

Office of the Resident Coordinator
Situation Report No. 6
Earthquake in Peru
11:30 hours

August 20-2007

Situation

1. At 11:40:58 PM UTC/GMT (Greenwich time) 6:34:56 PM local time on August 15th, an earthquake measuring 7.9 degrees in the Richter scale struck in the Department of Ica. The epicenter was 25 miles (61 kilometers) west-northwest of Chincha Alta, Peru, and 90 miles (161 kilometers) south-southeast of Lima, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The epicenter was 30.2 km depth (18.8 miles). The effects were also strongly felt in Lima capital.
2. The last official report issued by the National Institute of Civil Defense (INDECI) informed the situation up to August 20th, 07:00 hrs:
503 dead
1,039 wounded
35,214 houses destroyed according to Peruvian Government preliminary assessments.
4,053 houses affected.
16 hospitals affected.
2 hospitals destroyed according to Peruvian Government preliminary assessments.

National Response

1. The state of emergency in the Department of Ica and province of Cañete in the Department of Lima is still in effect. The emergency situation has been extended to the provinces of Castrovirreina and Huaytará and the district of Acobambilla (Department of Huancavelica, central-east of Lima), and to Huañec and Tupe in the province of Yauyos (Lima).
2. The Government of Peru has established an air bridge that reaches the city of Pisco, in order to deliver humanitarian supplies and facilitate the deployment of international relief aid and aid workers.
3. With the help of SEDAPAL (Lima Water Corporation) specialists and others, water service is being gradually reestablished in the cities of Imperial (Cañete) and Chincha (Ica). 40% of the population of Imperial is now receiving water service, but most of the people are still supplied by tankers.

In other towns in the province of Cañete, such as Lunahuana and San Luis, there are shortages in water service. In Chilca, supply is assured by tankers due to the lack of electric power.

In Pisco, water is supplied in tankers in the 14 points where aid is being distributed. SEDAPAL is working full time to reestablish water service.

In Ica, 75% of the population has water service because electric service has been reestablished, while the other 25% are supplied with tankers
SUNASS (National Sanitation Authority) announced that the first water purification facility is already working and that six more will follow shortly. 3 of them are a Mexican donation and the rest are a Spanish donation

4. In spite of all the efforts, however, SUNASS warns that more tankers and electric equipment are needed to improve water supply.
5. At the moment, INDECI has identified as critical needs in the provinces: Water, water containers, water purification pills, tents, tarpaulin, electric generators, portable beds, blankets, and tools to remove rubble.
6. INDECI has established 17 shelters in Pisco and 8 shelters in Chincha. INDECI has also established 9 distribution centers in Pisco and 4 in Chincha.
7. With the support of international cooperation the Peruvian government set two campaign hospitals and has indicated that hospital needs are covered.
8. The President of Peru announced a temporary employment programme to attend rubble removal activities. It will start on August 20th, and will last for 30 days.
9. The Central Government transferred to INDECI approximately US\$ 190,000, in order to provide a subsidy to victims (US\$ 316 approximately).
10. Approximately US\$ 7.6 millions will be transferred to the Ministry of Women and Social Development in order to procure food through WFP.
11. A reconstruction fund has been set and will include public resources and funds from the international cooperation.
12. A supplementary credit of US\$ 31.6 million has been authorized by the Peruvian government for the reconstruction of public infrastructure. This credit has been announced today by President of Perú, Alan Garcia; President of the Minister Council Jorge del Castillo, and the Minister of Economy, Luis Carranza. Through this official norm, a fund for reconstruction-earthquake 15th. August 2007, has been created.
13. The Ministry of Interior sent a convoy of 55 patrols and 200 police agents to reinforce security of the relief operations.

