



**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Chile – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

March 4, 2010

Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 3, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Government of Chile (GoC) has revised the death toll to 799 people, including more than 587 reported deaths in most-affected Maule Region, 92 deaths in BíoBío Region, 48 deaths in O'Higgins Region, 38 deaths in Metropolitan Region, 20 deaths in Valparaíso Region, and 14 deaths in Araucanía Region. Approximately 10,000 troops from the Chilean Armed Forces continue to operate in Maule and BioBío regions to maintain order and ensure distribution of food and water to affected individuals.
- On March 4, a USAID/OFDA assessment team visited several towns in most-affected Maule Region, including Talca, Curicó, and Constitución towns. After meetings with local officials, the assessment team reported that many earthquake-displaced individuals in Maule Region currently reside with friends and family, significantly reducing the need for the construction of shelters in affected areas.
- According to the USAID/OFDA assessment team in Chile, the GoC National Office of Emergencies and Information (ONEMI) plans to dispatch USAID/OFDA-provided plastic sheeting and water purification units to Curañripe and Pelluhue towns in Maule Region—municipalities severely affected by the tsunami.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Estimated Number of Deaths	799	GoC – March 3
Estimated Affected Population	Approximately 2 million people	International Media – March 3

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Chile	\$1,506,506
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Chile	\$1,506,506

CURRENT SITUATION

- The GoC continues to enforce a nightly curfew, between 2100 hours and 0600 hours local time, in seven cities, including Curicó, Molina, Sagrada Familia, Concepción, Talca, Cauquenes, and Constitución.
- The Chilean national utility company has announced that electricity has been restored to nearly 90 percent of clients. However, approximately 165,000 families remain without service.
- Santiago airport continues to operate with restrictions to international and domestic flights. International flights must continue to transit through one of three other Chilean airports to clear customs prior to arrival in Santiago. The airport is expected to resume 24-hour operations on March 6. Refueling at the Santiago airport remains an issue, and aircraft must arrive with sufficient gas to depart. The Concepción airport continues to serve only military flights.

Humanitarian Coordination

- The GoC retains full control of humanitarian coordination functions in Chile. ONEMI has newly designated two individuals as coordinators of international assistance: Rodrigo Penailillo, Chief of the Coordination Team at the Chilean Presidency, and Mr. Hernán Bascunán, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Multilateral Directorate.
- The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has released \$100,000 in emergency funds to support the U.N. resident coordinator in Chile. In addition, OCHA has established an internal Chile Task Force, based at U.N. Headquarters in New York City.

Assessments

- On March 3, the USAID/OFDA assessment team traveled to Curicó in Maule District, located 196 km from Santiago, and noted significant damage to roads and other infrastructure, namely bridges. The team reported that the earthquake severely damaged approximately 1,000 houses in Curicó, an estimated 70 percent of which were constructed with adobe. According to the assessment team, municipal officials have ordered the demolition of

structurally unsound houses damaged during the earthquake. Local officials also reported a total of 37 known deaths in the town and surrounding areas.

- Also on March 3, the USAID/OFDA assessment team arrived in most-affected Constitución town in Maule District, noting that, although the earthquake caused significant damage to infrastructure, the roads remain in fairly good condition. Multiple repair crews were also seen working in the area. Municipal officials are currently working to place up to 2,000 displaced individuals in temporary shelters. However, city officials also reported that the GoC continues to meet many of the most urgent humanitarian needs among affected populations, including food, which is being provided by the federal government. In addition, the USAID/OFDA assessment team indicated that the area's mobile telecommunications network has been repaired, and the local hospital is open and operational.
- In coordination with the GoC, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) plans to deploy a six-person disaster assessment team, scheduled to arrive in Santiago on March 5.

Emergency Food Assistance

- The U.N. World Food Program plans to transport 120 metric tons of high energy biscuits from Ecuador to Chile for affected communities, benefitting approximately 45,000 beneficiaries for a period of five days.

Health

- According to the GoC, Chilean authorities installed eight field hospitals in the affected areas, including two field hospitals in Talca Commune in Maule Region, and one field hospital each in Rancagua, Curanilahue, Constitución, Curicó, and Chillán areas. Chilean military and medical personnel are preparing four additional hospitals for deployment to affected areas.
- According to OCHA, Cuba has provided a 26-person medical team and field hospital; Argentina is providing three field hospitals, one of which has arrived in country. Brazil and Peru have also committed to sending hospitals to affected areas, including one hospital with surgical capacity and in-patient care.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On February 27, USAID activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to coordinate the USG response to the earthquake in Chile and facilitate information sharing and provision of assistance to earthquake-affected individuals.
- On February 28, U.S. Ambassador Paul E. Simons issued a disaster declaration in response to effects of the earthquake. In response, USAID/OFDA deployed an assessment team to work in coordination with U.S. Embassy personnel and GoC officials to identify and respond to priority humanitarian needs.
- To date, USAID/OFDA assistance totals more than \$1.5 million, including support for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) emergency appeal and the provision and transport of 300 rolls of plastic sheeting and two water treatment units from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Miami, Florida. The USG has also provided 85 satellite telephones to the GoC to facilitate communications until telephone networks in affected areas are repaired.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHILE FOR THE EARTHQUAKE

FY 2010			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
IFRC	Emergency Response Activities	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
TBD	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$319,990
TBD	Emergency Response Activities	Affected Areas	\$50,000
	Administration and Support Costs		\$136,516
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHILE			\$1,506,506
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHILE			\$1,506,506

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 4, 2010. USAID plans to provide further assistance in accordance with the findings of GoC and forthcoming humanitarian assessments in disaster zones.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Chile may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int