



SITUATION REPORT

Mexico Earthquake



DECEMBER 5, 2017



MEXICO

SITUATION

On September 7th, an 8.1-magnitude earthquake struck off the Pacific coast of Mexico (54 miles southwest of Pijijiapan) resulting in over 90 deaths in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Tabasco. Over 2 million people were affected by the strong tremors and thousands of homes were reportedly damaged. On September 19th, less than one week after, another earthquake struck the country with 7.1 magnitude resulting in over 225 deaths, 45 collapsed buildings, and major damages in Mexico City, Puebla and the state of Morelos. On September 23rd, a third earthquake occurred once again in Oaxaca Mexico. The 6.1 magnitude earthquake resulted in five casualties and affected more than 8,000 people.

According to OCHA, in total, there were about 34 million damaged homes, about 15,000 damaged schools and 86 damaged hospitals.



RESPONSE

In early September, Lutheran Disaster Response, through our local partner Amextra, provided support for immediate relief for families in Chiapas, which included food, water and personal hygiene kits.

Recently, Lutheran Disaster Response provided additional support to go towards longer-term response efforts. Through Amextra, with this support, we are accompanying local communities through activities such as: providing funds to help local businesses re-open, building temporary and permanent housing for women-lead households, the elderly and other vulnerable groups, and facilitating post-traumatic stress management workshop for children and adults.



"I started to move the dirt with my hands. My house was adobe, when it fell there was a lot of clay and dirt. While I was doing this, my grand-kids were yelling and crying, 'Mom, mom!' I told them, 'We're OK.'"

Photo: AMEXTRA

ONE MORE THING...

ELCA and Amextra have a long-standing partnership with providing health, education and economic support through World Hunger to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities in rural Mexico. This includes building capacity for community leaders, implementing health/nutrition workshops, family gardens, reforestation, nonviolence workshops, child development workshops for parents, green technologies and fertilizers, and savings and loan groups.



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