

*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 9 to 10 March. The next report will be issued on or around 12 March.*

#### **HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES**

- The official death toll to date is 507.
- According to Government reports, some 200,000 houses have been severely damaged or completely destroyed; assessments are still ongoing.
- There are an estimated 90 shelter camps housing 19,000 people in the regions of O'Higgins, Maule and Biobío. Some 25,000 persons are in improvised, temporary shelters, mainly in schools, and an additional 50,000 persons are in urgent need of shelter as they are living in makeshift camps.

#### **I. Situation Overview**

- According to the Ministry of Interior, the official death toll to date is 507 (497 identified bodies and 10 unidentified). The Ministry of Interior is now handling all official communications regarding casualties. To avoid confusion, the Ministry is not releasing any number of missing persons.
- According to Government reports, some 200,000 houses have been severely damaged or completely destroyed. Assessments are still ongoing.
- Curfew and increased military presence (16,064) have greatly reduced public insecurity. Looting is has decreased significantly and there have been media reports of looters returning stolen merchandise.
- The UN System in Chile has been drafting proposals for the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for up to US\$10 million. A draft is expected to be finalized on 10 March. Priorities are Health, Water and Sanitation, Emergency Shelter, Education and Emergency Telecommunications.

#### **II. Humanitarian Needs and Response**

##### **Health:**

##### *Needs*

- Of the existing 130 clinics in the earthquake and tsunami affected areas (regions of Valparaíso, Metropolitana, O'Higgins, Maule, Biobío and Araucanía), six hospitals have been evacuated, nine have been severely damaged and 115 are fully operational. A total of 4,000 beds have been lost (20 to 25 percent of the nation's hospital beds).
- The Ministry of Health (MoH) has estimated that the reconstruction effort in health will cost US\$3.6 billion and will last at least three years.
- Regional health services report that after the first days of the emergency, requests for medical services are now back to normal or even below-normal levels. These numbers are expected to rise again. No sanitary crisis or disease outbreak has been reported.
- Psychological and trauma assistance is reportedly needed.

##### *Response*

- Ten field hospitals have been deployed to Talca, Curicó, Chillán, Constitución, Curanilahue, Hualpén, Rancagua, Angol and San Carlos. In addition, a Red Cross mobile unit has been deployed to Hualañé, Maule region.
- Twenty-two military personnel are providing medical assistance at a Sanitary Care station in Talcahuano, including pediatric and adult medical assistance and trauma response.
- Epidemiological surveillance has been increased especially in shelter camps.
- On 1 March, a National Committee of Mental Health in Emergencies and Disasters was set up and has elaborated a response plan for the disaster affected areas.

- The MoH has sent from its central warehouse 400 metric tons of fortified milk powder, milk for premature babies and medicines, as well as vaccines.
- The MoH has announced a general vaccination campaign for children between 1 and 14 years of age in high risk areas such as shelter camps in the regions of O'Higgins, Maule and Biobío. The Ministry hopes to reach 8,000 children this week. The campaign will last three to four weeks.
- The Chilean Red Cross has 1,274 volunteers active in the relief operation (529 of whom are in Santiago). At least 50 volunteers have been deployed to Biobío and another 50 in Maule.
- A Spanish Red Cross basic health care emergency relief unit has arrived and is operational in Gualane (Maule) with the capacity to treat 30,000 people. A logistics unit of the organization has arrived with two ambulances and one all-terrain vehicle. In addition, a shelter specialist is in Talca carrying out assessments; two other specialists are in Concepción assessing needs for water supplies and relief items.

**Food:**

*Needs*

- Many areas are still without regular access to food. Media report long lines at local supermarkets, particularly in urban areas in the outskirts of Concepción.
- Numbers of people in need of food aid are not yet clear.

*Response*

- According to reports from the Military General responsible for the Biobío region, the military has distributed 7,484 tons of food by land. Food aid has also reached the isolated coastal communities of Dichato and Coliumo.
- According to media reports and online information, at least 400 tons of food are being distributed in Biobío by the NGOs 'Hogar de Cristo', Caritas and 'Techo para Chile'.

**Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items:**

*Needs*

- Government reports indicate that there are an estimated 90 shelter camps housing 19,000 people in the regions of O'Higgins, Maule and Biobío.
- Some 25,000 persons are in improvised, temporary shelters, mainly in schools, and an additional 50,000 persons are in urgent need of shelter as they are living in makeshift camps.
- According to Government reports, approximately 200,000 houses have been severely damaged or completely destroyed. Assessments are ongoing.
- The regions of Maule and Biobío have been most affected, since they were hit both by the earthquake and tsunami. The destruction of homes is very high, particularly in the coastal towns of Maule region, where 72% of homes were destroyed and 24% require urgent repair.

