



**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Chile – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

March 5, 2010

Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 4, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- According to international media, on March 4, the Government of Chile (GoC) National Office of Emergencies and Information (ONEMI) revised the number of confirmed deaths to 279 people, indicating that the original death toll included individuals still listed as missing. The estimated number of individuals reported dead or missing is currently 805 people, 75 percent of which pertain to most-affected Maule Region.
- On March 5, six additional USAID/OFDA disaster response experts arrived in Chile, bringing the total number of USAID/OFDA assessment team members to 12. Team members continue to conduct assessments in earthquake- and tsunami-affected areas, working with U.S. Embassy personnel and GoC officials to identify and respond to priority humanitarian needs.
- On March 5, the USAID/OFDA assessment team visited several towns in most-affected Maule Region, including Curañripe, Pelluhue, and Chanco—municipalities located in the tsunami-affected area. After meetings with local officials, the assessment team reported that many of the critical humanitarian needs in urban areas have been met by the GoC response. In addition, the GoC and utility companies continue working to restore water supply and electricity to parts of Maule Region.
- On March 5, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon arrived in Chile to meet with GoC President Michelle Bachelet and President-elect Sebastian Piñera. The Secretary-General also planned to visit earthquake-affected areas, including a scheduled visit to Concepción city in BióBío Region.
- On March 5, at 0847 hours local time, a magnitude 6.6 aftershock occurred offshore, 30 km northwest of Concepción city. However, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PWTC) did not issued a tsunami warning as a result of the aftershock.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Confirmed Number of Deaths	279	GoC – March 4
Estimated Number of Dead or Missing	805	GoC – March 4
Estimated Affected Population	Approximately 2 million people	International Media – March 3

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Chile.....	\$1,644,006
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Chile	\$1,644,006

CURRENT SITUATION

- Significant aftershocks have continued to occur in Chile, with at least 16 tremors measuring between magnitudes 5.0 and 6.6 recorded by the U.S. Geological Survey since March 3.
- The GoC reports that electricity and water have been restored to approximately 40 percent of Concepción. According to GoC officials, nightly curfews in the area may remain in effect for up to two weeks. As of March 5, approximately 9,000 military personnel remained in Concepción to maintain order and ensure delivery of food and relief supplies. A portion of the troops may relocate to affected areas outside the city, transferring security responsibility to local police in some neighborhoods.
- The Santiago Airport is operational, and international flights are slowly resuming. However, the Concepcion airport remains closed except for military operations.

Assessments

- On March 3, the USAID/OFDA assessment team traveled to Curañripe and Pelluhue towns in Maule Region. The assessment team met with local officials, including the municipal disaster coordinator and director of public works. The team noted significant damage to structures in both areas, particularly houses constructed with adobe and tile.

- In Pelluhue town, the USAID/OFDA assessment team reported that electrical service and communications network has been restored to urban areas, while the government works to restore service to remaining houses. In addition, local authorities indicated that food and health needs have been met by the current GoC response.
- In Curañripe town, the team reported that water and electricity have not been restored. However, local officials report that the majority of food and health needs are covered, and telecommunications services have been restored.
- The USAID/OFDA assessment team visited Chanco town in Maule Region, just north of Curañripe. In Chanco, the team met with the mayor’s representative, who reported that the earthquake resulted in seven known deaths in the town. According to local authorities, the town’s water network has been restored; however, an hourly ration remains in place. Telecommunications networks have also been repaired, and the utility company is currently working to restore electricity.

Emergency Food Assistance

- The U.N. World Food Program is transporting 70 metric tons (MT) of high-energy biscuits (HEBs) from Ecuador to Chile for affected communities, benefitting approximately 26,000 beneficiaries for a period of five days. An additional 50 MT of HEBs remain warehoused in Ecuador for potential transport to Chile, if necessary.

Health

- Due to the GoC Ministry of Health’s (MoH) decision to close Félix Bulnes Hospital—one of the primary public hospitals in Santiago—health officials have determined that other hospitals in the capital must be augmented to serve the additional patient caseload. As a result, the MoH has determined that the field hospital donated by the Brazilian government will be erected in the western part of the city to fill the gap in health services. According to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the Brazilian hospital will be placed on land provided by the municipality.
- In coordination with the GoC MoH, PAHO will coordinate technical aspects of the health response, including gap analysis related to mobile field hospitals, deployment of structural engineers, assessment of health infrastructure, and communications and information management in affected areas.
- In addition, PAHO’s Health Emergency Response Team is deploying to Chile to assist with the health response, providing technical support for the management of human remains and coordinating offers of health-related international aid.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On February 27, USAID activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to coordinate the USG response to the earthquake in Chile and facilitate information sharing and provision of assistance to earthquake-affected individuals.
- On February 28, U.S. Ambassador Paul E. Simons issued a disaster declaration in response to effects of the earthquake. In response, USAID/OFDA has deployed a 12-person assessment team to work in coordination with U.S. Embassy personnel and GoC officials to identify and respond to priority humanitarian needs.
- To date, USAID/OFDA assistance totals more than \$1.6 million, including support for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) emergency appeal and the provision and transport of 300 rolls of plastic sheeting and two water treatment units from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Miami, Florida. The USG has also provided 85 satellite telephones to the GoC to facilitate communications until telephone networks in affected areas are repaired.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHILE FOR THE EARTHQUAKE

FY 2010			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
IFRC	Emergency Response Activities	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
TBD	Logistics and Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$457,490
TBD	Emergency Response Activities	Affected Areas	\$50,000
	Administration and Support Costs		\$136,516
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHILE			\$1,644,006
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¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 5, 2010. USAID plans to provide further assistance in accordance with the findings of GoC and forthcoming humanitarian assessments in disaster zones.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Chile may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int