



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:** 135 cases of dengue have been reported in the last week. The total number of affected to date in 2013 is 7,430.
- **MEXICO:** Cases of cholera increased to 180 – an increase of 4 from the previous report.
- **ECUADOR:** Some 2,175 have been affected by contaminated water due to an oil spill near the Colombian border.

EPIDEMICS

NICARAGUA - DENGUE: The Ministry of Health reports 7,420 cases registered in the country - an increase of 135 since last week. The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) recognized Nicaragua's efforts to combat the disease and breeding grounds. Currently 2.2 people are affected by dengue in Latin America, and more than 1,000 have died. PAHO reports that such numbers have not been seen in the last 10 years.

Source: Pan-American Health Organization.

MEXICO - CHOLERA: The Ministry of Health confirmed four new cases of cholera. Since its outbreak in September 2013, a total of 180 cases have been confirmed, including 1 fatality. Higo is the most affected state. Health authorities continue to monitoring the situation at the national level and guarantee the availability and quality of medical attention.

Source: Pan-American Health Organization.

CHEMICAL

CONTAMINATION

ECUADOR: Some 435 families (2,175 people) from 20 communities in Lago Agrio, Sucumbíos province (border with Colombia) on the shores of the San Miguel River have been affected by water contamination caused by an oil spill. The spill originated in Colombia on 7 November. The Secretariat of Risk Management distributed 150 tanks with 200 litre capacity each for rainwater collection to ensure that affected people can cover the basic needs.

Source: National Water Secretariat vía El Universo.



In the Balastrera community, bordering Colombia and Sucumbíos, an oil spill affects Ecuadorian populations. ©EL COMERCIO.

FLOODS

URUGUAY: Some 1,351 people were evacuated due to last week's heavy rains and floods. The most affected department is Artigas (in the north). The floods were primarily caused by a rise in water level of the Cuareim River. Authorities coordinated the safe return of people to their homes and distributed cleaning supplies to ensure an adequate clean up and disinfection.

Source: Government of Uruguay via El País.

GUATEMALA: The 2013 rainy season has affected 630,000 people and left 16 dead. According to statistics from the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED by its acronym in Spanish), civil protection authorities have responded to more than 400 incidents this year, including floods, landslides and sink-holes. The rainy season began in May but worsened in September and October, when it affected the majority of the victims. Guatemala is currently preparing for the cold season that began last week. The National Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH by its acronym in Spanish) predicts between 10 and 12 fronts for the 2013-2014 season. CONRED announced that several shelters have been prepared throughout the country for people with limited resources.

Source: National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction via Prensa Libre.