Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

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Emergency Operations Center Situation Report #7
Chile Earthquake

GENERAL OVERVIEW


Hospital de Cauquenes

- Ten days after the earthquake, the affected areas are returning to normal. Roads are open, and there is access to all the populations affected by the earthquake. Telephone and electricity service has also been almost fully restored, except in rural areas of Bío Bío region where communication problems persist.
- Government action and enormous national solidarity have made it possible for assistance to reach the victims, sometimes in an uncoordinated manner, but food and drinking water needs during the emergency phase are being fully met (water needs with tanker trucks).
- Security, with an army presence and the imposition of a curfew, has been restored.
- The Ministry of Education has programmed the opening of school for this week, although in the areas most affected, it will be delayed until April.
- The Ministry of the Interior reports 498 confirmed deaths at the national level.
- Chile is in the midst of political transition, and on 11 March, the new government will take office.

HEALTH SITUATION

- The health services network has been severely affected, especially in the Maule and Bío Bío regions. Countrywide some 4,000 hospital beds have been lost. The Ministry of Health has managed to restore health care services and for the time being, the demand is being met.
- The regional health services report that after the first few days of the emergency, the demand for services has fallen to figures even lower than normal. However, they are expected to increase, especially in services for chronic patients and reopening of primary level health facilities.
- Teams of experts were created to assess the condition of the hospital infrastructure in the regions affected by the earthquake. In the disaster area (Valparaiso, Metropolitan, O'Higgins, Maule, Bío Bío and Araucanía regions) there are 130 hospitals:
    - According to the new definition of "operational", 25 hospitals suffered damage, 5 of which were completely destroyed, 12 of them were seriously damaged (75% or more) and are providing limited care and 8 with partial damage (less than 75%) and diminished capacity. 14 of these hospitals will need to be rebuilt.
    - 112 hospitals in critical areas are providing emergency treatment.
    - 216 primary level health facilities (not hospitals) are operational in the affected area.

- Ten field hospitals are up and running in Talca, Curicó, Chillán, Constitución, Curanilahue, Hualpén, Rancagua, Angol and San Carlos (6 of which are national and 4 of which are international - Argentina, Brazil Peru and Cuba). Furthermore, an outpatient module from the Red Cross is operating in Hualañé in the region of Maule, to provide primary health care in the area.
- This week the Ministry of Health launched a communication campaign, reinforcing public health information about water consumption, food and environmental sanitation.
- There is no health crisis or disease outbreak, and epidemiological surveillance has already been strengthened, especially in shelters and camps. Latrines have been installed; waste is being collected with the municipalities, and sanitary landfills that can receive the rubble from destroyed buildings are being evaluated.
- The Ministry's Central Supply Warehouse has dispatched some 400 tons of fortified milk, formula for premature babies, drugs, and medical supplies to the affected area. The Warehouse has been in charge of shipping the vaccines needed for hepatitis A vaccination, anti-rH gamma globulin, dialysis supplies, antivenin for spider bites, etc.
- Since Monday, 1 March, the National Committee on Mental Health in Emergencies and Disasters, made up of staff members from public health and aid networks, has been operational, and a strategy for the affected areas has been prepared.
- The Minister of Health initiated the plan "Immediate Vaccination for Earthquake Victims," aimed at vaccinating children aged 1 to 14 years in risk areas, especially those living in shelters or camps in the O'Higgins, Maule and Bío Bío regions. Some 8,000 children are expected to be reached this week, and the operation will continue for 3 to 4 weeks until local operating capacity begins to be restored.

