

19S COMMITTEE REPORT

I. Introduction

The 19S Committee at Colmex was created after the earthquake that occurred on September 19, 2017 with the epicenter in Axochiapan, Morelos, 120 kilometers away from Mexico City. The magnitude of 7.1 was felt in different states of México, some being more affected than others. Without any doubt, September was the month of the severest natural disasters impacting the country since the 1985 earthquake. Overall, the earthquakes of September 19 and September 7 left a toll of 360 and 120 deceased respectively, in addition to millions of affected people in their health or material possessions.

The community at El Colegio de México, concerned about such a serious crisis, looked for solutions. The Tokyo Foundation responded very positively by donating USD \$50,000 on October 2, and an additional sum of USD \$270 on December 14.¹ This second donation was possible due to the generosity of other Sylff fellows, to whom we are beyond grateful: USD \$100 from the University of Belgrade fellow and USD \$170 from the Sylff Local Association of Jadavpur University.

All the activities carried out by the 19S Committee and the Colmex community at large since September 2017 have been registered on a special website created under the title “Solidaridad” (Solidarity) in the following link: <http://solidaridad.colmex.mx/>. In this page, visitants may access to updated information, important announcements, follow-ups, and pictures as proof of the joint work of all participants. A video was also uploaded on Instagram and Facebook showing the help delivered to different places after the disaster, which may be found here: <https://www.instagram.com/p/BbxajnQAURa/?taken-by=elcolmex>

II. Participants

a. Sylff Steering Committee members

We integrated an executive committee to plan, organize and implement relief activities. The members of the committee were the following people:

- Dr. Sandra Kuntz, full-time professor at the Center for Historical Studies
- Dr. Satomi Miura, full-time professor at the Center for Asian and African Studies
- Laura Valverde, director for Student Affairs
- Fernanda Herrera, doctoral student at the Center for Economic Studies and Sylff fellow

¹ The exchange rate as of October 2 was MXN 18.16 per USD 1. The exchange rate on December 14 was MXN 19.14 per USD 1.

- Erick Serna, doctoral student at the Center for Demographic, Urban and Environmental Studies and Sylff fellow
- Hugo Ortega, treasurer, and Dr. Laura Flamand, vice president of academic affairs and member of the Sylff steering committee, attended the meetings as liaisons between the 19S Committee and the leadership team at Colmex.

b. Colmex-Sylff fellows

Members who constantly participated in the activities related to this project:

- Fernanda Herrera López student at the Center for Economic Studies, Sylff fellow 2016-2017
- Erick Serna, doctoral student at the Center for Demographic, Urban and Environmental Studies, Sylff fellow 2016-2017
- Luisa Alejandra González Barajas, Center for Asian and African Studies, Sylff fellow 2015-2016
- Laura Flamand, member of the Sylff Steering Committee at Colmex

c. Participation of the Colmex Community

Many hands were needed in addition to the Committee and the Colmex-Sylff fellows, especially on activities regarding the delivery of help *in situ* and loading the items into the vans and trucks for transportation purposes. More information about the people involved in these activities is included in the following table:

Date	Place	Number of persons involved		Total
		Colmex	<i>In Situ</i>	
February 2 nd , 2018	Huejotengo (Morelos)	7	4	11
February 5 th , 2018	San Gregorio (Xochimilco, Mexico City)	12	7	19
February 8 th and 9 th	San Mateo del Mar (Oaxaca)	50	6	56
Total		69	17	86

* Please note that figures are just approximate numbers since we only had control of the registered persons, but many more joined the activities, an overwhelming exhibition of solidarity. For a detailed list of participants, see Annex 1.

d. Calendar of meetings of the 19S Committee

#	Dates
1	October 5 th , 2017
2	October 6 th , 2017
3	November 10 th , 2017
4	November 28 th , 2017
5	December 5 th , 2017
6	December 19 th , 2017
7	January 3 rd , 2018
8	January 19 th , 2018
9	January 30 th , 2018

e. Main agreements

As stated in the previous calendar, a large number of meetings was needed to define the type of help to be provided and, most importantly, the communities in Mexico that would benefit the most with this help. It was a natural catastrophe that affected many, but the resources were limited, so a selection was a must. A major factor on the decision was the assurance that the help would reach the people who needed it the most, so members of the community at El Colmex were asked to participate in an open call: the Committee received 6-8 proposals to support projects for the relief of victims across Mexico.

