



SITUATION REPORT

Peru Flooding and Mudslides

March 30, 2017 | No. 2

BY THE NUMBERS

797,789

people directly affected

91

people dead

180,475

houses flooded

Source: Instituto Nacional de Defensa Civil –
Rainy Season Executive Summary (March 27,
2017)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

At the end of January, a local strong El Niño weather pattern formed off the coast of Peru due to an abrupt increase in the surface temperature of the ocean and is expected to continue until at least April. The pattern's torrential rains have generated devastating floods and mudslides in 24 out of the 25 regions in the country. States of Emergency have been declared in 12 regions due to the flooding risk, while seven regions have declared a State of Emergency due to sanitation risks. The rains are not expected to abate until May at the earliest.

The relentless water and mud, carrying dangerous debris, have destroyed roads, bridges, businesses and homes as well as crucial farmland. The drainage systems in Chiclayo and Piura have collapsed due to the intensity of the rain. Sanitation is also a huge concern in these flood-affected areas as are vector-borne illnesses, including Zika. Access to potable water, even in Lima, has become scarce. In Trujillo, where Lutheran World Relief is responding, many have lost everything. Much of the city is closed, and its water supply has been shut down, affecting the city's fresh water supply as well as its irrigation to thousands of hectares of farmland.¹ Destruction to a major bridge across the Viru River has cut Trujillo off from its neighbor city, Chimbote, and from Lima, making it difficult to bring water and other essential resources into town and driving up scarcity.²

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE EFFORTS

United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) has deployed a team to the field. The National Humanitarian Network, with the support of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is coordinating relief efforts. OCHA has begun a rapid needs assessments in Lambayeque and Piura. The Government of Peru is pledging \$750 million for emergency relief efforts and \$1.6 billion for economic recovery. The government has set up pumps to hopefully displace some of the water that is overwhelming the spillways. Humanitarian organizations are responding with distributions of water, clothing, food, and other non-food items such as hygiene and school kits.

While the Government of Peru's response to this emergency is significant, recovery efforts are primarily focused on larger infrastructure recovery in the urban and peri-urban areas (such as the reconstruction of roads and bridges) and on food distributions. LWR and our local partner, CEPEDAS Norte, will reach poor, rural areas that are not prioritized for government relief and recovery services. The government has welcomed NGO participation in the disaster response to address unmet needs.



Home destroyed by the flooding and mudslides.
Photo credit: CEPEDAS

¹ Max Sundqvist. "Trujillo, A City Under Siege." Andean Air Mail & Peruvian Times. Accessed March 29, 2017. <http://www.peruviantimes.com/27/trujillo-a-city-under-siege/29221/>
²Ibid.

LWR – ACTIONS TAKEN AND NEXT STEPS

LWR, in coordination with the ACT Alliance and CEDEPAS Norte, is providing humanitarian assistance in three districts and seven communities in the province of Trujillo, in the region of La Libertad, and in the north of Peru (Quirihuac, Plazapampa, Santa Victoria and San Pachuzco in Laredo, Guayabito and Dos de Mayo in Poroto and Simbal in the district of the same name).

LWR is distributing tents, inflatable mattresses, mosquito nets, hygiene and sanitation kits (including soap, toothpaste, brushes, water drums, first aid kits, masks, boots, raincoats, gloves, alcohol gel), water purification tablets, and debris cleaning tools. We are also coordinating a shipment of school kits and quilts from LWR's Mission Quilt and Project Promise programs.

Community members will be trained in health and hygiene practices and instructed how to use motorized pumps to drain water. LWR's local partner will also provide support for psychosocial counseling to help families coping with devastating loss.

We are currently reaching 465 people, who were identified as the most affected, giving priority to households headed by women, households with large families, and people with disabilities. As we continue to coordinate with the ACT Alliance, we expect to be able to reach another 3,000 people.

With the support of additional resources, LWR would scale up this support over the coming year to incorporate a livelihoods recovery phase, which would include distribution of seeds and tools and rehabilitation of irrigation canals. We would also explore training in climate-smart agricultural techniques and preparedness interventions for climate-related shocks.

LWR IN THE COUNTRY

With nearly 75 years of demonstrated expertise helping to transform some of the hardest-to-reach places in the developing world, LWR is an innovative, trusted international nongovernmental organization committed to those otherwise cut off from basic human services and opportunities.

LWR helps communities living in extreme poverty adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being and we respond to emergencies with a long-term view. When a disaster hits – whether it's a drought, tsunami or civil war – we work alongside communities over months and years to help them recover and adjust to new realities, ensuring that they are prepared to withstand the next unexpected challenge. Regardless of whether these challenges are chronic or acute LWR invests in communities to enable those living in extreme poverty to build the resilience they need to thrive.

LWR has been working in Peru for more than three decades, with a concentration in Apurimac, Huancavelica and Cajamarca Departments. The Peru portfolio has included funding from USAID, foundation, corporate, and multilateral donors.

For additional information about LWR's response to this situation and other emergencies around the world, please visit lwr.org. You can also join the conversation about how LWR is responding to emergencies with a long-term view at facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief or twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief.



The information in this document may be copied, distributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes. Lutheran World Relief should always be cited as the author.