



# Paraguay Floods Humanitarian Situation Report No.1



## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

## Highlights

- Heavy rains over the past few days in Paraguay have caused floods affecting a large part of the country's population, mainly in Ñeembucú, Presidente Hayes, Alto Paraguay, Concepción, Capital (Asunción), Misiones, San Pedro and Central departments. According to the latest official reports, over 42,000 families are in need of assistance in the most affected locations.
- Significant rainfall has accumulated in the middle basin of the Paraguay River over the past month, the values accumulated in the middle basin have exceeded what is considered normal for the month. In addition, electrical storms have aggravated the consequences of the floods. In the southern area of the country, the situation has been worsened by the shifting of the protective walls in the city of Pilar (Ñeembucú department), which resulted in the evacuation of part of the population.
- Departmental-level Emergency declarations have been issued in two departments and in the Capital, however, a National Emergency has not been formally declared. Nevertheless, the National Emergency Secretariat is responding and supporting the local authorities responding to the emergency (Emergency Operation Centres-COEs).

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The floods have affected predominantly nine departments of Paraguay: Presidente Hayes, Central, San Pedro, Concepción, Cordillera, Capital, Ñeembucú, Boquerón and Alto Paraguay. According to reports by the National Bureau of Health Surveillance as of 11 May, 42,100 families have been affected by the floods. Nevertheless, the number of people affected may increase as additional information is being collected in the field. During a press conference held by the Emergencies Minister on 13 May, authorities reported that 62,000 families have been affected,<sup>1</sup> however, official and detailed information of the situation and needs at department-level is not yet available. Water levels have slightly decreased in the past hours and some families are starting to return to their homes, nevertheless many houses are covered by mud and sanitation conditions - as well as associated health concerns - are of great concern due to risk of disease outbreaks. Furthermore, rains are expected to increase in the coming days (see Map 2).

## 13 May 2019

**42,100**

Estimated No. of families in need of assistance

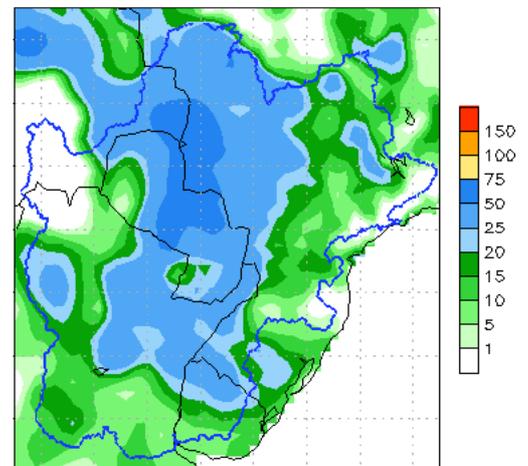
(Source: National Bureau of Health Surveillance, as of 11 May)

Data regarding number of people and children in need is still being consolidated.

Map 1. Departments affected by floods in Paraguay



Map 2. Foreseen rainfall (mm). Source: Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology



*This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any borders.*

<sup>1</sup> ABC Color, *Gobierno: ayuda llegó al 77% de los damnificados*, <<http://www.abc.com.py/nacionales/crecidas-asistidos-un-77-1813706.html>>, accessed on 13 May 2019.

According to preliminary reports collected by UNICEF, the following is a summary of the situation in the affected areas.

