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## Information bulletin Chile: Flash Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Glide n° FL-2015-000027-CHL</b>	<b>Date of issue: 30 March 2015</b>
<b>Date of disaster: 25 March 2015</b>	<b>Point of contact: Pabel Angeles/ IFRC Disaster management coordinator for South America</b>
<b>Host National Society: Chilean Red Cross</b>	
<b>Number of people affected: 6,400</b>	
<b>N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: IFRC, American Red Cross</b>	

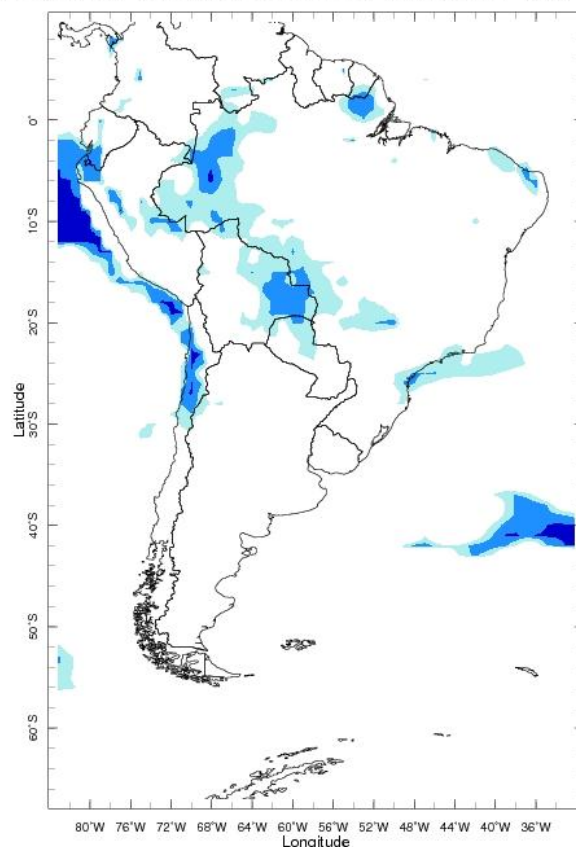
This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Chilean Red Cross, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not yet required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

**Summary:** On 25 March 2015 heavy rains affected the northern region of Chile triggering widespread flooding. A red alert was declared for the region of Atacama and preventive alerts are in place for the regions of Antofagasta, Coquimbo, Metropolitana and Valparaíso. The most affected region is Atacama. On 26 March the Chilean Red Cross informed there are approximately 6,400 people affected, 19 people missing and 7 people dead. Basic services in the affected areas have collapsed including electricity and water supply services. The ONEMI (The Ministry of Interior and Public safety) reported 5,576 people are in 23 shelters activated in the region.

At the onset of the emergency the Chilean Red Cross regional branches of Atacama and Coquimbo formed a national technical board. Health communication material was elaborated to strengthen the work between the branches and among the volunteers. The material included information on water and sanitation and hygiene promotion. To view the material please [click here](#). The National Society has deployed four National Intervention Team (NIT) members to the affected area specializing in psychosocial support, water and sanitation and disaster risk to conduct a first assessment of the area and determine the most immediate needs. The IFRC disaster management coordinator for South America was deployed on 27 March to support the National Society in initial assessments.

[<Click for detailed contact information>](#).

Forecast for 26-31 Mar 2015 Issued 0000 26 Mar 2015



Rain forecast for Chile shows rain in northern region from 26 to 31 March. Source: <http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/IFRC/FIC/index.html>

## The situation

On 24 and 25 March 2015 heavy rainfall and consequent river overflow, flash floods and landslides affected the area of Atacama desert in the north of Chile, leading the Government to declare a state of emergency in Atacama and Antofagasta regions. In Atacama, 2,400 houses have already been evacuated and over 450 have been damaged to various degrees, while more than 27,337 people are without electricity in the two Regions. The Region of Coquimbo has also been affected, with 300 people having evacuated their homes, nearly 7,500 without electricity and over 40 000 without drinking water. Over the next hours, heavy rainfall may still affect Atacama and Antofagasta, while less rain is expected in Coquimbo. As of 26 March, a red alert for rain/floods is in effect throughout Atacama Region and a red alert for rainfall in the communes of Antofagasta, Tocopila and Taltal in Antofagasta Region.

On 27 March, the Ministry of Health dispatched vaccines for hepatitis A, tetanus and influenza to the Atacama region and the Chilean army sent a medical care post to the Antofagasta region including drinking water, blankets, mattresses, food items, doctors and nurses. The ONEMI deployed a Territorial Deployment Unit integrated by ONEMI officials to the Atacama region and the National Firefighters of Chile mobilized three urban search and rescue (USAR) teams.

In the **region of Atacama**, government reports indicate six people have died, 19 people are missing, 748 people affected and 4,104 people staying in 10 shelters among different communes. Initial rapid assessments conducted report that there are 35 homes destroyed, 138 homes with major damages and 407 homes with minor damages. There are 20,000 people in the communes of Copiapo, Diego de Almagro and Aldel Carmen without electricity and 7,500 people from the communes of Chanaral and Tierra Amarilla without potable water.

In the **region of Antofagasta**, authorities reported 858 people taking refuge in shelters in different communes. The electricity service has been restored, most hospitals and medical centers are functioning, but some have structural damages.

In the **region of Coquimbo** there are 7,429 people without electricity and 41,000 people without drinking water. There are five shelters open with 614 people from different communes.

At the moment there is a red alert for the region of Atacama and for the communes Antofagasta and Taltal in the Antofagasta region.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On 25 March 2015, the Chilean Red Cross formed a national technical board including the regional branches of Atacama and Coquimbo. The National Society elaborated and disseminated health related material among the branches and volunteers with information on water and sanitation and hygiene promotion. A team of four National Intervention Team (NIT) member specializing in psychosocial support, water and sanitation and disaster risk were deployed to conduct assessments to determine the most immediate needs. Some volunteers reported that some affected areas are unreachable since the roads have been affected. Nevertheless, volunteers are providing support in shelters with psychosocial support and first aid activities.

Once the first assessment report is completed by the NIT team and the needs are identified, the National Society with support from the IFRC disaster management coordinator will elaborate a plan of action and determine if DREF funds will be formally requested.

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## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.