

This report is based mainly on information received from the RC Office in Santiago and was issued by OCHA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, covering the period 1 to 3 March. The next report will be issued on or around 5 March.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Latest figures indicate at least 799 people killed and 2 million affected.
- Additional troops have been deployed to assist the humanitarian operations and ensure public security.

II. Situation Overview



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

- According to the Chilean National Emergency Office (ONEMI), the number of deaths has risen to 799, with 19 people still missing. Two million people have been severely affected. An estimated 1.5 million houses have been damaged. Amidst reports of looting, 10,000 troops have been deployed to earthquake-hit areas, in particular to Maule and Biobío.
 - While authorities are currently establishing a comprehensive overview of the situation, immediate priorities continue to be search and rescue, medical services, shelter, food and water, transport, communications and the restoration of basic services.
 - Santiago airport still operates with restrictions to international and domestic flights.
- Following a request by the Resident Coordinator in Chile, OCHA will provide an Emergency Cash Grant in the amount of US\$100,000, pending receipt of a cost plan specifying which life-saving activities are to be funded.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Health:

Response

- Chilean authorities installed eight field hospitals in the affected areas. Four others are being deployed.
- Brazil has committed to send hospitals and Peru is also sending one field hospital with surgical capacity and in-patient hospital care.
- Cuba provided a 26-person medical team and a field hospital.
- Argentina is supporting with three field hospitals.
- PAHO/WHO has one staff in the Ministry of Health to help in assessing the health situation. The agency produced guidelines on how to use mobile field hospitals and also transferred 80,000 doses of vaccine for Hepatitis A to the Ministry of Health.

- The IFRC has launched a preliminary emergency appeal for USD 6.4 million to support the Chilean Red Cross Society Relief Operations and to assist 75,000 people for six months in the areas of emergency health (field hospitals), water and sanitation, emergency shelter and early recovery.

Food:

Response

- WFP has offered support to the Chilean Government but is still awaiting green light to send 120 metric tonnes (MT) of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) that are in stock in Ecuador.

Water and Sanitation:

Response

- UNICEF has one WASH expert in-country and is identifying suppliers in neighbouring countries that can deliver water purification tablets to be made available to the Chilean authorities.

Other relief items:

- The Chilean Government installed 40 temporary shelters.
- Russia sent a plane with 28 MT of relief items, including blankets and generators.
- Australia is sending generators.
- Japan is sending water purification systems, tents and generators, as well as a medical team.
- Spain is sending 7.5 MT of emergency relief items and a 75-person team. Samaritan's Purse began distributing relief supplies in Concepción (food, water, 250 blankets, baby food, infant care items). They are also coordinating with local churches to organize communal feeding centres.
- The British Red Cross has dispatched £50,000 to the initial response.
- World Vision is assembling tarpaulins, blankets, water and other aid.
- Oxfam is sending a team to the disaster-hit area and plans to send a stock of relief supplies from its warehouse in Bolivia.
- The Singapore Government will contribute US\$50,000 to purchase relief supplies requested by the authorities. The contribution will be channelled to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

IV. Coordination

- The Chilean National Emergency Office (ONEMI) is coordinating the relief operations. Two new officials have been designated as coordinators of international assistance: Mr Rodrigo Penailillo, Chief of the Coordination Team at the Chilean Presidency, and Mr. Hernán Bascunán, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Multilateral Directorate (DIMULTI).
- During a meeting of line ministries with the UNCT on 2 March in Santiago, the UNCT has submitted a proposal to Government (through Minister of Foreign Affairs) on how the UN system can support the Government in response to the list of items requested on 1 March.
- The Government is accepting Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's (ECLAC) support to help in the evaluation of needs (Post Disaster Needs Assessment).

V. Funding

The following Governments reported pledges for this operation:

- Australia: \$4.5 million
- Japan: \$3 million
- Canada: \$2 million for urgent humanitarian assistance
- China: \$1 million
- New Zealand: \$500,000.

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

VI. Contacts

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