Department	Situation
Presidente Hayes (all districts included)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to preliminary reports, 9,192 families affected by road closures.</li> <li>201 families have been evacuated from their homes and have been relocated in 7 shelters. The population at risk (under 5 years old, pregnant women, and over 60 years old) represents 25% of the total population evacuated.</li> </ul>
Concepción (Concepción District)	According to preliminary reports, 190 families are affected, out of which 110 have been evacuated.
Alto Paraguay (all districts included)	It is estimated that 1,132 families are currently affected. The population at risk (under 5 years old, pregnant women and over 60 years old) represents 24% of the total population affected.
Capital Asunción (Bañado Sur, Bañado Norte, Chacarita, Sajonia districts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>36,550 people (11,422 families) are affected (according to the Municipality of Asuncion Bulletin).</li> <li>It is estimated that 1,525 children under five are affected and have been relocated. (Health Bulletin)</li> </ul>
Central (Mariano Roque Alonso - MRA, Limpio, Villeta, Ypane, San Antonio districts)	According to preliminary reports, 285 families have been affected, out of which 249 families have been evacuated and relocated (Health Bulletin).
Misiones (Villa Florida District)	It is estimated that 180 families are affected, they have been evacuated and relocated in the Municipality and the Nautical Club. (Health Bulletin)
San Pedro (Puerto Antequera, San Pedro, Nueva Germania, San Pablo y Chore)	917 families are affected, out of which 120 families have been evacuated and relocated. (Health Bulletin)
Ñeembucú (Alberdi, Villa Oliva, Villa Franca, Pilar)	It is estimated that 18,729 families are affected, they have been evacuated and relocated in 22 shelters and neighbouring homes. (Health Bulletin)

## Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

As of 13 May, Ñeembucú and Presidente Hayes departments have issued a Departmental-level Emergency. The Municipality of Asunción has also declared State of Emergency. The National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) is the national authority coordinating the Government response at national level, while COEs are managing the response at the local level.

## Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF maintains permanent communication with the SEN and is identifying opportunities to contribute to the emergency response in a coordinated manner.

Ministries and local organizations have requested UNICEF support, these requests are being assessed according to budget availability and complementarity with Government and other Agencies' response.

UNICEF has organized missions to the affected departments, deploying specialized staff (Emergency Focal Point, Communication and Health Officer) to provide support and carry out assessments.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health

The Regional Epidemiology Units report that the most frequent pathologies associated with the floods include: Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) and influenza-like illnesses, especially in children under 5; diarrhoea and dehydration, mostly due to food contamination; vector-borne diseases (dengue, zika and chikungunya), arterial hypertension and skin lesions.

A total of 16 flood-related deaths have been reported since April in the following departments: Presidente Hayes (6), Concepción (1), Asunción (5), Alto Paraguay (1), Ñeembucú (3). Among the causes of these deaths are, drowning, pneumonia, diarrhoea with dehydration, and 25% of these deaths are among children under 18.

UNICEF is in contact with Health authorities at national and local level to gather additional information and a Health Officer has been deployed to the field to conduct assessments on the most urgent needs, including on medical and WASH

supply delivery. In addition, UNICEF Health Officer is supporting the SEN to ensure that upcoming official reports include disaggregated data (including age, sex, disabilities, pregnant women, etc.).

## Education

The Ministry of Education is reporting that 73 educational institutions are currently affected by the floods in Presidente Hayes, Central, San Pedro, Concepción, Cordillera, Capital, Ñeembucú, Boquerón and Alto Paraguay departments; affecting a total of 21,621 students. A Red Alert has been issued for the education sector.

The Ministry of Education, through the General Direction of Student Wellbeing, has assisted the affected schools providing mobile classrooms, 5 boats, 30 lifejackets, transportation and relocation of furniture. Currently, 117 mobile classrooms have been installed across the country, which will benefit 10,670 students.

At national level, there are 337 institutions under alert for floods, affecting a total of 21,621 students in 10 departments. The Government Education in Emergency Team (under the Ministry of Education) has been activated to review the needs in the sector, aiming at achieving normalization in the operation of schools that have been damaged. Before the emergency, UNICEF received a request for support including the provision of latrines for temporary educational centers. UNICEF is refocusing its current resources in order to increase capacity in the Education sector, with needs assessment as the main priority currently.

## Child Protection

Information regarding the main needs is still unclear. UNICEF is in continuous contact with the Ministry of Childhood (Ministerio de Niñez) and the SEN to gather detailed information on the situation of affected children and most urgent needs.

Next SitRep: 14/05/019

### Who to contact for further information:

**Rigoberto Astorga**  
Paraguay CO,  
Officer in Charge  
Tel: +595972640840  
Email: rastorga@unicef.org

**Ana Margarita Ramos**  
Paraguay CO  
Emergency Focal Point  
Tel: +595972988959  
Email: amramos@unicef.org

**Cecilia Sirtori**  
Paraguay CO  
Communication Officer  
Tel: +59597289453  
Email: csirtori@unicef.org