In general, the starting point of contact was a member of our community or a Sylff fellow. The Committee studied the proposals and decided to convene three representatives of the projects for an on-site interview on November 10, 2017. We interviewed representatives of the projects and decided to focus the efforts in three locations: **San Mateo del Mar**, a poor locality from the state of Oaxaca where Celeste Morales, a Colmex doctoral student, has been working with indigenous women from the community; **Huejotengo**, a hidden town from the state of Morelos, located at the top of the mountains of Morelos where some BA students had been working as volunteers alongside local inhabitants; and **San Gregorio**, a local town of Xochimilco (an urban rural district of Mexico City) where a proactive group of neighbors organized a sort of community center.

III. Purchases and delivery

a. Items purchased

In order to meet the basic needs of the victims, the Committee decided to divide the help in three main categories: food, medicines, clothing and outdoor equipment. This last category was included due to many reports of people who lost their houses completely, but also for many seeking refuge on the mountains fearing another earthquake.

With this in considerations, the final purchases included:

- Food

Comercializadora Passat S.A. de C.V. is a company founded 18 years ago that specializes in providing different types of boxed-provisions at special prices thanks to their negotiation and different alliances with suppliers.

For this project, 1,050 boxes were bought with a cost of \$14.58 USD per unit, for a **total cost of \$15,309 USD**

Each box contained 37 items as follows:

Quantity	Product
1 bag	rice
1 bottle	Oil
1 can	tuna
1 bag	oatmeal
1 bag	sugar
1 bag	coffee
1 box	cereal
1 can	peas
1 can	chiles
1 box	chocolate
8 cubes	chicken bouillon
2 bags	corn starch
2 cans	beans
2 boxes	cookies
1 pouch	jelly poder
1 box	flour
1 piece	soap
1 bottle	mayonnaise
1 bottle	jam
1 tube	tooth paste
4 bags	pasta
1 can	tomato purée
1 bag	salt
1 piece	box
37 items	

- Medicines

Comercializadora Farmacéutica de Chiapas, S.A. PI de C.V., also known as *Farmacias del Ahorro*. It was founded in 1991 and now has a national presence in 26 of the 32 Mexican states. *Farmacias del Ahorro* is one of the largest drugstores in Mexico with their own line of generic products.

Through their services, 800 medical kits were assembled, with a cost per unit of \$35.35 USD for a **total cost of \$28,280 USD.**

Each medical kit contained the following items:

Quantity	Product
1 bottle	eye drops
2 boxes	antacid
1 box	antihistamine (chlorphenamine)
1 box	anti-flu
2 pieces	bandages
1 bottle	anti-flu for adults (dextromethorphan & ambroxol)
1 bottle	anti-flu for kids (dextromethorphan & ambroxol)
1 bottle	rubbing alcohol
6 boxes	anti-inflammatory (nimesulide, naproxen & diclofenac)
2 boxes	painkiller (ibuprophen & paracetamol)
8 bags	electrolytes
20 items	

- Clothing and outdoor equipment

Decathlon México is a French company that opened its first store in 1976 and now has a worldwide presence in over 40 countries with stores specialized in sports clothing and equipment.

A total of 189 items were purchased, with a **total cost of \$4,691.09 USD**, divided as follows:

Quantity	Product	Total cost (USD)
44	tents	\$2,313.23
46	sleeping bags	\$864.80
28	men's jackets	\$480.31
50	women's jackets	\$740.67
21	kid's jackets	\$286.52
1	handling and shipping fees	\$5.56
Total cost		\$4,691.09

- Transportation costs

For transportation within Mexico City and Huejotengo in Morelos, El Colegio de México provided vans at their disposal and some student drove their own cars to deliver the items. However, since San Mateo del Mar in Oaxaca is much farther away, the communities are harder to reach, and the volume of help was significantly more, it was necessary to rent a truck. Through *Transportes Vega*, a 9 ½ ton truck was rented with a **total cost of \$1,850.32 USD.**

