**HIGHLIGHTS:**
- **GUATEMALA:** Approximately 50,600 people have been affected by rains.
- **MEXICO:** Some 200,000 affected by flooding; 130,000 in Tabasco.
- **BOLIVIA:** $70 million in losses due to the wildfires.
- **COLOMBIA:** Nevado del Huila Volcano shows signs of activity.

**FLOODS – HEAVY RAINS**

**HURRICANE SEASON:** the National Hurricane Center is issuing alerts for Tropical Storm Hermine, located in the Gulf of Mexico, as it is expected to hit land today (Monday) near the Mexico-Texas border. The Center is also monitoring the remnants of Tropical Storm Gaston, located near the Lesser Antilles, as this system has the potential to reorganize. There is no chance of tropical cyclone formation in the Eastern Pacific area in the next 48 hours.

*Source: National Hurricane Center.*

**GUATEMALA:** Due to the convergence of two low-pressure systems in the Pacific coast, heavy rains that lasted over 48 hours affected the central and south-west regions of Guatemala, causing flooding and landslides in the departments of Chimaltenango, Sololá, Totonicapán, Quetzaltenango, Escuintla, Suchitepéquez and Retalhuleu. Some 50,640 people have been affected and estimates of 44 people dead and 16 missing; 11,500 people evacuated, 9,160 of which are in emergency shelters. Roads west and south of Guatemala City have collapsed due to landslides, and collapsed bridges. The Government has declared a red alert in the departments of Escuintla, Suchitepéquez and Retalhuleu. National authorities and the United Nations System are closely monitoring and evaluating the situation.

*Source: CONRED.*

**MEXICO:** The heavy rains associated with Tropical Depression 11E worsened the already critical situation in the States of Oaxaca, Veracruz, Guerrero, Chiapas and Tabasco. The most affected states are Veracruz, where some 100,000 people in 57 municipalities have been affected, and Tabasco, where 130,000 people are affected and 60 percent of the state territory is flooded. The Governor of Tabasco explained that the situation “is more critical than in 2007”, when flooding affected one million people, almost 80 percent of the municipality of Juchitán, Oaxaca, was under water, and some 800 people were moved to emergency shelters.

*Source: Government of Mexico.*
**COSTA RICA:** Rain affecting Costa Rica has caused 106 people to move to emergency shelters located in the provinces of Guanacaste (North), Puntarenas (Western Pacific), San Jose and Cartago (Center). Floods, landslides and damages to housing and infrastructure have been the major incidents which forced people to leave their homes. 


**DROUGHT AND FOOD INSECURITY**

**HONDURAS:** According to a report by the Government’s Technical Unit for Food Safety and Nutrition, currently 72 of every 100 Hondurans suffer from food and nutrition insecurity. This figure reveals that 4.5 million of Hondurans do not have access to the basic food basket. There is a greater incidence in rural areas. 

*Source: Government of Honduras.*

**EPIDEMIC**

**HONDURAS DENGUE:** Health authorities confirmed five more deaths due to the dengue epidemic, bringing the official number of deaths up to 65. In 2010, Honduras has seen close to 56,500 cases of classic dengue and approximately 2,000 of the hemorrhagic type. According to recent reports, a decline in the incidence of dengue cases has been observed, but authorities are still monitoring the situation. 

*Source: Government of Honduras.*

**VOLCANO**

**COLOMBIA NEVADO DEL HUILA:** Colombian authorities are closely monitoring the Nevado del Huila volcano, as it is showing major changes in its activity; the region is on yellow alert. Last week, the Nevado del Huila registered 414 earthquakes, some of them containing gases and ashes. There were also reports of changes in the colour in the waters of the River Símbola (near to the volcano), possibly due to the presence of ash. Observation of incandescent generated by small lava area was confirmed. Emission of sulphur dioxide was also notable at the end of August. 

*Source: INGEOMINAS.*

**WILD FIRE**

**BOLIVIA:** The Bolivian Association for the Advancement of Science (ABAC) estimated losses in biodiversity due to the wild fires at approximately USD 70 million dollars. This amount includes expenditure in health care to the affected population, contingency costs, losses in air and land transportation and contribution to global warming. The country begins September with a total of more than 39,000 accumulated heat sources in 2010, the second highest number recorded according to the statistics of 10 years; the record being nearly 50,000 outbreaks in 2004. 

*Source: Bolivian Association for the Advancement of Science.*