# COUNTRY X

## SITUATION ANALYSIS

There has been a large earthquake with significant damage to a regional capital city in Country X called SC and the surrounding areas. Initial reports of around 50,000 fatalities is expected to rise as areas become accessible and as a result of the injuries people have suffered. The setting is one with well-developed infrastructure in the cities and towns though some of the rural areas thought to be affected are difficult to reach being mountainous with poor road access. Government structures normally function well but the scale of destruction has overwhelmed the local response capacity and there are the beginnings of a sizeable international response. There are reports of large numbers of UASC and many people have fled, in particular away from the built up areas of the city. Aftershocks are creating panic and people are still on the move.

The earthquake has damaged large areas of the city including business areas where people were at work and are trapped in high rise buildings, schools with reports of children being trapped and residential areas, both very affluent areas with large gated properties and a large slum area where migrant workers and their families are known to reside. Many of the migrant workers are likely to be illegal immigrants some of whom bring their children for employment in the garment factories and as domestic workers.

Initial multi-sector assessments indicate that many children have become separated from their families as children were at school/families at work when the earthquake struck and many roads are impassable and areas inaccessible. The national Red Cross society has set up some reception centres and field hospitals are also being established where people are being given first aid. However, these are already overwhelmed.

There are many local orphanages which are said to be taking in children – there are rumours of children having “disappeared” from one of the orphanages.

Media coverage has focused on the situation of “orphaned” children and has also reported incidents of trafficking of children – the city is well known for attracting “sex tourists” and trafficking is known to be a problem in the region. There is a large migrant population with many women and girls working as domestic help.

There has been no preparation for the earthquake; however the established Child Protection Coordination Group, led by the government, has good capacity and experience of dealing with natural disasters in regional areas of Country X. It is expected that more organisations will be arriving in Country X with the intention of working with UASC.

The Child Protection Coordination Group has asked all member organisations to assist with the response as there is an urgent need to coordinate work in relation to UASC.

It has not been possible to carry out a child protection assessment yet and there is a demand from other sectors to provide assistance to children who are apparently alone.

A cluster coordination structure is being put in place and a funding appeal has been launched.