

KEY FIGURES

7%

REDUCTION IN DENGUE CASES
IN HONDURAS BETWEEN
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEKS 31-32

67k

TOTAL DENGUE CASES IN
NICARAGUA SO FAR IN 2019

41.7k

PEOPLE IN NICARAGUA TARGETED
FOR ASSISTANCE BY IFRC

CENTRAL AMERICA: DENGUE

HONDURAS

According to information provided by the head of the Ministry of Health's epidemiology unit, dengue cases in Honduras dropped by seven percent at epidemiological week (EW) 32, which runs from 4-10 August. The Ministry official reported 993 new cases for EW 32, compared to 1,060 in EW 31.

In Honduras' Central District, home to the national capital of Tegucigalpa, regular dengue cases dropped by 12 per cent between EW 30 and EW 32.

Severe dengue cases fell by 74 per cent in the Central District between EW 30-32

Officials note that coordinated response activities between the National Risk Management System (SINAGER), the Permanent Commission for Contingencies (COPECO), municipal authorities, the Honduran Red Cross, USAID, the Ministry of Health and volunteers are proving effective.

NICARAGUA

Vice-president Rosario Murillo said on 12 August that the outbreak in Nicaragua has now claimed 10 lives, adding that the 6,476 cases during the week are a 15 per cent increase from the previous week.

Murillo reported that the departments of Estelí, Managua and Masaya have the highest number of confirmed cases, adding that health authorities are estimating a total of some 67,000 cases in 2019 so far.

The Government has been active with mass breeding site removal campaigns and fumigation campaigns in the most affected cities.

IFRC launched a response operation on 14 August that seeks to assist some 41,750 people over the next three months (November 2019). The operation, which will use an allocation of US\$293,054 from IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), will focus on reducing the incidence of vector-borne diseases (dengue, chikungunya and Zika) in at-risk populations through communication on behavior change, education and vector control activities.

EL SALVADOR

According to the Ministry of Health, suspected cases of dengue are decreasing in El Salvador, noting the coordinated efforts between the Ministry and Civil Protection in carrying out national breeding site and vector control activities.

The Ministry reports that there were 484 new cases during the first week of August, compared to the 1,436 new cases reported during the last two weeks of July.

Although Ministry officials remain hopeful that the trend in declining case numbers continues, they also note that parts of El Salvador still register an alarmingly high larval index (percentage of homes with breeding sites for disease-carrying vector larvae).

Sources:

Ministry of Health (Honduras)
Government of Nicaragua
IFRC
Ministry of Health (El Salvador)

KEY FIGURES

30K

CENTRAL AMERICAN ASYLUM SEEKERS TO THE US RELOCATED TO MEXICO-GUATEMALA BORDER

97.6%

REDUCTION IN HONDURAN MIGRANTS PASSING DAILY THROUGH MAJOR US-MEXICO BORDER STATION

7.4K

PEOPLE IN HONDURAS FORCIBLY DISPLACED BY VIOLENCE BETWEEN 2016-JUNE 2019

Sources:

Government of Mexico
UNHCR
Honduran Consulate, Texas (United State of America)
National Human Rights Commission

MEXICO & CENTRAL AMERICA: **MIGRANTS & DISPLACEMENT**

CENTRAL AMERICA

The Mexican Government announced on 16 August that is relocating 30,000 migrants who have applied for asylum in the United States to the southern border state of Chiapas, next to Guatemala.

The migrants were originally returned to cities in northern Mexico by the US to await asylum procedures. Mexico's National Migration Institute (INM) says that the relocation is meant to provide a safer alternative for migrants.

GUATEMALA

UNHCR published a statement on 14 August regarding the recently signed safe third country agreement between Guatemala and the United States, clarifying that they were not involved in any negotiations and are not part of the bilateral agreement.

UNHCR expressed interest in learning the details on the agreement's implementation, citing that the nature of the agreement is related to their mandate and that UNHCR already promotes robust asylum systems in Guatemala under the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS, per its Spanish acronym).

UNHCR also stressed that any arrangement made under shared responsibilities must comply with minimum guarantees such as not returning anyone with protection needs.

HONDURAS - MIGRANTS

The Honduran consulate in Texas reports that a major border station on

the United States-Mexico border is now seeing only 72 Honduran migrants per day, down from 3,000. Honduran authorities attribute the reduction in detentions in the US to the increased presence of the Mexican National Guard across Mexico, deterring Central American migrants crossing Mexico on their way to the United States.

The Honduran consulate says that asylum seekers being instantly returned to Mexico under the "Remain in Mexico" program is also contributing to the decreasing numbers of detentions.

HONDURAS - IDPs

In a report published on 12 August, the National Human Rights Commission (CONADEH) says that 7,446 people in Honduras have been displaced by violence between 2016 and June 2019.

More than half of IDPs in Honduras (2016-2019) say they fled over threats of violence

The report says 12.4 per cent fled over the homicide of a family member, 12.5 per cent over extortion, 7.1 per cent over threat of homicide and 4.1 per cent over child recruitment.

CONADEH's report goes on to profile those displaced, with shopkeepers and merchants comprising 22.6 per cent of displacements, followed by homemaker women at 20 per cent. Other affected sectors include teachers, transport professionals, farmers and journalists.

