

This report is based on information received from official sources in Chile and was issued by the OCHA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, covering the period 4 to 5 March. The next report will be issued on or around 8 March.

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The Government reviewed the death toll and lowered numbers to 528.
- Strong aftershocks continue, but no further damages were reported.
- Access to food, drinking water and electricity remain priority needs.
- A 3-day inter-agency assessment mission to the affected areas is planned to start on 6 March.

I. Situation Overview



Reliefweb map showing the six areas declared as zones of catastrophes: Valparaiso, Metropolitana, Libertador, Maule, BioBio and Araucania.

- The official death toll has been lowered to 528 persons. This is a result of having previously included the number of displaced into the death toll figure, especially in the Maule Region where death numbers were lowered from 587 to 316. An estimated 2 million people are affected by the impact of the earthquake and tsunamis. The estimated figures of houses destroyed by the earthquake and tsunamis vary between 500,000 and 1.5 million. Access to food, drinking water and electricity remain priority needs.
- Aftershocks continue to be registered. The latest was a 6.6 magnitude earthquake on 5 March morning, 41 km northwest of Concepción. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. Since the 27 February earthquake, over 150 aftershocks have been reported in Chile.
- A joint assessment mission of the Minister of Health and the PAHO/WHO representative, together with members of the United Nations Emergency Technical Team is being planned for three days, starting on 6 March. Preliminary assessments/surveys suggest that the impact on coastal areas is greater than expected and may surpass that in earthquake-affected areas.
- Santiago airport has resumed 24 hour operations on 5 March for international and domestic flights, but is still not at full capacity.
- In the regions of Maule and Bío Bío, the security situation has returned to normalcy after the deployment of military forces and reinforced police presence, but curfews remain in the provinces of Talca, Cauquenes, Curicó, Concepción, Ñuble, Arauco, Bío Bío.
- The Secretary General Ban Ki Moon announced that he will visit Concepción on 6 March and pledged to release up to US\$10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund to enable UN agencies to support the Chilean government's efforts to cover urgent needs, particularly in health, emergency shelter and education as well as water and sanitation.
- The Ministry of Interior stated on 5 March that after conducting their own needs assessment they are ready to request international assistance especially in the areas of energy and reconstruction.

II. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Health:

Response

- In the six earthquake/tsunami affected regions, there are 130 medical units: 11 are non-operational, 15 are partially operational and the rest 104 are fully operational. There is an estimated 4,000 bed capacity that has been lost. Field hospitals are covering some of this lost capacity but there is still need in this area. The Ministry of Health expects an increase in the demand for health services and has requested modular hospital units in the medium term.
- Chilean authorities installed four hospitals in Cuanilahue and Talca Chillan; and two in Curico, one of which was offered by Argentina on 3 March. Brazil has committed to send hospitals; Peru is also sending one field hospital with surgical capacity and in-patient hospital care. Cuba provided a 26-person medical team and field hospital. EU/MIC offered a medical post with surgery. Spain as well as Canada offered medical and assessment teams.
- The Chilean Government requested some 80,000 doses of vaccines for Hepatitis A.
- The Ministry of Health is preparing a public sanitary and health promotion campaign, which will be supported by the Chilean Red Cross.

Food:

Response

- The Ministry of Education is providing three food rations per day to the population in the affected areas. As of 2 March, 65,000 food rations were distributed (out of a total of 5,000,000 food rations available) in several distribution points in the region of O'Higgins, El Maule, and Bío Bío. In the regions of Valparaíso and La Araucanía, 201,325 food rations were distributed as of 3 March. The Chile Armed Forces sent a ship with 1,200 tons of supplies from ONEMI to Valparaíso port. Some 24 tons of non-perishable food items have arrived in Talcahuano to be distributed in the affected areas.
- World Food Programme (WFP) has deployed one staff to coordinate incoming WFP food shipments from Ecuador (30MT) which will be distributed through a government agency.

Shelter:

- A request for basic emergency prefabricated shelter was made.
- Forty-five collective centres have been opened in the regions of Valparaíso, Metropolitana, O'Higgins and Maule. It is yet unclear how many people these centres can shelter.
- According to information collected by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the city of Santiago, approximately 1,294 persons in the municipalities of Santiago Centro and Estación Central are homeless, as well as some 1,000 persons in Quilicura and 579 persons in Recoleta.
- Agencies are still working under the assumption that 500,000 homes are destroyed. However, it is yet unclear to what extent those are damaged. Reportedly, 80-85% of the people rendered homeless are staying with family relatives.

Water and Sanitation:

Response

- The potable water supply has been gradually re-established in urban zones. Rural areas are still facing some water shortages. According to the Government's Sanitary Services, potable water needs are being met through distribution networks and tankers. Only 2.7% of the population (44,563 inhabitants) of Bío Bío does not have any water distribution.

Education:

- Fifty percent of schools in most affected areas are operational; the beginning of the school year has been postponed to between 15 March and 5 April.

Infrastructure:

- Roads: Despite widespread damage, all parts of the country are accessible by road, except for some areas in Araucanía.
- Telecommunication systems are working at around 50% of their capacity in affected areas; work is ongoing to re-establish full capacity. Twenty thousand more satellite phones arrived from the UN System.
- Important shortfalls persist in electricity; work is ongoing to re-establish full service.

IV. Coordination

- The United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) has met on 5 March for the first time. The UNCT and UNETT will meet on 6 March to begin working on the CERF proposal focusing on the priority areas of Health, WASH, Shelter and Education. A 3-day inter-agency mission to the affected areas is planned to start on 6 March 2010.
- An On Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) is functioning to support the coordination mechanisms in Santiago.

V. International Funding and Assistance

- The German Federal Agency for Technical Relief deployed four people in Concepción and Santiago. Germany is planning to deploy a second team by the end of this week.
- France has sent a team of seismologists with seismic stations, solar panels, GPS, satellite station with 10 satellite phones, dialysis equipment, 11 trunks of first aid medication, restaurant tents and five water purification units.
- In kind and funding support for the Chile earthquake amounts to US\$16.4 million (\$ 10.4 million funding and \$ 6 million uncommitted pledges). New financial contributions have been announced by Finland which will channel EUR 400,000 through the Red Cross, and Indonesia which will provide US\$ 1 million in financial support.

All companies that wish to make cash and in kind donations are urged to use the new UN/Business Partnership Gateway, at <http://business.un.org>. This function matches offers of support with UN needs.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in kind contributions by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int

VI. Contacts

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Websites and document links:

Government of Chile website: <http://terremotochile.com/>

For more information on Chile and other crises, visit: www.reliefweb.int and www.redhum.org

For information on OCHA: <http://ochaonline.un.org/>

For information on ICRC's family tracing service, go to: <http://www.familylinks.icrc.org/familylinks>.

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