Also, since Oaxaca is far from Mexico City, volunteers personally delivering help were provided with bus tickets for travelling to the location, with a **total cost of \$617.60 USD.**

Trip	Price USD	Quantity	Total Cost
Mexico City (Tapo) - Oaxaca (Salina Cruz)	\$28.58	3	\$85.74
Mexico City (Taxqueña) - Oaxaca (Salina Cruz)	\$40.49	1	\$40.49
Mexico City (Taxqueña) - Oaxaca (Salina Cruz)	\$37.84	1	\$37.84
Mexico City (Taxqueña) - Oaxaca (Salina Cruz)	\$43.15	1	\$43.15
Oaxaca (Salina Cruz) - Mexico City (Tapo)	\$54.78	5	\$273.92
Oaxaca (Salina Cruz) - Mexico City (Tapo)	\$51.27	1	\$51.27
Taxes (IVA)	\$85.19	1	\$85.19
Total cost			\$617.60

b. Distribution of help

Considering the level of necessity of the communities and their own requests, help was distributed to the three different places according to the following table:

Categories	Places			Total
	Huejutengo (Morelos)	San Gregorio (Xochimilco, Mexico City)	San Mateo del Mar (Oaxaca)	
Food packages	80	120	850	1,050 boxes
Medicine kits	0	0	800	800 kits
Tents	0	0	44	44 tents
Sleeping bags	0	0	46	46 bags
Men's Jackets	9	9	10	28 jackets
Women's Jackets	16	16	18	50 jackets
Kid's Jackets	7	7	7	21 jackets
Total	112 items	152 items	1,775 items	2,039 items

IV. Narrative Report

a. Huejutengo, Morelos

Help delivered on February 3rd, 2018

In Morelos, the Committee had the support of Irvin Emmanuel Solís Zúñiga, a Colmex alumni who had been working with the community and a civil association named AYOK, who helps people by giving them assessment on how to better administer the funds received by the government and by

providing help to reconstruct their houses. The Colmex brigade met with Tere, a neighbor of the town, who guided them while in Huejotengo. With her help, the relief items were delivered to the most affected ones. The majority of the inhabitants are old people who not only have to deal with the loss of their houses and possessions, but also with many chronic and degenerative diseases.

b. San Gregorio, Xochimilco, Mexico City

Help delivered on February 5th, 2018

San Gregorio Xochimilco is a town near to El Colegio de Mexico, but located in a hard access rural-urban zone of the city. Volunteers travelled to San Gregorio with two trucks charged with daily necessity items. In this town, Colmex volunteers had the help of Ollin, Cassandra and Federico, town neighbors who guided them through narrow unpaved streets, so narrow that they had to leave the vans behind and carry the boxes by themselves. The first community visited was one stage ahead of the rest and had already begun the demolition of houses. The items were delivered to some villagers and in the next stop the rest was taken on carts to communities that were severely affected by the earthquake and difficult to reach. Help was mainly distributed to housewives and older people.

