



OCHA

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Weekly Situation Update (19-26 August 2019)

As of 26 August 2019

KEY FIGURES

1.8K

FAMILIES AFFECTED BY FIRES IN SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA

744K

HECTARES OF LAND BURNED BY FIRES IN SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA

44K

MILITARY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED TO SIX STATES IN BRAZIL TO RESPOND TO WIDESPREAD FIRES

40K

HECTARES OF LAND BURNED BY FIRES IN PARAGUAY

SOUTH AMERICA: **WILDFIRES**

BOLIVIA

Speaking to the media in Santa Cruz on 19 August, President Evo Morales said that he ordered evacuations in the Roboré municipality, later saying the fires have been controlled by around 70 per cent. According to Bolivia's Defense Minister, as of 23 August, the fires have ravaged more than 744,000 hectares of land in 35 communities across 11 municipalities in Santa Cruz, adding that there are 1,817 families affected.

The Ministry of Defense is working with the armed forces, national police, volunteers and Santa Cruz departmental government in Roboré, totaling some 3,700 people involved in the response.

Morales said on 25 August that he instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense to begin the process of requesting international help. Bolivia says that Argentina, Chile and Peru have offered their assistance. Morales is also reporting that the Andean Development Corporation – Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) has pledged a donation of at least US\$500,000.

BRAZIL

According to Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE), there are 72,843 fires currently detected in the Amazon rainforest, an 83 per cent increase over the same reporting period in 2018 and the highest since records began in 2013.

Smoke from fires in the states of Amazonas and Rondonia reached as far as Sao Paulo, some 2,700km away. The

European Union's satellite program shows smoke spreading across Brazil towards the eastern Atlantic, covering nearly half of Brazil and crossing into Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru.

Amazonas declared an emergency for its southern areas on 9 August, while Acre issued an environmental alert on 16 August. Some 44,000 troops deployed on 24 August to Acre, Mato Grosso, Para, Rondonia, Roraima and Tocantins.

PARAGUAY

Fires throughout the northern Paraguayan department of Alto Paraguay have prompted response measures from authorities led by the National Emergency Secretariat (SEN).

Alto Paraguay lies on the border with areas in both Bolivia and Brazil that are also dealing with massive fires - the Bolivian Environment Minister announced on 22 August that the Governments of Bolivia and Paraguay will work together to fight the fires threatening both their countries.

The Paraguayan Senate approved a 60-day emergency declaration on 22 August as well, allowing accelerated disbursement of response funds to affected local governments. The fires in Paraguay have burned nearly 40,000 hectares of land, according to the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. SEN officials reported on 23 August that the fires have been completely extinguished, largely in part to rains over affected areas, and that the ongoing fires in Bolivia have not crossed into Paraguay.

Sources:

Government of Bolivia
Government of Brazil
National Institute of Space Research (Brazil)
National Emergency Secretariat (Paraguay)

WARNINGS & WATCHES

TROPICAL STORM WARNING:

- Barbados
- St Lucia
- St Vincent & the Grenadines

TROPICAL STORM WATCH:

- Dominica
- Martinique
- Grenada (and dependencies)
- Saba and St Eustatius

Sources:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

KEY FIGURES

369K

PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE 2019 RAINY SEASON IN GUATEMALA

668

PEOPLE AFFECTED BY HEAVY RAINS IN SOUTHERN MEXICO

Sources:

National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (Guatemala)
Civil Protection (Mexico)

CARIBBEAN: TROPICAL STORM DORIAN

As of 8:00am (EST) 26 August, Tropical Storm Dorian is located some 330 km east of Barbados, moving toward the west at approximately 22 km/h. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) expect this track to continue throughout the day, followed by a motion toward the west-northwest through 27 August.

Dorian's center is expected near the Windward Islands late 26 August, moving into the eastern Caribbean Sea on 27 August. Maximum sustained winds remain near 95 km/h with higher gusts. Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 75 km from the center.

Some strengthening is forecast during the next 48 hours, and Dorian could be

near hurricane strength over the eastern Caribbean Sea by 27-28 August.

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for Barbados, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines, while a Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for Dominica, Martinique, Grenada and Saba and St Eustatius.

NOAA is recommending that Puerto Rico and Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti) monitor the progress of Dorian.

Dorian is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 2 to 4 inches in Barbados, the Windward Islands and Dominica through 27 August, with possible isolated maximum amounts of 6 inches.

MEXICO & CENTRAL AMERICA: RAINFALL & STORMS

GUATEMALA

Guatemala's rainy season (May-October) has affected some 369,100 people in 2019, according to the National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (CONRED). Additionally, the rains have caused the evacuation of 2,200 people, four deaths and damage to just over 1,000 homes and 50 roads.

Recent rainfall in Guatemala triggered 21 emergencies over an eight-day period, affecting some 63,300 people. Heavy storms during the week triggered floods and landslides in parts of the country, with authorities declaring an orange alert for the Pacific coast departments of Escuintla and Suchitepéquez. CONRED is carrying out

damage evaluations via its departmental delegations and is working with municipal authorities in affected areas to provide response to affected families.

MEXICO

On 19 August 2019, the Chiapas state Civil Protection issued an emergency declaration for the Huixtla municipality after suffering heavy rains from 17 August that affected 668 people and flooded 143 homes.

On 23 August, Civil Protection declared a state of emergency for five municipalities in Sinaloa due to heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Ivo in the Pacific, as well.

KEY FIGURES

61.5K

TOTAL DENGUE CASES IN HONDURAS AT EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 33

77.9K

TOTAL DENGUE CASES IN NICARAGUA AT EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK 33

Sources:

Ministry of Health (Honduras)
Ministry of Health (Nicaragua)

CENTRAL AMERICA: **DENGUE**

HONDURAS

The Ministry of Health is reporting 61,534 cases of dengue in Honduras through epidemiological week (EW) 33 (11-17 August). There have been 106 deaths from severe dengue so far in 2019, representing approximately 40 per cent of all deaths from Honduras' last six dengue outbreaks. The Ministry of Health reports that there are another 62 deaths that they are investigating to confirm as dengue-related.

Prior to 2019, Honduras' most lethal outbreak was in 2010, with 83 deaths. The most recent outbreak in 2018 only claimed four lives.

Epidemiology experts say that the next two months will be critical, as they are historically the time of year when cases experience considerable growth.

The 109 deaths from severe dengue make the 2019 outbreak the most lethal on record in Honduras

NICARAGUA

According to information from the Ministry of Health, Nicaragua's dengue caseload at epidemiological week (EW) 33 (11-17 August) show a 181 per cent increase in suspected cases from EW 33 2018 as well as a 372 per cent increase in confirmed cases.

Compared to EW 32, there is a 15 per cent increase in suspected cases and an 18 per cent increase in confirmed cases.

Most of the cases are in the departments of Chinandega, Estelí, Granada, León, Managua and Masaya.