



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

ECUADOR AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

UNDP's early
recovery efforts



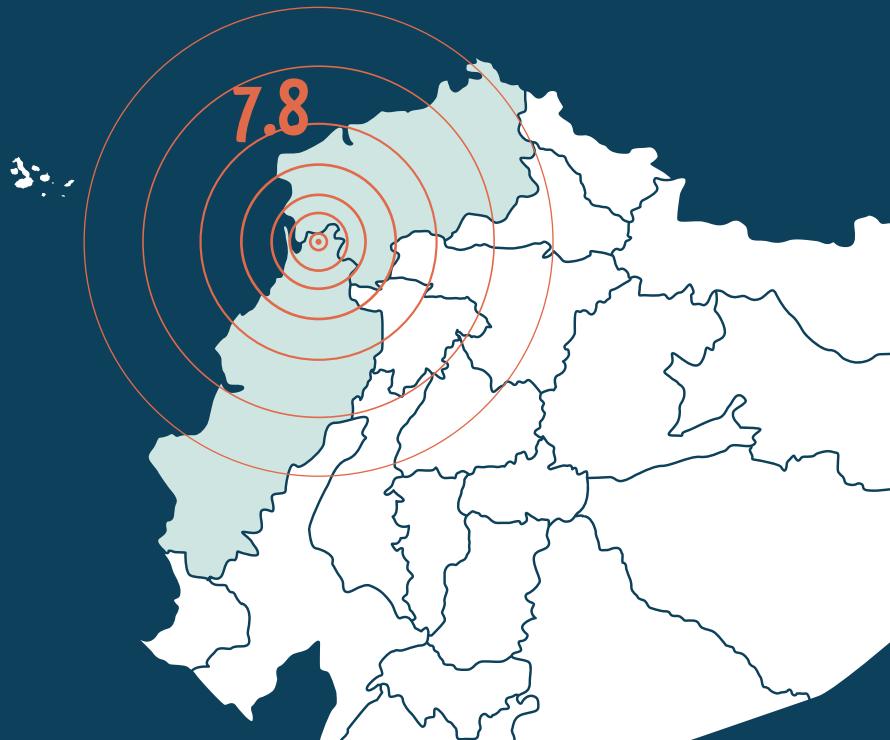




CONTEXT

The earthquake registering 7.8 on the Richter Scale that shook the northern coast of Ecuador on April 16 caused considerable loss of human life and material damage in the provinces of **Manabi and Esmeraldas**. In addition to the **671 deaths and 9 disappearances**, it is estimated that some **218,000 individuals were affected**. The number of **houses destroyed and affected is approximately 16,185**. This has caused 16,663 people to become either displaced or to live in temporary shelters.

Additionally, community production infrastructure was destroyed, impacting the local economies while leaving thousands of families without any of subsistence or opportunities to rebuild their lives.



HOW DOES THE UNDP FOCUS ITS EFFORTS?

In the days following the disaster, all efforts were focused on saving lives, helping the injured and rescuing people trapped in fallen buildings.

The availability of **information** was essential to be able to categorize the impact of the earthquake and plan the adequate response that would allow for returning displaced individuals to their communities and to begin rebuilding immediately. Performing a rapid assessment of the damage, followed by a detailed evaluation of damaged infrastructure, allowed for:

- Understanding the number of families directly affected by the earthquake,
- Determining the number of houses to be demolished, repaired or rebuilt, and
- Drafting a database to ensure the return of displaced families to their homes and neighborhoods of origin.

The **removal of rubble and demolishing of buildings** with serious structural damage is the first step to rebuilding the impacted communities. This step is essential for avoiding additional collapses and to free up space to allow for rebuilding to occur immediately. Removing rubble does not only allow for





eliminating physical obstacles, such as bricks, wood and cement, but it also removes the psychological barrier that the affected families face, removing the remains of their destroyed houses to begin a new life.

The **rehabilitation of community production infrastructure** associated to fishing and agriculture is a critical element for the zones where the earthquake has destroyed community means for generating income, such as supply stores, irrigation canals and rice mills, among others. Rapid small investments are key to reactivate the local economies and the earnings of communities.

The **generation of earnings and creation of employment** in the affected communities is normally the first priority for families. The creation of Cash for Work allows affected families to go from being beneficiaries to protagonists in the rebuilding process of their communities.

This methodology of Cash for Work provides rapid income to the communities. As weeks go by, Cash for Work gives way to the reactivation of the local economy through the work of micro- and small-sized enterprises that require an initial support to reestablish business. These activities are related in the future to the support programs for suppliers, value chain and initiatives to create long-term employment.

