

Opening Remarks by the ERSMB Chief

Launch of Peru Flash Appeal

28 August 2007

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, and colleagues,

1. I would like to welcome you all to this official launch of the Flash Appeal for the Peru Earthquake.

2. We have the honor of having with us His Excellency, Mr. Jose Eduardo Ponce Vivanco, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations in Geneva, who will, in a few moments, brief us on the current situation in the affected areas, as well as the government response. It is with pleasure that we also note the presence at this launch of Her Excellency, Ms. Elizabeth Astete, Ambassador of Peru to Switzerland.

4. We are joined by various UN agencies, which will provide sector-specific information regarding the humanitarian response operation in Peru, and others are invited to add information during the question and answer session. In addition, Ms. Linda Stops, Operations Officer from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, will update us on the activities of the Red Cross Movement in Peru.

5. Today's launch is of course also an opportunity for you to ask questions or comment and I will open the floor for questions immediately after the speakers' presentations and statements, as per the detailed agenda you have already received.

6. Before giving the floor to Ambassador Ponce Vivanco, I would like to thank the Member States, UN agencies, and International and National NGOs that have already responded to this disaster either through the deployment of expertise, with cash, or other in-kind contributions. I would also like to mention that the cooperation between the Government of Peru and the humanitarian community has been excellent, and has helped to ensure that the response has been efficient, timely, and well-coordinated.

7. Please, Mr. Ambassador, the floor is yours.

Presentation by Ambassador Ponce Vivanco [10 min max] – speech, no PPT planned

8. Thank you Ambassador for this very informative presentation.

9. Before inviting various Sector Lead agencies to make statements regarding the sectoral responses and identified needs, I would like to reiterate that the response has been a coordinated effort involving both the government and all humanitarian actors on the ground. At the invitation of the government, an UNDAC team was sent to Peru at the early post-disaster stage, while OCHA sent the head of its regional office in Panama to support the Resident Coordinator to prepare this Flash Appeal, in cooperation with all agencies.

10. This Appeal requests a total of \$ 36.962 million USD, of which almost \$ 9.6 million USD has already been allocated through a CERF grant, enabling humanitarian actors to respond with immediate effect in certain sectors. It is envisaged that funding received through this Flash Appeal will cover 6 months of emergency response, and in-kind logistical contributions put at the disposal of the response operation will be counted against the Appeal.

11. The largest appealing sectors, in terms of amounts requested, are Food Security (\$13.8 million USD), Education (\$5.3 million USD), and Shelter/Camp Management (\$5 million USD). Following the CERF allocation, the largest remaining amounts required to meet identified needs are in the Food Security, Education, Emergency Employment, and Early Recovery sectors.

12. It should be noted that certain sectors have yet to receive any funding, and I hereby call on donors to consider immediate allocations through the Flash Appeal for Early Recovery, Protection, Emergency Telecommunications, and Safety and Security.

12. Let me take this opportunity to thank all donors and Member States for their generous contributions and appeal to donors to continue to support the populations in need in Peru.

13. I would now like to invite Ms. Linda Stops to give us a brief overview of the activities of the Red Cross Movement (including the IFRC, the Peruvian Red Cross, and others) in the humanitarian response operation. I should mention, if I may, that the IFRC has recently issued a revised appeal of their own for CHF 5.6 million, a summary of which is attached to this Flash Appeal.

Presentation by Linda Stops, IFRC [5 min, PPT, will brief from the floor]

14. Many thanks to Linda for her comprehensive presentation. I would now like to invite the following UN agencies, as sector leads, to issue brief statements outlining their respective sectoral needs and responses:

UNICEF (co-lead agency for Water & Sanitation and convenor for Child Protection)

UNDP (lead agency for Coordination and Early Recovery)

WHO (lead agency for Health)

ILO (lead agency for Temporary Employment)

UNESCO (lead agency for Education)

15. I should mention that other sector lead agencies (including FAO, WFP, and IOM), as well as various organisations involved in the humanitarian response, are also present today. They are welcome, if they wish, to add comments during the question & answer session, and have already indicated that they are ready to answer questions.

16. Without further ado, I now invite Mr. Ressler to begin.

Statements from UN agencies (5 in total, 1-2 min each, no PPT, will brief from the floor)

Mr. Everett Ressler, UNICEF

Mr. Ola Almgren, UNDP

Dr. Alessandro Loretto, WHO

Mr. Alfredo Lazarte, ILO

Ms. Kerstin Holst, UNESCO

17. Many thanks to all for their contributions. I now open the floor for questions or comments. Kindly state your name, which Member State or organisation you represent, and to whom you wish to direct your question.

Q&As from Member States and participants [20 min]

Closing Remarks by Chair (Chief ERSMB)

18. Excellencies, distinguished delegates and colleagues,

(a) Wrap-up on statements and other key points, including pledges, raised at the meeting.

(b) Summary of Ambassador Ponte Vivanco's key messages

1. I would like to thank you all for showing such interest in the response to this emergency. I urge all present to continue supporting the Government-led response, particularly by showing their commitment through early pledges and contributions to this Flash Appeal.
2. May I take this opportunity to request both donors and agencies to confirm and report their pledges to the OCHA-Financial Tracking Service (FTS) so that we may accurately reflect the support to this crisis.
3. Before closing, I would like to take this opportunity to also draw your attention to the critical Early Recovery phase of the response to this natural disaster – a sector which is often neglected and under-funded. The needs of those affected by this devastating earthquake will continue into the future, and it is crucial to ensure that recovery needs are considered at an early stage in the response, to link towards longer-term recovery and rehabilitation.

4. We will continue to keep you updated on the situation in the affected areas of Peru, as well as the humanitarian response. Please note that www.reliefweb.int is a useful portal for sharing and posting such humanitarian information.
5. I would like to thank His Excellency, Ambassador Ponte Vivanco, for being with us today and speaking so eloquently on behalf of the Government of Peru. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the humanitarian organizations involved in the response, including those who have been able to join us today to share their insights, for their dedication and commitment.
6. Finally, as you are all aware, there are concurrent disaster situations in DPRK, Sudan, and Pakistan, all of which require financial support for large-scale humanitarian assistance operations. I would especially underline that the Pakistan Flash Appeal is currently only 20% funded. I would appeal to all present to continue your generosity in supporting all of these humanitarian responses, to ensure that those most vulnerable and affected by the flooding in each location receive the appropriate assistance.
7. Thank you all.

Sudan Flash Appeal will be launched in Khartoum on Tuesday, 28 Aug requesting US\$ 20,2 million (after \$14,4 million of CERF, CHF and other funding)

This year's flooding began at least one month earlier than normal. An estimated 410,785 people have already been directly affected - a total of over 82,157 households. If the current pattern continues, it is expected that the situation will deteriorate considerably, particularly given that mid-August to early September is the normal peak of flooding. The UN and Partners, working in collaboration with government, project an additional 265,000 individuals could be affected in the coming six weeks.

Thus far, four key sectors have been engaged in the response: non-food items and emergency shelter, food security and livelihood, health and nutrition, and water and sanitation. Early recovery activities, in both education and basic infrastructure have also begun, helping affected communities restore lost livelihoods.

This Flash Appeal is intended to provide resources to the UN & Partners, to ensure that vital humanitarian and early recovery assistance is provided to those most in need. The Appeal requests a total amount of US\$ 19,403,777 to address the urgent humanitarian and some limited early recovery needs of the affected population in the coming months. The United Nations Central Emergency Fund (CERF) has already provided US\$ 8.78 million for immediate activities in key sectors, while the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) has provided US\$ 4.7 million.