



**UNITED NATIONS - ECUADOR
SITUATION REPORT 08
FLOODS 2008-03-13**

I. Situation

Overview

Current situation

As of 8 March, the Regional Situation Centre in Guayaquil reported a total of 22 persons killed as a result of the floods.

On Saturday, 8 March at 18.30 hrs a landslide covered the road from San Gabriel to San Placido 15km from the town of Portoviejo (Canton Portoviejo, Manabi Province) killing 1 person and leaving another 16 unaccounted for. 200 Search and Rescue workers from the Armed Forces, the Civil Defense and the local firefighters were working on the scene.

II. National Response

Organization: Local and National Authorities

Areas of Coordination – Sectoral working groups

Coordination

On the Regional level in Guayaquil, the work of the Sectoral Working Groups continues with the advancement of the implementation of the respective Sector working plans and coordination with the Provincial and Cantonal COEs continues.

Shelters

Figures on the number of affected population in shelters keep fluctuating due to daily changes in the weather conditions with continued rains in some parts and with a cessation of the rains in other parts.

According to information from the Regional Situation Centre in Guayaquil, on 12 March 2986 families or 13653 persons were in 295 shelters.

Persons and families in shelters, 12 March 2008
(Figures by Provinces)

Province	# shelters	# families	#persons
El Oro	65	645	2586
Guayas	95	659	2517
Los Ríos	96	1347	5360
Manabi	17	138	2357
Península de Santa Elena	6	41	179
Esmeraldas	3	24	117
Bolivar	6	48	219
Cañar	13	132	536
TOTAL	301	3034	13871

Health

In the Health Sector, OFDA is supporting the execution of the following three projects of a total amount of USD 50.000. This execution is made by OPS.

1. **Activities in surveillance of the health situation and access to safe drinking water:** the project is aimed at supporting information management in the Health Sector in the Regional Situation Centre in Guayaquil; implementation of an action plan for vector control; as well as the implementation of a plan of intervention for the control, surveillance and treatment of water (USD 30.000).
2. **Program of Health information and education:** this will include informational visits and workshops about sanitation-related topics and the distribution of information material on basic sanitation for the population and health staff (USD 15.000).
3. **Implementation of mechanisms for registration and management of the humanitarian assistance:** It is planned to install the SUMA system in provincial warehouses in order to keep track of the incoming and outgoing aid and provide capacity building for the people in charge of managing the SUMA system. In addition, equipment will be provided to the provincial Situation Centres and warehouses (USD 5.000).

Food

The Sectoral Working Group on Food informed that so far, a total of 107.421 rations of food have been distributed in a joint effort by the Government, the Armed Forces, WFP, the Ecuadorian Red Cross and other partner organizations.

Logistics

The Armed Forces continue to lead the logistical aspects of the aid distribution in close coordination with the Sectoral Working Groups. These activities are being carried out on the Cantonal and Community level where the military is present as well.

Recovery

Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture presented its plan for reactivation of the Agriculture Sector, based on information collected until 28 February which indicates a loss of a total of 66.596 has. Amongst the most affected crops are rice, corn, banana, cocoa, pepper, beans, sugar cane, as well as potato plants in the affected areas of the Highlands. The losses add up to an estimated USD 110 million.

The National Financial Corporation (Corporacion Financiera Nacional (CFN)) will address the restructuring and reactivation of credits for the affected clients with 2-10 years free of interest. This plan also aims at transforming the Corporation into a bank for development.

The Banco Nacional de Fomento (BNF) announced two strategies:

- Re-programming of the valid credits to extend the rates to 10 years with 5% in interests and a grace period of 3 years according to the situation of the client.
- Reactivation of the Agriculture Sector through injects of USD 150 millions to give out credits to qualified candidates and other candidates identified through the census in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGAP).

III. International response

NGOs

International Partners shared the following information about their response activities.

PLAN INTERNACIONAL Ecuador which is working in 1200 communities in 58 Cantons in 11 Provinces of Ecuador in community development is responding to the emergency with technical, logistic and financial assistance in the most affected Provinces of Los Rios, Guayas, Manabi, Santa Elena, Cotopaxi and Chimborazo, Bolivar, Canar, Azuay, Pichincha and Loja. The response is concentrated on child and family protection, food security, safe drinking water as well as medical consultation and distribution of drugs.

CAMARA JUNIOR INTERNACIONAL has identified 10.000 affected people which so far have not received any type of assistance.

ECHO

ECHO is donating €1.500.000 in humanitarian assistance for projects in Los Rios, Guayas and El Oro in the Sectors Food, Water Safety, Health and NFIs.

