

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ECUADOR: LANDSLIDES

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This bulletin is intended for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

Reports from an Ecuadorian Red Cross Society (ERCS) spokesman described how Ecuador's Amazon region has been hit hard by heavy rains since last Friday, 8 June, causing rivers to overflow with strong currents carrying off some homes. The Ecuadoran Civil Defence reported that the rains had triggered a series of 15 landslides near the town of Papallacta (located some 32 miles/50kms east of Quito the capital), rupturing the country's only oil pipeline on Monday and halting the transportation of crude oil. Some 150 people were left stranded on a highway after these landslides blocked transport on Monday. The Civil Defence and Red Cross jointly reported 39 people killed, six missing, 400 homes destroyed, and 700 people affected by the storms nation-wide. Out of those 39 people, some 30 motorists were killed when a landslide destroyed a shelter where they stopped to rest on their way to Papallacta.

Several Amazon provinces have asked the government to declare a state of emergency in the region to channel aid more quickly to those who need it. The Government is assessing the situation.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has 161 volunteers working in the following seven provinces affected by heavy rains and landslides: Pichincha, Napo, Tungurahua, Morona, Zamora, Asuay and Sucumbíos. The ERCS has prioritized rescue and first aid efforts in the town of Papallacta which is the most severely affected. The response of the National Society is supported by material resources, including three ambulances in Pichincha and one in Sucumbíos.

The National Society is assessing the situation and will advise the International Federation if any international help is required. The Buenos Aires Regional Delegation and PADRU are on alert, ready to lend assistance if necessary.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact:

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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