



Ecuador: Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Earthquake-Affected Families

Progress Report

For the attention of	UNOG Staff Coordinating Council/ Froylan Silveira
Donation	CHF 33'747
Total budget	CHF 132'684
Project duration	19.09.2016 - 28.02.2017
Project number	P160067
Project target	Targeted families meet their immediate water and sanitation needs and live in a more hygienic environment
Target group	420 earthquake-affected vulnerable families (2'100 persons)
Location	Ecuador, Manabí Province
Contact person	Patricia Ringger, Tel. 041 419 24 42; pringger@caritas.ch

Context

On April 16, 2016, a powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Ecuador causing serious damage and loss of life in cities and towns located along its central and northern coastal region. The earthquake killed at least 660 people and injured more than 51'000. The local population rapidly tried to rebuild their houses in a makeshift manner. The Ecuadorian Government together with the assistance of the international community distributed food, water tanks, hygiene kits, roof materials and medicines. However, humanitarian assistance has been slow to arrive, especially in remote communities.

Caritas USA (CRS), the partner organization of Caritas Switzerland, identified important gaps in coverage of water supply needs in the province of Manabí where about 85% of homes were severely affected by the disaster. Even before the earthquake, the sanitary and hygienic situation in particular in rural very far from populated areas was problematic with no services attending to vulnerable families' basic needs. The lack of access to potable water and of solid waste management systems resulted in high rates of intestinal infections from bacteria and protozoa in the water. This situation was aggravated by the earthquake due to the destruction of sanitary facilities and of water pipes and as a result correct hygiene practices could not be applied anymore. The Ministry of Health observed an increase in diseases transmitted through contaminated water.

Project

Caritas Switzerland supports the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions of CRS' integrated emergency response which is implemented in coordination with the Ecuadorian Government, municipal and provincial Emergency Operations Committees and Caritas Manabí.

The WASH interventions seek to provide access to safe water storage and hygiene to 420 of the most vulnerable families in earthquake-affected areas as selected and identified in coordination with local communities. Household water supply kits are distributed, handwashing facilities are installed in households and information on safe water consumption and maintenance of general hygiene is provided through the mobilization of communities.

Clean Water	Sanitary Facilities	Hygiene Promotion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provision of 420 220 L water tanks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> installation of 420 handwashing stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> raising awareness of 420 beneficiary families by trained community mobilizers

Graphic: Overview of WASH intervention supported by Caritas Switzerland

Beneficiary families receive 220-litre water tanks and ceramic filters in order to be able to store water to cover daily needs and to have access to clean water for drinking. The handwashing facilities are connected to the water tank and enable families to improve their hygienic conditions and decrease their vulnerability to diseases. The provision of these hardware components is complemented by information campaigns on the correct usage of the tanks, filters and handwashing stations. Social workers, some of them are members of the local communities, receive special training in order to organize the hygiene promotion activities and to ensure that beneficiaries understand and apply the disseminated messages through a continuous follow-up.

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CRS after consultation with the WASH cluster and other relevant authorities selected the communities in Manabí Province where water supply and hygiene needs were still present. 420 of the most vulnerable families living in these communities are participating in the project.

Due to competing requests from various actors for 220 L water tanks from the same company, procurement and delivery of the 420 tanks has been slow up to now. A particular company was selected because of the quality of its product and the accompanying accessories for water flow which make it easy to install and use. Additionally, the onslaught of a heavy rainy season has slowed deliveries. Due to the delays, 58 household water supply kits with handwashing stations (14% of the total) thus far benefiting 232 people could be installed to date. Installation and verification will significantly ramp up in the coming weeks as the items are currently being delivered.

Thus far, hygiene promoters have reached 129 households with hygiene promotion and hygiene kits. This activity will significantly ramp up in the coming weeks as water supply items are delivered and installed. Hygiene promotion activities include topics such as the five critical times for handwashing and how to ensure safe water supply.



Photo 1: Distribution of water tanks



Photo 3: Hygiene promotion activities



Photo 2: Handwashing facilities connected to water tanks

The project activities will be completed by end of February 2017.

Caritas Switzerland

Patricia Ringer

Programme Officer Humanitarian Aid