14. According to the Minister of Health, as from Monday 20th, his Ministry will start the registration of those people in the most affected areas requiring psychological assistance due to the traumatic consequences of the earthquake. 8 teams of volunteer psychologists will provide this assistance and they will use materials especially developed by UNICEF for this kind of tragedies.
15. The Ministry of Education sent to Ica 116 temporary school facilities, 3,600 modules of school furniture and 300 water containers. The objective is to set up the school facilities to reinitiate school activities on Monday the 27th. The Minister of Education has also informed that after the first phase of emergency, the Ministry will initiate a campaign of educational, pedagogical and psychological support. This will allow students to better handle the earthquake and its consequences.

The Minister of Education pointed out that on Monday 20th 97% of schools nationwide, except in Ica, are expected to restart classes. He said that he expected teachers to talk about earthquakes and perform rehearsals to prepare the students for this kind of emergency situations.

16. The Government announced the delivery of 600 tons of humanitarian aid (food, clothes, medicines) on August 20th. Taking into account the humanitarian aid already sent, the total will add up to 1,585 tons.
17. President Garcia proposed the creation of an autonomous organization for the recovery and reconstruction of the affected areas. This organization will also allow temporary employment of part of the population.
18. The Peruvian Government has provided the UN with the necessary information to elaborate the Flash Appeal. It will be launched on Monday August 20th as well as the CERF Appeal.

The UN Response

19. The RC has activated the Emergency Operations Centre on a 24 hrs basis and convened a rolling meeting of the UNDMT.
20. Coordination support from OCHA Panama has arrived and supporting the preparation of an international appeal and to CERF appeal, and supporting the coordination capacities of local authorities.
21. INDECI has established an Emergency Operations Centre at Pisco airport. The UNDAC team has already been deployed to the area on August 19. The UNDAC information team is helping the Peruvian government to establish an information system to gather all data related to the contributions from the international community and the identification of the areas already attended, and those yet to be covered.

22. With the support of WHO/PAHO, the Government of Peru has established the SUMA in the two airports, and is providing information to the national authorities in charge of the coordination.
23. An interagency team has been deployed to the affected areas. UN mission is assessing the three areas; on August 20th, the report is as follows:

Water and Sanitation

In Ica the WHO/PAHO found out that basic services are working and supply of medicines is adequate. Water supply has been improved, water is being purified and mobile units are moving to isolated areas to assess the situation. Ica's regional hospital only accepts emergencies and hospitalization. This hospital requires a mobile unit for external service and its machine room is in a critical situation, about to collapse. There is no evidence of an increase in diarrhea cases or cold-related mortality so far. At the time of the report (10:00hrs), the rehydration elements and the tents had not arrived yet.

In Pisco, conditions of water and sanitation have not changed since yesterday's report: the health situation is under control; distribution of breathing masks is recommended for the dust; the wounded are being adequately treated and water purification pills are being distributed.

Food: In Pisco, UN missions observed that food is being distributed and the problems related to its delivery and logistics are being addressed by the Government. In Ica, the local food market and the restaurants work normally. On August, Saturday 18th, the government requested the support of World Food Program to buy 3,500 tons of non-perishable food for US\$ 2,37 million approximately. Distribution of this food is channeled through the PRONAA (National Program of Food Assistance) from Pisco airport. Food is arriving from land, sea and air.

Infrastructures: In Pisco, a joint UN interagency mission is assessing the refuges and the INDECI warehouses.

In Ica, power supply is working in most of the town. A refuge has been set up in the municipal stadium.

Coordination: On August 19th (afternoon), the UNDAC team set up its Operations Center in Pisco airport. Currently the team is made up of three members and four more are expected to join it today, to put in place the On-Site Operations Coordination Center (OSOCC).

According to official information, four days after the earthquake, the registration of people affected in Pisco, Chincha and Ica has begun. There are no reports of any serious security problem and traveling in the area is free and safe.

On August 19th in the evening, a local coordination meeting took place in Pisco between INDECI and international cooperation. Today a meeting will be held between government counterparts and international cooperation in order to assess the situation in rural areas of Pisco.

