



Monthly report number	2012/09
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Country	South America (except Colombia for HA)
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MONTHLY REPORT

1. SUMMARY / MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- (1) **Bolivia – Heat wave, drought and fire spots:** Emergency has been declared in the departments of Santa Cruz, Beni, Tarija and Chuquisaca which are being severely affected by a heat wave, drought and fires. The Chaco region in Santa Cruz is the most affected.
The Altiplano and Chaco regions will present a severe rain deficit during October; this situation will affect mainly to the departments of Santa Cruz, Beni, Pando, and La Paz. Weather anomalies due to the presence of El Niño will strengthen during the last months of the year and will reach its peak with high temperatures in January.
- (2) **Ecuador – Fires spots:** From June 1st to September 19th, 3.178 fire spots were registered, 69 people injured, 16.243 hectares of forest destroyed, 142 hectares of crops devastated and 30 hectares affected as the result of fires in the provinces of Pichincha, Imbabura, Cotopaxi, Carchi, Chimborazo, Bolívar, Azuay, Cañar, El Oro and Loja. Orange alert was activated in 8 of the nine affected provinces. The capital city Quito has been the most affected as several urban neighbourhoods were affected. ECHO Office was contacted by Municipality of Quito to assess the possibilities of a MIC deployment.
- (3) **Paraguay – Strong storm:** The Central Department has been affected by a strong storm, which was accompanied by strong winds of 140 km/h. The departments of Ñeembucú and Itapúa have also been affected by a strong storm and hail storm which have caused severe damages.
At least 5,000 families have been affected and 5 deaths have been reported in the departments of Central Ñeembucú, Misiones, Caazapá, Paraguari, Alto Paraná, and Canindeyú.
- (4) **Argentina – Heavy rains and floods:** Heavy rains and extreme weather conditions have caused damages in the province of Buenos Aires, where more than 1,020 persons have been affected and evacuated.
A third part of the total hectares in the province-, and the economical losses for the agricultural sector have been estimated at \$ 4.500 and \$ 4.800 pesos (US 967 millions approximately).
- (5) **DIPECHO-** National and regional seminars have been carried out between the 4th of September and 25th of October. Organisation of the seminars is on-going.



EVENTS

- **Ecuador:** 3.178 fire spots were registered, 16.243 hectares of forest destroyed, 142 hectares of crops devastated. Orange alert was activated in 8 of the nine affected provinces.
- **Bolivia:** Emergency has been declared in the departments of Santa Cruz, Beni, Tarija, Chuquisaca, Pando and La Paz which are being severely affected by a heat wave, drought and fires.
- **Paraguay:** A strong storm was registered in the departments of Central Ñeembucú, Misiones, Caazapá, Paraguari, Alto Paraná, and Canindeyú causing destruction.
- **Argentina:** Heavy rains and floods have caused damages in the province of Buenos Aires.



ECHO MAIN ACTIVITIES

- **Venezuela**
 - Monitoring visit DIP project
 - DIP National Workshop
- **Ecuador**
 - Monitoring visit Emergency project in Guayas province.
- **Peru**
 - Monitoring visit Emergency project in Loreto (Alto Amazonas Province)
- **Bolivia**
 - Monitoring visit SSR and Emergency projects in Oruro.
 - DIP National Workshop
- **Brazil:**
 - Monitoring DIP project Río de Janeiro.
- **Paraguay**
 - Monitoring visit Emergency projects in Chaco
 - DIP National Workshop
- **Chile**
 - Monitoring DIP Projects in Iquique
 - DIP National Workshop

BOLIVIA

1. EVOLUTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Droughts and cold snaps

- In Cochabamba Department thousands of hectares of have been devastated due to cold snaps (100% of agricultural production). Affected crops are potato, legumes and other products. Heat waves are also affecting other areas of the department also causing damages to the agricultural sector.
- At least 11 municipalities have been affected (64 communities), at least 2,142 families, the regional government is providing seeds and fertilizers and are carrying out damages and needs assessments.
- Authorities have declared in emergency the departments of Santa Cruz, Beni, Tarija and Chuquisaca which are being severely affected by a heat wave, drought and fires. The Chaco region in Santa Cruz is the most affected.
- Through the emergency decree funds will be allocated for responding to the emergency situation which is causing severe agricultural damages. A total of 4, 5 million bolivianos have been allocated in Santa Cruz only.
- The COE is activated and is delivering water to affected population. Contingency plans have been activated and cistern trucks are delivering water to communities and municipalities have been declared in emergency.
- Lack of rains is persistent since March and average temperature is 40°C in the Chaco region. According to farmers they need 40 litres of water on daily basis for their cattle. Maize crops have been completely devastated.
- In the Department of Beni, , several municipalities are suffering of a severe heat weave, temperatures have reached 43°C, it is foreseen that the heat wave will also affect the departments of Pando and La Paz during October and November.
- According to authorities, at least 9,100 fire spots have been registered severely affecting cattle, poultry farms and crops. At least 20 communities of the Tipnis (Territorio Indígena Parque Nacional Isiboro Sécure) settled along 150 km of the river bank are being affected. The river bank occupies 5 metres wide and its water level continues to decrease causing severe effects to indigenous communities that use to make their live through the river.
- In the Department of Tarija, 120,000 head of cattle are at risk of dying due to lack of water. While in Chuquisaca considerable losses have been registered in the agricultural sector.
- According to official sources, due to this situation more than 12 thousand fire spots have been registered in the country and continue increase on daily basis.
- According to weather forecasts, the eminent presence of El Niño phenomenon will be accompanied by considerable heat waves and lack of rains during the next three months especially in the eastern and altiplano; such situation will cause severe effects in the agricultural sector. Weather anomalies due to the presence of El Niño will strengthen during the last months of the year and will reach its peak with high temperatures in January.
- The Altiplano and Chaco regions will present a sever rain deficit during October; this situation will affect mainly to the departments of Santa Cruz, Beni, Pando, and La Paz. During the last week of September the presence of El Niño phenomenon will start to intensify in the country; meaning that there will be lack of rains in the Altiplano and Chaco, while in the eastern region of the country, mainly in Cochabamba there will be heavy rains.

2. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND MAIN ISSUES

- DIPECHO National Consultative Meeting held on the 19th of September.

ECUADOR

1. EVOLUTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Forest Fires

- From June 1st to September 19th, 3.178 fire spots were registered, 69 people injured, 16.243 hectares of forest destroyed, 142 hectares of crops devastated and 30 hectares affected as the result of fires in the provinces of Pichincha, Imbabura, Cotopaxi, Carchi, Chimborazo, Bolívar, Azuay, Cañar, El Oro and Loja. The Ministry of Environment has decreed an emergency in the protected areas. The orange alert is still activated in 8 of the nine affected provinces.
- The capital city of Quito has been declared in emergency as a consequence of fires in various forested areas located in the surroundings of the city. Fires threaten urban neighbourhoods resulting in the worst crisis in history. More than 2,188 fire spots have been registered which have consumed more than 1,200 hectares. At least 33 fire spots are registered on a daily basis. In the community of San Juan de Chillo Gallo at least 80 persons were evacuated due to fires that reached the community.
- In Chimborazo several protected areas are under fire as well as in Cotopaxi, where more than 1.000 hectares of forest have been consumed. Another forest fire was activated in the highway that connects the highlands with coast.
- The Colombian Air Forces supported the Ecuadorian government in the emergency, 2 helicopters and its crew are providing support for extinguishing fires at national level. International technical assistance from Chile and Brazil has also contributed to the response to fires in Ecuador.
- The fires have affected approximately 7 types of native vegetation. Approximately USD 3 million will be allocated to the recuperation of 9.000 hectares of forests.

2. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND MAIN ISSUES

- Nothing to report

ARGENTINA

1. EVOLUTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Heavy rains and floods

- Heavy rains and extreme weather conditions have caused damages in the province of Buenos Aires, where more than 1,020 persons have been affected and evacuated.
- At least 10, 5 million of hectares have been affected – a third part of the total hectares in the province-, and the economical losses for the agricultural sector have been estimated at \$ 4.500 and \$ 4.800 pesos (US 967 millions approximately).
- The provincial government of Buenos Aires declared the emergency in 15 districts. Moreover, President Cristina Kirchner has announced through Federal Planning Minister, the implementation of hydric infrastructure for an amount of \$ 37 million pesos, in order to mitigate the effects of flood in several zones of the province.
- The rains registered during august have duplicated the precipitation historical levels. Enormous losses of cattle have also been registered.

2. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND MAIN ISSUES

- Nothing to report.

PARAGUAY

1. EVOLUTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Heavy rains and floods

- The Central Department has been affected by a strong storm, which was accompanied by strong winds of 140 km/h. Several houses have been severely affected with destruction of walls and roofs.
- The departments of Ñeembucú and Itapúa have also been affected by a strong storm and hail storm which have caused severe damages.
- At least 5,000 families have been affected and 5 deaths have been reported. In Central, 2.984 families affected, Ñeembucú, 1.200 families, and the other affected have been registered in the departments of Misiones, Caazapá, Paraguarí, Alto Paraná, and Canindeyú.
- Subsistence crops have been completely devastated. Basic services have been interrupted and several schools have also been affected.
- The Senate declared in emergency several departments and districts affected by a powerful storm registered on September 18th, and has allocated PYG 10.000 millions (approximately USD 2.300 millions) to the National Emergency Secretariat (SEN), even if the institution has not requested any financial contribution.
- The SEN informed that the situation is under control and considered that a national emergency decree was unnecessary. The SEN confirmed that the government had already assisted to 60% of the affected population.
- The Red Cross has provided pre-hospital care alongside government officials; emergency relief items have also been distributed. Damages and needs assessments are being undertaken. The army and the police are also supporting with the distribution of relief items.

2. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND MAIN ISSUES

- DIPECHO National Consultative Meeting was held on the 6th of September.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY HIP 2012

- A regional Humanitarian Implementation plan (HIP) of €5 million with 12 months duration was approved on 22nd of May to assist people affected by severe flooding in South America, particularly in Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Ecuador, Colombia and Brazil. More than 22 proposals were received and 11 projects have been selected and contracts have been signed.

Selection of projects per country is as follows:

- Ecuador: COOPI, AVCF, Spanish Red Cross and Plan International (€1.290.020).
- Peru: CESVI, German Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, WHH, and COOPI (€ 2.451.077).
- Bolivia: FAO and COOPI (€ 580.600).
- Paraguay: COOPI and Spanish Red Cross (€ 678.303)

DIPECHO ACTION PLAN 2011-2012

- DIPECHO projects are ongoing in: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina and Brazil.
- National Workshops are scheduled as follows:
 - Chile: 4 September (Santiago)
 - Paraguay: 6 September (Asunción)
 - Venezuela: 12 September (Caracas)
 - Bolivia: 19 September (Cochabamba)
 - Colombia: 24 September (Bogotá)
 - Ecuador: 1 October (Guayaquil)
 - Peru: 5 October (Lima)
 - Argentina: 4 October (Event for International Risk Reduction Day in Buenos Aires)

- Regional DIPECHO Seminar will be carried out from 25 to 27 October in Buenos Aires.

Regional Humanitarian response and main issues

