

HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

South America

1. CONTEXT

Since late January to date, heavy rains, floods, overflowing rivers, mudslides, hailstorms and snowfalls are affecting several countries of South America, most affected being Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil. The Pacific coast and the Andean highlands have suffered from exceptionally high levels of rain, while Amazonian plains are mainly flooded by water flowing from the Andes. To date, more than 1.2 million people are affected.

While the situation was already worrying at the end of February, it has steadily worsened, reaching the highest level of impact at the beginning of April and extending the emergency to the Central Chaco in Paraguay.

In coastal, Amazonian and Chaco plains, rivers have been overflowing for several months, forcing people to flee and abandon their homes and stay in houses of relatives or collective shelters which often are not managed by any institution. As water is still high, it is not clear when these people will be able to return to their homes and in which conditions.

In mountain areas and highlands, landslides have provoked total destruction in localized municipalities. In these cases, houses have either collapsed or have been severely affected, and people have also lost all their belongings just before the winter season, which they will face in extremely vulnerable conditions.

Poor sanitary conditions, vast surfaces of stagnant waters and cold temperatures foreseen in the short term sharply increase the risk of waterborne and respiratory diseases.

Agricultural losses are reported to be among the most significant effects of the disaster, although information about the affected surface of crops is still deficient and incoherent between different institutions and agencies. A livelihood crisis is foreseeable in the medium term in rural areas where most affected people practice subsistence agriculture.

Peru is the most affected country in the region with more than 760,000 people reported to be affected, and the Amazonian plains of Loreto are the most severely hit areas in that country, with the Amazonas and Marañón rivers reaching historical levels and putting entire communities under the water for several weeks in one of the poorest departments of the country.

Although most of the affected countries have or are developing disaster management capacities, chronic poverty and vulnerability to natural events remains extremely high in many of the affected areas that are generally not benefiting from government services. Vulnerability indicators at national level in many countries of South America may be considered medium level. However, within-country social disparities are among the highest in the world, even in relatively well-off countries where certain regions suffer from very high levels of vulnerability. As an example, while Peru Human Development Index is 0.725, the development index in three of the main affected departments is 0.54 for Loreto, 0.56 for Apurimac and 0.53 for Puno. Furthermore, while national and local authorities are responding to the

emergency, the scale of the flooding makes it difficult to cover all needs. In many remote areas capacities are overwhelmed and humanitarian needs are not being covered.

Country	Vulnerability Index	Crisis Index	HDI (Ranking)
Bolivia	2	3	0,663 (108)
Colombia	2	3	0,710 (88)
Peru	2	2	0,725 (81)
Paraguay	2	1	0,665 (107)
Ecuador	2	0	0,720 (84)

2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- (1) **Peru:** the rains have provoked massive floods and landslides which have affected most of the departments of the country, with more than 760,000 people affected. The humanitarian needs vary according to the geographical area and the type of disaster caused by the rains, which has not been the same in all cases:
 - (a) Floods in Amazonian side, and mainly in Loreto Department, have been the worst ever recorded, submerging entire communities for several months. The extent of the damage has overwhelmed the existing response capacities at local and national levels, with humanitarian aid provided far from covering the needs. It is estimated that at least 200.000 people are in need of humanitarian aid. Conditions in the more than 115 collective shelters need to be urgently improved in terms of access to safe water, sanitation, hygiene and protection. The risk of diseases linked to unsanitary conditions, consumption of contaminated water and widespread stagnant waters has radically increased and needs to be controlled. Cold waves from the south are forecast by the National Meteorology Institute, and this could also increase the incidence of respiratory diseases considering the precarious living conditions of affected people. Assistance will also be required to help rural communities to return to and rehabilitate their houses, livelihoods and communal facilities (schools, health centers, etc.) once the waters recede.
 - (b) Landslides have provoked punctual but fatal destruction of houses and livelihoods in localized areas where people were living in the proximity of high slopes. Southern and Central departments of the country, such as Puno, Apurimac, Arequipa and Lima have suffered from destruction of water and sanitation systems, irrigation schemes, roads, etc. Generally speaking, first emergency assistance has been

received in this area by the affected population, but there are significant remaining needs in terms of temporary housing and restoration of livelihoods. Considering that the cold season is arriving, it is urgent to reduce the exposure of the vulnerable population to extreme temperatures.

