

Chile • Earthquake Situation Report #7 April 22, 2010



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

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I. Summary Facts

- The official Chilean government death toll from the February 27 earthquake and tsunami is 486.
- An additional 79 deaths are presumed to have been caused by the earthquake or tsunami but are still being investigated.
- The Chilean government has launched a program to finance the construction of 20,000 emergency housing structures.
- A month ago the Chilean government set this coming Monday, April 26 as the target date to have all students back in school. It is estimated that 80,000 students still have not begun classes.
- The Chilean Health Ministry has deployed teams of health professionals to focus on the prevention of respiratory, digestive and infectious diseases among the population displaced by the earthquake.
- 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 \$80,000 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 Financing for Reconstruction: President Piñera has announced a plan to finance Chile's reconstruction that will include increases to the following state revenue mechanisms: corporate tax rate, royalty fees on mining companies, the tobacco tax and real estate taxes.

Health: With the southern hemisphere's winter approaching, the Chilean Ministry of Health has announced an initiative for the winter season from May 3 until September 30 entitled "On the Ground Health" that involves the deployment of health professionals with a focus on the prevention of respiratory, digestive and infectious diseases among the population displaced by the earthquake. These health teams will make weekly or bi-weekly rounds, depending on each area's need, and will be supervised by the local primary health posts in the camps where they will be working. Among these teams' specific duties will be to ensure that children are up-to-date with their vaccinations, that pregnant women are accessing prenatal care, and that people with chronic illnesses are able to get their follow-up appointments and medication. They will also be monitoring the distribution of the

national food aid program with special attention to the needs of older adults and pregnant and breastfeeding women. They will also be ensuring that families receive the mental health support that is available and will distribute information about self-care and disease prevention during the winter months.

Education: Now just days away from the April 26 deadline set by the Chilean government to have all students back in school, it is estimated that 80,000 students have still not returned to classes.

Housing and Shelter: The housing reconstruction and reparation program “A United Chile Reconstructs Better” launched by the Piñera Administration on March 29 aims to address the short and long-term housing needs of approximately 323,000 families at a cost of approximately \$US 3 billion over the next three years. The program offers two types of subsidies: one for the reconstruction of houses that were destroyed or severely damaged and another for reparation of damaged houses. It will unfold in two phases: an emergency phase through June 2010 will provide temporary emergency housing for families who have lost their homes and a reconstruction phase for permanent housing through 2013. This means that tens of thousands of families will be living in “temporary” housing for at least three years. Given that the government has determined that 370,051 housing structures have sustained some level of damage or been destroyed, and this program aims to address the needs of 323,000 families, there will be many unmet needs even if the program meets all of its goals.

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 which is now wrapping up is 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).

- Following focus groups and an intensive training of 55 adult mentors, last week ELCA's companion Popular Education for Health (EPES) launched two programs to promote emotional recovery among children and teens in collaboration with Mercy Corps, an Oregon-based humanitarian organization. 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.

- The programs build on methodologies that Mercy Corps has developed and used to address trauma in children following the collapse of the Twin Towers, hurricane Katrina and earthquakes in Haiti, Peru and China. The program will be implemented in and around Concepción and involves elementary and pre-school teachers, social workers, parents and guardians of public school students, volunteers, municipal services, non-governmental and community organizations. The first program "My story of the Earthquake and Tsunami in Chile" is designed for children ages 7 to 10 and will use a workbook to facilitate children's written expression of their stories of loss and fear as well as their dreams and hopes for the future. The second program "Moving Forward" will provide support to 10 to 14 year olds through games and sports.

- In addition to these emotional recovery programs, EPES will be working in communities near Concepción to provide materials for residents to winterize their "temporary" homes, where they may be living for the next few winters given government projections of up to three years before permanent housing solutions are found. EPES will also be working with communities to increase their capacities around basic first aid and other health care skills, such as the prevention of respiratory illness. With a grant from the SEIU 1199 Health Workers Union of New York State EPES has also been able to hire a community psychologist to work with children, adolescents and adults in the affected areas.

- 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 \$80,000 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 April 12 and April 19, 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*.
- 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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