

Chile • Earthquake Situation Report #9 May 20, 2010



ELCA Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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I. Summary Facts

- The first major rains of the imminent winter season have produced flooding and displaced families living in tents. Emergency shelters have been opened for this purpose.
- Congress is debating President Piñera proposal for the financing of the reconstruction plan at a cost of \$US 20 billion.
- The non-governmental sector is criticizing the Piñera Administration for investing in large industry rather than building local capacities through its reconstruction efforts.
- The official Chilean government death toll from the February 27 earthquake and tsunami is 486 with an additional 79 deaths still under investigation.
- Tens of thousands of families will be living in provisional housing for at least three years before permanent solutions are provided through the government housing reconstruction program.
- ELCA mobilized \$40,000 immediately after the earthquake for ELCA companions, IELCH, EPES and the Inter-Church Emergency Committee Chile 2010.
- Inter-Church Emergency Committee Chile 2010 has submitted a proposal to the Act Alliance and is now in the waiting period before a response is issued.
- The Indiana Kentucky Synod which has a companion synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (IELCH) has launched a fundraising initiative to raise \$20,000 for the IELCH's reconstruction effort. The Synod aims to raise this amount by the close of its annual assembly on June 6.
- ELCA Disaster Response Appeal has received \$187,060 in gifts from ELCA members and continues to receive gifts at www.elca.org/chiledonate.
- ELCA Disaster Response blog at: <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/>

II. International Situation

Government Proposal for Reconstruction: On May 5 President Piñera sent a proposal to Congress for the financing of the government's reconstruction plan at a cost of \$US 20 billion. This plan includes proposals for: 200,000 subsidies for home reconstruction and repair; 12 major reconstruction projects in the most affected cities; reconstruction of 79 hospitals and 150 clinics; reconstruction of 1,000 schools and 300 day care centers; reparation of fishing villages, rural water collection and distribution systems, public buildings, prisons and judicial centers. The proposal also includes approximately \$US 334 million for the repair of national highways, bridges, ports and airports. Among the financing mechanisms will be increases to the corporate tax rate, royalty fees on mining companies, the tobacco tax and real estate taxes.

Critiques by Non-government Sector of Governmental Response: On May 5, the Chilean Association of Non-governmental Organizations convened citizenship organizations, student federations, neighborhood groups, and guilds to reflect on their grassroots experiences of responding to the earthquake and tsunami. The organizations called for a reconstruction plan that is transparent in its financial accounting, rooted in a human rights perspective, and committed to the strengthening of local capacities. An overarching critique was that the Piñera government is

favoring large industry over local groups in the country's reconstruction. For example, a national organization of small-scale fishers demanded that they be included at the negotiating table where decisions are made about the rehabilitation of the fishing industry. Nine-five percent of craft industry fishers still have not been able to return to work. Another example is the Piñera Administration's contracting of three large hardware chains rather than local suppliers for the federal government's major housing reconstruction plan. The gathering also called for legislation to strengthen and recognize community radio stations that are more effective than large telecommunications companies in gathering and transmitting information to local communities during emergencies.

Health: President Piñera's accounting of government efforts at the two month mark after the earthquake and tsunami stated the following advances in the area of health: the installation of 14 field hospitals; reparation of 55 hospitals with 1,000 available beds; work initiated on the repair of 12 rural health posts; 1,400,000 H1N1 vaccines administered and 70% progress in the vaccination program, that includes the vaccination of children against Hepatitis A.

Education: The Chilean government has announced that it reached its goal of having all students back to school by Monday, April 26. At the beginning of March, 1,250,000 children did not have a school to return to and there were 4,000 schools unable to receive students. Many students began classes in temporary accommodations includes the inside of buses, tents, churches and other police stations. The Ministry of Education set the goal that all educational establishments be returned to functioning order within three months. Some schools are still operating in tents in the Maule Region and Bio Bio Regions.

Housing and Shelter: The Piñera Administration's recent accounting of governmental efforts has highlighted the following actions in the area of housing and shelter: 23,986 emergency housing units have been constructed (60% of what has been committed; 20,327 tents have been provided; assistance for home repairs through the "Manos a la Obra" program has been provided to 16,000 families which represents 37% of the goal. In the Bio Bio region 18,000 temporary shelters are needed and 10,000 have been built. In all of the affected zone, the government has committed to the construction of 45,000 temporary shelters by June 21 (the official start of the Southern Hemisphere's winter) and 30,000 have been built to date.

Major rains in the Concepción area led to the evacuation of 50 families living in tents in Talcahuano y Chiguayante during the week of May 5. According to the United Nations, 40 emergency shelters have been set up in the affected areas, including two in Santiago. Approximately 2,800 families are still living in tents but only 390 have gone to the shelters. Some families do not want to leave the tents despite flood conditions for fear of losing the little that they have left, and which they would not be able to take with them to the shelters.

U.S. Government and United Nations Aid: To date, U.S. government humanitarian aid in response to the February 27 earthquake and tsunami totals approximately \$14 million, including the work of the USAID, support for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) emergency appeal, the deployment of a U.S. Air Force medical unit to affected areas, mobile water treatment units, satellite phones, rolls of plastic sheeting for temporary shelters, and the deployment of two military transport planes to assist with relief distribution.

The United Nations has allocated \$US 10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to Chile. This amount has been criticized by advocates as too small in relation to the \$US30 billion overall estimate of reconstruction costs. Within the context of CERF project implementation, the United Nations has clarified the following point agencies according to the

issues they will lead: UNICEF for water sanitation and protection; UNICEF and UNESCO for education; PAHO/WHO for health; and the IFRC for shelter.

