



Peru - Cold Wave

28 July 2003

IFRC Information Bulletin No. 1

"A strong cold front has been affecting the highlands of the southern Peruvian departments of Arequipa, Puno, Moquegua, Tacna and Cuzco over the last month with temperatures reaching minus 20 degrees Celsius."



More than 40,000 cases of acute respiratory infection have been registered and more than a hundred children under five years of age have died of pneumonia. The main victims of the cold climate are children, pregnant women, of whom 25 have died over the past month, and old people. Farm animals have also been much affected and the fact that agriculture is suffering as a result of the severe weather is a cause of major concern since farming represents the only source of income for these indigenous families.

In addition to the cold front, during recent days intense winds due to a change in atmospheric pressure have worsened the situation in the region, leaving dozens of families homeless, hundreds of people affected, several schools damaged and hundreds of animals dead.

Source: IFRC Information Bulletin No. 1
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Map Produced by ReliefWeb
28 July 2003
www.reliefweb.int

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