



Chile – Earthquake

Disaster Response Report 2

February 28, 2010

BACKGROUND

On February 27, 2010 at about 3:35 a.m. local time, an earthquake of magnitude 8.8 occurred in the moderately populated region of Bio-Bio in central Chile. The earthquake struck 56 miles northeast of the city of Concepción. Many aftershocks have occurred, including a significant 6.3 magnitude in Argentina. The earthquake generated tsunami alerts in Chile and most Pacific coast countries and island states. However, by late on February 27, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center stood down its tsunami warning, after no major tsunami activity occurred in potential coastal areas.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The death toll from Chile's earthquake has more than doubled to 708 and is expected to rise further. The total number of people affected is near 2 million.
- Power and communications networks were still largely out of operation as of February 28, hampering search and rescue efforts.
- In support of earthquake response operations, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies released \$280,000 from its Disaster Emergency Response Fund to support Chilean Red Cross relief operations.
- American Red Cross has made available \$50,000 from its International Response Fund in support of Red Cross response operations.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

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| Estimated deaths | 700 | Government of Chile – 2/28/10 |
| Number affected | 2 million | Government of Chile – 2/28/10 |
| International Federation Disaster Response Emergency Funds (DREF) | \$280,000 | International Federation – 2/27/10 |
| American Red Cross funds available from International Response Fund | \$50,000 | American Red Cross – 2/27/10 |

CURRENT SITUATION

Damage Overview

- Chilean President Michelle Bachelet declared a state of emergency in the regions of Valparaiso, Santiago, O'Higgins, Maule, Bio Bio and La Araucania.
- The Chilean National Emergency Office (ONEMI) has advised that international assistance will not be requested until there is a clear understanding of the extent of damage and needs. To date, no formal request for international assistance has been issued.
- At least 33 aftershocks were reported, including a 6.3-magnitude in Argentina.
- According to President Bachelet, more than 2 million people have been affected and there are approximately 1.5 million houses in the affected areas which may have sustained damages, although specific damage figures have yet to be reported.

Electricity, Water & Communications: Water and electricity systems have been severely restricted or cut off in affected areas. In Concepción and Valparaíso, public services such as electricity and communications were initially interrupted but have mostly been restored. The telephone system is overwhelmed at this time. Lack of electricity and communications are hampering search and rescue efforts.

Access: In Santiago, the country's capital, the international airport is reported to have sustained damages and remains closed. The ports of Valparaíso and Talcahuano have also been affected. Major highway bridges connecting the central regions of the country collapsed, making access to affected areas difficult.

Health: The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) reports at least five damaged hospitals. Patients in these facilities are being transferred to alternative public and private clinics. The Chilean Ministry of Health is disseminating health information and safety precautions related to aftershocks as well as visiting the affected areas to assess the severity of the damage.

MAPS

[Chile Earthquake – ReliefWeb February 27, 2010](#)

[Chile Earthquake – Zones Declared Catastrophes – ReliefWeb – February 28, 2010](#)

[Real Time Aftershocks Map – Chile Earthquake – USGS Web](#)

[Chile Earthquake Geology – NY Times – February 27, 2010](#)

[Chile Earthquake Locations Exposed to Shaking – UN OCHA – February 28, 2010](#)

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT RESPONSE

Chilean Red Cross

- Since the onset of the emergency, the Chilean Red Cross has activated its response mechanisms and is assisting people affected by the earthquake. They are providing limited search and rescue, first aid and relief supplies distribution.
- The Chilean Red Cross has been closely coordinating with the National Chile Emergency Office (ONEMI) and it has placed two Chilean Red Cross staff in that office. ONEMI has so far advised that no international assistance is to be requested until there is a clearer picture of the extent of damage and needs.
- The Chilean Red Cross reports that it is working on the response and gathering damage assessments as part of the ONEMI Emergency Committee. There is an air assessment planned for tomorrow.
- The Chilean Red Cross also reports that communication is still very limited between its headquarters and the affected branches, and they are just now receiving the first damage reports. The affected regions of Bio-Bio and Maule include 42 Chilean Red Cross branches.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation)

- The International Federation has sent one representative to Chile to begin support for the Chilean Red Cross in the response, and a small team of specialists will follow in the next days.
- In support of earthquake response operations, the International Federation has released \$280,000 from its Disaster Emergency Response Fund to support Chilean Red Cross relief operations.
- The International Federation is monitoring the situation from its regional Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama. Staff are in communication with the Chilean Red Cross to ascertain its needs, support its response, and report on the ongoing situation.

American Red Cross

At this time, the American Red Cross is responding with the following:

- The American Red Cross has made available \$50,000 from its International Response Fund if needed, and stands ready to mobilize additional support, including relief supplies, trained personnel or financial assistance.
- The American Red Cross has staff in the region who will continue to work with regional Red Cross partners on the response. It will continue to monitor the situation and work with the International Federation on future action.

The information in this report is compiled from a number of sources including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the U.S. Agency for International Development and involved national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies. The American Red Cross strives to provide the most accurate and timely information possible; however, all information should be considered conditional until a final report has been issued.