

## ANNEX IV-3



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HUMANITARIAN AID OFFICE (ECHO)

<b>Monthly report number</b>	2011/1
<b>Month</b>	<b>January 2011</b>
<b>Country</b>	South America (except Colombia for HA)
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### MONTHLY REPORT

#### 1. SUMMARY / MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- (1) **Floods and landslides in Brazil** – Heavy rains and landslides that started on January 11th have left 486 municipalities affected, 812 people dead, 400 missing, 16,877 homeless and 64,864 displaced in the Southeast region: Espirito Santo, Río de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, Paraná, and Santa Catarina.

The response from the national authorities includes logistic support from the military forces to the Civil Defence, in support of the search and rescue efforts. The military is also supporting field hospitals. The national Red Cross has been providing support to the temporary shelters. Nevertheless, ECHO partners in the field have reported important gaps in the response at local level.

DG ECHO has allocated 200.000 EUR from the Small Scale Response Funding Decision to support the victims of the floods in Rio de Janeiro. The operation is being implemented by Save the Children and Care.

- (2) **DIPECHO VII Action Plan for South America** – Proposals were received on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011. ECHO field office is in process of analyzing 42 project proposals.
- (3) **New Risk Management Law in Peru** – On the 27<sup>th</sup> of January the new Law on Disaster Risk Management was approved by the Congress. The new Law contemplates the creation of the National System of Disaster Risk Management (SINAGERD in Spanish). The mandate of the Civil Defence (INDECI), will be now limited to disaster preparedness and response.



**EVENTS**

**Brazil:** Heavy rains and landslides that started on January 11th have left 486 municipalities affected, 812 people dead, 400 missing, 16,877 homeless and 64,864 displaced in the Southeast region - states of: Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, Paraná, and Santa Catarina.

The disaster now ranks as the second-worst recorded in Brazil's history, according to United Nations data, eclipsed only by a meningitis outbreak that killed 1,500 people in 1974.



**ECHO MAIN ACTIVITIES**

**Venezuela:**

New contract signed: SSR  
Floods Miranda & Capital District  
CARITAS FR - € 200.000

**Brazil:**

New contract signed: SSR  
Floods and Landslides  
Rio de Janeiro  
CARE Nederland - € 200.000

## **BRAZIL**

### **1. EVOLUTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION**

#### **Heavy rains and floods**

- Heavy rains and landslides that started on January 11th have left 486 municipalities affected, 812 people dead, 400 missing, 16,877 homeless and 64,864 displaced in the Southeast region: Espírito Santo, Río de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, Paraná, and Santa Catarina. Being the Serrana Region of Río de Janeiro the most affected.
- The disaster now ranks as the second-worst recorded in Brazil's history, according to United Nations data, eclipsed only by a meningitis outbreak that killed 1,500 people in 1974.
- The response from the national authorities includes logistic support from the military forces to the Civil Defence, in support of the search and rescue efforts. The military is also supporting field hospitals. The national Red Cross has been providing support to the temporary shelters.
- Health sources fears are now growing about diseases, where at least three people are known to have contracted leptospirosis. State health authorities have warned of risks if there is contact with contaminated river water.
- After causing the disaster in the Serrana region in the state of Rio de Janeiro, the moist clouds from the Amazon have shifted slightly to the south now dumping enormous amounts of rain on coastal areas in the states of São Paulo, Paraná and, especially, Santa Catarina.
- The government has allocated nearly 320 million EUR to provide humanitarian assistance, build new homes, and invest in infrastructure and flood prevention measures. It also recently announced a three-year \$1 billion package for drainage and slope stabilisation to prevent future flooding and the installation of a EWS in the state of Rio de Janeiro. Also an agreement was reached with the World Bank for an emergency relief loan of \$485 million for the disaster hit areas of Rio de Janeiro state.
- Populist politics, lack of investment in disaster prevention by state and local municipalities, and lack of urban planning across much of Brazil has allowed the construction of whole neighbourhoods in areas with high risk of flooding and mudslides. Meanwhile, the Brazilian government has failed to put in place effective early warning systems to tackle the effect of natural disasters.

### **2. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND MAIN ISSUES**

- ECHO Quito field office has been closely monitoring the situation with its partners in Brazil. A SSR project of 200, 000 EUR has been approved to provide of humanitarian aid to affected population in the municipalities of Petropolis, Teresópolis, and Nova Friburgo, in the Serrana Region of Río de Janeiro state. The intervention will be implemented by CARE and Save the Children.