KEY FIGURES

4.5K

VENEZUELAN CROSSING FROM COLOMBIA TO ECUADOR PER DAY

600K

VENEZUELAN HAVE ENTERED ECUADOR SO FAR IN 2019, WITH 109,000 STAYING IN ECUADOR

91.5%

DROP IN VENEZUELAN MIGRATION TO PERU IN JULY 2019

SOUTH AMERICA: **VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS & REFUGEES**

ECUADOR

On 14 August, the Ecuadorian Government announced that as of 26 August, it will require Venezuelans to request a “humanitarian visa” online through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prior to entering Ecuador, which will then be physically available at Ecuadorian consulates in Caracas, Bogotá and Lima.

Prior to this, Ecuador only required Venezuelans to have a national ID card to enter the country, providing an easy route for Venezuelans who wished to stay in Ecuador or continue south toward Peru and Chile.

Authorities say that up to 4,500 Venezuelans are crossing the Ecuador-Colombia border daily compared to around 500-1,000 earlier in the year. According to Ecuador’s Foreign Ministry, some 600,000 Venezuelans have passed through the country in 2019 with some 109,000 staying in Ecuador.

Ecuador’s Ministry of Foreign affairs reports that it is still working with the Ministry of the Interior on planning a census of Venezuelans already in Ecuador.

PERU

Just one month after the Peruvian Government put their new humanitarian visa requirements into effect on 15 June, Venezuelan migration to Peru fell by 91.5 per cent, according to the National Superintendence of Migration. Net Venezuelan migration for June was 44,756, compared to just 3,815 in July.

In addition, migration flows in and out of Peru have changed drastically in the span of a month, with 88,114 Venezuelans entering the country and 43,458 leaving in June, while in July those numbers dropped to 18,944 and 15,129, respectively.

Prior to implementing new visa requirements on 15 June, Peru saw as many as 9,000 daily entries by Venezuelans

Peru, whose Venezuelan population of some 800,000 is second only to Colombia, had allowed Venezuelans to apply for permits which granted residence and access to work, education and healthcare.

CHILE

On 14 August, the Government of Chile announced that Venezuelans now must have a valid passport, a criminal record certificate for adults over 18 and birth certificate for minors to apply for Chile’s special “*democratic responsibility visa*” to legally enter the country.

This visa, which the Chilean government has required of Venezuelan migrants since April 2018, allows Venezuelans to stay in Chile for one year, and can be extended for an additional 12 months, at which point there is the possibility to apply for residence. Venezuelans had previously only required residency in any country in the region to process the application.

Sources:

Government of Ecuador
National Superintendence of Migration (Peru)
Government of Chile

KEY FIGURES

400K

HECTARES OF LAND AFFECTED BY WILDFIRES IN SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA

1.1K

COMMUNITIES IN SANTA CRUZ AND BENI DEPARTMENTS AT RISK OF FOREST FIRES

Sources:

Departmental Government of Santa Cruz (Bolivia)
Forest and Land Oversight and Control Authority (Bolivia)

KEY FIGURES

5.5

MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTHERN MEXICO ON 12 AUGUST

5.2

MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE IN CENTRAL PERU ON 13 AUGUST

Sources:

National Civil Protection System (Mexico)
Geophysical Institute of Peru
National Civil Defense Institute (Peru)

BOLIVIA: FOREST FIRES

Wildfires continue to rage on throughout Bolivia, especially in the department of Santa Cruz where authorities declared a state of emergency on 16 August. Santa Cruz departmental authorities have registered more than 400,000 hectares of land affected by the wildfires, 163 emergencies and 6,559 hot spots as of 18 August. Santa Cruz's Departmental Emergency Operations Center (COED) reports that it currently has a response budget of US\$217,282 and that it will request additional disbursements to the departmental congress if necessary.

The Roboré municipality in Santa Cruz declared the situation a disaster, with 50,000 hectares affected by wildfires and various fires yet to be addressed with response. The municipalities of El

Trigal, Pampa Grande and San Ignacio de Velasco have also declared disaster situations.

According to the Forest and Land Oversight and Control Authority (ABT), some 1,151 communities in Santa Cruz and in the department of Beni are at risk due to ongoing fires and weather conditions conducive to fires including high temperatures, low humidity and lack of rainfall. The ABT also says that 98 per cent of fires have been illegal burnings.

National authorities have created a national council for coordination action between Bolivia's armed forces, police forces, the attorney general's office and municipal authorities to carry out preventive activities.

REGIONAL: EARTHQUAKES

MEXICO

On 12 August, a 5.5 magnitude earthquake occurred southwest of Tonalá, Chiapas in southern Mexico, one of the states most affected by a series of earthquakes in 2017. The earthquake was also felt in the state of Tabasco and in the southern part of the state of Veracruz.

The quake was located 24 km southwest of Tonalá with a depth of 104 km. The Mexican National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC) activated security protocols in all three states, but no damages or injuries have been reported. Some schools, public buildings and workplaces across affected municipalities, however, were

evacuated due to the panic brought on by the earthquake. Civil Protection authorities continue assessments in 17 municipalities and will continue to monitor the situation.

PERU

On 13 August, a magnitude 5.2 earthquake occurred in the town of Aija, the capital of the province of the same name, in the central region of Ancash. According to the Geophysical Institute of Peru (IGP), the epicenter was located 40 km south of Aija and had a depth of 25 km, with tremors being felt elsewhere in the country, including Lima. The National Institute of Civil Defense (INDECI) has not reported any damages or injuries.