

MEXICO – EARTHQUAKE

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**At Least
337**

Fatalities Resulting from the September 19 Earthquake
GoM – September 27, 2017

6,094

Injuries Resulting from the September 19 Earthquake
GoM, UN – September 27, 2017

44,350

Damaged Buildings in Affected Areas
GoM, UN – September 27, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fatalities from the September 19 earthquake increase to at least 337 people
- DART USAR team conducts structural assessments, remains prepared to support emergency operations as needed
- GoM coordinates countrywide emergency response efforts, demobilization of some USAR teams

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE MEXICO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA¹

\$2,225,991

\$2,225,991

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Government of Mexico (GoM) continues to coordinate emergency operations in response to the magnitude 7.1 earthquake that struck central Mexico on September 19, resulting in at least 337 deaths, injuring nearly 6,100 people, and damaging more than 44,000 buildings in affected areas. Overall, the earthquake damaged more than 10,000 schools, of which nearly 2,000 schools are severely damaged, the UN reports. As of September 26, more than 5,250 people affected by the September 19 earthquake continued to reside in emergency shelters.
- From September 22–26, engineers from the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) assessed nearly 50 structures in the capital of Mexico City for earthquake-related damage. The DART has provided formal assessment findings to the GoM.
- As of September 27, the DART urban search-and rescue (USAR) team from the Los Angeles County Fire Department remained prepared to support additional emergency interventions and structural assessments in Mexico, as needed. DART members also traveled to the earthquake-affected state of Morelos on September 26 to conduct humanitarian assessments and meet with GoM, UN, and non-governmental organization personnel.
- On September 25, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Roberta S. Jacobson and DART members attended a ceremony to highlight the \$100,000 grant from USAID/OFDA to the Mexican Red Cross, which will support emergency assistance for vulnerable, earthquake-affected populations.

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

CURRENT SITUATION

- The GoM reports that the September 19 earthquake resulted in at least 337 deaths across central Mexico, including 198 in Mexico City, 74 in Morelos State, 45 in Puebla State, 13 in Mexico State, six in Guerrero State, and one in Oaxaca State. As of September 26, more than 5,250 people affected by the September 19 earthquake were residing in 112 emergency shelters, according to the UN. Overall, the earthquake damaged more than 44,350 buildings across central Mexico, including 90 health facilities.
 - On September 26, nearly 700 schools in Mexico City reopened, having closed temporarily following the September 19 earthquake. Schools remain closed in the city's Benito Juárez, Cuauhtémoc, Iztapalapa, Tláhuac, and Tlalpan municipalities, where emergency operations continue. Prior to reopening, the GoM requires engineers to inspect each school to ensure the structural integrity of the buildings. Overall, the earthquake damaged more than 10,000 schools, of which nearly 2,000 schools are severely damaged, the UN reports.
 - Although emergency operations in Mexico continue, some USAR teams have completed their assignments from the GoM and begun demobilizing, the UN reports. The GoM has established a demobilization center at the Mexico City Airport to facilitate the demobilization process for international USAR teams. As of September 26, USAR and other emergency response teams from Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Japan, and Panama had demobilized. In addition, four Mexican USAR teams are in the process of demobilizing, according to the UN. The GoM has expressed gratitude for emergency support by the national and international USAR teams, as well as other international assistance for the earthquake response.
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USG RESPONSE

- From September 24–26, DART USAR engineers—in coordination with the GoM—conducted structural assessments of an additional 18 buildings in Mexico City. Overall, the DART has evaluated the structural integrity of nearly 50 buildings in the city and has submitted formal assessment findings to the GoM regarding earthquake-related damage.
 - On September 26, DART members traveled to the city of Cuernavaca in Morelos to assess the humanitarian situation and earthquake-related damage to buildings and infrastructure. The DART also met with GoM officials, UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team members, and Mexican Red Cross representatives during the visit.
 - On September 25, Ambassador Jacobson and DART members attended a ceremony to highlight the \$100,000 grant from USAID/OFDA to the Mexican Red Cross, which will support emergency assistance for vulnerable, earthquake-affected populations, including the elderly, disabled, and others in need of medical or psychosocial support.
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INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- On September 25, the Government of the People's Republic of China (GoPRC) announced a \$1 million contribution of relief commodities to assist earthquake-affected populations in Mexico, international media reports. The GoPRC planned to dispatch the first shipment of relief commodities—via chartered aircraft—to Mexico on September 26.

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 Ambassador 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

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Mexican Red Cross	Humanitarian Assistance	Affected Areas	\$100,000
	DART/USAR Support Costs	Affected Areas	\$2,125,991
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$2,225,991
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MEXICO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2017			\$2,225,991

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 27, 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>