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Echo Flash

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ECHO DAILY FLASH
European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

14 January 2020

I. International

Haiti - Humanitarian situation 10 years after earthquake (DG ECHO)

- 10 years after the earthquake that devastated Haiti and destroyed 60% of the health system, the country is undergoing another acute humanitarian crisis. With the intensification of economic and political concerns, medical facilities are struggling to provide basic services due to drug, oxygen, blood, fuel and staff shortages. Months-long countrywide shutdowns and heightened violence in 2019 hindered the movement of ambulances, healthcare workers, medical supplies and patients. According to Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), most medical humanitarian actors have left the country and Haiti's medical system is once again on the brink of collapse.
- While noting the decline of cholera cases, other humanitarian partners are calling for continued epidemiological vigilance given that water and sanitation remains inadequate and services need external support to respond to basic needs. 57% of Haitian families do not have means to treat water, and one third of the population living in rural areas consume water from unprotected sources. Lack of clean water and poor hygiene practices are one major cause of severe acute malnutrition among children under-5, compounding the effects of the acute food crisis.

Australia - Bushfires update (Australian Government, JRC GWIS, media)

- According to the Crisis Coordination Centre of the Australian Government, as of 14 January, 28 have died since the beginning of the bush fire emergency (including 5 firefighters), 20 across New South Wales (NSW), 5 in Victoria and 3 in South Australia.
- More than 17.1 million hectares have been burnt, and around 2,700 houses destroyed. More than 5.2 million hectares have been burnt in New South Wales (NSW) and 2,176 houses destroyed.
- Over the next 24 hours, according to the EU Joint Research Centre's Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS), the fire danger forecast will remain moderate to very high across the affected states.
- Widespread showers and thunderstorms through eastern Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland are forecast between 14-20 January.

Pakistan and Afghanistan - Severe weather update (DG ECHO, PMD, AMD, NOAA, Reliefweb, media)

- Heavy snow, heavy rain and very low temperatures continue to affect Pakistan and Afghanistan since the beginning of the year, triggering flash floods, snow avalanches, landslides and other rain-related incidents.
- The most affected provinces are Baluchistan, Punjab, Sindh and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) in Pakistan as well as Herat, Kandahar and Helmand in western and southern Afghanistan.
- Media report, as of 14 January, 46 fatalities in Pakistan and 24 across Afghanistan.
- Over the next 24 hours, in Afghanistan, very low temperatures are forecast over Herat Province. In Pakistan, more heavy snow and rain are forecast over AJK.

Philippines - Volcanic eruption update (DG ECHO, NDRMC, PHIVOLCS, Copernicus EMS)

activation

- Following the continuous magmatic and hydrovolcanic activity of Taal Volcano since 12 January, 18,187 people are sheltered across 118 centres in Batangas Province.
- The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), reports more than 34,000 people affected, 3 roads closed and 604 flights cancelled. 27,719 households in Tanauan City have lost power due to ashfall. The towns of Laurel and Talisay, San Nicolas, Agoncillo are still without power.
- The authorities are conducting emergency operations and are continuously monitoring the volcano. A state of emergency has been announced in Batangas province.
- According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Technology (PHIVOLCS), an alert level 4 (hazardous eruption imminent) is in effect as well as the mandatory evacuation order for the 500,000 people living in a radius of 14 km from the crater.
- DG ECHO partners such as Save the Children, the Philippine Red Cross, Oxfam, and other national NGOs are actively contributing to the emergency response.
- The EU's Copernicus emergency satellite mapping service was activated on 13 January in rapid mapping mode ([EMSR 418](#)). 2 satellite maps have already been produced.

Iran and United Arab Emirates - Floods (NOAA, media)

activation

- Heavy rain has affected several parts of Iran and the United Arab Emirates causing floods.
- In Iran, media report one death in Zahedan City (Sistan and Baluchestan Province) and damage to houses and infrastructure in Sistan and Baluchestan, Hormozgan and Kerman provinces.
- In the United Arab Emirates, one person died in Ras Al Khaimah City (Ras Al Khaimah Emirate) and approximately 120 people have been evacuated. In addition, the Emirates of Fujairah and Dubai have been affected by floods causing damage, traffic and flight disruptions.
- For the next 24 hours, more heavy rain is forecast over southern Iran and northern parts of the United Arab Emirates.
- The EU's Copernicus emergency satellite mapping service was activated on 13 January in rapid mapping mode. So far 10 satellite maps have been produced of the affected areas in Iran.

Indonesia - Flash floods (BMKG, NOAA, Floodlist, media)

- Heavy rain has been affecting Sulawesi Island over the past 72 hours, triggering flash floods that have resulted in casualties and damage.
- Media report, as of 14 January, 1 death in Barru Regency (South Sulawesi Province). 120 households have been isolated and houses, roads and bridges damaged.
- According to the South Sulawesi Disaster Mitigation Agency (BPBD), houses, public facilities and government offices were inundated. Roads connecting to several villages in the regency have been cut. The section of the Trans-Sulawesi Highway passing through Barru was also flooded.
- Over the next 24 hours, moderate rain is forecast over most of Sulawesi Island.

Fiji and Vanuatu – Anticipated tropical cyclone (DG ECHO, the Government of Fiji)

- On 13 January, a tropical disturbance was observed approximately 1,670 kilometres to the north-west of Fiji or 760 kilometres west-northwest of Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu. The system is expected to intensify into Tropical Cyclone TINO on 15 January.
- The system is anticipated to enter Fijian waters on 17 January. As the system moves closer towards the group, the onset of gale to destructive force winds is expected as early as Thursday night especially over the Yasawa and Mamanuca group, Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, Taveuni and nearby smaller islands.
- Coastal inundation from sea flooding may also occur in these areas and other parts of Fiji as a result of storm surge.

II. Europe

Floods and flood warnings during the last 24 hours reported by national services (European Flood Awareness System - EFAS)

- United Kingdom:** Warning level 2/3 for 8 regions in England and 31 regions in Scotland.

Meteoalarm - As of 14 January, 7:30 UTC (EUMETNET)

- On 14 January: no Red Alert issued.
- On 15 January: Red Alert for strong winds in central **Germany**.

III. Factsheets

N/A

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