



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:

- **NICARAGUA:** 1,000 people evacuated as a preventative measure due to damages to a dam.
- **PERU:** 100 families in the Amazonia affected by floods.
- **CENTRAL AMERICA:** ECLAC calculates post TD-12E reconstruction in the LAC region at US\$ 4.2 billion
- **ECUADOR:** 11 deaths due to rabies. PAHO issued an epidemiological alert.

FLOODING – RAINS

NICARAGUA: Approximately 1,000 people were evacuated due to the overflowing of the hydroelectric dam, Siempre Viva, in the municipality of Bonanza – Autonomous North Atlantic Region. A retaining wall was partially damaged by recent rains. Although authorities declared a red alert, the situation is now under control as water levels drop. The structure does not represent a risk to inhabitants.

Source: Government of Nicaragua.



Approximately 1,000 people were evacuated as a preventative measure due to damages in the hydroelectric dam Siempre Viva. The situation is under control. ©AP.

PERU: Approximately 100 families in the municipalities of Guadalupe, San Isidro, San Juan and Ramón Castilla in the province of Luya (Department of Amazonia) were affected by a rise in the Jucusbamba River. Local authorities helped in the clean-up and coordinated damage assessments. Around 20 hectares of crops were damaged.

Source: National Civil Defense Institute.

HEALTH

ECUADOR: Between 3 November and 7 December, 11 people died from rabies. Ecuador's Ministry of Health alerted indigenous communities in Huasaga, province of Morona Santiago (southern Ecuador), of the outbreak of human rabies from wild animals. In 2011, Ecuador and Peru registered cases of human rabies transmitted by bats. Other countries to report the presence of rabies infected bats are Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Cuba, Costa Rica and Honduras. The Pan-American Health Organization issued its first Epidemiological Alert for such rabies on 30 August, 2010.

Source: Pan-American Health Organization.

VOLCANIC ACTIVITY

GUATEMALA: The Fuego Volcano is emitting ash columns of 200 to 800 meters above its crater and lava avalanches are approaching nearby populations. The Santiaguito Volcano is undergoing a degasification process, producing vapor columns reaching 250 meters above its cone, although it is not producing lava avalanches.

Source: National Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology.

COLD WAVE

GUATEMALA: Health services have reported 1.6 million cases of pneumonia and bronchopneumonia during 2011. The most affected departments are San Marcos, Quiché, Sololá, Huehuetenango and Chiquimula. During the last week, 1,070 people have been attended to in 22 shelters set-up for the cold season.

Source: Government of Guatemala.

LA NIÑA

BOLIVIA: Approximately 38,400 families were affected in 2011 by natural disasters attributed to the La Niña phenomenon. Mudslides, hail, cold weather, flooding, overflowing of rivers, drought, electrical storms and contamination affected all of the country's departments. The departments of La Paz y Cochabamba were the most affected. Of all of the families affected, at least half were due to flooding.

Source: Gobierno de Bolivia.

EARLY RECOVERY

CENTRAL AMERICA: The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) calculates that Central America will require close to US\$4.2 billion for reconstruction from damages caused by Tropical Depression 12E. This disaster motivated the creation of the Consultative Group, where 48 delegations from countries and international organizations gathered to analyze damages and discuss issues of reconstruction, as well as re-orientate policies in the region in efforts to address consequences of climate change.

Source: Central American Integration System