## **PERU**

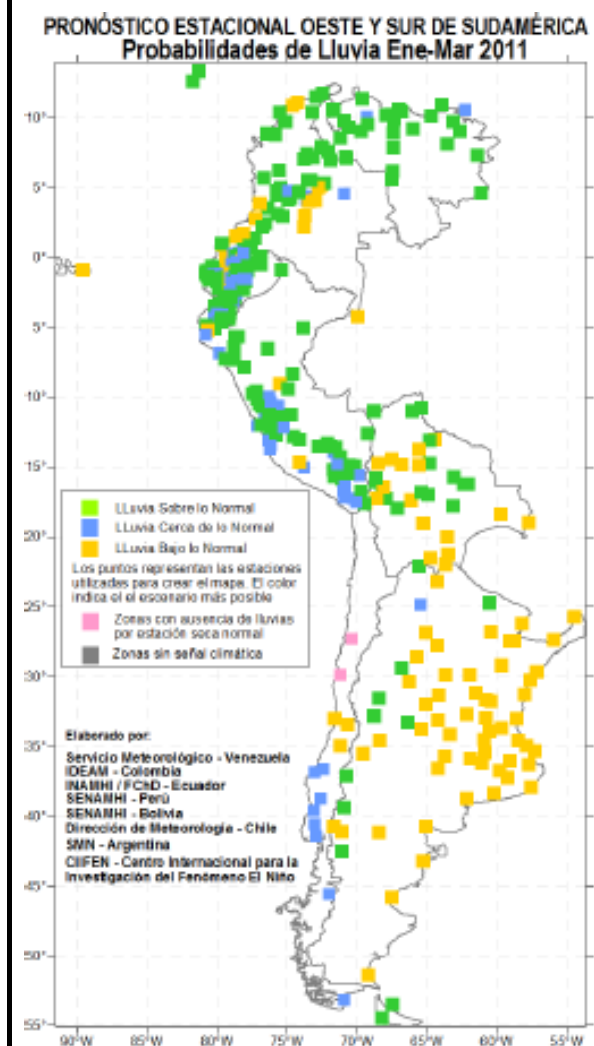
- On the 27<sup>TH</sup> of January the new Law on Disaster Risk Management was approved by the Congress. The new Law contemplates the creation of the National System of Disaster Risk Management (SINAGERD in Spanish). The mandate of the Civil Defence (INDECI), will be now limited to disaster preparedness and response.

## **VII DIPECHO ACTION PLAN**

- A total of 42 proposals were received and are in process of being appraised and analyzed. After the selection process, it is expected that selected projects start on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

## **Regional Humanitarian response and main issues**

## Regional rainfall forecast



### January – March 2011

**Venezuela:** More probabilities of precipitation above normal levels in most of the country.

**Colombia:** More probabilities of precipitation above normal levels in most of the country. South of the Pacific region more probabilities of precipitation below normal levels.

**Ecuador:** More probabilities of precipitations of normal and above normal levels in Andean highlands and central coast. In the northern coast precipitations below normal levels.

**Peru:** More probabilities of precipitation of normal and above normal levels in the Andean highlands and Amazon region. In the coastal region precipitations near normal levels.

**Bolivia:** More probabilities of precipitation below normal levels in the Altiplano. In the valleys precipitations above normal levels.

**Chile:** More probabilities of precipitation above normal levels in the Altiplano. In the central regional precipitations below normal levels, while in the south and austral regions more probabilities of precipitations near normal levels.

**Argentina:** More probabilities of precipitation below normal levels in most of the country. While, in the region near the cordillera precipitations above normal levels are expected.

Sources: (CIIFEN), International research centre on el Niño

**LA NIÑA Update** - A significant La Niña episode continues in the tropical Pacific Ocean, with effects extending into adjacent ocean basins. Atmospheric indicators show this episode to be one of the strongest of the last century, while oceanic indicators have been at moderate to strong levels. La Niña conditions are likely to continue through the first quarter of 2011, and possibly into April or even May. Beyond that time, the evolution of El Niño/La Niña cycle is uncertain.

In light of the above assessment, regions typically impacted by La Niña events are advised to take note of the expected continuation of moderate to strong La Niña conditions over the coming 1-2 months and weaker La Niña conditions during March and April. Consultation of local climate outlooks provided by the respective regional and national agencies is recommended for the best information on management of climate-related risks.

[http://www.ciifen-int.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=78&Itemid=95&lang=en](http://www.ciifen-int.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=78&Itemid=95&lang=en)