The design and gradual implementation of these initiatives result in the context for speedy recovery and efficient rebuilding that allows for the **return of displaced families to their communities**, creating homes and communities that are more resilient (*build back better*).



This process, along with urban planning initiatives, allows for building permanent and definitive homes under better conditions than before the disaster.

Given the extreme vulnerability, it is important to orient specific actions for **people with disabilities and in support of their families**. Therefore, all of the activities related to early recovery and rebuilding must include a comprehensive focus based on rights that respond to the social groups facing the greatest vulnerability.

In order for this to be possible, it is essential to work hand-in-hand with **national authorities and local governments**. Thus, it is fundamental to transfer knowledge and tools developed in similar situations for proper crisis management. The development and strengthening of local governments is an essential action as they are the first line of response for the direct provision of services to the affected populations. Good coordination and proper flow of information among the different levels of government are indispensable to guarantee the reconstruction and sustainable recovery of the affected zones.





WHAT HAS UNDP DONE SO FAR?

Early Response

The UNDP immediately supported the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MIDUVI) in the rapid assessment of damage with the aim of determining the risks to affected structures.



Training of
594 specialized volunteers
(architects and engineers)
to assess affected structures.



**Design of 7 guidelines
for the evaluation**
and construction of buildings,
according to international standards.





Demolition and removal of rubble in rural areas

The UNDP carried out two demolition and removal of rubble programs in rural areas of the community of Las Gilces and in the parish of Riochico, in Portoviejo County.



50% of women
participated in the Cash for Work demolition and removal of rubble project.



605 houses demolished
in Las Gilces and Riochico.



18,780 m³
of rubble removed with the help of 49 brigades.

Rehabilitation of community production infrastructure

Through participatory community processes that define priorities, the UNDP is supporting the impact assessment and repair of structures damaged by the earthquake that are key to reactivate the local economy. With this goal, the UNDP, along with local governments, parish councils and communities, repair tourist lodging and restaurants in the affected area along the coast. Additionally, in a joint effort with the Prefecture of Manabi and Esmeraldas, other community production infrastructure has been identified that will soon be rehabilitated.



**Repair to the
'Puerto Cañitas'**
irrigation canal.



300 rice farmers
and their families will
benefit from the canal.



Support for national and local authorities

The coordination, flow of adequate information and standardization of procedures is key for an orderly and effective response that meets the existing needs. With this aim, the UNDP is helping by providing technical experts for demolition and environmental management of rubble throughout the country, provinces and municipalities, among others.



Technical assistance to **update the Development and Territorial Ordinance** Plans for the Decentralized Autonomous Municipal Governments of Bolívar and Jaramijó.



Technical assistance for the Decentralized Autonomous Parish Governments of Crucita and Riochico.



Technical support for the Decentralized Autonomous Municipal Governments of Manta to design a management model for the new commercial zone of Tarqui.



Support for activities to generate income, means of subsistence and reactivate the economy

For the UNDP, the means of subsistence are a key component to any recovery process. From the start, the UNDP has a strategy that evolves from the creation of employment through the Cash for Work methodology to the local reactivation by rehabilitating community production infrastructure, support for micro- and small-sized businesses, and the strengthening of value chains that promote the creation of employment based on the existing demand. In order to respond to the emergency, with respect to means of subsistence, the needs of the commercial sector in urban areas were confirmed, as well as the productive sector in the rural zones.

The urban zones employ the **En Marcha** (In Motion) methodology, a program that fosters entrepreneurship by updating the image, innovation and strengthening of business practices and commercial relations.

In rural zones there is work underway to strengthen the commercial alliances in the sectors that have been affected the most: traditional fishing and agricultural associations, through the **Supplier Development Programme** (SDP) with the Grow Your Business methodology. Thus, the competitiveness is reinforced in the strategic sectors by strengthening the production and commercial capacities of micro-, small- and medium-sized businesses, thereby adding value to their products.



490 people employed through the Cash for Work methodology.



533 families benefiting from the reactivation of their businesses in Manta, Portoviejo and Calceta.



45 consultants trained (15 consultants in the En Marcha Program and 30 consultants in strengthening production chains).



792 families reinforced their production capacities by strengthening commercial alliances with the Supplier Development Programme.





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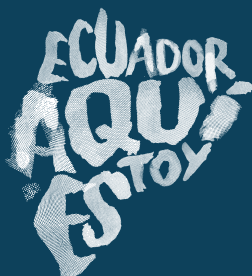
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