



# Natural Disasters and Climate Change in Mexico

## Natural Disasters

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# What is PROSPERA?

- PROSPERA is a cash transfer program
- Objectives:
  - Contribute to the fulfilment of social rights
  - Enhance the capabilities of the poor
  - Invest in their capacities through food/nutrition, health and education channels
  - Improve access to other services to enhance their wellbeing.
- Currently PROSPERA benefits 6.5 million Mexican families, with coverage in 100% of the municipalities.



# Earthquakes of September 7 and 19 in Mexico

- On September 7th of last year, the State of Chiapas suffered a 8.2 magnitude earthquake, that also caused extensive damage to the States of Oaxaca and Tabasco.
- Subsequently, on September 19th, another earthquake of 7.1 magnitude hit the State of Morelos, concentrating damages in Morelos, Puebla, the State of Mexico, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Mexico City.



# What was the Damage?

September 19th, 13:14hrs  
M7.1 on the Richter Scale  
Axochiapan, Morelos  
369 fatalities

The aggregated damage by the two earthquakes was:

- More than 400 municipalities affected in the States of Oaxaca, Guerrero, Puebla, Morelos, Tabasco, Mexico, Tlaxcala e Hidalgo
- 471 fatalities
- More than 12 million people directly affected
- In the 8 affected States, 3.5 million PROSPERA beneficiary families, which represents 55% of the national beneficiary register

September 7th, 23:49hrs  
M8.2 on the Richter Scale  
Pijijiapan, Chiapas  
102 fatalities

# How the Mexican State reacted?

- Starting on September 7th, the Mexican State activated the Federal response plan to major emergencies called MX Plan.
- In this plan, several Ministries participate on the design of a Strategy of implementation.



# What is the MX Contingency Plan?

- Emergency plan that aims to: reduce response time, avoid duplicity, and focus government efforts where needed most.
- Interinstitutional coordination, response of all Government agencies to an emergency.
- Alignment with the specific emergency plans from other Ministries (e.g. of Defense, of the Navy, among others).
- Volunteers and civil society organizations continue to play a key role as part of the immediate response plans.

