On 16 April 2016, Ecuador was struck by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. The epicentre was located 27 km southeast of the coastal town of Muisne, a sparsely populated area with fishing ports that is popular among tourists and 170km northwest of the capital Quito. Aftershocks have been reported to occur daily, the largest of which had a 6.3 magnitude. The worst damage has been reported in the town of Pedernales (55,000 inhabitants) within the province of Manabi, which the Government has declared a "disaster zone". Besides Pedernales, the Government of Ecuador has declared a "state of emergency" in the six provinces of Esmeraldas, Guayas, Los Rios, Manabi, Santo Domingo, and Santa Elena – 7.9 million people inhabit these six provinces. Key basic services, including electricity, water provision and telecommunications need to be re-established in all affected areas.

The Government of Ecuador and the humanitarian community estimate that over 720,000 people are in need of humanitarian aid. As of 24 April, 655 deaths and at least 4,605 injuries have been reported. Over 40,000 people are internally displaced, with more than 29,000 individuals seeking shelter in spontaneous centres, such as stadiums. More than 6,698 buildings have been completely destroyed and more than 2,740 are damaged, including 281 schools.

Furthermore, due to severe damage to the national road infrastructure, access to the affected areas is limited. In consequence, initial relief efforts and humanitarian partners’ attempts to assess the impact of the earthquake have been met with great challenges in terms of logistics and communications – the humanitarian community expects official figures on impact and damage to rise. Aftershocks have been reported to occur daily after the initial earthquake, the largest of which had a 6.3 in magnitude.

This appeal highlights emergency humanitarian assistance that IOM, as sector lead for Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), co-lead for Shelter and Non-Food Items and partner in the Early Recovery sectors propose to deliver in response to the earthquake. IOM will ensure that all of its interventions is delivered according to needs, prioritizes safety and dignity, is grounded on participation and empowerment of local capacities and ultimately holds humanitarian actors accountable vis-à-vis affected individuals and communities.

All interventions proposed in this appeal are in line with the humanitarian country team’s Flash Appeal in response to the Ecuador Earthquake for the period April – July 2016.

In support of the Government of Ecuador’s initial relief efforts and in coordination with the humanitarian community

IOM is appealing for USD 9,250,000
IOM PROPOSED RESPONSE

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Initial estimates reflect so far 29,067 individuals have been displaced in sites identified by authorities. This figure is expected to rise as more spontaneous sites continue to be identified across the most affected provinces, cantons and parishes, including as a result of the aftershocks which are occurring almost on a daily basis. There is an urgent need to ensure that the sites hosting displaced populations are identified, and improved to ensure they can safely accommodate these vulnerable populations. Moreover, information on the most urgent needs of the displaced population is essential to ensuring that life-saving assistance reaches them in an efficient and targeted manner. IOM, in its role as the CCCM Sector lead, proposes the following response:

Monitoring displacement (DTM)
IOM will roll out the protection enhanced Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) to identify displacement sites, produce site profiles and prioritize sites for assistance based on verified needs to inform humanitarian coordination. The DTM will gather demographic information on the displaced population and the cross-sectorial needs of men, women, girls and boys at the site level, flagging priority issues of vulnerable populations to the authorities and humanitarian actors with capacity and resources to address them.

Improvements to displacement sites to ensure safe living conditions
IOM will carry out site improvement interventions, prioritizing sites that are overcrowded, in need of expansion and in need of urgent drainage improvement to reduce the risk of flooding as a result of the heavy rains from El Nino. These improvement aim to avert the further loss of life, minimize protection risks and improve temporary living conditions of the displaced population in accordance with national and humanitarian standards. In the event that existing sites are assessed to be unsafe to host the displaced population, IOM will work with national authorities and other stakeholders to identify and implement relocation interventions as needed.

Site management and coordination support
IOM will work in close coordination with MIES, CCCM partners (ADRA, CRS, RCE, CISP, CARE and Actuemos Ecuador) and other stakeholders to ensure governance structures are in place at the site level. Having a site management structure in place will facilitate the effective identification of needs and delivery of basic services. This includes the regular monitoring of needs and the setup of referral systems. Depending on the location and size of the displacement sites, site management structures will either be static (i.e. based in one site) or mobile (i.e. site management teams established to cover more than one site). IOM will also provide capacity building support to MIES and other CCCM partners to further improve their ability to manage displacement sites.

Establishment of information centres and humanitarian communications
IOM will work in close collaboration with humanitarian partners to establish information centres in host communities accommodating large displaced populations. These information centres will establish a two-way communication channel, to ensure that the displaced population and the host community have access to information on the humanitarian response. Furthermore providing them with a platform to communicate their needs and express their concerns. The feedback received from these information centres will be used to inform service provision and enable the effective and targeted delivery of services to the displaced population and the community hosting them.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Shelter and NFI assistance for earthquake affected population in Ecuador
IOM, in close collaboration with IFRC and other shelter partners, aims to address time critical humanitarian needs of the earthquake affected population through the rapid provision of emergency shelter and NFI assistance. Towards this end, IOM will carry out immediate life-saving shelter and NFI interventions: procuring and distributing shelter materials (tarpaulins, basic tools and fixings for damaged and makeshift shelters); and essential NFIs (blankets, kitchen sets, and hygiene kits). In addition to this, IOM will also provide cash grants and technical assistance for transitional shelter options using local materials. Lastly, in support for recovery and reconstruction planning and an inclusive strategy that supports community level capacity building, IOM will provide information, education, and communication (IEC) materials and training on appropriate and safe building standards.
Early Recovery

Safe emergency debris removal and management to prepare for shelter and recovery of earthquake affected communities in Ecuador

IOM will work in close coordination with UNDP, CARE, MIES and local government counterparts to improve accesses to services and neighbourhoods by removing debris from affected areas. These efforts will also ensure that unsafe buildings are demolished to reduce the risk of further injury. Moreover, IOM will engage members of the affected community in debris removal efforts to promote community engagement in recovery efforts while also providing the affected community with short term income generating opportunities.

Priority attention to host communities

IOM will collaborate with government authorities and volunteer network to minimize tension with host communities through community based income generating activities, as well as support planning by host communities to integrate vulnerable priority groups.

$1.25 million
Funding required
Target no. of individuals: 19,200

CAPACITY AND COORDINATION

IOM has been operating in Ecuador since 1965, with an initial focus on refugee resettlement and infrastructure programs at the northern border with Colombia. IOM has since then expanded its areas of cooperation with the Government of Ecuador into various fields including disaster preparedness and capacity building. IOM serves as sector lead for CCCM and co-lead for the Shelter Sector. IOM’s main office in Ecuador is located in Quito with over 60 staff in country. This capacity has been further strengthened with the immediate deployment of a rapid response team with expertise in Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Shelter, displacement tracking, and Logistics. The Government of Ecuador has appointed IOM with a National Advisory role within the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES), which is the lead governmental authority in the

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