



# 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](mailto:ocha-rolac@un.org)

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### HIGHLIGHTS:

- **MEXICO:** South and southeast areas of Mexico on alert due to Tropical Storm Beatriz.
- **BOLIVIA:** At least 5,550 confirmed cases of dengue have been reported in the department of Santa Cruz.
- **ARGENTINA:** The provinces of Neuquen and Rio Negro were declared disaster areas due to the ash clouds from the Puyehue volcano.

## HURRICANE SEASON

**MEXICO:** Tropical Storm Beatriz, the season's second storm in the North Pacific basin, formed this weekend on the Coast of Mexico. The National Hurricane Center forecast it could reach hurricane strength by Tuesday 21 June. The storm is expected to produce heavy rains along the coast. Mexico has issued a preventive alert in areas of potential impact.

Source: National Hurricane Center



A preventive alert remains in effect from Chiapas to Michoacan. Image: National Hurricane Center. ©

## EPIDEMIC

**BOLIVIA:** Dengue has caused 36 deaths in Bolivia, 21 of these occurred in the Department of Santa Cruz. Confirmed cases of dengue in this department have reached 5,550. According to PAHO, 24,651 cases have been reported throughout the country. Local health authorities report that this outbreak could be worse than that of 2009, which had 84,047 confirmed cases, 25 deaths and 198 cases of hemorrhagic dengue.

Source: Government of Bolivia

## VOLCANIC ACTIVITY

**ARGENTINA:** The provinces of Neuquen and Rio Negro, bordering Chile, were affected by ash from the volcano Puyehue and declared a disaster area and economic emergency. Other parts of Patagonia have been declared under emergency, where agriculture has been hard-hit by the volcanic ash. Chilean authorities report that the activity from the Puyehue volcano, which erupted two weeks ago, has diminished considerably. <sup>(1)</sup> In Argentina, the economic impact is estimated at 15 million pesos (U.S. \$

3,667,481.53) in losses due to canceled flights and closed airports. <sup>(2)</sup>

Source: (1) BBC, (2) Government of Argentina

## **DROUGHT/FOOD INSECURITY**

**HONDURAS:** Children are the most affected by food insecurity in 38 municipalities located within the dry corridor (Valle, Choluteca, La Paz, Lempira and Intibucá), according to a study by the Technical Unit for Food Security and Nutrition. The study identified several infants in states extreme malnutrition, who were immediately admitted into hospitals. The study encompassed 70 communities in five departments of the dry corridor.

Source: Government of Honduras



The areas in the dry corridor are the most affected. These zones cannot sustain agricultural production. Image: FAO ©

**ARGENTINA - BOLIVIA:** More than 100 communities in the region of Gran Chaco Americano (mainly Bolivia and Argentina) have been affected by the reduced water flow in the Pilcomayo River shared by Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. Currently, water only flows into the Paraguayan part of the region due to work carried out in 6 km in this country. The ecological impact is already being felt in

livelihoods related to fishing and subsistence and commercial agriculture. If this situation continues, it will further impact food security in the area. Water, sanitation and hygiene sectors have also been impacted.

Source: La Razón

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**LAC:** June 20 commemorates the World Refugee Day. It is estimated that the number of displaced people world-wide is 43.7 million, of which 15.4 million are refugees and 27.5 million are internally displaced within their countries due to armed conflicts and natural disasters. This is the highest number in the last 15 years. Latin American countries that receive the highest number of refugees are: Ecuador, which hosts some 54,500 refugees and Venezuela, with some 200,000 displaced people, mostly from Colombia. Other countries in the region that accept refugees are: Argentina (3,233), Bolivia (689), Brazil (4,239), Colombia (151), Costa Rica (12,200), Guatemala (120), Mexico (1,226), Paraguay (89), Panama (1,210), Peru (1,120) and Uruguay (181).

Source: UNHCR