# What was PROSPERA participation in the MX Plan?

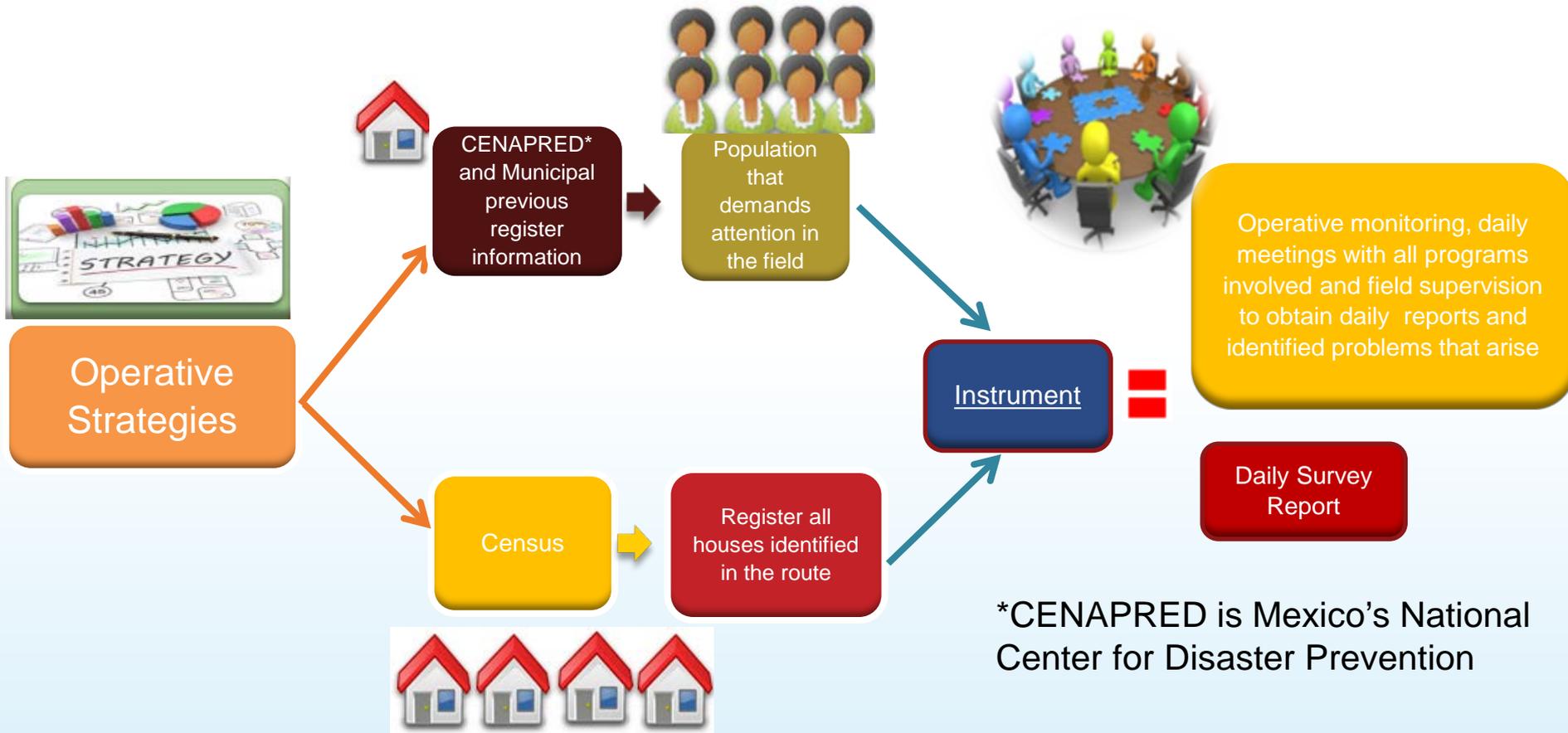


PROSPERA participated through the following actions:

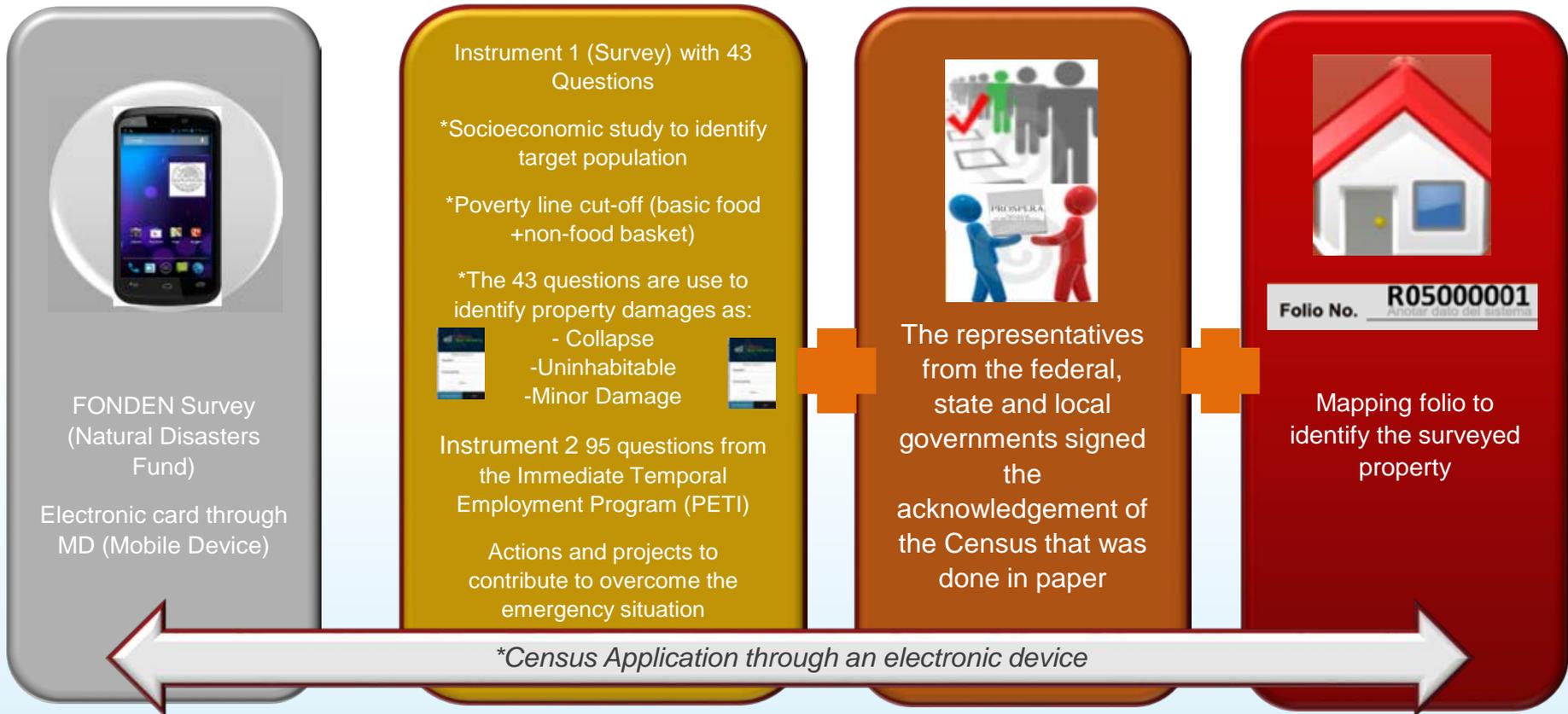
- **Safeguard of population**
  - Transportation of basic supplies
  - Dissemination of information
- **Data Registration**
  - General report of affected areas
  - House by house census, using mobile devices
- **Recovery (Reconstruction)**
  - Supervision of the delivery of payment cards
  - Pledged staff support with Civil Engineering knowledge



# How PROSPERA implemented the census?



# How was the census implemented?



# What Actions PROSPERA did to help its beneficiaries in the affected states?

Vertical Expansion	Horizontal Expansion	Other
<p>Temporarily increased the value of the cash transfer and/or extended the time of the benefits for some beneficiaries</p>	<p>Temporarily increased the number of beneficiaries</p>	<p>Activities orientes towards using the existing social protection mechanisms to respond to emergency situations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guarantee the delivery of the benefits</li> <li>• Cancelled all benefit suspension notifications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PROSPERA beneficiaries can be active or inactive (e.g. temporarily suspended beneficiaries) in the registry of beneficiaries. All families in the affected areas were activated.</li> <li>• Exceptions of corresponsibilities</li> <li>• Open enrollment for new families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspension of the notification process of the socioeconomic conditions results instrument for existing beneficiary families</li> </ul>

# Which changes were made to handle future emergencies?

- **Adjustments to the legal framework (operational rules)**

One of the difficulties we found to respond to the September earthquakes, was that the legal framework (operational rules) limited both our sphere of action and the support to the beneficiary families.

For this reason, the Government modified PROSPERA's operational rules to have a well-defined framework, that in the future will be the guide to respond to catastrophic events.



# Which changes were made to handle future emergencies?

- In particular, Operational Rules were modified to facilitate that the program could continue to provide its benefits during emergencies.
- The Program has now the power to do an emergency protocol for disaster situations, which is currently being drafted.
- The protocol for emergency situations will include at least the following elements:
  1. Time extension of the period for delivery of benefits
  2. Acceptance of alternative beneficiary identity documents
  3. Communication channels with beneficiary population
  4. Define the cases where the exception of corresponsibilities is accepted.
  5. Mechanisms to collaborate with other institutions
  6. Mechanisms to activate, deactivate and disseminate the activities in this protocol

# A few additional thoughts

- In situations of fear and emergency, people trust who they already know
- PROSPERA's staff was key in the response to the emergency for its long-standing relationship with beneficiaries:
  - This relationship is based on empathy and respect
  - It provided an environment of trust and a feeling of certainty in the midst of the tragedy

# Thank you

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