

**Office of the Resident Coordinator****Chile Earthquake  
Situation Report #4, March 6, 2010  
Covering the period from March 5 – 6, 2010****I. Highlights/Key Priorities**

- Rural areas remain a concern with limited access to basic services and a devastation of the fishing sector.
- Access to drinking water and energy continue to be of concern.
- The government is expected to request international assistance especially in the areas of energy and reconstruction.
- The government has announced that it will welcome structural engineers to help with assessments.
- United Nations Secretary General announced that the UN will provide up to USD 10 million from CERF funding

**II. Situation Overview**

- An estimated 2 million people have been affected by the impact of the earthquake and tsunami. Rural communities, especially coastal, are of major concern as many are still not connected to basic services, livelihoods have been destroyed, and the communities are still difficult to access. Many inhabitants are living in tents on the edge of the towns and are afraid to return to urban centers.
- The government has estimated that of the 500,000 houses impacted by the earthquake. 30-40% of these (200,000) may be irreparable. Access to drinking water and electricity and emergency telecommunications continue to be priorities.
- On 5 March, the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon met with the president of Chile, the UN Country Team and Key Cabinet members, and with the president elect. The Secretary General announced that the UN will provide up to USD 10 million from CERF funding to enable UN operational agencies to support the priorities of Health, Water and Sanitation, Emergency Shelter and Education. He encouraged the establishment of a joint working process between the UN and government to expedite the assessment of needs and to have a comprehensive picture of challenges at hand in order to design a response accordingly.
- The Government indicated that after carrying out a general assessment they can confirm that international assistance will be needed in several areas for immediate needs and reconstruction. In addition to priority areas of health, education, emergency shelter, water and sanitation, they have identified needs for telecommunications restoration and welcome structural engineers to assist with assessments.
- A Telethon was launched in Chile with the aim of raising USD 30 million for the construction of 30,000 houses, and it has doubled its goal.
- On 6 March, the curfew in the Region of Bio Bio was reduced by 5 hours. It is now from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m., and is expected to gradually diminish.

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

#### Agriculture

- The Ministry of Public Works confirmed that small coastal ports are damaged throughout the catastrophe zones and support will be required to meet the immediate needs of fisher families for livelihood reactivation through port repair and replacement of fishing equipment and boats.

#### Early Recovery

##### *Needs*

- The government stated that support will be needed in reconstruction of small coastal ports along the affected areas.
- Reconstruction is a priority and the government indicated that it will welcome experts to assist in these assessments.

##### *Response*

- The government is working with structural engineers from the Association of engineers and students to carry out structural assessments.
- The Swiss Cooperation (COSUDE) has sent a team of 4 Structural Engineers in Talca to support the government in assessments of public buildings and infrastructure.

#### Education

- According to government sources, the number of schools that are partially and/or not operational are estimated to be 160 in Valpariso, 130 en Bernardo O'Higgins, 75 in Maule, 100 in Bio Bio, 100 in Araucanía, 460 in the Metropolitan Region.
- The ministry of education is committed to opening schools and the majority of schools will open next week although some are expected to open in April

#### Emergency Shelter

##### *Needs*

- The government recognizes the need for temporary shelter in coastal areas. Many people are living in tents and are afraid to move back. Initial estimated figures are for approximately 200,000 emergency houses.

##### *Response*

- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is dispatching humanitarian aid in non food items to assist 3,000 families.
- COSUDE is planning the construction of temporary emergency shelters including water and sanitation for 400 families in Talca, in the Bio Bio region in conjunction with Techos para Chile

#### Emergency Telecoms

- Communication continues to be a challenge, especially in Bio Bio with 45% landline coverage and 27% cellular coverage and in rural areas.

##### *Response*

- A further 20,000 sat phones have arrived from the UN System as part of the temporary solution.

#### Food and Nutrition

##### *Response*

- The World Food Programme (WFP) has deployed staff member and is distributing 70 MT of High Energy Biscuits to aid 45,000 people in Concepcion.

## **Health**

- The health sector has suffered a significant loss with 10 hospitals destroyed and 29 functioning only partially and significant loss of equipment such as dialyses machines, x-ray equipment, etc.

### *Needs*

- An estimated 4,000 bed capacity has been lost. While field hospitals are covering some of this capacity, there is still need for beds.
- In needs assessments undertaken in Maule and Concepcion, key needs include; psychosocial support, preventive health care, health promotion, water and sanitation, telecommunications and electricity.

### *Response*

- On 5 March, the Public Health Sub-secretariat began Hepatitis A vaccinations in Constitución, as part of the first phase of the Ministry of Health's preventative strategy. The priority regions are Maule and O'Higgins and it will continue in into Bio Bio. There are 8,000 doses immediately available and another 8,000 doses will be arriving in the following days. Epidemiological surveillance is also being strengthened in shelters.
- The Ministry of Health began a radio and television campaign to reinforce public health measures on safe drinking water, food, and environmental sanitation.
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is sending 3 basic health care units. The first will arrive today and has the capacity for psychosocial support.

### *Key Gaps*

- The Ministry of Health expects an increase in the demand for health services and has requested modular hospital units for the medium term

## **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**

### *Needs*

- The government recognized that in 1,000 rural areas an estimated 30% of communities do not have access to potable water as well as other services.
- The government has requested sanitation pumps to cover needs in the medium term.

### *Response*

- The Ministry of Health is sending 600,000 litres of chloride to the Rancagua, BioBío and Maule Regions for purification.

## **IV. Coordination**

- The government has established contact with the majority of communities throughout the country though communications are still a major problem in the affected coastal areas.
- Assessment missions are still underway by the government and various international organizations to achieve a better vision of the situation.
- The UN agencies that are preparing the CERF include: UNICEF, OPS/OMS, OIM, CEPAL, UNESCO, UNDP and FAO.
- A coordination meeting was held with members of UN, NGOs and Donor organization. A follow-up meeting is planned for Wednesday morning.

## **V. Funding**

- In kind and funding support for Chile earthquake and tsunami amounts to USD 23 million (USD 12.5 million in funding and USD 11 million in uncommitted pledges).
- CERF funding of up to USD 10 million will be made available assist United Nations agencies in their support of relief efforts.

## VI. Contact

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