

ECUADOR - EARTHQUAKE

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

APRIL 22, 2016

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

587

Fatalities Resulting from the Earthquake
GoE – April 21, 2016

155

Missing Persons
GoE – April 21, 2016

8,340

People Injured by the Earthquake
GoE – April 21, 2016

25,376

People Displaced by the Earthquake
GoE – April 21, 2016

1,954

Buildings Damaged or Destroyed by the Earthquake
GoE – April 21, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- Magnitude 7.8 earthquake causes fatalities, injuries, displacement, and significant structural damage in Ecuador
- GoE declares a national state of emergency and requests international assistance
- USAID provides initial assistance to address food needs, distribute emergency relief supplies, and support the coordination of relief efforts

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE ECUADOR EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2016

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$237,410
USAID/FFP ²	\$500,000
\$737,410	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- At 6:58 p.m. local time—or 7:58 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time—on April 16, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck off the coast of northwestern Ecuador at a depth of approximately 12 miles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The epicenter of the earthquake was located approximately 17 miles south-southeast of Muisne town in Esmeraldas Province and approximately 106 miles from Ecuador's capital city of Quito. At least four aftershocks with magnitudes ranging from 5.5 to 6.1 followed the initial earthquake, which severely affected Esmeraldas, Guayas, Los Ríos, Manabí, Santa Elena, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas provinces.
- Immediately following the earthquake, the Government of Ecuador (GoE) declared a national state of emergency, activating its emergency operations center and deploying military and national police forces to assist with rescue and response activities. The GoE requested international assistance in the following days.
- As of April 21, the GoE reported nearly 600 deaths and an estimated 150 missing people; the earthquake injured approximately 8,000 people and damaged or destroyed nearly 2,000 buildings, including hospitals in Manabí, as well as electrical, telecommunications, and transportation infrastructure. The UN estimated that 720,000 people were in need of emergency assistance as of April 21.
- On April 18, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Douglas A. Koneff declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake in Ecuador. In response, USAID/OFDA is supporting the distribution of emergency relief supplies and the provision of technical assistance to urban search-and-rescue (USAR) efforts. USAID/FFP is providing an initial \$500,000 to the UN World Food Program (WFP) to address food needs among earthquake-affected populations. USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP are assessing the need for additional support.

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

²USAID'S Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of April 21, the GoE reported nearly 600 deaths, an estimated 150 missing people, at least 25,000 people displaced from their homes, and approximately 8,000 injured people.
- According to the GoE's National Risk Management Secretariat, earthquake-affected populations require food, medicine, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance. The Secretariat also identified the need for assistance in logistics management and energy infrastructure restoration. GoE and humanitarian actors continue to conduct needs assessments throughout earthquake-affected areas.
- The earthquake and subsequent landslides severely damaged several roads, restricting access to earthquake-affected areas. However, the GoE reported on April 20 that some access roads to affected areas were restored.
- The GoE reports that the earthquake damaged or destroyed nearly 2,000 buildings, including hospitals and water systems in Manabí. As of April 19, ten hospitals in Manabí were without electricity and eight hospitals were without safe drinking water. As of April 20, approximately 26 percent of electrical systems and 39 percent of telecommunications systems in Manabí remained damaged or destroyed.
- On April 19, the GoE requested emergency food assistance for approximately 518,000 earthquake-affected people in Esmeraldas and Manabí. USAID/FFP partner WFP began emergency food assistance programs, which include High-Energy Biscuits and food vouchers, on April 20. WFP is preparing a three-month emergency operation to provide emergency food assistance to 260,000 people, or approximately 50 percent of those in need in Esmeraldas and Manabí.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- Immediately following the earthquake, the GoE declared a national state of emergency, activating its emergency operations center and deploying nearly 15,000 military and national police forces to assist with rescue and response activities. In collaboration with the Ecuador Red Cross, the GoE is distributing blankets, emergency food assistance, hygiene supplies, kitchen materials, safe drinking water, and other emergency relief items.
- As of April 21, the GoE had deployed at least ten mobile units to provide health services to more than 4,600 earthquake-affected people, according to the GoE Ministry of Health.
- The governments of several neighboring countries—including Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, and Venezuela—have deployed USAR teams to Ecuador. The Government of Venezuela is also assisting the GoE to provide food and safe drinking water to earthquake-affected populations.
- On April 22, the UN launched an emergency flash appeal requesting nearly \$73 million to support humanitarian relief efforts for an estimated 350,000 people. The UN appeal prioritized food, health, humanitarian coordination, protection, shelter, and WASH needs.
- On April 18, the European Union pledged approximately \$1.1 million to support humanitarian response activities.
- Several non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the American Red Cross, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the Pan American Health Organization, have deployed staff to conduct needs and damage assessments, coordinate emergency medical teams, provide emergency relief supplies, and support response management. Additionally, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided 20,000 water purification tablets and NGO World Vision is providing psychological counseling services in earthquake-affected communities.

USG RESPONSE

- In response to the GoE request for assistance, USAID/OFDA deployed a team of disaster experts to assist the GoE in coordinating response activities and identifying and prioritizing humanitarian needs in earthquake-affected areas. USAID/OFDA also deployed three structural engineers to support damage assessments.
- On April 18, USAID/OFDA deployed a three-person Americas Support Team (AST) to Ecuador. The AST is providing administrative and logistical support to the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team coordinating USAR activities.

- USAID/OFDA is providing an initial \$100,000 to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to support WASH interventions. USAID/OFDA also plans to provide an initial shipment of relief commodities—including 20,400 water containers, nearly 3,500 kitchen sets, 1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting, and five water filtration systems—to benefit an estimated 118,000 earthquake-affected people. USAID/OFDA expects to allocate additional funding following the completion of needs assessments.
- USAID/FFP is providing an initial \$500,000 to WFP to address emergency food needs. WFP is providing locally procured in-kind food assistance to an estimated 20,000 people displaced by the earthquake in Esmeraldas and Manabí. In March, USAID/FFP provided \$2.1 million to WFP to support emergency food assistance for Colombian refugees sheltering in northern Ecuador, including in earthquake-affected areas of Esmeraldas.

CONTEXT

- On April 16, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck off the coast of northwestern Ecuador at a depth of approximately 12 miles, according to USGS. The epicenter was located approximately 17 miles south-southeast of Muisne town in Esmeraldas Province.
- Immediately following the earthquake, the GoE declared a national state of emergency, activating its emergency operations center and deploying military and national police forces to assist with rescue and response activities. The GoE requested international assistance in the following days due to the extent of earthquake damage.
- On April 18, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Douglas A. Koneff declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake in Ecuador.
- Ecuador is vulnerable to a range of natural hazards, including earthquakes, forest fires, and volcanic eruptions. When disaster strikes, USAID/OFDA works with local and national government officials, civil society actors, and NGOs to address humanitarian needs and assist GoE relief efforts. USAID/OFDA also supports ongoing disaster risk reduction activities and capacity-building initiatives for disaster response throughout South America.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE ECUADOR EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PROVIDED IN FY 2016¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
CRS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$100,000
	AST	Affected Areas	\$127,000
	Program Support Costs		\$10,410
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$237,410
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Affected Areas	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$500,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE ECUADOR EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN FY 2016			\$737,410

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 April 22, 2016.

³ Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

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/ecuador or +1.202.821.1999.
 - 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>