



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 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



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HIGHLIGHTS:

- **COLOMBIA:** Heavy rains during the past weeks caused seven deaths and 13 injured.
- **BRAZIL:** 100,000 people affected by heavy rains and flooding in southern Brazil.
- **ECUADOR:** Heavy rains affected nearly 10,000 people in April.



Colombia: rains. Source: El Comercio

RAINS - FLOODING

COLOMBIA: Heavy rains during the past weeks have caused seven deaths and 13 injured, and affected 17,961 people. Some 3,560 houses have been damaged.

Source: Government of Colombia

BRAZIL: This week, approximately 100,000 people have been affected by heavy rains and flooding in the states of Paraná and Santa Catarina in southern Brazil. This area had already been severely hit by

flooding at the end of November 2008, when over 100 people were killed.

On 9 April, 20,000 Swiss francs (US\$18,659) were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to perform initial damage and needs assessments and provide support to the Brazilian Red Cross to respond to floods.

Source: OCHA, ANSA

GUATEMALA: Over 7,518 people and 920 houses have been affected by heavy rains and storm winds in El Progreso, Izabal, Alta Verapaz and Quiché.

Source: National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (CONRED)

PERU: The regional council of Ancash declared a state of emergency following the overflowing of lake Palcacocha, in the province of Huaraz. On 13 April, a huge glacier had broken off and plunged into the lake, causing a tsunami-like wave which resulted in six people missing.

Source: Andina



Peru: landslides. Source: El Comercio.

HONDURAS: Heavy rains and strong winds damaged 157 houses and several schools and churches in Francisco Morazán, Comayagua, Copán and El Paraíso, affecting at least 2,580 people.

Source: La Prensa

ECUADOR: In April, heavy rains affected over 2,000 families nationwide; eight people were killed, 22 injured and 863 persons evacuated. Redhum is providing support to the National Secretariat for Risk Management in the gathering of information. UNDP has requested US\$100,000 from the emergency fund to assist in the coordination and relief efforts.

Source: UN

JAMAICA: Rains have affected the Caribbean island since mid-April. Flooding and mudslides were reported in six parishes, including Kingston, which only days before was facing a drought that authorities called the worst of the century. In Portland, famed for its Blue Mountain coffee, road collapses cut off several areas from the rest of the island and left residents stranded.

Source: Alertnet

NICARAGUA: Heavy rains and tornado-like winds damaged dozens of houses in Tipitapa; over 200 people were relocated to emergency shelters.

Source: Sistema Nacional para la Prevención, Mitigación y Atención de Desastres

EARTHQUAKES

CHILE: Fifty-three days after the disastrous earthquake that hit central Chile, its effects remain very visible in Talca, capital of Maule province. Some 2,400 buildings need to be demolished and only one third of the businesses have reopened their doors. In addition, 12,374 students, out of a total of 55,600, are not attending school.

A strong magnitude-6.1 earthquake hit central Chile on 23 April. No casualties or damage were reported. The earthquake took place at 10.03 GMT, and the epicenter was 65 km south of Concepcion.

Source: USGS, El Mercurio

HAITI: IOM this week made a big step forwards in essential canal clearance operations in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. This operation will ensure the drainage of water away from displacement camps during the rainy season. According to residents, this has been the first major cleaning operation in more than 15 years.

The United Nations agency tasked with reducing rural poverty, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), announced on 26 April that it has approved a debt-relief package for disaster-stricken Haiti. The net present value of Haiti's debt to IFAD is US\$50.7 million. Under the agreement, IFAD will contribute up to 30 percent of the debt relief requirement, with Member States needing to contribute the remaining 70 percent. IFAD responded rapidly to the January earthquake with a US\$2.5 million grant for irrigation and watershed rehabilitation benefiting some 12,000 households in rural areas.

Sources: OCHA, IOM

WILDFIRES

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources revealed that during the first three months of the year, 129 fires had destroyed 34,370 hectares of forest.

Source: Listin Diario

ARMED CONFLICT

COLOMBIA: Since 15 April, 2,254 persons that were displaced two weeks earlier due to armed conflict in Ituango and Peque, returned to their places of origin, after receiving guarantees about their security. The returnees are assisted by the Government, UN and NGOs.

Source: OCHA, UN, IOM

DENGUE OUTBREAK

COLOMBIA: The Ministry of Civil Protection reported that so far this year, 57 people have been killed by dengue.

Source: Radio Caracol

HONDURAS: As of to date, 3,000 cases of dengue have been registered, of which 365 are hemorrhagic. Five people have died so far of the disease.

Source: Hondudiario

INFLUENZA A (H1N1)



Source: El Comercio, Peru.

Cuba: For the fifth consecutive week, an increase of H1N1 cases has been registered, with 93 new cases reported last week. So far, 981,130 people, or 87.4 percent of the target population, have been vaccinated against Influenza A. The vaccination campaign will last until 27 April.

Source: Agencia Cubana de Noticias

HONDURAS: Over the past week, seven new cases of H1N1 have been detected. So far in 2010, 94 cases have been registered. A vaccination campaign started on 26 April targeting 1.4 million people. The campaign will run until 7 May.

Source: , Hondudiario, El Herald

In addition, in Uruguay and Ecuador, 135,000 and over 200,000 people respectively have been vaccinated against Influenza A so far.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

MEXICO: In order to prepare for the rainy season, the Risk Management Coordinators of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Tabasco held a series of meetings with the Prevention, Mitigation and Response Committee at UNDP. The objective of these meetings was to design inter-agency response strategies for rainy season related disasters.

Source: OCHA