

Cookies

This site uses cookies to offer you a better browsing experience. Find out more on [how we use cookies and how you can change your settings](#).

I accept cookies

I refuse cookies



Log in

Search

European Civil Protection And Humanitarian Aid Operations

ERCC - Emergency Response Coordination Centre

Home
 ERCC Response
 ECHO Products
 Countries
 Links

ECHO Products
 Echo Flash

Echo Flash

Published ECHO Daily Flash of 23 March 2020

## ECHO DAILY FLASH

### European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

23 March 2020

#### I. International

#### Sri Lanka - Drinking water crisis (DG ECHO, DMC, media)

- According to Disaster Management Centre, over 337,000 people across 8 out of 25 Sri Lankan districts are facing a water crisis due to the dry spell and sea water intrusion into surface water.
- Kalutara, Kegalle and Ratnapura districts are the most affected. The local authorities are addressing the crisis through tankering , installing water purification plant and water tanks in the affected areas.
- The seasonal climate outlook for March - May, issued by the Department of Meteorology on 4 March, indicates a continuation of the dry spell in March and April but the south-west monsoon, starting in May, is likely to improve the current situation.

#### Papua New Guinea - Landslide (DG ECHO, pngmet, media)

- A landslide triggered by heavy rainfall occurred in Tambul-Nebilyer district (Western Highlands Province) on 21 March, causing fatalities and damage.
- According to media, as of 23 March, 10 people have died and 2 are still missing. At least 1,000 people have been affected and several houses and crops destroyed.
- Over the next 24 hours, moderate to heavy rain is forecast across the affected province.

#### Fiji - Floods and landslides (DG ECHO, Fiji NDMO, Fiji MET, FloodList, media)

- Heavy rainfall during the last days days triggered floods and landslides across Fiji.
- On 20 March, the National Disaster Management Office of Fiji warned against heavy rain and flash flood. The national authorities reported 3 people died and one was injured in a landslide in Namosi province (Viti Levu island). Road access was cut by flood waters, isolating communities in Nausori Province (Viti Levu). Damaged buildings by flooding was reported in Navua Province (Viti Levu island).
- Flash flood warning remains in force for central-north of Fiji, and moderate to locally heavy rainfall, thunderstorms are forecast over most of Fiji on 23-24 March.

#### Indonesia - West Java-Flood (DG ECHO, IFRC)

- Due to heavy and intense rainfall on 20-21 March, several area in 7 sub-districts located in Bandung district, West Java have been flooded. There are approximately 23,735 household with 84,609 people affected.
- The situation has improved and floods started receding in all affected area. The provincial government set up emergency post and the national society (PMI) mobilised volunteers to do assessment in the affected area.

#### Iraq - Severe weather (NOAA-CPC, FloodList, media)

- Severe weather with heavy rainfall was reported across north and central Iraq, leading to fatalities and damage.
- According to media, 5 people died in Baqubah City (Diyala Governorate, central-east Iraq), damage to buildings and roads occurred in Nineveh and Salah ad-Din Governorates. In Mosul City (Nineveh), several people residing along Tigris River were evacuated.
- No heavy rainfall is forecast over Iraq on 23-24 March.

#### Malaysia - Landslide (MET Malaysia, media)

- On 23 March, a landslide occurred in Kuala Muda District (Kedah State, north-west peninsular of Malaysia), killing two people. Search and rescue operations were hampered by landslide susceptibility in the area.
- Rainfall will persist over most of north peninsular of Malaysia on 23-24 March.

#### Peru - Floods (SENHAMI, media)

- Heavy rain has been affecting the south regions (particularly Arequipa) over the last ten days, causing floods and mudslides.
- According to media, as of 23 March, people living in Sachaca district (Arequipa Province) have been evacuated due to the overflow of a local stream. In Arequipa City at least 100 houses have been damaged, several roads flooded and a bridge is at risk of collapse.
- For the next 24 hours, light rain is expected across Arequipa.