HEALTH PRIORITIES

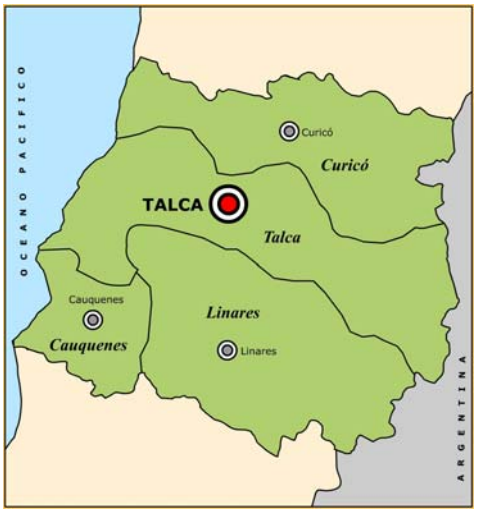
- Continue reorganizing the health services to adequately address the increased demand for services expected for the coming days. It is anticipated that several of the field hospitals will also support primary health care.
- Continue with sanitary control (refuse, rodent and basic sanitation management), the provision of drinking water and epidemiological surveillance in camps and shelters, rural areas, and the most affected coastal areas, especially in the Bío Bío and Maule regions. The government estimates that 30% of rural communities still lack safe drinking water.
- Provide basic hospital, laboratory, and industrial equipment to buttress facilities that are providing services in the unaffected areas.
- Continue selective vaccination programs against hepatitis A and tetanus in the principal areas affected and get normal vaccination programs up and running as soon as possible.
- During the reconstruction stage, the Ministry of Health is planning to replace the affected facilities with modular hospitals, replacing the current field hospitals. The Minister of Health reported that 15 modular hospitals will be set up in areas where hospitals were severely damaged.
- The Ministry has estimated that the cost of reconstructing health care facilities will reach US$ 3,600 million and that it will take at least three years to execute these projects.

HEALTH AND THE HEALTH NETWORK IN CHILE'S MOST AFFECTED REGIONS

Maule region (population 908,000)

- In the region's 13 hospitals, over 840 beds (not counting those in hospitals Curicó and Hualañé) have been lost, or 45% of the total. Some significant details regarding the situation in the health services network:

- The hospital in Talca, a regional referral hospital of the highest complexity, which serves a population of 250,000, has lost 544 beds.
- The hospital in Parral, a low-complexity hospital, has been destroyed, and 122 beds have been lost. Its services have been transferred to the municipalities recently opened Arrau Mendez Outpatient Center.
- The hospital in Cauquenes, which serves 42,000 people, has 144 beds, 80% of which have been lost.
- The hospital in Constitución, serving Constitución and Empedrado, with 56,000 users, has 91 beds, almost 90% of which have been lost.
- Only 3 of the network's 24 health clinics have been damaged.



- Primary level healthcare has been seriously affected, but 10 days after the earthquake it is operating at 80%.
- Regarding the health situation, the coastal populations are those that require greater monitoring and control of public health. Outbreaks of disease have not been reported, but sanitary conditions have deteriorated, especially in the areas closest to the sea hit by the tsunami, such as Constitución (55,000 inhabitants), Pelluhue, and Curanipe (with a total of 7500 inhabitants).
- There are 32 shelters housing some 3,255 people. The shelters are managed by the municipalities, and good coordination with the health authorities is necessary for health monitoring. It has been observed that conditions in the camps pose a greater health risk than those in the shelters.
- The supplementary feeding programs have returned to normal.
- The drinking water and electric power systems are operating in 95% of urban areas; however it is only functioning at 40% in Constitución, where the electricity supply is intermittent. Electricity and access to drinking water in rural areas are still very irregular.
- Trash collection has been restored. There is partial collection in Pelluhue, Chanco, Curepto, and all communities in the Province of Curicó, except for Curicó. The dumps in Parral, Linares, and Chanco were reopened for refuse disposal. On excreta management, in Chanco, the treatment plant is operating with problems, and in Pelluhue and Curanipe the treatment system is damaged.
- Three field hospitals have been set up, two in Talca, one in Curicó.
- For the time being, the demand for services has not exceeded the network's supply.

