City, where GoM officials have recorded 186 earthquake-related deaths.
- The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)—including an urban search-and-rescue (USAR) team from the Los Angeles County Fire Department—is coordinating with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and USAID/Mexico to support GoM-led damage assessments and respond to critical humanitarian needs. As of September 25, DART USAR engineers had completed structural assessments of 38 sites in Mexico City, while DART USAR specialists were coordinating with the GoM to provide emergency rescue support, as needed.
- The GoM is responding to infrastructure damage and needs related to the magnitude 6.1 earthquake that struck more than 300 miles from Mexico City in southern Mexico's Oaxaca State on September 23. Authorities report that the quake is likely an aftershock of the magnitude 8.1 earthquake that struck off the southern coast of Mexico on September 7. As of September 25, international media reported that the September 23 aftershock had resulted in at least five deaths.

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

CURRENT SITUATION

- The GoM National Civil Protection System (NCPS) continues to coordinate a robust response to the earthquake that struck in central Mexico on September 19, killing at least 325 people, injuring more than 4,800 people, and damaging more than 41,700 buildings in Mexico, Morelos, and Puebla states. The majority of deaths and injuries occurred in Mexico City, where GoM officials recorded at least 186 earthquake-related deaths. Damage assessments in Mexico City remained ongoing as of September 25. The GoM and first responders reportedly rescued at least 69 people in Mexico City after the September 19 earthquake, according to the GoM. Authorities continue to assess and verify rescue data across central Mexico.
- The GoM and relief actors had inspected approximately 7,650 properties for earthquake-related damage as of September 25, according to international media. Of the assessed properties, approximately 87 percent—more than 6,650—had sustained minor damage due to the earthquake. The remaining 1,000 properties required repairs or were unsafe for use without reinforcement or demolition. Overall, the September 19 earthquake destroyed more than 9,400 homes, including more than 5,400 in Morelos State, nearly 2,600 in Puebla State, and nearly 1,400 in Mexico State, according to the GoM.
- The GoM continues to provide food, mental health care services, shelter, and other life-supporting assistance to earthquake-affected populations across central Mexico. The GoM is also removing debris and rubble, and assessing, registering, and restoring infrastructure affected by the September 19 earthquake.
- On September 24, the GoM declared an emergency in 75 municipalities of Oaxaca due to the effects of the September 19 earthquake. The declaration enables the use of GoM emergency funds to respond to the needs of earthquake-affected populations in the municipalities.
- The magnitude 6.1 aftershock—likely associated with the magnitude 8.1 earthquake on September 7—that struck Oaxaca on September 23 resulted in at least five deaths and damaged some infrastructure in areas affected by recent earthquakes in Mexico, according to international media. Emergency response efforts and assessments by GoM authorities are ongoing in affected areas.

USG RESPONSE

- In coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and USAID/Mexico, the USAID DART—including USAR specialists and structural engineers—continues to support GoM-led damage assessments and respond to critical humanitarian needs in central Mexico. From September 21–25, the USAR specialists supported search-and-rescue assessments and activities, in coordination with the GoM NCPS, while the USAR structural engineers assessed the integrity of buildings to determine the extent of earthquake-related damage.
- As of September 25, DART USAR specialists had searched eight collapsed buildings for survivors, and DART USAR structural engineers had performed engineering assessments on 38 sites assigned by the GoM. The DART USAR team remains in Mexico City to provide emergency rescue assistance and support the GoM-led response, as needed. The USAR team is currently identifying resupply needs and engaged in tool rehabilitation, including cleaning and repairing tools used during recent search-and-rescue operations.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- The September 19 earthquake affected approximately 5 million children, some of whom require psychosocial support and other earthquake-related assistance, according to a recent UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) assessment in Mexico City, Morelos, and Puebla. In response to priority needs among earthquake-affected children, UNICEF recommends scaling up child protection activities, including establishment of child-friendly spaces to provide children access to recreational activities. UNICEF also noted a need for emergency relief commodities, such as blankets and tarpaulins, as well as emergency latrines and other water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance. Overall, UNICEF has called for \$3.4 million in emergency funding to respond to the September 19 earthquake, with additional resources required to assist populations in Mexico affected by the September 7 earthquake.

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 U.S. Government (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 Response Management Team 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		
Mexican Red Cross	Affected Areas	\$100,000
DART/USAR Support Costs	Affected Areas	\$1,694,416
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING		\$1,794,416
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MEXICO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2017		\$1,794,416

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 25, 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>