#### Panama - Population movement (DG ECHO, UNICEF, IFRC, government, ECHO partners)

- Irregular border crossing through the *Darien Gap*, the border forest between Colombia and Panama, has been a growing phenomenon over the past months and the migrant situation in the area is now attracting the attention of humanitarian actors. According to official sources a total of 23,698 people entered into Panama through the Darien area in 2019. At least 1,547 irregular migrants (60% men) are reported to have crossed in January 2020, most of whom (1 141) from Haiti.
- The migration flow in Darien has been very diverse, involving some 27 nationalities from the Caribbean, South America, Asia and Africa. The characteristic of this migrant population, however, have recently shifted, from mainly extra-continental male migrants in search of opportunities in North America, to families with children and pregnant women fleeing violence, poverty, exclusion and conflict in Latin America and the Caribbean. During the walking journey that can take from six to ten days in the jungle, many are victims of violence, abuse and robberies by the armed groups present in the jungle.
- Panama's reaction to the COVID19 pandemic, banning the entrance of foreigners in the country, is affecting also the Darien area. According to ECHO partners present in the zone, more than 1,370 people (29% of which children) are being blocked in the jungle in extremely precarious conditions.

#### II. Europe

#### Croatia - Earthquake (DG ECHO, GDACS, USGS, Aristotle, media)

- An earthquake of 5.4 M at a depth of 10 km occurred in north Croatia on 22 March at 5:24 UTC (6:24 local time). The epicentre was located in the Zagreb area, approximately 10 km north of the downtown. The earthquake was followed by some aftershocks in the area, of which the main one of 4.6 M at a depth of 10 km occurred at 6:01 UTC (7:01 local time).
- USGS PAGER estimates that up to 56,000 people were exposed to very strong shaking and up to 864,000 people to strong shaking.
- Media report, as of 23 March, 17 injured people (of which one person severely injured), around 70 damaged buildings, including the Zagreb cathedral tower, and several power outages in the area. Some minor damage to buildings were also reported in the nearby (45 km south-west) Karlovac city.
- Croatia has activated the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) for mainly medical items, field hospital and protective equipment. The Emergency Response Coordination Centre, ERCC stays in close contact with the Croatian civil protection authorities.

#### Greece/Albania border region - Earthquake (GDACS, USGS, media)

- An earthquake of 5.6 M at a depth of 10 km occurred in northwestern Greece on 21 March at 00.49 UTC (2:49 local time). The epicentre was located approximately 7 km north of the Kanalaki village of the Municipality of Parga (Epirus Region).
- USGS PAGER estimates that up to 1,000 people were exposed to very strong shaking and up to 12,000 people were exposed to strong shaking.
- As of 23 March, no fatalities and major damage were reported. Media report two persons slightly injured and a number of buildings (old and uninhabited houses) collapsed in the Kanallaki village.

#### Meteoalarm, as of 23 March at 8.00 UTC (EUMETNET)

- On 23 March: Red alert for strong wind in north-western **Croatia**.
- On 24 March: No red alert issued.

#### Floods and flood warnings during the last 24 hours reported by national services (EFAS)

- Finland:** Warning level 2/3 for 2 stations in southern Finland.
- Georgia:** Threshold level 2/2 exceeded for Tskhenisckali - Ludji station.
- Sweden:** Warning level 2/3 for 4 regions in southern Sweden.
- United Kingdom:** Warning level 2/3 for 4 locations in southern England.
- Poland:** Warning level 2/2 exceeded for 2 locations in southern and south-western Poland.

#### III. Factsheets

#### N/A

Reuse is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the original meaning of the document is not distorted. Reuse is not applicable to documents subject to intellectual property rights of third parties. The Commission accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to the information contained in this document nor for any consequence stemming from the reuse thereof.

PAGE CONTENTS

Latest Daily Flash

All Items

Published Flash Archive

RSS

ERCC - Emergency Response Coordination Centre

This site is managed by the Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

Contact us

ERCC Portal contact information

DG ECHO contact information

About us

Information about the DG

More information on:

DG Echo

European Commission

Contact the European Commission

Follow the European Commission on social media

Resources for partners

F.A.Q.

Cookies

Privacy policy

Legal notice