Region VIII, Bío Bío (population 1,861,562 inhabitants)



- The regional hospital in Concepción (940 beds, serving a population of 850,000) is a high-complexity facility and has suffered major damage to the emergency service, the operating rooms, and critical care beds. It is operating with 600 beds, and 16 operating rooms have ceased to function.
- The hospital in Lota, which serves 52,000 inhabitants, has no water or electricity, and only the emergency system is functioning.
- Part of the health services of Talcahuano (population: 320,000), the hospitals of Lirquén (121 beds) and Coronel have suffered damage to the water systems and reduced their operating capacity. The

hospital in Las Higueras (422 beds) does not have water.

- In the Province of Araujo (164,000 inhabitants), the hospitals in Curinalahue (102 beds), Lebu (66 beds), Cañete (61 beds), and Contulmo (16 beds) are open, although with less capacity. The hospital in Arauco (63 beds) has major structural damage. The province's emergency network is fully operational.
- Hospitals in Curinalahue and Lirquén have suffered more than 75% damage
- Food programs in 35 communities of the region have returned to normal (65%).
- The water supply system has recovered to 65% capacity. Water is being supplied to the rest of the population through tanker trucks; 80% of the electric power has been restored, although areas in Concepción, Talcahuano, and Coronel still have only 50% of their electrical supply.
- There are 5,154 people in camps in the hills in Talcahuano and Tome.
- For the time being, the demand for services has not exceeded the network's supply.
- A slight increase in consultations for bronchitis and diarrhea in children and adults is reported in Chiguayante, Tome, and Lota.

Region IX Araucanía (population, 918,000 inhabitants)



- Loss of 15 complex operating rooms and 5 for outpatient surgery (hospitals in Angol and Temuco)
- The hospital in Temuco is partially destroyed, with a 60% loss of beds (they expect to set up a field hospital with 180 beds, critical units, and operating rooms); current surgical capacity is 25%; and high-complexity hospital beds, 40%.
- The provincial hospital in Angol has been evacuated, as it is a total loss (the field hospital is already in Chile).
- Some 8,000 people remain without safe water (tanker trucks refill twice a day at reservoirs of 1,000 liters). The greatest problem is electricity. Most water systems require electricity to operate the pump motor; many of these problems have been solved with generators.
- Water, electricity, and household gas in urban areas are operating at 100%.
- Teams have been deployed for epidemiological surveillance and water quality control.
- Outbreaks of infectious disease have not been reported.
- The primary care network (made up of doctors' offices, health posts, and low-complexity hospitals) is working normally.

PAHO / WHO RESPONSE

- The Organization is reinforcing the technical team of the PAHO/WHO Country Office in Chile with regional experts in coordination, communications, water and sanitation, and administration.
- An international expert in hospital assessment is assisting the Ministry of Health, beginning with the assessment of hospitals in Region IX.
- PAHO/WHO is mobilizing humanitarian funds for the response. The European Commission (through ECHO, its humanitarian office) has already approved funds to support the areas prioritized by the Ministry

of Health: hospital equipment, purchase of supplies, vaccine procurement, and information coordination and management.

- PAHO/WHO has presented an emergency project to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), established by the United Nations. When in Chile last week, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced that US $10 million would be available to Chile through the CERF, of which US $2 million for health.
- PAHO has coordinated the procurement of hepatitis A vaccine through donations from private enterprises or governments. Some 40,000 doses have been obtained from the Government of Panama (with support from the PAHO/WHO Representative's Office in Panama) and 10,000 doses from Argentina. SANOFI has donated 80,000 pediatric doses and Glaxo Smith Kline, 95,000, which will be arriving in Chile in the coming days.
- 600,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine have been purchased through PAHO's Revolving Fund for vaccines and are scheduled to arrive in the country on 10 March. .
- Four electric generators acquired by PAHO/WHO will be located in Chillán, Talcahuano and Lebu.
- PAHO is participating in the interagency damage assessment that the United Nations' UNETE team is conducting in the affected area. The report will be ready this week.
- A report on the situation of radiation therapy equipment was prepared for the Ministry of Health.

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


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La Ligua
V REGIÓN
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San Felipe
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