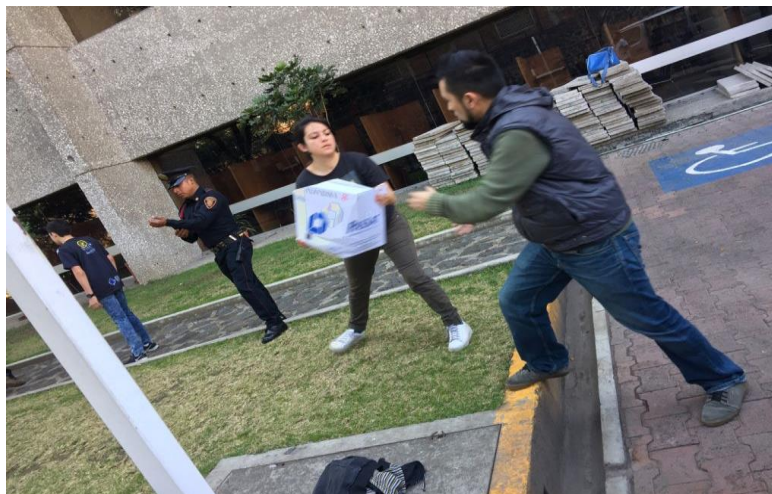
c. San Mateo del Mar, Oaxaca

Help delivered on February 10th, 2018

San Mateo del Mar is more than 13 hours away from Mexico City and it is located in one of the three poorest states in México, Oaxaca. After a long travel, help was received by hundreds of indigenous women accompanied by her children, some of them babies. The CAMI, a center created by women of the region, organized the delivery of items. All women had their turn and formed in line to receive our little help. Due to traditional customs and beliefs of the town, only women could receive the help in the name of their families. While delivering supplies, the Colmex group had an incident with the political leader of the town who claimed that no one was authorized to deliver any kind of help. However, professor Satomi Miura could resolve the incident by explaining that the help was coming from the Tokyo Foundation.

V. Photographs

a. Huejotengo, Morelos Help delivered on February 3rd, 2018.



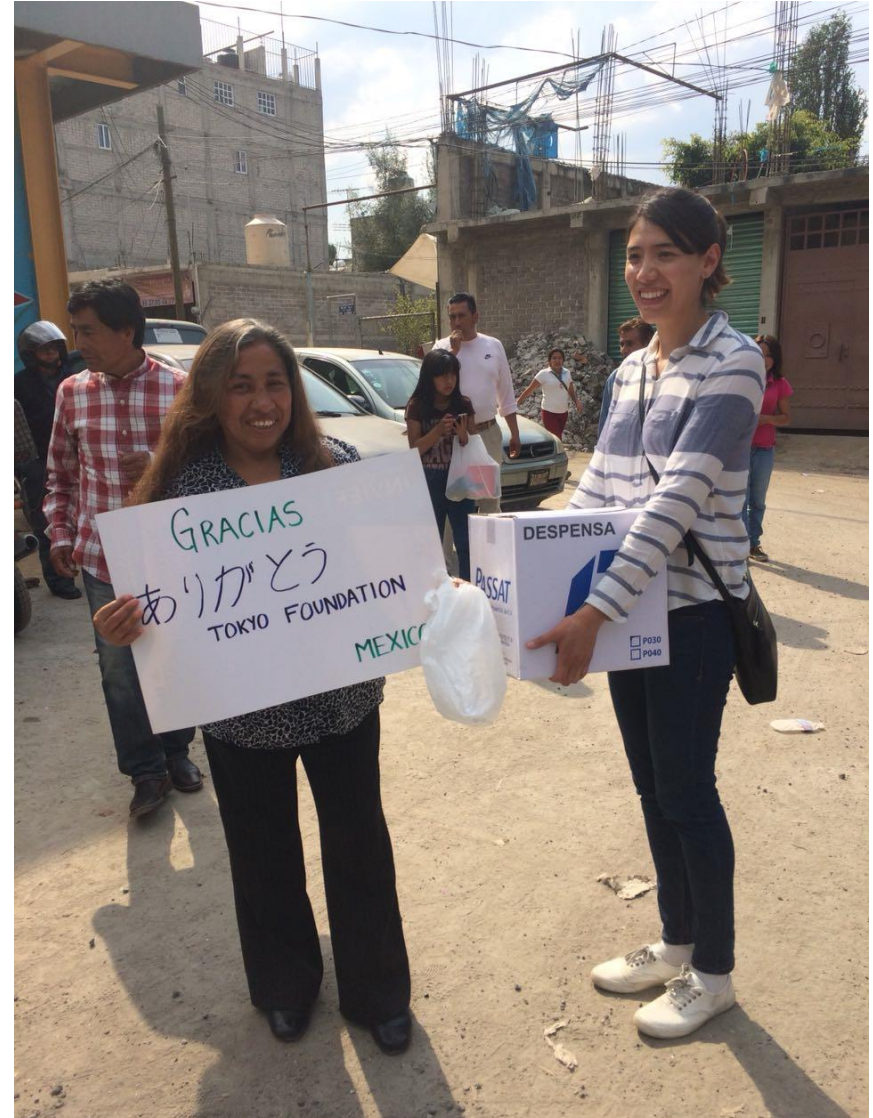
Erick Serna Sylff Fellow delivering help



b. San Gregorio, Xochimilco, Mexico City. Help delivered on February 5th, 2018.







