



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 summarizes key facts and actions reported by the sources indicated. Activities carried out 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:

- **COLOMBIA:** The second rainy season has affected more than 964,000 people throughout the country.
- **PERU:** Approximately 800 people have been affected by the overflowing of the Jucusbamba and Mayo Rivers.
- **CHILE:** Forest fires have affected 500 people in the regions of BioBio, Magallanes and Maule.

FLOODING – RAINS

COLOMBIA: From September 1, with the official start of the second 2011 rainy season, to December 29, more than 370 municipalities were affected in Colombia. This season has affected 964,160 people (approximately 198,000 families) and caused 182 deaths. There are 22 people still missing and more than 155,000 homes damaged.

The departments of Magdalena, Chocó, Sucre, Cesar and Cordoba have suffered a double impact from the emergency from the floods and the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict. ⁽¹⁾

Colombia's Risk Management Unit stressed that 102 billion pesos (US\$52 billion) are needed for the response in the most affected areas. ⁽²⁾

Source: (1) OCHA, (2) Government of Colombia.



Colombia's second rainy season affected 964,000 people. Diario del Huila ©

PERU: The Jucusbamba and Mayo Rivers overflowed, affecting more than 800 people and damaging several hectares of crops.

Close to 330 people were affected in the province of Luya (Amazonas Department) by the rising of the Jucusbamba River. The communities most affected were Luya, Lámud, Chocta and Shipata. The Luya Civil Defense reported 70 homes damaged and loss of large areas of produce. ⁽¹⁾

More than 500 people were affected after the Mayo River burst its banks and flooded more than 1,800 hectares of crops and several homes. (2)

Source: (1) *Inforegi3n – Environmental Press Agency*, (2) *RPP*

WILDFIRE

CHILE: Forest fires in the regions of BioBio, Magallanes and Maule have consumed more than 30,125 hectares.

In the BioBio region (south) nearly 100 homes have been destroyed, one person has died, 500 people have been affected and more than 16,000 hectares have been burned. (1)

In the Magallanes region (southern tip) some 12,795 hectares have been burned in the Torres del Paine Park. While in the Maule region, fires have consumed a total of 1,330 hectares. A red alert has been declared for the provinces of Cauquenes and Linares. The rest of the region is under yellow alert. (2)

Source: (1) *BiobioChile*, (2) *ONEMI*.

EPIDEMICS

BOLIVIA: Dengue. The Santa Cruz department allocated Bs2,6 billion (approximately US\$379,000) to recruit personnel to combat dengue. The Santa Cruz Departmental Health Service issued an orange alert for the northern area of the department. In the municipalities of Yapacaní, San Juan de Yapacani and San Carlos, the incidence of dengue has increased very rapidly. In 2011, there were 5,934 confirmed cases of dengue, 31,377 suspected cases and 29 deaths.

Source: *Government of Bolivia*.

FOOD SECURITY

LATINAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: Food prices decline slightly in Latin America and the Caribbean during the month of November, according to United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Regional inflation remained at seven percent in November for the fourth consecutive month, while food inflation reached 8.2 percent, down from 8.4 percent in October. The food products that most increased were onions, tomatoes and meat, especially chicken. Chile, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela had the highest annual inflation rate exceeding one percent in November.

Source: *United Nations*.

OTHER ISSUES

GLOBAL: 2012 has been declared the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. This name was given by the General Assembly in December 2011 to raise awareness of the importance of addressing energy issues and access to energy services. According to official data, 1.4 billion people lack access to modern energy and three billion use traditional organic matter and coal as their primary sources for cooking and heating.

Source: *United Nations*.