



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 sources. 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



Year 2 - Issue 111

June 22, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **BRAZIL:** Manaus is suffering the worst flooding in 56 years, according to civil defense officials. At least 18,000 people have been affected.
- **GUATEMALA:** More than 10,800 people have been affected by heavy rains in the Department of Escuintla and the Orange Alert remains in effect.
- **PERU:** Government declared State of Emergency in 21 regions of the country due to low temperatures

FLOODS

BRAZIL: Manaus, a city in Brazil's Amazon, is suffering the worst flooding in 56 years, according to civil defense officials. Torrential rain in Northern Brazil have caused the Amazon River and its tributaries to rise. At least 18,000 people have been affected in Manaus by flooding and sewage and trash washed into their houses. Many residents are refusing to leave their homes.

Around 60 people died in April and May when torrential rains lashed the normally dry north and northeast of Brazil.

Source: AFP

COLOMBIA: Some 1,800 people have been affected by floods in the communities of Puerto Libertador, La Apartada, Monte Libano and Buenavista. Civil defense authorities are assisting the inhabitants of the affected areas.

Source: RCN

GUATEMALA: More than 10,800 people have been affected by heavy rains in the Department of Escuintla. Some 180 still remain in four shelters facilitated by the authorities. More than 650 houses reported damages. After an evaluation mission, authorities agreed to maintain the orange alert for this region.



Source: CONRED

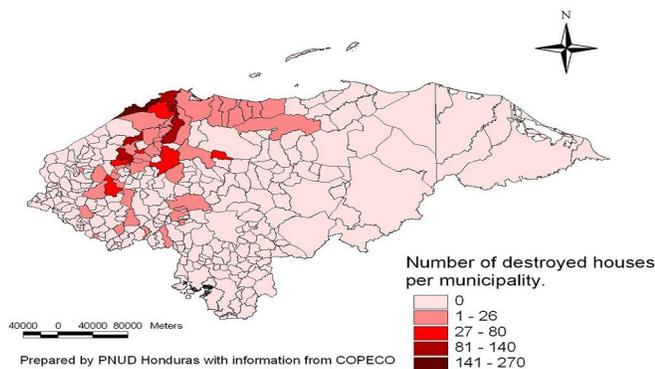
Roads, houses and infrastructure resulted with severe damage after heavy rains in Guatemala. Source: *El Tiempo*

EPIDEMIC

INFLUENZA A H1N1: As of 19 June 2009, there have been 14,742 confirmed cases of the Pandemic H1N1 2009 infection, including 126 deaths in 25 countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region. The World Health Organization is not recommending any travel restrictions.

Source: *PAHO*

EARTHQUAKE



The municipalities with more destroyed houses are Omoa (270), El Progreso (111), Puerto Cortes (87) and Petoa (106). Source: *UNDP Honduras*

HONDURAS: Numerous aftershocks have been reported stemming from the 4.8 Richter earthquake which shook the northern region of the country in the Atlantic Coast on June 15. The government has declared national emergency to raise funds to start the immediate reconstruction of infrastructure damaged by the earthquake, and has requested the international community to assist with psychological support for the affected population and is currently preparing a statement detailing these new requirements. UNICEF, along with local governments, is preparing an emergency supply of hygienic kits, blankets and cooking kits in Tegucigalpa and Sula Valley. WFP has sent 27

metric tons of emergency food assistance for 1,967 affected families.

Source: *UN Honduras*

EXTREME WEATHER (COLD WAVE)

PERU: According to the Ministry of Health 13,691 cases of pneumonia have been reported so far this year. UNFPA is currently providing support to the most vulnerable populations in 11 provinces in the region of Ayacucho. Last year approximately 300 people died from cold related illnesses. On June 5, the Government declared a State of Emergency in 21 regions of the country due to low temperatures (even 21 below 0° in some cases).

Source: *UNFPA*

VOLCANIC ACTIVITY

COLOMBIA: The Red Alert was decreased to Yellow for the Galeras Volcano. The Nevado del Huila volcano is also in Yellow Alert phase.

Source: *INGEOMINAS*

HAITI ELECTIONS

HAITI: Violence between rival groups during Haiti's Senate election left one dead, according to electoral authorities. The country's top electoral court said that one of the leaders of the opposition parties Fusion of Haitian Democrats in the south-western province of Grand'Anse was murdered, and in Jacmel, two people were injured. Besides these two incidents, authorities stressed that the election was peaceful. The election was supervised by the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

Source: *DPA*