



# 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:

- **PERU:** Authorities extend the state of emergency for 60 days in the departments of Piura and La Libertad.
- **BRAZIL:** More than 70,000 families affected in the state of Amazon by heavy rains.
- **BRAZIL:** Government allocates US\$1.4 million to aid people affected by drought.

## HEAVY RAINS -FLOODS

**PERU:** Between January and 11 May 2012 intense rains have caused mudslides and overflowing of rivers, resulting in a death toll of 49 and affecting some 783,930 people, of which, more than 269,270 are homeless.<sup>1</sup>



According to the emergency decree, heavy rains have affected more than 1,290 schools and 19 health centres and destroyed more than 21,490 hectares of crops. Image: ©Peru.com

On 10 May, authorities extended the state of emergency for 60 days for the departments of Piura (provinces of Piura, Morropón and Paita) and La Libertad (province of Trujillo) for the attention and recovery of areas affected by the rains and to minimize risk of marine erosion.<sup>2</sup>

The Government allocated more than 3 million soles (approximately US\$1.2 million to the Loreto region for disease prevention programs. These funds are to help prevent respiratory illnesses as well as malaria, dengue, yellow fever and hepatitis, among others.<sup>3</sup>

The Amazonas and Marañón Rivers in Loreto remains on red alert due to their water level diminished. According to COEN-INDECI there are 252,185 people affected, of which 185,920 are homeless in Loreto.<sup>4</sup>

Source: 1) INDECI, 2) Peruvian Legal Information System, 3) Regional Government of the Department of Loreto, 4) OCHA

**BRAZIL:** Floods in the state of Amazon have affected more than 70,000 families. Heavy rains have caused the Negro and Solimoes Rivers, two of the main tributaries to the Amazon River to rise. The Government announced the mobilization of 500 soldiers, a field hospital and three ships to assist in rescue activities.<sup>1</sup>

The federal government will allocate R\$ 350 million (approximately US\$ 175.2 million) to aid

people affected by the floods in the Northern region.<sup>2</sup>

Source: 1) BBC, 2) Brazil Civil Defence.

**COLOMBIA**: In this first rainy season, which began on 15 March, 48 has died and more than 119,320 people have been affected (about 24,723 families)<sup>1</sup>. More than 480 houses have been destroyed and about 18,700 have been damaged. The Government allocated \$232 million Colombian pesos (approximately US\$131,000) for rent subsidies. The Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental studies predict rains to continue until June and caution that some areas of the country may encounter drought conditions due to an incoming Niño phenomenon.

In the last week, rains have caused emergencies in the northern part of the country, in the departments of Sucre and Córdoba. Government of Córdoba has asked humanitarian organizations and the national Government to aid with the distribution of humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

Source: 1) The National Disaster Risk Management Unit (UNGDR), 2) OCHA.

**GUATEMALA**: A low pressure system formed in the Pacific Ocean is being monitored. This system has a high chance, 80 percent of becoming a tropical depression during the next 48 hours. CONRED se declara en Alerta Amarilla Institucional debido al incremento de incendios forestales en el departamento de Petén en donde en los primeros 11 días de mayo se combatieron 36 siniestros.

Fuente: 1) CONRED

**PARAGUAY**: According to the UNETT situation report of 4 May, floods in the Paraguayan Chaco have affected about 15,589 families. On 4 May, the President of Paraguay, Council of Ministers, the Minister of the National Emergency Secretariat and the sectorial groups held a meeting in Villa Choferes zone (Paraguayan Chaco) to propose solutions, cost of recovery and reconstruction of damages caused by the floods

Source: 1) UNETT

## **DROUGHT**

**BRAZIL**: The federal government allocated R\$ 2.7 billion (approximately US\$ 1.35 billion) to assist drought victims in the North-East. The lack of rain in the region has placed 450 municipalities in emergency and affected almost 4 million people. These funds will be used for water distribution and support for farmers. The Government has also created the Integrated Committee in the Fight against Drought.

Source: Brazil Civil Defence.

## **WILDFIRE**

**GUATEMALA**: CONRED declared an Institutional Yellow Alert due to the increase of forest fires in the department of Peten, where in the first 11 days of May, have been reported 36 events.

Source: CONRED.

## **EPIDEMIC**

**ECUADOR-Dengue**: Some 6,967 people have been affected by dengue, 11 have died. In 2011, in this same period, 1,936 cases of dengue were reported and 1 death.

Source: 1) Government of Ecuador

