



# REDLAC Weekly Note On Emergencies

## Latin America & The Caribbean

This note is compiled for The Risk Emergency Disaster Working Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) by the OCHA Regional Office through disaster monitoring and input from our Regional Humanitarian partners. This note does not intend to be an analytical tool, but a summary paper of key facts and actions reported by sources. Activities carried in affected countries are not limited to the ones reported here. Please check with sources for further information. For input, feedback and suggestions send us an email to [ocha-rolac@un.org](mailto:ocha-rolac@un.org)



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### HIGHLIGHTS:

- **BRASIL:** 1,000 people have been evacuated in more than 15 municipalities in the state of Santa Catarina.
- **GUATEMALA:** A landslide killed 33 people in the department of Alta Verapaz, located in the municipality of San Cristobal. The landslide was caused by a geological fault.

## FLOODS



More than 15 municipalities in the state of Santa Catarina were affected by floods. Source: SECOM (James Tavares)

**BRASIL:** Heavy rain is affecting the Southern area of Brazil; about 1,000 people have been evacuated in more than 15 municipalities in the state of Santa Catarina, which had been beaten by rains at the end of 2008, where 135 people died. Civil Defense reports indicate that the most affected area is Nova Veneza. Various connecting roads have been damaged and some communities are still isolated.

Source: *Brazilian Civil Defense, Clarin*

**GUYANA:** Water receding in affected regions - rainfall to continue. The Ministry of Agriculture has redeployed technical staff and equipment to critical areas from areas that have drained and experienced significant water reduction as critical works continue in anticipation of the extended rainy season. In addition, the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) continues to collaborate with various support agencies to undertake critical interventions to reduce the level of water in affected communities in the various regions. Source: *Government of Guyana via Reliefweb*

**PERU:** Rains is affecting 12 departments in the North, Central and Southern Peru, 3 people have died and internal flights to Cusco were suspended during the weekend. Most affected areas include Cusco, Puno, Tacna, Moquegua, Arequipa and Apurimac. Source: *La Nación*.

**COLOMBIA:** Rains in Colombia left 76 dead and more than 1,2 million people affected, 100 people wounded and 18 others missing. About 2,355 houses were destroyed and 94,571 were damaged. Some 468 municipalities in 28 of the 32 departments were affected. In the second rainy season, which began on December 15 and ended on

December 31, there were reported 635 emergencies. Of these 11 were landslides, 109 mudslides, one erosion, 469 floods, one electrical storm and 44 by Gales.

Source: *2001 news*.

## LANDSLIDE



*A shelter in the Municipality of San Cristobal was open by authorities to received communities located near the affected area. Source: Diario de Centroamérica*

GUATEMALA: A landslide killed 33 people in the department of Alta Verapaz, located in the municipality of San Cristobal, 205 kilometers from the capital. The landslide was caused by a geological fault. Six villages, located close to the affected area are being evacuated as preventive measures. Local authorities, including the vice-president, are coordinating the recovery operations.

Source: *OCHA GUATEMALA*

## DROUGHT

URUGUAY: Dairy producers in Uruguay declared a State of Emergency due to the drought that is affecting the country. Some producers began to assess the possibility of moving cattle to the North area of the country, which is less affected by lack of rains, to mitigate the effects of drought and prevent the death of cattle.

Source: *Ansa Latina*.