

MEXICO – EARTHQUAKE

FACT SHEET #5, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**At Least
355**

Fatalities Resulting from the September 19 Earthquake

GoM – September 29, 2017

6,094

Injuries Resulting from the September 19 Earthquake

GoM, UN – September 29, 2017

44,350

Damaged Buildings in Affected Areas

GoM, UN – September 29, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fatalities from the September 19 earthquake increase to at least 355 people
- USAID demobilizes DART for the Mexico earthquake response; USAR team prepares to depart Mexico
- USAID/OFDA provides a total of nearly \$3 million in emergency assistance to support the earthquake response in Mexico

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE MEXICO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA¹

\$2,957,576

\$2,957,576

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The magnitude 7.1 earthquake that struck central Mexico on September 19 resulted in at least 355 deaths, injured nearly 6,100 people, and damaged more than 44,000 buildings in affected areas, according to the Government of Mexico (GoM). Emergency responders had cleared rubble from most collapsed building sites in the capital of Mexico City as of September 28, and the GoM reported preliminary estimates that the September 19 earthquake—in addition to the magnitude 8.1 earthquake that struck off the coast of southern Mexico on September 7—had resulted in at least \$2 billion in damage.
- On September 29, USAID demobilized the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) for the Mexico earthquake response, in consultation with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. USAID initially deployed the DART on September 20 to support emergency operations in Mexico. The DART's urban search-and-rescue (USAR) team from the Los Angeles County Fire Department is scheduled to depart Mexico on September 29, following a commemorative ceremony by the GoM.
- In coordination with the GoM, the DART USAR team supported search-and-rescue operations at eight collapsed buildings in Mexico City from September 21–23. DART USAR engineers also conducted structural assessments of more than 50 buildings in the city from September 22–27. The DART submitted formal assessment findings to the GoM regarding earthquake-related damage.
- The GoM mobilized robust national USAR resources to assist injured persons and save lives after the September 19 earthquake. Since 2002, USAID/OFDA has supported strengthening of USAR resources in Mexico, including the creation of eight Mexican USAR teams.

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 355 deaths across central Mexico, including 214 in Mexico City, 74 in Morelos State, 45 in Puebla State, 15 in Mexico State, six in Guerrero State, and one in Oaxaca State. The GoM and emergency responders had cleared rubble from most collapsed building sites in Mexico City as of September 28, international media reports. In addition, the GoM reported preliminary estimates that the two major earthquakes in September had resulted in at least \$2 billion in damage.
- In Morelos, the September 19 earthquake damaged more than 450 historical buildings, more than 300 schools, and nearly 830 houses, according to the UN. The quake also damaged eight health facilities and impacted 10 water management structures. An estimated 3,360 people were residing in emergency shelters in the state as of September 26, the UN reports.
- As of September 27, the GoM reported that all schools remained closed in Morelos and approximately 15 percent of schools were open in Mexico City and Mexico State. The September 19 earthquake damaged more than 12,700 schools across central Mexico, with more than 2,300 schools sustaining severe damage, according to GoM estimates.

USG RESPONSE

- The DART has completed emergency operations in Mexico, and USAID demobilized the DART on September 29, in consultation with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. The DART's USAR team is scheduled to depart Mexico on September 29, following a commemorative ceremony by the GoM.
- From September 22–27, DART USAR engineers conducted structural assessments of more than 50 buildings in Mexico City. In coordination with the GoM, the USAR team also supported search-and-rescue operations at eight collapsed building sites in the city from September 21–23. In addition, at the request of the GoM, DART USAR members assisted with the demobilization of other international USAR teams during the week of September 25. Using methodologies from the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), the Los Angeles County USAR team and UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination representatives prepared a comprehensive documentation package for the GoM and provided demobilization training and other support as needed.
- The DART USAR team transported to Mexico more than 25 metric tons of specialized tools and other supplies to support the emergency response. To support ongoing relief and recovery efforts in Mexico, the USAR team is transferring equipment—including cots, fuel containers, generators, hand tools, saws, tents, and portable sinks and showers—to the Mexican Red Cross.
- The GoM mobilized robust national USAR resources following the September 19 earthquake. Since 2002, USAID/OFDA has supported the strengthening of USAR resources in Mexico, including the creation of eight Mexican USAR teams. USAID/OFDA has helped train Mexican USAR instructors, who have subsequently trained more than 1,300 firefighters and other first responders in USAR techniques. In addition, USAID/OFDA has provided technical and financial assistance to the GoM to develop an accreditation mechanism for Mexican USAR teams.
- With USAID/OFDA support and technical assistance, Mexican USAR teams have organized national mobilization exercises with hundreds of participants and dozens of institutions. During these events, the Mexican USAR teams incorporated and tested Incident Command System (ICS) software, developed with USAID/OFDA funding, to improve information gathering and dissemination. After the September 19 earthquake, eight Mexican first responder organizations utilized the ICS software during the emergency response.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- As of September 28, six international USAR teams—Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Israel, Japan, and Panama—had concluded search-and-rescue operations in Mexico and departed the country, according to the UN. The USAR team from Spain continues to support efforts to recover missing Spanish nationals at a collapsed building site in Mexico.
- The GoM accepted bilateral humanitarian assistance from at least 24 countries, as well as the European Union, to support the emergency response to the September 19 earthquake, international media reports.

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, composed of disaster specialists and USAR personnel from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, to support the emergency response in Mexico. USAID/OFDA also activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to coordinate the USG humanitarian response to the earthquake.
- The DART completed emergency operations requested by the GoM, and USAID demobilized the DART on September 29, in consultation with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. The USAID/OFDA regional team for Latin America and the Caribbean continues to monitor the humanitarian situation in Mexico and will provide additional assistance, as needed.

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	\$2,857,576
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$2,957,576
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MEXICO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2017			\$2,957,576

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 29, 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>