



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:

- **BRAZIL:** The Government allocated US\$40 million to assist people affected by the floods.
- **COLOMBIA:** Over 1.2 million people affected, three departments in the Pacific remain under alert for rains.
- **HAITI:** More than 520,000 still living in camps. \$232 million is needed for humanitarian assistance.

RAINS - FLOODS

BRAZIL: The southeastern region, especially the states of Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro and Espiritu Santo, has been the hardest hit by the rainy season that began last October. So far, 27 people have died. The government allocated approximately \$40 million for relief efforts in the three states affected and has formed a working group of national geologists and hydrologists to coordinate natural disaster prevention and reconstruction efforts. It is estimated that over 2 million people have been affected by the current rains.

Source: Government of Brazil.



The Government of Brazil allocated US\$40 million to assist more than 2 million people affected by the floods. © AFP.

COLOMBIA: The emergencies caused by the second rainy season (1 September 2011 to 13

January 2012) have left 187 dead and affected 1.2 million people. Events associated with the rains have destroyed 1,450 houses and damaged 149,270 others. The rains from this season have affected 28 out of Colombia's 32 departments. Although the intensity of the rains has diminished over the last weeks; the probability of rain remains high for the departments of Nariño, Choco and Valle del Cauca, located in the Pacific Coast.

Source: Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies / National Unit for Disaster Risk Management.

PERU: To date, 11 people have died as a result of the rains that have falling throughout the country since November 2011. The rains have affected 20,157 people and damaged 3,894 houses. At least 210 kilometers of road are damaged and 5 others have been totally destroyed. Authorities have supplied 40 tons of humanitarian aid, including coats, temporary shelter, food, equipment and tools to meet the basic needs of the affected population.

Source: National Institute of Civil Defense.

COLD WAVE

MEXICO: During the 2011-2012 cold season, which began in October 2011, there have been 32 deaths due to extreme cold or carbon monoxide poisoning. The states most affected by the low temperatures are Chihuahua, Durango, Sonora, Baja California and Hidalgo. Throughout 2011 and January 2012, there were 25.7 million medical visits for acute respiratory diseases and over 140,000 cases of pneumonia and bronchopneumonia. In 2012 there have been 181 cases and 5 deaths by influenza

Source: Ministry of Health. Government of Mexico.



At least 32 people have died due to the unusual cold wave that is affecting the northern states of Mexico. © EFE.

VOLCANIC ACTIVITY

COSTA RICA: Authorities have increased surveillance and security measures in the Turrialba Volcano National Park. The volcano increased its activity over the weekend.

Source: National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response.

GUATEMALA: The Fuego Volcano has had weak to moderate explosions with ash columns of 400 to 600 meters, which dispersed over 12 kilometers.

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

ECUADOR: The Tungurahua volcano is showing signs of reactivation. Last week it presented a loud explosion and ash column, which dispersed to the west.

Source: National Geophysical Institute

EARTHQUAKE

HAITI: Two years after the devastating 2010 earthquake, the situation in Haiti remains precarious. Over 520,000 people are still living in displacement camps. While this represents a drop of more than one million people, it does not necessarily mean they have found a sustainable shelter, but rather it is due to deteriorating living conditions in the camps. Also, the cholera epidemic that has killed more than 7,000 people remains a health threat. Funding is urgently needed. Donors must maintain their efforts, as the rainy season can increase the risk of cholera. Humanitarian operations in Haiti in 2012 require at least \$232 million, primarily for health, housing, water and sanitation.

Source: United Nations.