**ChildFund International**

**Humanitarian Situation Report Template**

**Humanitarian Situation Report [1]**

**Huracán Grace [MEXICO]**

**[Agosto 24th 2021]**

**[Point of Contact – Morgane Bellion, program manager]**

**Part 1: The Overall Situation**

**COUNTRY: México**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| #affected people | Deaths | People missing |
| **Estimated for now of The 868,000 persons in the 4 States where Grace hit (Veracruz, Puebla, Hidalgo and Tlaxcala), including 463,000 only in Veracruz and 315,000 in Puebla**  *(In La Jornada, el Economista)* | **14** | **n/a** |

Hurricane Grace reached the shores of the Mexican Caribbean in the early morning of Thursday, August 19, and crossed the peninsula causing mild to medium damage to infrastructure and flooding.

Upon entering the Gulf of Mexico, it had weakened as a "tropial storm," however, due to the hot air from the Gulf, it recovered outside and again made **landfall in the State of Veracruz on Saturday, August 21, as a category three hurricane.** Then, it was downgraded to category one and later to a tropical storm again. As it moved through Mexico, it was labeled "low pressure remnant", eventually hitting the Pacific coast and becoming storm Marty.

The area of ​​greatest damage is the area where it made landfall for the second time, in the northern part of the State of Veracruz.

Impact area :

Grace’s passage through the country, and especially through Veracruz, led to the death of at least eleven people, in addition to strong winds, heavy rains and aggressive waves that caused flooding. Most of the deaths occurred in the city of Xalapa, Veracruz, the state capital.

The hurricane made landfall in the municipality of Tecolutla, part of the Gulf of Mexico. In Veracruz, the winds reached 200 km / h.

In the context of the inconveniences caused by Grace, the Mexico City airport has been forced to cancel some flights because the storm was located only about 100 km from the country's capital.

Before Grace reached land, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador asked the citizens of five states to seek refuge for their safety, and a broad operation was deployed from the Government to help the possible victims.

Thousands of workers from the civil protection emergency service, the Armed Forces and the state electricity company Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE) are deployed to deal with power outages and emergencies among the population.

An estimated of 227,383 families, mainly from municipalities in the Sierra Norte of Puebla and Northern part of Veracruz, were affected by electricity,shortage, 43 percent of whom have already been restored, according to the CFE.

<https://www.milenio.com/politica/comunidad/mueren-personas-paso-huracan-grace-puebla>

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador will travel to Veracruz this Tuesday, August 24 to publicize the support plan for the people who were affected by the passage of Hurricane Grace, reported the Presidency of the Republic when disseminating the agenda of activities of the federal president for this week.

It should be noted that on July 28th, the federal government through the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP) made official the disappearance of the Natural Disaster Fund (Fonden), an instrument that activated economic resources for entities affected by cyclones, hurricanes, earthquakes and any natural phenomenon. Now, each state government must manage with the Federation, the assignation of financial resources to address these situations.

**ChildFund-supported areas**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Geographical area (city or State)** | **ChildFund presence** | **Affected area** | **Deaths** | **Comments** |
| Mexico City | Country Office staff | n/a |  |  |
| Chiapas | 1 LP | n/a |  |  |
| Estado de México | 1 LP | n/a |  |  |
| Hidalgo | 1 LP, Confio grant | n/a |  |  |
| Michoacán | 2 LPs, ArcelorMittal grant | n/a |  |  |
| Oaxaca | 2 LPs, Confio grant | n/a |  |  |
| Puebla | 3 LPs, Walmart grant | Severe damages | 5 | All the northern part of Puebla, where 2 of our LPs work, have suffered medium to severe damages |
| Veracruz | 1 LP | Severe damages | 9 | Our LP is located outside of the area of main impact and reported that there were no affectations in its intervention area. |

Part 2: The Situation in Areas Where ChildFund Works

(Based on national information and information shared by the LPs)

**Sierra Norte de Puebla (northern part of Puebla State)**

Until now, localities are isolated and without electricity due to the landslides and fallen trees, as well as the overflow of the Pantepec River. Likewise, hundreds of houses were left without roofs, the sheets were detached by the strong winds that were registered during the morning and afternoon of Saturday. Authorities of the affected municipalities have asked the population not to leave their homes because it is unsafe. Likewise, the population has been informed that the Federal Electricity Commission is working to restore electricity in the affected areas. Work is being carried out to remove the mud, dirt and trees that obstruct various roads and paths in towns in the Sierra Norte.

