

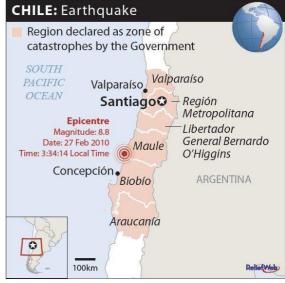
Emergency Operations Center Situation Report #3 Chile Earthquake

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- This earthquake, the strongest in the last 50 years in Chile, affected six regions, home to nearly 80% of the Chilean population.
- The death toll from the 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Chile on Saturday, 27 February, stands officially at 723. The breakdown by Region (administratively, Chile is divided into 15 regions from north to south) is as follows: Valparaíso: 16 deaths; Metropolitana: 38 deaths; O'Higgins: 48 deaths; Maule: 544 deaths; Bíobío: 64 deaths; La Araucanía: 13 deaths.
- Since the initial quake, the U.S. Geological Survey reports 121 aftershocks of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Eight of these aftershocks have had a magnitude of 6.0 or greater.
- Some seaports suffered structural damage but remain operational, even if only partially. Others remain closed. The airport in Concepción is closed to commercial flights. The main airport in Santiago has reopened only for arrivals.

HEALTH SITUATION

- Health services and health care continue to be available to meet the demand. Currently, the government's major concern is to reestablish routine services that can least afford to be interrupted without seriously jeopardizing the health of the patient, services such as dialysis, chemotherapy, radiation; etc.
- Hospitals in the Metropolitan Region, where Santiago is located, are functioning. However, in the disaster zone, which extends from Region V (Valparaíso) to Region IX (Araucania), eight hospitals are unusable and 10 have major damage and are being evaluated. To put these numbers into perspective, the overwhelming majority of hospitals in this area--76 hospitals--are operating without major difficulties.
- In terms of the loss of health services, Region VII (Maule) is the most affected. Four of its seven hospitals cannot function. The other three report damage but are providing limited services. Chile's Armed Forces installed five temporary field hospitals: two facilities in Talca and Concepción (to replace the services of the Regional Hospital) with surgical capacity and three facilities in Curicó, Chillán and Talca, which do not have surgical capacity.
- The national focal point for the International Health Regulations (IHR) was put on alert immediately following the earthquake to support the Ministry of Health Disaster Unit. The Ministry's epidemiological



surveillance network was activated the same day and has been working countrywide, including the affected regions: Valparaiso (V), Metropolitan Region, O'Higgins (VI), Maule (VII), BioBio (VIII) and Auracania (IX).

• Nationwide, sporadic interruptions to the water supply, electricity and telephones continue.

PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

- PAHO/WHO is coordinating with neighboring countries in the Americas who are offering temporary health facilities. Argentina and Brazil have committed to sending field hospitals, which can be up and running within 24 hours, once the government has determined where to locate them. Peru is also sending a field hospital with surgical capacity and in-patient hospital care.
- The Ministry of Health forecasts substantial losses to vaccine stocks, which would cause supply problems
 for its routine vaccination programs. The status of vaccines will be clarified once the Ministry has been
 able to assess the cold chain at different distribution points. PAHO's Revolving Fund for Vaccine
 Procurement is supporting the Ministry of Health.
- In addition, at the request of the government, delivery of Influenza H1N1 vaccine has been postponed for at least one week until it can be confirmed that the airport is open and that electrical power has been restored to the principal storage areas.
- To avoid outbreaks of Hepatitis A, Chile has asked for 800,000 doses of the vaccine and PAHO/WHO is looking into securing a donation from pharmaceutical producers.

Contact the PAHO EOC at +1 202 974 3399 or eoc@paho.org. This report and others are online at www.paho.org/disasters