Fernanda Herrera Sylff Fellow delivering help

c. San Mateo del Mar, Oaxaca.

Moving help out of storehouse at library and loading the truck on February 8th and 9th,2018





Help delivered on February 10th, 2018







ANNEX 1

List of registered volunteers at the Colmex and *in situ*

#	Help loading trucks and movement of items		
	Huejutengo, Morelos	San Gregorio, Xochimilco	San Mateo del Mar, Oaxaca
1.	Fernanda Herrera López	Laura Saldívar Tanaka	Marco Antonio Gómez Lovera
2.	Laura Flamand Gómez	Laura Flamand Gómez	Laura Saldívar Tanaka
3.	Alma Lucero Chávez Pérez	Laura Valverde González	Laura Flamand Gómez
4.	Vanessa Georgina Santiago López	Clara Cuevas	Laura Valverde González
5.	Juan Guillermo Figueroa Perea	Arturo David Ríos Alejo	América Quetzalli Vera Balanzairo
6.	Raúl Armando Murga Garrido	Alma Lucero Chávez Pérez	Alma Lucero Chávez Pérez
7.	Erick Serna Luna	Vanessa Georgina Santiago López	Vanessa Georgina Santiago López
8.		Juan Guillermo Figueroa Perea	María Cecilia Zuleta
9.		Clementina Chávez Ballesteros	Satomi Miura
10.		Erick Serna Luna	Erick Serna Luna
11.		Alejandro Aguilar Nava	Pedro Espinoza Meléndez
12.		Rebeca Barriga Villanueva	María Anaya Alderete
13.			Celeste Morales Martínez
14.			María Elena Madrigal Rodríguez
15.			Cristina Herrera
16.			Rebeca Barriga Villanueva
17.			Micaela Chávez Villa
18.			Olivia García Zepeda
19.			Tomás Bocanegra Esqueda
20.			Víctor Julián Cid Carmona
21.			José Valentín Ortiz Reyes
22.			Silvia Eunice Gutiérrez de la Torre
23.			Eduardo Ruvalcaba Burgoa
24.			Marco Antonio González Meza
25.			María Elena Sánchez Hernández
26.			Ivonne Vargas Serrano
27.			Juan Roberto Arriaga López
28.			Emanuel Alejandro Alvarado Mata
29.			José de Jesús Castro Campos
30.			Misael Hernández Hernández

31.		Juan Luis Montes González
32.		Luis Emmanuel Téllez
33.		Jesús Azzgar Ortega Torres
34.		Mario Eduardo Tafoya González
35.		Jimena Paola Moreno Villaseñor
36.		Verónica Devars
37.		Hugo Ortega Ponce
38.		Luisa Alejandra González Barajas
39.		Alejandro Parada Rodríguez
40.		Manuel Toledo
41.		Gerardo Cervantes
42.		Sergio Carrillo
43.		Miguel Segura Hernández
44.		Juan Guillermo Figueroa Perea
45.		Nahely Ernestina Ortiz Lira
46.		Guadalupe Moreno Medrano
47.		Karin Terán Gallegos
48.		Roberto Breña
49.		Cecilia Vadillo Obregón
50.		Ma. Guadalupe Rábago Díaz

#	<i>Volunteers in situ</i>		
	Huejutengo, Morelos	San Gregorio, Xochimilco	San Mateo del Mar, Oaxaca
1.	Paola Mora Guerrero	Fernanda Herrera López	Marco Antonio Gómez Lovera
2.	Alma Lucero Chávez Pérez	Clara Cuevas	América Quetzalli Vera Balanzairo
3.	Heysdy González Labastida	Arturo David Ríos Alejo	Satomi Miura
4.	Erick Serna Luna	Alma Lucero Chávez Pérez	Erick Serna Luna
5.		Clementina Chávez Ballesteros	Pedro Espinoza Meléndez
6.		Erick Serna Luna	Celeste Morales Martínez
7.		Alejandro Aguilar Nava	