



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 sources. 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



Year 2 - Issue 133

November 23, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **URUGUAY:** Local authorities evacuated over 1,540 people due to floods.
- **PANAMA:** Some 4,184 people in the province of Darien were affected by overflowing rivers.
- **EL SALVADOR:** Damages caused by Hurricane Ida are estimated at US\$939 million.

FLOODS



Uruguay: Heavy rainfall has caused flooding causing the evacuation of over 1,000 people Image: European Pressphoto Agency (EPA) ©.

Periods of heavy rains have stricken Uruguay and Panama resulting in widespread flooding. In Uruguay over 1,540 people have been affected and in Panama 4,184 people.

URUGUAY: Heavy rainfall has caused widespread flooding mainly in the North and Northeast area of the country. One death has been reported and over 1,540 people have been evacuated. The

departments most affected are Artigas, Salto, Paysandu and Treinta y Tres.

Source: Government of Uruguay.

PANAMA: Some 4,184 people have been affected by the overflowing of four rivers in the province of Darien. According to the National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC) 70 percent of the agricultural production was damaged.

Source: SINAPROC

HURRICANE SEASON 2009

El Salvador and Nicaragua have been affected by severe weather caused by a low pressure system related to Hurricane Ida during the first week of November.

EL SALVADOR: At least 75,000 people were affected in 7 of the 14 departments. Nearly 7,428 people are living in 75 temporary shelters across the country. The death toll currently stands at 196, with 78 people still missing.

Damages to agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, water and sanitation and housing

have been extensive and preliminary reports estimate it around US\$939 million.

On November 18, the United Nations launched a Flash Appeal of US\$13 millions to cover the immediate needs of the affected population in the coming six months.

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) has contributed with nearly 150 tons of food, 24 tons of hygiene and cooking kits, and coats valued at 300,000 euros (approximately US\$448,843), which also includes support to the Panamerican Health Organization (PAHO) for the purchase of medicines, counseling and recovery of water wells. ⁽²⁾

Source: United Nations Country team in El Salvador, AECID ⁽²⁾.

NICARAGUA: Some 19,897 people were affected, of whom 11,064 are located in the Autonomous Region from the North Coast (RAAN) and 8,815 people in the Autonomous Region from the South Coast (RAAS).

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) approved US\$60,000 Cash Grant to assist in the mobilization of joint assessment missions, non food items and in the humanitarian assistance coordination.

Sources: United Nations Country team in Nicaragua

DROUGHT

El Niño has prolonged the period of drought affecting several countries in South America. The province of Manabi, Ecuador has decreed a 60 day state of emergency, while in Paraguay, the government is making efforts to provide potable water to the affected communities.

ECUADOR: A drought is affecting the province of Manabi. On 17 November, the government decreed

a state of emergency for this province. Some 60,000 families have been affected and nearly 100,000 cattle are at risk of dying due to lack of pasture. According to local farmers associations, losses are currently at US\$17 million.

Source: El Universo

PARAGUAY: Some 20,000 families in the Chaco region have been affected by a prolonged drought. The government is providing food and is making efforts to provide potable water to the affected communities.

Source: Ansa Latina

EPIDEMIC

PANDEMIC H1N1 (2009)

LAC: As of 15 November, at the global level, more than 206 countries and overseas territories or communities have reported laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, including over 6770 deaths.

In Central and South America, most countries continue to report declining influenza activity, with the exception of Peru and Colombia.

Source: WHO