

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 8 to 10 March. The next report will be issued on or around 16 March.

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Three inter-agency assessment teams completed their mission on 9 March.
- Following the announcement of the Secretary General, UN agencies and partners are finalizing their proposal to the CERF.
- Key needs identified are shelter, water and sanitation, education and health.

I. Situation Overview



Map representing the areas where interagency assessment missions were carried out between 8 and 9 March.
Source: UN coordination Centre in Santiago.

- Between 8 and 9 March, three inter-agency teams composed of members from UNESCO, WFP, PAHO, IOM, UNHCHR, UNDSS, UN International Telecommunications Union, European Union, UNICEF, Oxfam International, UNHCR, ECHO and OCHA assessed the regions of Biobío and Maule.
- The key needs identified by the teams were shelter, water and sanitation, education and epidemiological control and access to health services.
- Based on the assessments and coordination meetings in-country, the UN agencies and partners are now finalizing the project proposals to apply to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).
- On 11 March, the new President Piñera was inaugurated in a sober ceremony. The earthquake response remains top priority.
- Five earthquakes between 5.1 and 6.9 magnitude struck Chile on 11 March. No major damage or further loss of life has been reported.

II. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items:

Needs

- As many as 200,000 houses have been irreparably damaged.
- The regions of Maule and Biobío are the most affected with 72% and 80% of damaged homes respectively.
- Temporary shelter solutions are urgently required for an estimated 70,000 to 120,000 people. These shelters need to be robust enough to withstand severe rainfall and cold temperatures, as the region moves into fall/winter.
- According to the Chilean NGO 'Un Techo para Chile', 70,000 "mediaguas" (temporary wood-cabin type structures) are needed. The NGO has the capacity to construct 20,000 units in the next four months.
- There is limited access to firewood; cooking/heating facilities have been destroyed and simple cooking/heating solutions are urgently needed, particularly in low-income areas.

- Given the extensive needs in the sector, a shelter/NFI working group will be established to ensure better coordination. Key partners are Habitat, Caritas, municipal authorities, Red Cross, IFRC and IOM.

Response

- IOM has requested US\$3 million from the CERF for shelter kits and basic repairs to homes, kitchen kits and hygiene kits to 620 families, as well as temporary housing to 1,407 families.
- UNDP has requested US\$568,170 from the CERF for cooking stoves (that also serve as heaters) to assist 600 families in coastal areas with limited access to firewood.
- The Swiss Cooperation COSUDE will construct 400 temporary shelters with water and sanitation facilities in Talcahuano, Tomé y Arauco.

Water and Sanitation:

Needs

- Approximately 260,000 people in rural areas are in need of temporary potable water supplies.
- In most urban areas, services have been restored. However, in Biobío, 29% of the urban population is still without access to water.

Response

- UNICEF has requested US\$1,251,365 from the CERF to assist 200,000 people with access to safe water and basic sanitation and hygiene services.
- The Ministry of Public Works is responsible for the water and sanitation system.

Health:

Needs

- Reconstruction of damaged medical infrastructure will cost an estimated US\$3.6 billion. In the 115 hospitals that are functional, a significant loss in essential medical equipment and medicines has been reported.
- The Government of Chile has requested for highly specialized medical equipment.
- The Ministry of Interior reported that 70 primary health care posts have been damaged, affecting 223,538 persons. However, the Government has implemented measures to gradually restore these services.

Response

- Immediately following the earthquake, the national health sector responded quickly, calling into action national health resources and seeking international support to restore health services, especially in the most affected areas. In areas where the health infrastructure was not functioning, the Government and bilateral partners have installed temporary field hospitals. Ten field hospitals and one mobile health unit have been deployed. In addition, 112 emergency services run by public hospitals are currently operational in the affected regions.
- PAHO/WHO has supplied four generators to two hospitals in Chillan and one each in Talcahuano and Lebu. In addition, the organization is collecting 225,000 doses of Hepatitis A vaccine and approximately 300,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine. PAHO/WHO will also provide two basic health units, a field hospital two psychosocial support modules and an emergency intervention unit.
- CERF funds requested: PAHO/WHO requested US\$2 million to improve access to health services and essential supplies and medicines; UNFPA requested US\$187,785 for reproductive health supplies/services to 25,000 women and HIV prevention activities for 18,333 people.

Education:

Needs

- Some 29% of schools are destroyed or cannot be used; 14% are operational with restrictions.
- The situation is especially critical in Biobío and Maule where more than 50% of evaluated schools are unsafe.
- Approximately 1,250,000 students cannot attend school.
- Several schools are used as shelters or operational bases for army and local authorities, also causing problems for boarding school students from remote rural areas who now have no accommodation.
- Some 286 of 1520 pre-school institutes are currently not operational; 20 are completely damaged.
- The Ministry of Education is estimating that the reconstruction of the education infrastructure will cost US\$1.606 billion.

Response

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.

- The Ministry of Education is rehabilitating damaged schools and extending its School Feeding Programme to the local communities. The Ministry is also preparing a programmatic education response to deal with the psychosocial impact of the earthquake on students and teachers, with the support of the Universidad Católica.
- UNESCO has requested US\$1,279,720 from the CERF fund to construct 50 temporary schools (tent structures strong enough to withstand rain and cold weather).
- UNICEF has requested US\$928,118 for school kits for 40,000 children, disaster prevention and awareness raising activities for an estimated 500,000 families, and tools for psychosocial support.

