



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

Year 6 - Volume 338

December 30, 2013

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **EL SALVADOR:** The Chaparrastique volcano erupts, some 1,400 people have been evacuated.
- **BRASIL:** More than 70,000 have been evacuated due to flooding in the states of Espirito Santo and Minas Gerais.
- **SANTA LUCIA, SAN VICENTE & GRANADINAS Y DOMINICA:** Affected by rains, at least 11 people have died.

RAINS & FLOODS



Floods in Southern East Region of Brazil As of 28/12/2013

Source of information: Civil Defense from affected states via portal G1



BRAZIL: Rains have left some 70,000 people evacuated and communities isolated. The most affected states are Espirito Santo and Minas Gerais. Map: OCHA ROLAC.

BRASIL: Some 45 people have died due to floods affecting primarily the states of Espirito Santo and Minas Gerais, according to statistics from the states civil defenses. In both states, the total number of people that had to abandon their homes exceeds 70,000.

In Espirito Santo, the most impacted state, close to 70 percent of cities were affected, close to 60,000 people had to be evacuated and in more than 50 of the 78 state municipalities a state of emergency was declared. Due to the collapse of hundreds of kilometers of roads, some areas in the west of the state have limited access. Planes and helicopters from the armed forces assisted in transport operations, distribution of aid and rescue of persons. Last week President Dilma Rousseff flew over the affected zones and after observing the damages affirmed that the priority is to help those in isolated areas; therefore, medication, water purification materials and food stuffs to those two states will continue. National authorities have allotted US\$3 million worth of funds to support reconstruction efforts in the state of Espirito Santo. The state's population has also mobilized itself and collected close to 10 tons of humanitarian aid (mostly dry food

stuff and clothing) that is being distributed thanks to the help of volunteers.

Source: Government of Brazil.

LESSER ANTILLES: A low pressure system caused heavy rains in Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica. Rains persisted between 12 and 24 hours. In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 8 people lost their lives, 5 were reported missing and 62 were housed in emergency shelters. Rains caused damages to infrastructures such as roads, airports and hospitals. In Dominica damages to infrastructure were reported and authorities estimated that some EC\$275,000 will be necessary for the removal and cleaning up of landslides. In Saint Lucia some 6 people died, structural damages were reported and outages in water and electricity services occurred. Immediate needs include materials for water purification, hygiene articles and shelter (blankets, mattresses and clothing).

Source: Caribbean Disaster Management Agency (CDMA).

VOLCANIC ERRUPTION

EL SALVADOR: Civil protection authorities declared an alert due to the eruption of the Chaparrastique volcano, located in the department of San Miguel (Eastern part of the country). Volcanic activity has caused a column of gas and ash that has risen some 5 kilometers over the crater. Authorities have

ordered the evacuation of all communities within a 3 kilometer radius of the crater. The Minister of Government informed yesterday afternoon on his official Twitter account that the shelters in San Miguel had reached 1,400 people. The last registered eruption of the Chaparrastique volcano, that also resulted in expulsion of ash, occurred December 2001.

Source: Government of El Salvador.



El Salvador: The Chaparrastique volcano forced the evacuation of some 1,400 persons according to official data. The volcano erupted Sunday, December 29th. ©La Tercera.