Until Sunday afternoon, the Cuetzalan region did not have landline or cell phone service either. As per today (Wednesday 25th) the services have been restored in 90% of the town of Cuetzalan but communities are still without any service, the same applie to Huehuetla area.

The team of our LP Yohualichan is able to use a borrowed space in Cuetzalan to work and get basic internet access, but has no possibility to communicate with the facilitators or point persons at community level. As they do not have a private car, they have not been able to reach most of the communities they are working with.

Our LP Niños Totonacos based in Huehuetla has been able to get access to electricity using their private power plant, but in this area the situation is even more challenging in terms of communications as it has, even in « normal » conditions, poor connection to celphone and internet.

A report transmitted by Cuetzalan TV through Facebook, also reported on the lack of electricity "from Zacapoaxtla to Ayotoxco", added to this the lack of tortillas caused the price of this basic food in the region to increase to 21 pesos per kilogram. .

In Huehuetla the preliminary balance according to municipal authorities is more than 3,000 homes affected mainly by loss of roofs. The municipal president points out that the municipality has approximately 20 mi inhabitants and 6 thousand homes. 70% of this population is indigenous and lives in wooden houses and roofs made of cardboard sheets and / or galvanized sheets.

At the moment the LPs are waiting for the conditions to improve to be able to visit the communities (in addition to the lack of communication means, the accesses are hazardous due to landslides and fallen trees) to be able to assess the damage at family level, it is suspected that the effects may be greater, especially in families who are at critical levels of poverty.

LP Yohualichan also reports that part of their roof fell down (they were able to retrieve the laminated sheet and will replace it) as a consequence some of their old files were damaged.

Overview on Wednesday, August 25th in the evening:

* 2 CO staff travelled to the Sierra Norte to support the LPs in getting in touch with all the communities, especially LP Yohualichan as they lack their own transportation mean and has it very complicated to reach the most isolated communities (Joel + Morgane).
* In addition, 2 staff members from the Walmart grant started to conduct home visits to the 100 families that participate in the grant, to assess the damage to the orchard and chicken coop facilities.
* LP Niños Totonacos has been able to approach the communities of 2 of its 4 work areas, the Huehuetla area being the most affected. Tomorrow they will visit another area, and on Friday together with the CO team they will visit the last one.
* LP Yohualichan lacks information of most of their communities and we have established a visiting route for tomorrow to reach the most isolated to gather general information about their situation.
* Both LPs and local authorities agree that the 1st priority is the housing (roofs) issue, as the rain is constant and many families are crammed into the few roofed spaces they have left, or in the homes of relatives or neighbors. The 2nd priority to consider and that will be a longer-term issue is food security, as most of the corn crops were destroyed, and many families have lost their main source of alimentation and income. The destruction of coffee plants and pepper trees, two of the largest agricultural productions in the area, will also have a very negative impact on the income of families, with months-long impact.
* Important to note that at this point, we are not conducting home visits as many families are busy checking their crops, or looking for information of relatives, or staying at other houses due to the persistent rain, in addition to the COVID situation that restrains the contact or the possibility to organize meetings. In addition, the LPs are working with local authorities to split efforts to raise a detailed census. So we only gather general information of each community to identify the most urgent cases and gather enough information to coordinate a response.

**What issues are children in these areas facing (food shortages, safety concerns, schools’ closure, etc.)?**

So far, no specific shortages been reported, however, due to the situation there are high probabilities of having a need for food, potable water, and medicines.

Only one gas station is in activity as the other one has been damaged by the wind, LPs report that there were long queues of vehicles yesterday however this afternoon the service was normal, and we were able to fuel.

Another urgent need is in terms of housing materials, so we expect a shortage and/or increase in the price of these items.

It is important to consider that, in itself, the Sierra Norte region is characterized by its isolation, access difficulties for freight transport, and little variety of suppliers, so the current situation may only impact negatively in terms of supply, delays and pricing.

