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Echo Flash

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ECHO DAILY FLASH

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

15 January 2020

I. International

Burkina Faso - Armed violence (UN OCHA/CONASUR, ACL ED)

- Insecurity and armed violence surged in Burkina Faso in 2019, spreading across northern, western, eastern, south-eastern and south-western regions of the country. In total, 2,189 people lost their lives due to the insecurity in 2019, a sevenfold increase between 2018 and 2019.
- The civilian population has been heavily impacted, representing over 60% of all fatalities. Forced population displacement has also occurred. Over 560,000 people are now recorded as internally displaced.
- Humanitarian operations are scaling up to respond to the needs of the forcibly displaced and those remaining in conflict-affected areas, in terms of food, shelter, water and sanitation, protection and access to healthcare. As humanitarian access becomes more challenging, adherence to the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence remains paramount.

Philippines - Volcanic eruption update (DG ECHO, GDACS, NDRRMC, PHIVOLCS, JRC-GHSL, Copernicus EMS, media)

activation

- According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) a total of 12,486 households (53,019 people) have been affected by the eruption of Taal volcano on Luzon with 10,000 of these (43,681 people) housed in 217 evacuation centres. 12 cities/municipalities have seen power outages in Cavite, Laguna and Batangas provinces.
- Various government agencies and the World Food Programme (WFP) are supporting the response together with hundreds of volunteers. Classes and work in cities/municipalities further away from the volcano have resumed and all road sections surrounding the volcano are now passable.
- 466 volcanic earthquakes have been recorded since 12 January and an alert level 4 (hazardous eruption imminent) remains in effect. Mandatory evacuations are still ongoing within the danger area, with more than 350,000 people living within this 14 km radius of the volcano.
- The EU's Copernicus emergency satellite mapping service was activated on 13 January in rapid mapping mode and 4 satellite maps have been produced.
- A DG ECHO humanitarian expert has been deployed to the affected areas to assess the situation.

Afghanistan, Pakistan and India - Severe weather update (PMD, AMD, IMD, media)

- Heavy snow, heavy rain and very low temperatures across Pakistan, Afghanistan, and northern India continue to trigger flash floods, snow avalanches and landslides.
- Herat, Kandahar and Helmand in western and southern Afghanistan; Baluchistan, Punjab, Sindh and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) in Pakistan and the neighbouring Jammu and Kashmir State in northern India are particularly affected.
- 75 people are dead in Pakistan, 59 after avalanches in AJK and 41 in the Neelum Valley. 53 houses were destroyed across AJK and 64 people injured throughout the country. 10 people died in Jammu and Kashmir in India after several avalanches. 39 are dead in Afghanistan. Major roads connecting Afghanistan and Pakistan were blocked due to heavy snow.
- Very low temperatures are forecast over the coming 24 hours for central and northern Afghanistan, northern Baluchistan and AJK in Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir in India.

Iran - Floods (IRIMO, Copernicus EMS, Floodlist, media)

activation

- 3 are now dead in southern Iran and one person is missing following recent floods, with Kerman, Sistan, Baluchestan, and Hormozgan worst affected. Thousands of houses have been destroyed, leaving hundreds of people displaced. Floodwaters cut off road access to many villages, which remain isolated. Further rain is expected in the area over 15-16 January.
- The EU's Copernicus emergency satellite mapping service was activated and 12 grading maps assessing the damage have been produced.

Fiji and Vanuatu – Tropical depression (DG ECHO, the Governments of Fiji and Tonga)

- A tropical disturbance located to the north-east of Fiji is expected to evolve into a depression as it moves south-east before further intensifying into a category 1 cyclone by 16 January. Damaging gale force winds with average speeds of 65km/hr and gusts up to 95km/hr are expected from 16 January.
- In Fiji, a heavy rain alert is in force for Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and nearby islands, northern Lau and Lomaiviti group. In Tonga, Niuafoou, Vava'u, Ha'apai, Tongatapu and 'Eua will be affected between 18-20 January. The Government of Tonga has advised its citizens to prepare for a category 3 tropical cyclone.

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 36 regions in England and 18 regions in Scotland.

Meteoalarm - As of 15 January, 8:00 UTC (EUMETNET)

- On 15 January: Red Alert for strong winds in central **Germany**.
- On 16 January: no Red Alert issued.

III. Factsheets

N/A

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