- (c) In many cases, the lack of capacities of local authorities is impeding the correct management of the humanitarian response in terms of information, coordination and request for assistance. Consequently, reinforcement of coordination mechanisms and local response institutions as well as the mainstreaming of DRR in the response is also needed.
- (2) **Bolivia:** Heavy rains affected most of the Bolivian territory between February and April, causing 20 deaths and 33,304 affected families (approximately 161,000 people) throughout the country, particularly in the departments of Oruro, Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, La Paz and Pando. Some 1,878 houses have been destroyed or severely damaged. Main humanitarian needs have been identified in the rural areas of high plains in Oruro, Cochabamba and La Paz, where structural poverty has increased the impact of the floods and the coming cold temperatures could worsen the situation. Main needs are related to livelihood recovery, food assistance and access to safe water.
- (3) **Ecuador:** the worst rains registered in the country since the 1970s have affected more than 100,000 people in the coastal plains. National institutions are responding to the emergency, but humanitarian gaps have been identified in certain remote areas which have received little or no assistance. In addition, the impact of the floods on agriculture, with a massive loss of subsistence livelihoods and jobs, has not been tackled.
- (4) **Paraguay:** Abnormal rains have severely affected the Central Chaco (Boqueron, Presidente Hayes and Alto Paraguay), flooding entire indigenous communities and fields in areas where vulnerability is extremely high and people do not have the capacity to deal with this kind of unexpected disaster. Many dairy producers have also lost their herds, also causing a massive loss of jobs on which many of indigenous families depended. The SEN (National Emergency Service) is assisting people with first aid items, but there are significant gaps in terms of livelihood recovery and access to safe water.
- (5) **Colombia:** Even though the first rainy season of the year is just starting, the number of affected has risen quite quickly to more than 60,000 people. The Amazonas department, bordering with Loreto in northern Peru, is similarly highly affected.
- (6) The total number of people still in need of humanitarian assistance is around 300,000 people.
- (7) Prioritized Sectors are water, sanitation, hygiene, health (including vector control, prevention and psychosocial attention) food assistance, livelihood

recovery, temporary housing, distribution of non food items, collective shelter management, support to coordination and information management, disaster preparedness, education and protection.

3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

(1) National / local response and involvement:

In Peru INDECI (National Institute of Civil Defense) is responsible for managing emergencies at national level and providing assistance to the different regions when local and sub-national capacities are overwhelmed, as is the case now. INDECI has distributed tents and non food items to affected families, although there is no information about the number of families which have benefitted¹. PRONAA (National Feeding Programme) has also distributed food rations, but only covering a small part of the existing needs. In urban areas of Lima affected by mudslides, local solidarity between neighbors and adjacent municipalities has been fundamental during the first days after the catastrophe.

In Ecuador, SNGR (National system for risk management) has deployed a comprehensive response at national level, distributing hygiene, food and non food items, coordinating the response and supporting mitigation works. SNGR estimates that around 120,000 people have benefitted from their assistance so far. The Ministry of Social Inclusion (MIES) has been responsible for managing the collective centres sheltering affected people. The MIES has requested the assistance of several ECHO partners to train local authorities to manage collective shelters.

In Paraguay, the SEN (National emergency system) immediately started to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected areas of the Chaco and is managing the four collective shelters.

In Bolivia, VIDECI (Vice ministry of Civil Defense) has provided assistance to affected populations through its departmental offices.

(2) International Humanitarian Response: OCHA has released a CERF for Loreto

Department for US\$ 2.4 million. IFRC has launched DREF operations in Peru, Ecuador and Paraguay. AECID (Spanish Cooperation) has activated its humanitarian agreement with Spanish Red Cross in Peru. Swiss cooperation has also funded response operations in Peru.

(3) Constraints and DG ECHO response capacity: Access to the affected areas presents serious logistic difficulties for the delivery of aid. Loreto department is an Amazonian area covering more than 368,000 sq km (bigger than Germany) and most transport is fluvial. Rural indigenous communities in the Paraguayan Chaco are also scattered and isolated. In terms of security,

¹ SINPAD (Information system of the INDECI) does not provide information about the number of people assisted, but just about the tons of assistance distributed.

Peruvian and Ecuadorian border areas with Colombia could be potentially at risk due to the specificities of that area in terms of drug traffic and conflict.

In some of the affected areas, ECHO partners were already present before the floods and this facilitates the knowledge of the area as well as a quick reaction in terms of response, but this is not the case in places such as Loreto, where not all partners were present before.

(4) Envisaged DG ECHO response and expected results of humanitarian aid interventions:

ECHO aims to complement existing relief and recovery efforts, filling the gaps identified in the humanitarian response and coordinating with local and national initiatives as well as with the contributions from other actors. Main sectors to be included will be: WASH, Food assistance, Livelihood support, Collective shelter management, Distribution of Non Food Items, Temporary housing, Health and Protection.

- (a) Management of collective shelters through provision of safe water, food and non food items, protection and sanitary conditions would be necessary in Loreto department together with support to people in their return to their homes. In this context of overcrowding, provision of protection will be also considered as a fundamental part of the response.
- (b) Assistance will be provided to rural remote communities of the countries where humanitarian needs are not covered in terms of shelter, NFI's, WASH, and Food Assistance. ECHO will support activities oriented to support the affected families to recover their status through livelihood recovery and small rehabilitation of vital infrastructure.
- (c) Prevention and response to outbreaks of epidemics is also to be integrated in the response, considering the risk of disease outbreaks linked to the extent of stagnant water, lack of appropriate shelter, unsanitary conditions, consumption of contaminated water and expected cold temperatures in conditions of extreme vulnerability. Psychosocial assistance to severely affected individuals is also to be considered.
- (d) Lack of local capacities in terms of needs assessments as well as information and response management has been a common finding in many of the affected countries. Consequently ECHO considers it appropriate to support initiatives focused on guaranteeing appropriate levels of coordination and information management as well as strengthening the local capacities related to this. All ECHO funded actions should be integrated into the existing coordination mechanisms activated at local and national levels.