*Response*

- The International Federation of the Red Cross/Crescent sent its first cargo plane to Santiago on 7 March with relief items for 5,000 families (items include kitchen kits, jerry cans, hygiene kits, blankets and two water and sanitation equipments).
- As of 10 March, a total of 1,500 volunteers of the Chilean NGO 'Techo para Chile' are expected to have constructed the first 300 emergency shelters for the worst-hit areas. President Bachelet has stated that Chile will also import emergency houses from neighboring countries.
- The US\$60 million collected during last weekend's Telethon will go towards the construction of 23,000 emergency shelters and the rehabilitation of some schools.
- USAID/OFDA has distributed 300 rolls of plastic sheeting to be used for about 1,500 family shelters.
- According to Chile's Housing Minister, damaged houses will be evaluated by specialized engineers. Municipalities will be responsible for declaring properties unsafe and/or ordering their demolition. Families will be given subsidies to repair damaged homes.

**Water and Sanitation:**

*Needs*

- In coastal and rural areas, more than 150 rural water supplies systems were damaged (affecting around 200,000 people) and others are not working due to interruption and damage in the electricity network.
- In terms of access to potable water, the military reports that the province of Concepción now has 55% coverage, Ñuble 95% and Biobío 97%. In Arauco, where only 50% of inhabitants have access to safe water, delivery of bottled water is an urgent need.

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#### Response

- Given the concerns around sanitation and environmental hygiene, personnel are disinfecting and sanitizing areas as well as fumigating homes.
- The Chilean military is providing thousands of liters of bottled water in water tankers.
- Three airplane loads of potable water or approximately some 120,000 liters of water arrived on 9 March from Bolivia.
- An aqueduct near Valparaíso is being repaired.

#### Education:

- According to the Ministry of Education, approximately 80% children in Santiago began classes on 8 March. Classes in Maule are expected to start on 15 March. Schools in Biobío may open even later due to damaged infrastructure, difficult transportation and schools being used as temporary shelters.
- Approximately 33% of the schools in the six earthquake affected regions are not operational or only partially operational.

Region	% of schools operational but with restrictions	% of schools not operational	TOTAL
Valparaiso	18%	7%	45%
O'Higgins	22%	23%	45%
Maule	14%	31%	45%
Bio Bio	47%	22%	68%
Araucania	12%	8%	20%
Metropolitano	16%	17%	33%

#### Emergency Telecommunications:

- According to military reports, mobile and land line connectivity has improved significantly in the provinces of Biobío, Arauco and Ñuble and coverage is more than 90%. However, in the city of Concepción these services only cover 65% to 70% of needs.

#### Early Recovery:

##### Infrastructure

##### Needs

- Chile's Minister of Public Works announced that the rehabilitation of damaged roads, airports, dams, canals, bridges and water towers will at least cost US\$1.2 billion.

#### Response

- The Government has identified 1,200 structures for rehabilitation, 95% of which will be partially operational by 11 March. The other 5% of structures have suffered medium to large-scale damage, in particular bridges.
- The Government of Sweden has offered eight portable bridges.
- Various international structural engineers are on the ground conducting structural assessments.
- According to the military, electricity is restored to 80% in the provinces of Concepción, Biobío and Nuble, but is very poor in the region of Arauco, with only 29% coverage.
- Natural gas conduits have been almost completely re-established with the exception of Concepción, where only 80% of gas supply has been restored.

#### Agriculture and fisheries

##### Needs

- According to a Government report, more than 26,000 small-scale fishermen have lost their belongings (both in terms of material damages to boats, equipment and homes) due to the tsunami. The most urgently reported needs are equipment and boats as well as resources for the construction of docks and other basic infrastructure.
- According to the Ministry of Agriculture, agricultural products have experienced a slight price increase in Santiago.

#### Response

- The Government is prioritizing assistance for coastal towns.

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- Chile's Agriculture Minister met with producers from the Biobío region and promised agricultural assistance, including emergency payment of up to US\$300, irrigation incentives for individual and community projects as well as extensions of credit and debt repayment.

#### IV. Coordination

- The Government is leading the relief operation and coordinating assistance According to the Chilean Armed Forces, there are currently 16,064 uniformed military personnel assisting in humanitarian relief as well as in maintaining public order.
- There are daily coordination meetings in Concepción between Government authorities, UN and NGOs.

#### V. International Funding and Assistance

- Current tracking of contributions suggest US\$ 29 million in resources pledged or committed (US\$12.5 million in funding and US\$16.5 million in uncommitted pledges).
- The International Federation of the Red Cross/Crescent (IFRC) has launched a new appeal to support the Chilean Red Cross. The new appeal is for CHF13 million (US\$12.9 million) to cover needs for one year in the sectors of health, emergency shelter and NFIs, and water and sanitation.

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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](http://www.reliefweb.int) and [www.redhum.org](http://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>.

Maps about Chile: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.nsf/doc404?OpenForm&emid=EQ-2010-000034-CHL&rc=2>