Food:

- The affected populations have sufficient access to food, distributed by the Chilean Armed Forces and the Ministry of Education; food is also shared by neighbours and host communities.
- Market price increases have been noted in different places and are also affecting the purchasing power of non-affected populations, including indigenous people. The Government is taking this issue seriously and will ensure prices are stabilized. Also, reports from the Ministry of Agriculture indicate that prices are already falling.

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 Swiss Cooperation COSUDE has a team of four structural engineers assisting the Chilean Government in the evaluation of damaged buildings and infrastructure in the cities of Talca, Cauquenes and Constitución.

Agriculture and fisheries

Needs

- Fishing capacity has been reduced by 75% to 90%.
- An estimated 100 fishing coves have been destroyed and 1,000 multi-person fishing boats lost.
- In Maule, 20% of the region's rice production lost its irrigation sources; 100,000 hectares of irrigated land have been lost.

Response

- FAO has requested US\$998,418 from the CERF fund to procure fishing equipment to benefit approximately 6,900 fishermen directly and another 18,000 people indirectly.
- The Government is leading reconstruction efforts of irrigation systems as well as the rehabilitation of the fishing industry.

IV. Coordination

- The Government is leading the relief operation and coordinating assistance. The Director of ONEMI resigned on 10 March.
- 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.
- Daily coordination meetings between Government authorities, UN and NGOs continue.
- A shelter/NFI working group will be established soon to ensure better coordination in that sector.

V. International Funding and Assistance

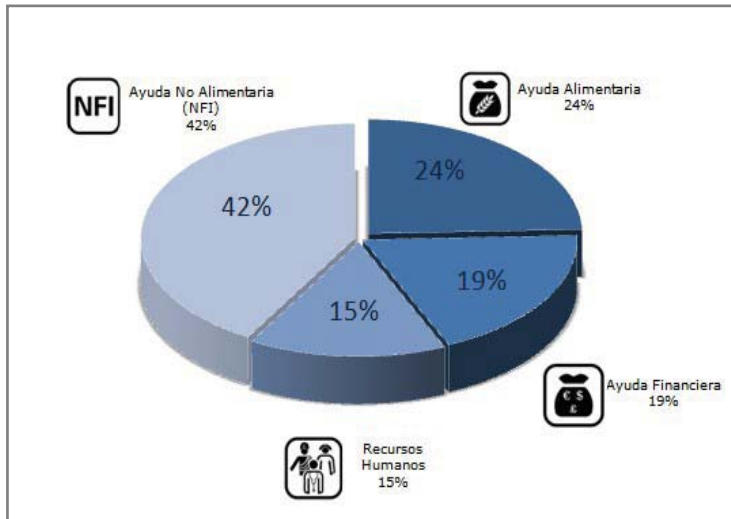


Chart representing the portions corresponding to number of contributions currently reported to the UN coordination centre. Source: UN Coordination Centre in Santiago

The Coordination Centre in Santiago has been recording contributions received as a response to this emergency. According to their records, 42% of the contributions reported are related non-food items, following last week's request by the Chilean Government. Members from the Centre highlight that while tracking is comprehensive, some gaps may exist and donors are encouraged to report their contributions. A detailed list of donors and kind of contributions can be obtained in the coordination Centre.

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).

Following the Secretary General's announcement from last week, the UN agencies and partners in country have finalized and submitted their projects for review by the CERF secretariat. According to the SG's announcement, the UN in-country would receive up to US\$ 10 million from the CERF to support the Chilean Government to respond to the emergency.

The final amount is still being determined but after inter-agency field assessment missions on 8-9 March to three major affected areas in Maule and Biobío, and after several coordination meetings in Santiago, the UN officials indicate that projects receiving funds are from the following sectors: Shelter and Non-Food Items, Health, Emergency Education, Water and Sanitation, Livelihood Support and Emergency Telecommunications.

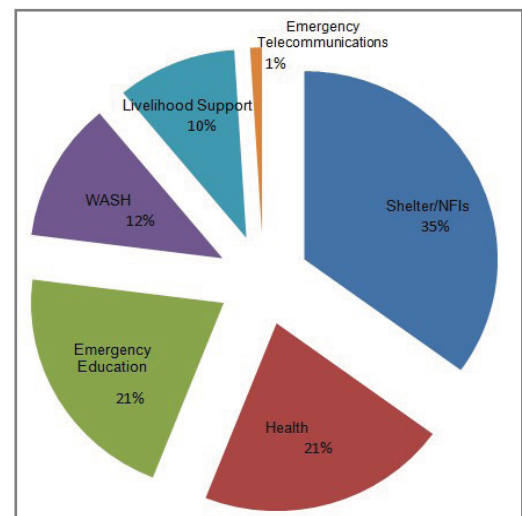


Chart with estimative allocation of funds on the proposal submitted to CERF. Source: UN Coordination Centre in Santiago

VI. Contacts

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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 and 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>

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