III. Coordinated Response

- The Inter-Church Committee Chile 2010 that was formed on March 1 is comprised of 10 churches and organizations. Seven of those institutions, including ELCA companions, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (IELCH) and Popular Education in Health (EPES), will be implementing agencies in the project that the Inter-Church Committee has submitted to the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance. The Committee is now awaiting the ACT Alliance's decision on their appeal. ACT is a global alliance of churches and related agencies drawn from the membership of the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation that work together to support communities in emergencies worldwide.
- The Inter-Church Committee's proposed project has two phases. The first phase was emergency support for 1,500 families during the first 6 weeks after the earthquake through the provision of pastoral care, food, sanitation kits, blankets and tents if necessary. The second phase is rehabilitation through February 2011. The primary focuses of this second phase will be psychosocial-pastoral care and the rehabilitation of housing. The project will include repairs to damaged homes and a contribution toward the construction of new houses.
- The IELCH has completed an inventory of the damage done to its physical infrastructure by the February 27 earthquake and tsunami. The majority of damages have been sustained by the congregations Belén, Buen Samaritano and Trinidad in Santiago and Martin Luther, San Pedro and San Pablo in Greater Concepción. An effort to raise the funds for the necessary repairs is being coordinated by the Lutheran World Federation. The ELCA's Indiana Kentucky Synod is participating in this effort (see below).
- IELCH congregations have been to respond locally to the earthquake and tsunami through the networks and resources that they have at hand. In the case of the Martin Luther Congregation in Concepción, the youth group took the initiative to organize the distribution of a shipment of clothes, mattresses, bed coverings, cleaning supplies, food and flashlights donated by the IELCH's sister Lutheran Church the ILCH in Osorno. The youth group of the Martin Luther Congregation organized a local collection to complement what was sent from Osorno and distributed the items within their own community as well as at the IELCH congregation San Pedro in Coronel, camps in Dichato, the IELCH Congregation in Boca Sur, and a home for young mothers. The Martin Luther congregation also organized a fundraising effort to provide pre-fabricated homes to three families displaced by the earthquake.
- The IELCH San Pablo Congregation in Hualpén, near Concepción has undertaken a project of visiting an affected community, Santa Clara in Talcahuano on Saturdays to serve communal lunches at a Salvation Army shelter.
- Popular Education for Health (EPES) is working with Mercy Corps, an Oregon-based humanitarian organization on two programs to promote emotional recovery among children and teens. Over the next three months these programs will use stories, sports and games to help 1,300 young people to address the fear and trauma caused by the earthquake, tsunami, social unrest, recurring tremors as well as the loss of loved ones and homes. These programs are of vital importance because if

untreated, trauma can lead to regressive or anti-social behavior, depression, aggression and school problems among children and teens.

- This week EPES began winterizing 53 emergency homes in the city of Penco located approximately 10 km from EPES' Concepción Center. One thousand houses were destroyed or flooded in this coastal city of 50,000 residents.
- The ELCA committed an initial \$40,000, through ELCA International Disaster Response, for earthquake response in Chile. The ELCA allocated \$10,000 to the IELCH; \$10,000 to EPES; and \$20,000 for an ecumenical response through the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance.
- The Indiana Kentucky Synod which has a companion synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile has launched an initiative to raise \$20,000 for the IELCH to use in the reconstruction of its damaged infrastructure. The Synod hopes to raise this amount by its annual assembly on June 6. The offering from the sending Eucharist at the Synod Assembly on Sunday, June 6 will be designated toward the IELCH reconstruction effort. More information can be found on the synod's website: www.iksynod.org/ministry/globalmission/chileearthquake.asp.

IV. Fundraising

ELCA members have given \$187,060 to ELCA Disaster Response. As we anticipate receiving the Chile ACT Appeal, gifts are encouraged for ELCA Disaster Response, specifically for Chile Relief. Additional gifts are encouraged and anticipated as congregations hold special events and offering opportunities. Gifts are needed for the work of continued relief and for long-term community rehabilitation and other recovery activities as requested by our companions. Gifts are encouraged for ELCA Disaster Response and specifically for Chile Relief. Additional gifts

Thanks to the ongoing faithful giving of Lutherans for mission and world hunger, the ELCA pledges that 100% of these gifts will be spent for the Chile earthquake response.

Contributions can be made to ELCA Chile Relief by:

Check or money orders sent to:
ELCA Disaster Response
39330 Treasury Center
Chicago, IL 60694-9300
write "Chile Earthquake Relief"
on your check's memo line.

Contributions [online](http://www.elca.org/chiledonate) at www.elca.org/chiledonate or call 800-638-3522.

V. Communication

The weeks of May 10 and May 17, 2010, included many communications of thanks, encouragement of continued support, and provides updated information about the situation in Chile. These communications include:

- Updated content and photos on elca.org/disaster and [disaster blog](http://elca.org/disasterblog).
- Regular ongoing communication through ELCA.org and facebook.com

Recognizing the connections between ELCA congregations and individuals with Chile, ELCA Global Mission will be in contact with those known to Global Mission to receive emerging news from Chile. Other congregations and individuals with connections in Chile are encouraged to email Mary Campbell in Global Mission with news they are receiving from their companions.

Websites:

- For more information on ELCA Disaster Response: www.elca.org/disaster
- For more information on ACT Alliance: www.act-intl.org
- For more information on international aid: www.reliefweb.int

VI. Contact

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