

MINOR EMERGENCY



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CHILE: EARTHQUAKE

ME no. 05ME036

Update no. 3

27 July 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

CHF 30,000 HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION.

UN earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

For information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Chile: Miguel Angel Cabrera Carrasco, National Relief Director, Chilean Red Cross; Phone (562) 7776262- 7776300-; email: cruzrojachilena@entel.net
- In Panama, Nelson Castaño, Head of Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email ifrcpa07@ifrc.org, phone (507) 316-1001, fax (507) 316-1082
- In Geneva: Olaug Bergseth, Federation Regional Officer, Americas Department, Geneva; email olaug.bergseth@ifrc.org, phone (41 22) 730-4535, fax (41 22) 733-0392

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The situation

Following the 13 June earthquake which hit the northern region of Chile (regions I, II, and III) with a magnitude of 7.9 on the Richter scale (with the greatest intensity being felt in Iquique, in the province of Tarapacá), several tremors of varied intensity have continued to affect the country. None have been as severe as the first. Assessments conducted over the following weeks indicated that the damage is more serious than initially anticipated.¹

¹ Data courtesy of Oxfam – Informe Evaluación Inicial – Terremoto Norte Chile – region Tarapacá

Affected Population in Tarapacá Province				
Town	Number of deaths	Number of people injured	Number of people affected	Number of people severely affected
Iquique	0		2,150	2,150
Alto Hospicio	6		7,000	1,850
Pozo Almonte	2	19	10,000	1,909
Pica			4,500	4,500
Camíña		3	1,275	380
Huara	3	27	2,483	946
Colchane			55	50
Total	11	182	27,463	12,060

Infrastructure Damage (Civil Protection)					
Town	Uninhabitable houses with major damage	Houses Destroyed	Electricity Supply	Gas Supply	Aqueducts
Iquique	155	144	100%	100%	99% normal
Alto Hospicio	350	15	100%	100%	100% normal
Pozo Almonte	497	492	100%	100%	Damage in the villages of Parca, Macaya and Mamiña
Pica	300	50	100%	100%	100% normal
Camíña	300	90	100%	-	Damage to the water supply system in the villages of Apimalca, Chapiquita, Cuisama, Francia, Chillayza and others
Huara	337	106	100% normal	100% normal	100% normal in Huara. Problems in the villages of Sotoca. Soga, Coscaya, Huasquiña, Pachica, Poroma, Chusmiza, Huaviña, Limaxiña, Achacagua, Sibaya y Miñe.
Colchane	11	0	100% normal		100% normal
Total	1950	897			

The earthquake, the epicentre of which was located in the Andean range, left 11 dead and 182 wounded. The most significant damage occurred in dozens of small, poor towns in the high plateau where more than 80% of adobe houses were completely destroyed. Apart from the loss of houses and goods, a significant percentage of the population has also lost their work since the areas are not safe enough to be inhabited or have been destroyed. The total destruction of rural infrastructure has made it impossible to place people in temporary shelters; those without homes have been accommodated in tents, and are suffering due to the very low night time temperatures. As a result, the most vulnerable people, including children and the elderly, are suffering from respiratory problems, in addition to the scarcity of drinking water and the prevalence of rodents and insects which risk affecting the health of the population.

Chile: Earthquake; Minor Emergency Bulletin no. 3

The Chilean Red Cross (CRC)² Tarapacá Regional Branch in the centre of Iquique suffered some minor damages in its infrastructure and some loss of equipment. Also the Pozo Almonte branch located deeper in the cordillera region has undergone damage, impacting the branch's ability to provide assistance.



Red Cross action

With the objective of reaching a maximum number of affected people more effectively, the Chilean Red Cross is liaising with the Regional Emergency Committee for the benefit of the most vulnerable. The CRC Tarapacá Regional Branch, together with the Iquique, Huara and Pozo Almonte branches, mobilized their respective volunteers to provide first aid to those affected and to support volunteer health services in the region. Families from Pozo Almonte, Huara, La Huaica, Tarapacá and Mamiña have benefited directly from Red Cross intervention.

The disbursement of DREF funds has made it possible for the CRC to carry out first aid education activities in remote communities which usually receive very little assistance. A camp was built by the volunteers to better coordinate actions, workshops and activities with the communities. The inhabitants of the communities of Pozo Almonte, Huara, La Huaica, Tarapacá and Mamiña benefited from the distribution of disinfectants and hygiene kits, as well as from workshops on how to prevent illnesses, such as acute respiratory and digestive illnesses that often affect children and the elderly, following a disaster.

Coordination

OXFAM, in coordination with the Federation, supported the CRC with a logistic's team that analysed the situation, in order to better organize concrete actions in favour of the most affected. The evaluation identified the communities of Pozo Almonte, Huara, La Huaica, Tarapacá and Mamiña as the most vulnerable populations. The next steps in the interventions to assist those affected are the building of some 150 temporary toilets and the purchase of a vehicle for the area that will help reach almost inaccessible towns in the cordillera.

² <http://www.cruzroja.cl/>

Chile: Earthquake; Minor Emergency Bulletin no. 3

Towards the fulfilment of the relief and rehabilitation operations, the CRC has also received donations from private companies such as Clorox, which donated 8 tons of chlorine to the disease prevention campaign launched in Pozo Almonte, Huara, La Huaica, Tarapacá and Mamiña, from Santa Isabel supermarket which contributed four trucks of food and Microsoft which donated USD 5,819 for the rebuilding of a rural health post.

The CRC has also worked with the media, broadcasting the importance of treating post earthquake disorders which may particularly affect children who are experiencing such a disaster for the first time in their lives. Volunteers are playing a key role carrying out psychological support and recreational activities under a methodology entitled “Learn while playing”, concepts and techniques designed to help children and adults take stock of the situation and alleviate doubts and fears about the consequences of living through a disaster of this proportion.

[click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