* **Child protection risks caused or exacerbated by crisis situation.**

• School dropout (the return to classes in person, which was scheduled for August 30, is compromised) + lack of educational and recreational activities

• Aggravated consequences of the COVID pandemic

• Increase in child labor

• Food shortage and deterioration in housing (affected households in their roofs)

Part 3: ChildFund’s Response

* **Who is or will be leading/managing the response?**

ChildFund CO and LPs #2520 and #2068

* **Planned, desired or ongoing response – inside or outside current operational areas.**

Within the current operational area

* **Who are we partnering or collaborating with to provide our response?**
* For the moment, municipal authorities of Huehuetla, Cuetzalan, Zaragoza, Ayotoxco (we mention mainly Huehuetla and Cuetzalan as they are where the LPs are based) and their civil protection, child protection and social services.
* **What kind of response activities or interventions are being provided? What support items are needed or have been collected/distributed? How is ChildFund linked with humanitarian coordination structures, i.e., in which clusters or working groups do we participate? The most recent/next meeting and who is representing ChildFund? Donor meetings we have attended, or missions that we are aware of related to the response?**
* TBD, please refer to the “funding” section for a summary of the identified priorities for intervention.
* **Next steps.**

- LPs follow up, if possible via cell phone or WhatsApp, or presential visits, on the situation of communities, families and children.

- Sharing and validating data with local authorities in the area (ongoing)

- Funding proposal delivered after the rapid assessment CO visit to authorize the use of 25% of subsidy and identify more funding opportunities.

* **For sitreps submitted after ChildFund response has been initiated, what is the current progress of implementation vs. the established response plan?**
* N/A

**Below Sections for Internal Use Only**

Part 4: Office and Staff Status

N/A

Part 5 Human Resources

* **Which visitors are there in the country? Please include names, functions, contact information and arrival/departure dates for both IO and RO staff (note: due to the travel ban, this will apply only once the ban has been lifted)**

n/a

* **Any gaps in staffing/need for deployment from other COs or Global Teams?**

n/a

* **Are there any other major HR issues?**

n/a

Part 6 Safety & Security

* **Are police and other services functioning in the normal manner?** YES
* **Are the courts still operating?** UNKNOWN
* **Are there reports of looting or increased criminality?** NO
* **Have military personal being deployed to patrol towns or cities?**

According to the usual emergency procedure in the country, the army and the navy are fundamental actors when the government declares a state of emergency (plan DN-III). Also, the federal government announced yesterday that they would deploy the army to get a detailed census of the affectations.

However, we haven’t seen any military deployment in the Sierra Norte since we arrived, and the LPs managers mentioned that the persons in charge of collecting data and censuses of those affected are the representatives of the municipal authorities and their different services

* **Confirm the safety of staff and their families in the affected area.**
* Until now no incidents have been reported by CO staff members nor LP staff members. Nearly all of the LPs facilitators have been accounted for, and with few exceptions LPs staff members have been able to contact or receive news from their relatives.
* **Have Safety and security risks/mitigation plans been updated to current environment?** Not for the moment (covid restrictions in place, still valid)
* **Recommendations around any upcoming travel planned for staff or donors (note: Only once global travel ban has been lifted)** N/A

Part 7 Grants

**List all active grants:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grant Job Code** | **Grant Name** | **Donor** | **Status of Implementation (Normal/Reduced/Suspended)** | **Any specific guidance received from donor? (Yes/No)** |
| 12-088D | Proyecto para el bienestar de la niñez totonaca | Fundación Walmart | Suspended (COVID and Hurricane Grace) | We informed the donor yesterday (August 24th) by email about the situation, and that we will start the monitoring of each of the 100 participating families this week (it started today August 25th).  For the moment we didn’t receive any response. |

Part 8 Funding

TBD in the coming days but we consider that we’ll submit a proposal to cover basic needs in coordination with the municipal authorities for (1) urgent necessities in terms of housing (materials to restore roofs) and (2) contribute to the food security of the families that lost their crops (delivery of pantries and / or packages of corn) and (3) ensure that there is no shortage of hygiene materials and personal safety equipment for covid prevention since the area is on a rising wave of contagion.

Provide information about potential sources of funding, including grant donors, subsidy, Emergency Action Fund, Alliance members, GIK, etc., for these emergency response efforts using the chart below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Donor** | **Program** | **Amount (USD)** | **Requested? (Y/N)** | **Confirmed? (Y/N)** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

* Budget
  + Outline how we will use this funding with a rough topline budget.

Part 9 Media/Communications

(Does not apply at this moment)

* + **List of media who will be or have been contacted with press releases.**
  + **List of emergency CO spokespeople, including name, location, contact information, and languages spoken.**

Sonia Bozzi, México, sbozzi@childfund.org, Spanish and English

Morgane Bellion, Mexico mbellion@childfund.org, Spanish, English and French

* + **Plans for collecting photos/videos/stories, e.g., should an outside photographer be hired?**
  + **Key points for messaging and visibility, particularly any host-government sensibilities that must be considered.**
  + **Support needed or requested from IO, GSS or Global Teams – whether onsite or remote.**