DIPECHO

DIPECHO is supporting the processes in the provincial and cantonal COEs dealing with humanitarian delivery. The topic of access to safe drinking water and sanitation is an area of concern.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is working in close coordination with OFDA and the Ecuadorian Red Cross and supporting their activities.

COOPI

COOPI is carrying out two projects which were financed by ECHO. The first is financed through the DIPECHO line and aims at strengthening the Municipalities of Ventanas in Los Rios Province and the Echandia and Las Naves in Bolivar Province. The second project deal with interventions in the areas of WatSan, Health, Food Security and Disaster Preparedness in order to mitigate the consequences of the floods for affected families in the Cantons Vinces, Baba and Montalvo.

CARE

On 6 March, CARE Ecuador commenced humanitarian aid activities in the Province of El Oro with the aim of providing at least 4 weeks of food rations to a total of 800 affected families in the Cantons Santa Rosa, Huaquillas and Arenillas.

The activities are carried out in close coordination with local authorities, the Civil Defense, the Ecuadorian Red Cross as well as with the COEs in the Province of El Oro which are working in close cooperation with their counterparts on the Peruvian side. The activities of CARE are facilitated through capacities developed through programs such as DECABI and FOCADES, as well as through projects supported by ECHO and CARE Netherlands which were implemented as part of the DIPECHO program during 2005 and 2007.

OXFAM

OXFAM has been maintaining closed coordination links with the UNDAC/UNETE team and shared information on its activities with other NGOs. Amongst them are the distribution of 200 hygiene kits in Los Rios, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the intervention. Through this, deficiencies in the area of safe drinking water were detected and contamination of wells. In addition problems in hygienic conditions of the shelters were noted (lack of sanitary services, shower facilities, cleaning material and hygiene staff). As a result, OXFAM is responding with the following activities targeting mainly the shelter population in Los Rios Province in the Cantons Babahoyo, Urdaneta, Ventana, Vinces, Montalvo, Quevedo, Valencia and Mocache.

Water:

Installation of 30 tanks to store portable water in those shelters with more than 50 persons, distribution of 1.250 jerry cans of 20 l (1 per family) with water dispensers, smaller adaptations in the shelters to install the tanks and rehabilitation of existing distribution systems.

Health and Hygiene Promotion:

Distribution of 1,250 cleaning kits conduct of health promotion campaigns in shelters and in neighbouring communities, promotion campaigns on norms for hygiene and health, reproduction of material for the promotion of health and cleaning of wells.

Sanitation:

Improvement of access of the sheltered population to hygienic services through the construction of showers and temporary latrines, improvement of drainage systems in the shelters, distribution of cleaning kits.

Food:

Distribution of basic food packages of 50 kg per family during a period of 3 months.

IV. United Nations Response

The UNDAC mission will end on Friday 14 March. In order to ensure continuation of the activities in the area of information management, support to the Regional and Provincial COEs, liaison with NGOs and donors, technical support to the SWG and identification of environmental impacts of the emergency situation, a hand-over is being conducted with the UNETE team. This includes the sharing of all UNDAC documents, files, contact lists; recommendations regarding priority areas of continued support, as well as handover of office equipment.

OPS executes a project of 50.000 dollars financed by USAID, described in the health working group. OPS continues its actions of technical support: safe water, epidemiological vigilance, coordination centre, communication and information of health services. Also, it supports a workshop for the strengthening of the personnel technical Teams of infrastructure of the MSP about the damage evaluation of the facilities of health infrastructure affected due to floods.

V. Immediate Needs

According to information from the Agriculture Sector, for recovery activities, the following is required:

- Donations of inputs such as seeds, tools, and nutrients
- Capacity building
- Reconstitution of infrastructure related to agricultura: walls, canals
- Collection of information (census in the affected sectors)

The requirements of the Junta of Guayas to interlink the Cantons of the province and by this maintain a system of early warning are:

- Promotion of identification of alternative ways of production and income generation for the affected population, as a result of the floods the manpower of up to 60.000 farmers is available.
- For the realization of the plan the estimated costs add up to USD 38 millions which should be covered by national resources and international aid.

In order to operative effects, the *Guayas* Provincial Direction needs a repeater network with its respective “duplexores”, antenna in vhf (very high frequency) in the frequency 141025 rx, 141925 tx with tone 67.0 in t. This repeater would be installed in the

Cochapamba hill of the *Moyeturo* *canton* of the *Azuay* province. In addition they need of 40 portable radioes, 5 bases with its respective antennas for the communication with its cantonal cells.

According to information from the Health Sector, the following is required:

- To supplement fumigation Actions in Shelters.
- Mosquito nets for the shelters and other communities
- To supplement the vigilance of Water quality in other affected areas and shelters.
- Hygiene kits
- To strengthen the Epidemiological vigilance in shelters.