

**Office of the Resident Coordinator****Chile Earthquake
Situation Report #5, 9 March 2010****I. Highlights/Key Priorities**

- The official death toll to date is 507.
- 80% of children are expected to begin classes in Santiago, but delays are expected elsewhere
- Several smaller towns and villages have yet to be reached (and the damage in indigenous communities is yet unknown) so some areas, particularly the region of Araucanía may have significant damage.

II. Situation Overview

- The official death toll to date is 497 (identified), according to the Ministry of the Interior, which is now handling all official communications regarding casualties, and another 10 bodies have yet to be identified. To avoid confusion, they are not releasing any estimates of the disappeared.
- 70% of the country's vineyards are located in the affected areas. According to the Chilean Wine Corporation, an estimated 20% of production could be lost. Media reports indicate great losses to already bottled wine, but that many harvests have not been seriously affected.
- According to a government reports, some 200,000 houses have been severely damaged or completely destroyed, and assessments are still ongoing.
- The curfews and increased military personnel (16,064) have greatly reduced public insecurity. Looting is down significantly and there have even been media reports of looters returning stolen merchandise.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response**Agriculture and fisheries***Needs*

According to the latest unofficial government report, more than 26,000 small-scale fishermen have lost their sustenance (both in terms of material damages to boats, equipment and homes) due to the tsunami. The most urgently reported needs are productive equipment and boats as well as resources for the construction of docks and other basic infrastructure.

Produce has experienced slight price increases in Santiago according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Response

The government is prioritizing assistance for coastal towns.

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

Early Recovery

Needs

According to a government reports, approximately 200,000 houses have been severely damaged or completely destroyed, assessments are still ongoing.

Response

According to Chile's Housing Minister, the damaged social housing will be evaluated by specialized engineers who will present reports to the municipalities, who will then be in charge of declaring properties uninhabitable and/or ordering their demolition. Families will be given subsidies to repair damaged homes.

Education

Needs

- According to the Ministry of Education, approximately 80% children in Santiago began classes today. However, classes in the Region of Maule are expected to open on March 15, while it could take longer in Bio Bio due to damaged infrastructure, difficult transportation and the use of schools as temporary shelters. Sources estimate that only 31% of the schools in the region of Bio Bío are operational.
- Approximately 33% of the schools in the 6 regions affected are partially or not 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 Shelter

Government reports indicate an estimated 90 shelters housing 19,000 people in the regions of O'Higgins, Maule and Bio Bio,

Needs

Schools, parks and stadiums continue to be used as temporary shelters as they await emergency shelters.

Response

As of this Wednesday, a total of 1,500 volunteers for the Chilean initiative Un Techo para Chile will have built the first 300 emergency shelters in the worst-hit areas.

Given Chile's limited capabilities to construct tens of thousands of shelters in a limited time, President Bachelet has said Chile will be importing such homes from neighbouring countries.

The USD\$60 million collected during a weekend Telethon will go towards building 23,000 emergency shelters as well as to rebuilding some schools devastated by the earthquake and tsunami.

USAID/OFDA has distributed 300 rolls of plastic sheeting to be used for emergency shelters.

A member of OIM has arrived to help its agency in this area.

Emergency Telecoms

According to military reports, mobile and land line connectivity has improved significantly in the provinces of Biobío, Arauco and Ñuble and are operating at more than 90%; however, in the city of Concepción these services are only around 65% to 70% coverage.

Food and Nutrition

Needs

Many areas are still without regular access to food and media reports indicate long lineups at local supermarkets, particularly in urban areas on the outskirts of Concepción.

Response

According to reports from military General responsible for the Biobío region, the military has distributed 7,400 tonnes of food by land, and another 84 tonnes by air. Aid has also reached the isolated coastal communities of Dichato and Coliumo, with food aid.

According to media reports and online information, at least 400 tonnes of food have been gathered and are being distributed by the Hogar de Cristo, Caritas and Techo para Chile charities, in Biobío.

Health

Needs

Some areas are still without potable water and garbage is accumulating in the streets, which represents a sanitary hazard. However, no epidemic outbreaks have been reported in Chile since the earthquake.

Many hospitals have yet to regularize primary care, especially for children, pregnant women, seniors and chronic care patients. Psychological and trauma assistance is in heavy demand.

Response

Eleven temporary field hospitals have been set up in affected regions, and temporary health facilities sent by other countries will be set up shortly.

22 military personnel are providing medical assistance at a Sanitary Care station in the city of Talcahuano, which includes pediatric and adult medical assistance, trauma response, and pharmacists. This centre is triaging, and sending more serious cases to hospitals, via military ambulance.

The Chilean Red Cross has 1,274 volunteers active in the operation (529 of which are in Santiago). At least 50 volunteers have been deployed to Biobío and another 50 in Maule.

The International Federation of the Red Cross sent its first charter to Santiago on 7 March with relief for 5,000 families (items include kitchen kits, jerry cans, hygiene kits, blankets and 2 Watsan equipment). One Spanish Red Cross BHC ERU has arrived and is operational in Gualane (Maule) with the capacity to treat 30,000 people. A Spanish RC Logistics ERU has arrived with 2 ambulances and 1 all-terrain vehicle. A shelter delegate is in Talca carrying out assessments; water and sanitation and health promotion officer is in Concepción assessing water needs; and a relief delegate is in Concepción carrying out assessments.

Logistics

Needs

Chile's Minister of Public Works announced that the estimated cost of repairing damaged roads, airports, dams, canals, bridges, and water towers hit by the earthquake and tsunami will reach at least US\$1.2 billion.

Response

The government has specified 1,200 sites that require action, 95% of which will be partially operational by 11 March; 5% have suffered medium to large-scale damage, primarily bridges.

According to the military, electricity is now back up and running in 80% in the provinces of Concepción, Bio Bío and Nuble, but is very poor in the region of Arauco, which has only 29% of its electricity restored. Natural gas availability is close to 100%, with the exception of Concepción, where only 80% has been restored.

The Government of Sweden has offered 8 portable bridges and various international structural experts are on the ground aiding in structural assessments.

Protection

Needs

The curfews and increased military personnel have greatly reduced public insecurity. Looting is down significantly and there have even been media reports of looters returning stolen merchandise.

Response

According to the Chilean Armed Forces, there are currently 16,064 uniformed military personnel on the ground, assisting in humanitarian relief as well as maintaining public order.

Chile's national public prosecutor has given instructions to all local prosecutors in the "catastrophe zone" to apply a special norm that increases the punishment for robbery (of supermarkets and homes) as well as for businesses caught speculating or increasing prices for food and basic necessities.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Needs

Many coastal areas have been affected by strong odours emanating from fishmeal production centers, dead animals and decomposing matter swept in by the sea. Garbage is being disposed of in an improvised dump.

In terms of access to potable water, the military reports that the province of Concepción now has 55% coverage, Ñuble is at 95% and Biobío is at 97%. However, in the province of Arauco, only 50% of inhabitants have this vital service, which makes the delivery of bottled water an urgent need.

Response

Given the concerns over sanitation, environmental hygiene personnel are disinfecting and sanitizing areas, as well as fumigating homes, both inside and outdoors.

The military is providing thousands of liters of bottled water in water tank trucks.

Three airplane loads of potable water arrived today from Bolivia.

As of Tuesday, water services will be cut for 72 hours in the city of Valparaiso, while an aqueduct is repaired.

IV. Coordination

There are daily coordination meetings in Concepción between the government, UN and NGOs.

According to reports citing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile has received 1,135 tonnes of humanitarian aid from 20-some countries.

V. Funding

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. Contact

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