



REDLAC Weekly Note On Emergencies Latin America & The Caribbean

This note is compiled for The Risk Emergency Disaster Working Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) by the OCHA Regional Office through disaster monitoring and input from our Regional Humanitarian partners. This note does not intend to be an analytical tool, but a summary paper of key facts and actions reported by the sources indicated. Activities carried in affected countries are not limited to the ones reported here. Please check with sources for further information. For input, feedback and suggestions send us an email to ocha-rolac@un.org



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HIGHLIGHTS:

- **BRAZIL:** Heavy rains during the past weeks in Rio de Janeiro state killed at least 251 people.
- **HAITI:** To date 96 percent of the target population have received some emergency shelter items
- **HONDURAS:** The World Food Programme has launched two new projects in cooperation with the Government.

FLOODS



Brazil: Water covers a street in the city of Rio de Janeiro due to heavy rains. Photo source: Brazilian Red Cross®.

BRAZIL: The casualty count due to the heavy rains in Rio de Janeiro state stands currently at 293 people killed and 418 injured. Nearly 48,000 people have been displaced and 12,000 left homeless. Access to the city's eight-decade-old Christ statue was cut off for the first time. Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes estimated the cost of repairs to damage caused by the disaster to at least US\$113.6 million.

Source: Brazilian Red Cross, AFP

PERU: In the department of Ancash, on 12 April, the overflowing of a river resulted in 40 people affected, and eight homes, three bridges and the water supply system damaged. The next day, on 13 April, a huge glacier broke off and plunged into a lake in Ancash department and caused a tsunami-like wave resulting in six people missing. Since December last year, the Institute for Civil Defense INDECI has mobilized nearly one million metric tons of relief items to assist over 180,000 people affected by rains, landslides and flooding.

Source: INDECI, Reuters

ECUADOR: More than 1,280 families have been affected by overflowing rivers in Napo province. Since 8 April, the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion has distributed 100 sleeping kits y 659 food kits to affected families in Napo province.

Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross, Ecuadorian Government

COLOMBIA: According to the latest information, heavy rains throughout the country have killed six people and injured 13, and affected more than 9,000 people. Some 700 houses have been damaged.

Source: El Mercurio

VENEZUELA: Heavy rains have affected large parts of the country. In Falcon, 15 houses have been damaged.

Source: El Universal

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: At least 156 persons and 36 houses have been affected by heavy rains in 11 provinces.

Source: Centro de Información por Internet

EARTHQUAKE

CHILE: President Piñera has announced a plan to finance Chile's reconstruction. The plan includes the following funding mechanisms:

- o Corporate tax rate will increase by 3 percent in 2011 and by 1.5 percent in 2012. With this measure, the Government hopes to raise US\$1.2 billion.
- o Royalty fees on mining companies will increase during 2011 and 2012, generating US\$700 million.
- o The tobacco tax will rise from 60 to 67 percent, with expected revenue of US\$990 million.
- o There will be a temporary increase of the real estate tax by 0.25 percent, involving 5 percent of higher value properties. This will raise US\$281 million.

The plan also includes the sale of state assets, a new law on donations, the issuance of public debt bonds, the moderate use of savings (especially from the Economic Social Stabilization Fund and from copper sales) which are estimated to yield an additional US\$2.4 billion per year.

To date, the NGO 'Un Techo para Chile' has built 6,719 temporary shelters.

Source: UN

HAITI: Humanitarian agencies estimate that 3.5 million survivors of the earthquake have received food assistance, 1.3 million are receiving daily water distributions and some 510,000 have benefited from

hygiene kits. More than 800,000 adults and children have been vaccinated against common diseases. The shelter cluster is on target for delivering two tarpaulins per family by 1 May. Cluster members have reached 96% of the known caseload (of 1.3 million instead of 1.5 million people as mentioned in some reports) with emergency shelter materials. The Ministry of Education has officially reopened schools in the regions most affected by the 12 January earthquake. A survey of 70 schools revealed that approximately 75% of children enrolled prior to the earthquake have now returned to school.

The Union of South-American countries (UNASUR) may contribute up to US\$100 million to the Haitian recovery efforts through the Inter-American Development Bank. South-Korea has pledged US\$47 million in humanitarian aid, four times more than it had initially promised.

OCHA is tracking official donations to various international appeals worldwide. For more information about the Haiti Appeal visit the Financial Tracking Services website. For more information about this major emergency please, visit the following humanitarian portals:

Reliefweb or Redhum

Sources: UNICEF, WHO/PAHO, OCHA, IDB

In addition, this week, earthquakes of 5.0, 5.1 and 5.6 of magnitude on the Richter scale have also hit Peru, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala respectively.

WILDFIRE

COSTA RICA: This year, 37 fires have destroyed almost 3 thousand hectares of protected forest so far.

Source: Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación (SINAC)

CHILE: A state of red alert was declared for the town of Santa Juana (the province of Concepción) following wildfires that destroyed some 30 hectares of forest and are menacing urban areas.

Source: ONEMI

DROUGHT-FOOD INSECURITY

HONDURAS: At least 11,330 small-scale farmers will benefit from a new project called "Compras para el Progreso" (Purchases for Progress) sponsored by the European Union and implemented by the World Food Programme in the departments of Lempira, Ocotepeque, Yoro, La Paz, Santa Bárbara, Comayagua, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán and Olancho.

On 15 April, the World Food Programme and the Government signed an agreement for a School Feeding Programme which will benefit 1.4 million children in 17,580 schools across the country.

Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, WFP

DENGUE OUTBREAK

BRAZIL: According to the Argentinean Ministry of Health, some 157,000 people have been infected with dengue between January and February on the Brazilian side of the tri-border area with Argentina and Paraguay.

Source: ANSA Latina

PERU: A 90-day state of red alert has been declared in the region of Piura y Castilla due to dengue. Approximately 2,300 cases have been registered so far, equivalent to 47 percent of cases registered in 2009 in the region.

Source: El Comercio

INFLUENZA A (H1N1)

Cuba: So far, 486,825 people, or 43.4 percent of the target population, have been vaccinated against Influenza A.

Source: Agencia Cubana de Noticias

BOLIVIA: Five new cases of Influenza A have been recently reported. Although the cases were not grave, measures to combat the spreading of the disease have been stepped up. So far, 1.3 million vaccine doses have arrived in-country, with a further 100,000 expected soon.

Source: FmBolivia

CHAGAS

HONDURAS: Some 220,000 people are estimated to be infected by Chagas in the country. The parasitic disease spread mainly by insect bites is endemic to the LAC region, and if left uncured, may lead to serious health problems and even death.

Source: El Heraldo

RISK REDUCTION

Between 14 and 16 April, the 2nd Hemispheric Encounter on National Mechanisms and Networks for Risk Reduction took place in Santa Marta, Colombia.