According to the health assessment made by the assessment team of the PAHO, the situation is as follows:

Chincha: In total there are 29 health facilities in town, of which three suffered structural damages. Most of the other is working.

Ica: The health command has been set up in the General Directorate and a room has been prepared to gather epidemiological information on post-earthquake morbidity and mortality

Priority needs identified

- Strengthening of epidemiological surveillance
- Collection of waste and debris and environmental sanitation
- Initiating psychosocial support program for affected population and medical staff
- Communication campaign on environmental sanitation and safe water use

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

OCHA has offered to Peruvian Government US\$ 100,000 in order to support the response process. The UN system in Peru, with the support of OCHA team is finalizing the preparation of the Flash Appeal and the CERF request, that will be issued on Monday August 20th.

International Organizations response

24. Agustín Haya de la Torre, director of APCI (Agencia Peruana de Cooperación Internacional), indicated that the volume of foreign emergency aid arriving to Peru on Friday and Saturday reached about US\$ 10 million, while more is expected to arrive in the following days. He also stated that this aid is being channeled through the Instituto de Defensa Civil (INDECI).

25. The U.S. Government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced it will provide an additional \$200,000 towards the local purchase and transport of emergency relief supplies. This funding is in addition to the \$100,000 previously provided, bringing total USAID funding for assistance in the aftermath of the quake to \$300,000.

In addition to funding and the now six member USAID emergency assessment team on the ground, USAID is deploying a support team of three specially trained technicians along with a module of communications and life-support equipment and

commodities to assist the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team. These technicians come from Virginia's Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, which operates internationally under an agreement with USAID. The support team and module will assist the UNDAC team with setting up one or more operations and coordination centers in the affected region.

The module includes IT and life-support equipment (including tents and generators), as well as supplies such as food and water to support up to 15 people for as long as 21 days in the field.

26. OXFAM: Upon the completion of its humanitarian needs assessment in southern Peru, international aid agency Oxfam has today reported that thousands of people living in rural areas urgently need all forms of aid.

Over the course of the next several days, Oxfam will provide immediate assistance, including shelter, clean water and sanitation services, to some 2,000 families in some of the remotest areas hit by the earthquake.

27. Government of Italy: The third Italian aircraft with humanitarian assistance will arrive today to Pisco (tents, food, water purifying devices and others, estimated around €273,000.00). The first delivery was the assignment of €200,000.00 to the Redcross to attend urgent requests. The second delivery included water, blankets. A brigade with technical specialists was also deployed to the area.
28. Government of Argentina: On August 19, a plane sent 20 tons of food, medicines, tents, clothes, blankets and purifier pills to Pisco. The plane also brought a group of specialists in managing crisis situations.
29. A mexican ship with humanitarian help is expected to arrive the next week, according to official sources, the hospital-ship "Zapoteco" set sail from Acapulco on Sunday 19th and is expected to arrive in 8 days. It is carrying 2,5 tons of medicines, 2,5 tons of clothing as well as food donated by the Mexican government and Navy. 23 epidemiology specialists are also on board, besides the crew.
30. A technical mission of the Japanese-Peruvian Center for Earthquake Research and Disaster Mitigation (CISMID in Spanish) traveled to the affected areas on Sunday 19th to assess the extent of the damages and gather information in order to improve design of building and civil constructions.

The leader of this mission, Roberto Morales, dean of the National Engineering University (UNI), said that his university is preparing a brigade of volunteer students to contribute to the reconstruction efforts.

31. Spain will make a 2nd consignment with 30 tons of help. The office in Lima of the International Cooperation Spanish Agency (AECI) informed that in the evening of Monday the consignment will depart from Madrid. The consignment consists of

emergency material such as medicines, tents and medical instruments, also a group of 50 persons including disaster experts, doctors, psychologists, all under the coordination of the responsible of Humanitarian Help of AECI, Gonzalo Vega.

32. The Pope Benedict XVI announced the remittance of 200,000 Euros to support all recovery activities in affected areas.