



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 summarizes key facts and actions reported by the sources indicated. Activities carried out 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:

- **GUATEMALA and HONDURAS:** Drought, temperature increase, and agricultural activities are causing wild fires.
- **PARAGUAY:** At least 5,000 cases of dengue have been registered, and 23 persons have died.

WILD FIRES

GUATEMALA: Guatemala is under yellow alert due to an increase in forest fires, which authorities report to have reached 400 fires. Since the start of the dry season in November 2010, some 1,400 hectares of forests have been lost. The most affected department is Quiché. Other departments with active fires are Chimaltenango, Jutiapa and Chiquimula.

Source: Government of Guatemala.



Forest fires due to burning to

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HONDURAS: Some 260 head of cattle have died from drought. The department of Olancho is the most affected. Furthermore, close to 500 forest fires have affected about 17 hectares of forest, in the departments of Francisco Morazan, El Paraiso and Olancho.

Source: Permanent Contingency Commission.

EPIDEMIC

PARAGUAY: Public hospitals are operating at capacity as the dengue epidemic increases to 5,000 reported cases and 23 deaths. The number of fatalities in 2011 surpasses recent years:

year	No. cases	No. deaths
2011	5,000	23
2010	10,000	15
2007	27,000	17

Source: Government of Paraguay.

FOOD INSECURITY

LAC: In March 2011, the FAO food price index fell nearly 3 percent compared with the previous month. While this was the first fall in eight months of increases, it does not necessarily represent a reversal in the rising trend in prices.

Source: The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization