



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 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



HIGHLIGHTS:

- **HAITI:** More than 3 thousand people affected by cholera, 250 dead.
- **NICARAGUA:** Increase in the cases of leptospirosis. 58 per cent are in León.
- **BELIZE, HONDURAS and MEXICO:** Hurricane Richard causes damages in Belize and Honduras and Mexico is on alert.
- **PERU:** Flooding in Cusco affects 120 families.

Year 3 - Volume 180

25 October 2010

EPIDEMIC

CHOLERA IN HAITI: Approximately 250 people have died and 3,100 are ill due to cholera. The most severe cases are in Saint-Marc, Grande-Saline, Mirebalais and Arcahaie. It is estimated that 150 thousand people live in the affected zones. The Government issued a state of sanitary emergency for the country. Authorities in the Dominican Republic installed health centres as sanitation filters to avoid the spreading of the disease and to maintain control of the sale of food in the border. The authorities, together with humanitarian workers, are working to keep the disease from spreading to refugee camps in the capital, where 1.5 million people have been living since the earthquake last January.

Various international and organizations are currently distributing food, water and sanitation items, and medicine. The Regional Risk, Emergency and Disaster Working Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) is supporting agencies in the field from Panama. The World Health Organization highlighted that there has not been a reported case of cholera in Haiti for over a century.

Source: United Nations System.



Cases of cholera are concentrated in the centre of the country. Authorities are trying to keep the epidemic from spreading to refugee camps in Port of Prince. PAHO©.

LEPTOSPIROSIS IN NICARAGUA: Authorities report 16 deaths from leptospirosis. Cases have been confirmed in the departments of Chinandega, Estelí, Matagalpa, Jinotega, Managua, Carazo, Granada, Madriz and León, with a cumulative total of 413

positive cases reported. 58 per cent of the cases are in Leon. At least 265,000 people have been treated as a preventative measure.

Source: Government of Nicaragua.

FLOODING – STRONG RAINS

HURRICANE RICHARD: On Monday, the hurricane downgraded to tropical storm after making landfall in Belize. Richard is the 17th storm of this season and the tenth to reach a hurricane level in the Atlantic.

BELIZE: On Monday, 25 October, the government of Belize confirmed that Hurricane Richard caused only material damages. Hundreds of families were forced to evacuate to schools and churches due to the strong winds and rain accompanying the system. Preliminary reports indicate that neighbourhoods in low-lying zones were flooded, but there was no loss of lives or injuries reported. The hurricane directly impacted the cities of Belmopan and San Ignacio, with reports of damages to infrastructure and power systems. Power systems are expected to experience failures over the next two days. The Pan American Health Organization reports some damage to hospitals. Authorities from the National Emergency Management Office, together with United Nations staff, flew over the affected areas and more evaluations are scheduled for Monday afternoon⁽¹⁾.

HONDURAS: Richard affected the departments of Colón, Gracias a Dios, Atlántida and Islas de la Bahía. Approximately 350 people had to be evacuated to emergency shelters. The worst damages were reported in Colón, where a landslide isolated 40 communities, home to some 15 thousand people⁽²⁾.

MEXICO: The government of the State of Quintana Roo issued an orange alert for the centre and southern part of the state due to the advance of Tropical Storm Richard. However, Mexican authorities stated that they do not expect a major impact from this event⁽³⁾.

Sources: (1) NEMO (2) COPECO (3) Government of Mexico.

FLOODING IN PERU: Cusco's Regional Civil Defence Committee evaluated damages caused by the overflowing of the Tullumayo River, which caused flooding in the Province of Urubamba. Approximately 615 houses and 120 families were affected. Local authorities distributed food and non-food items, as well as tents, mattresses and blankets.

Source: National Institute of Civil Defence (INDECI).

GUATEMALA STATE OF CALAMITY: The Government of Guatemala extended the national state of calamity for one month to mitigate damages from Tropical Storm Agatha and the eruption of the Pacaya Volcano. This state has been effective as of the end of May, when both disasters occurred in the same week.

Source: Government of Guatemala