In total, the intervention amounting to EUR 5,000,000 is expected to reach some 150,000 most vulnerable beneficiaries.

Mainstreaming of relevant cross-cutting issues - with particular attention to gender considerations, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and environmental protection - will be required in all sectors of intervention, as appropriate (e.g. through increased use of hazard-resilient shelter rehabilitation designs, promotion of crop diversification programmes, etc.), with a view to increasing the resilience of affected communities.

Coordinated approaches among organisations, including through joint actions, will be welcome for funding if operationally appropriate.

4. LRRD, COORDINATION AND TRANSITION

(1) *Other ECHO emergency interventions in the region:*

- (a) 2010 – Peru: Humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations affected by floods and mudslides in Cusco and Puno departments (EUR 2m)
- (b) 2010 – Bolivia: Humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations affected by drought in Traija, Chuquisaca and Santa Cruz Departments (EUR 1,5m)
- (c) 2011 – Peru: Humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations affected by floods in Ucayali Department (EUR 2m)

Small Scale Response

- (d) 2010 – Bolivia: Humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations affected by landslides in La Paz municipality (EUR 200,000)
- (e) 2011 – Peru: Humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations affected by floods in Ucayali Department (EUR 200,000)
- (f) 2011 – Bolivia: Humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations affected by floods in Cochabamba Department (EUR 200,000)
- (g) 2011 – Bolivia: Humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations affected by extreme cold temperatures in Potosí Department (EUR 200,000)
- (h) 2012 – Bolivia Humanitarian aid through emergency and recovery assistance to vulnerable communities affected by flooding in Oruro (EUR 200,000)

Epidemics

- (i) 2011 – Bolivia & Peru: Emergency response to dengue fever outbreak (EUR 350,000): Bolivia – Departments of Beni, La Paz, Pando, and Cochabamba, Peru – Departments of Loreto, Madre Dios, Cajamarca, San Martín, Piura and Lima

- (j) 2011 - Peru & Bolivia: Emergency response to dengue outbreak (EUR 34,373 - contribution to DREF/IFRC): Peru - Puchana, Loreto Region, Bolivia - Riberalta, Department of Beni

DIPECHO

2011 – 2012 South America (EUR 12m)

DRR Drought

2011 – 2012 Bolivia & Paraguay (EUR 3m)

- (2) *Other services/donors availability (such as for LRRD and transition):*

In some countries such as Ecuador, the related ministries are defining a reconstruction plan for the different sectors such as agriculture, but this is not the case in all the affected countries. UNDP is supporting SNGR in the recovery planning by training staff. In Peru, the Ministry of Dwelling, Construction and Sanitation has USD 3.7 million to develop activities related to temporary housing. Due to the absence of a request for international assistance, few donors are contributing to the response, and few are likely to assist in the recovery process.

- (3) *Other concomitant EU interventions:*

In Bolivia EU bilateral cooperation includes food security as one of the main axes of intervention. In the Paraguayan Chaco the EU is funding operations for improvement of livelihoods. In Peru and Ecuador ad hoc projects under the Non State Actors funding are being implemented in the areas affected by the floods.

- (4) *Exit scenarios:*

The duration of the implementation period should allow ECHO partners to end the projects leaving communities recovered from the floods and landslides as well as people and authorities with strengthened capacities to face similar events in the future.

5. OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL DETAILS

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2012/01000 and the general conditions of the Partnership Agreement with the European Commission supersede the provisions in this document.

5.1. Contacts²

Operational Unit in charge : ECHO/B/5

Contact people:

² Single Forms will be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL (e-Single Form).

ECHO HQ: Dorothy Morrissey (Dorothy.morrissey@ec.europa.eu)

ECHO Quito office: Laurence Bardon (Laurence.bardon@ec.europa.eu)

5.2. Financial info

Indicative Allocation: EUR 5,000,000

Natural disasters: Hum. Aid: EUR 5,000,000

5.3. Proposal Assessment

Assessment round 1

- a) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: all interventions as described in section 3.4 of this HIP
- b) Indicative amount to be allocated in this round of proposals: up to EUR 5,000,000
- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/04/2012³.
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up 12 months.
- e) Potential partners: All ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 30/05/2012⁴
- h) Commonly used principles will be applied for the assessment of proposals, such as quality of needs assessment, relevance of intervention sectors, and knowledge of the country/region, previous activities in the target areas/sectors, relevance of the beneficiary selection, feasibility of the intervention, technical capacity, and - where applicable - international mandate.

³ The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, what ever occurs latest.

⁴ The Commission reserves the right to consider Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs / priorities are not covered by the received Single Forms.