

# Alert

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## Peru

# Floods and mudslides in Peru

San Salvador, March 21 2017

### 1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

Peru is facing the El Niño Coastal Phenomenon, which began in January 2017, generating heavy rains, above normal levels, provoking floods and mudslides. Since March 11<sup>th</sup> the rainfall has affected Peru's northern coast and the department of Lima, as a result a total of 626,928 persons are being affected by floods from which 99,475 persons have been severely affected, 75 people have perished and 170 have been injured. The accumulated water will last for several days and weeks in various places, producing a scenario of risk to human health. 1,245 Km of roads and highways are destroyed, 3,473 km severely affected, 227 access bridges to main zones partially destroyed, 22,000 hectares of agriculture are lost, many water supply systems and drainage have collapsed. The Peruvian government declared a state of emergency in the following 11 departments: Ica, Lima, Huancavelica, Arequipa, Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque, Loreto, Ancash, Cajamarca and La Libertad; it also declared a health emergency in 7 of the following departments: Lambayeque, Piura, Tumbes, Ica, Ancash, Cajamarca and La Libertad.

### 2. Why is an ACT response needed?

The heavy rains, overflowing rivers, mudslides and flooding are the worst Peru has seen in two decades, affecting more than half of the nation. The level of damage has exceeded the national government's capacity of response. The affected population have lost their shelter; have no food, water, psychosocial support, among other needs. Meteorological experts have predicted that the coastal el Niño will extend to at least April 2017. In the coming weeks, it is highly probable that there will be heavy rainfall in the coast's middle and lower zones, especially in Tumbes, Piura and Lambayeque.

### 3. National and international response

The National Government has distributed 60 motor pumps to remove stagnant water and began to repair ceilings, walls and sanitary facilities also cleaning the drainage systems. A ship was sent to the affected areas with 30 tons of water. The Peruvian authorities installed in the capital several points to collect donations. The governments of Ecuador, Colombia and Chile have sent food and personal hygiene kits respectively, Argentina and Uruguay are contributing with potabilization of water. The American Red Cross have been assisting with preliminary assessments and coordination efforts. Meanwhile the global Red Cross network is scaling up with resources on standby to support the Peruvian Red Cross.

### 4. ACT Alliance response

The ACT Forum in Peru have been closely monitoring the situation and have some partners in the main affected areas to assess what kind of humanitarian assistance is needed. There is a current RRF in response to the effects of heavy rains and landslides in the region of Ica, since February 2017. Given the new situation, the forum has decided to prepare a response in order to be able to provide humanitarian assistance to the population affected by the latest floods and mudslides in other regions of the country.

## 5. Planned Activities

The Peru ACT Forum identified the following response sectors as priorities:

- Temporary Shelters
- WASH
- Psychosocial Support

## 6. Constraints

Many roads have suffered damage, making it difficult to transport humanitarian aid to the affected zones.

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