

**Office of the Resident Coordinator
Situation Report No. 2
Earthquake in Peru
13:00 hours**

August 16-2007

Situation

1. At 11:40:58 PM UTC/GMT (Greenwich time) 6:34:56 PM local time, an earthquake of 7.9 degrees in the Richter scale struck in the Department of Ica. The epicenter was 25 miles (61 kilometers) west-northwest of Chincha Alta, Peru, and 90 miles (161 kilometers) south-southeast of Lima, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The epicenter was 30.2 km depth (18.8 miles). The effects were also strongly felt in Lima capital.
2. Several aftershocks have been registered to the moment.
3. At the moment in Ica and Pisco power lines have been affected (no lights or light equipment) and that is difficulting a complete search in the area. Even though these conditions are limiting the search, the latest official figures provided indicate an increase in the number of casualties in the area. So far INDECI has confirmed us the following (at 2.30 a.m august 16th) :
 - 337 dead
 - 827 wounded
 - 377 houses destroyed
 - 2 hotels destroyed
 - 2 health centres and two hospitals affected.

National Response

1. The Government of Peru has declared the state of emergency in the Department of Ica.
2. At the moment the UNDMT has contacted the National Civil Defense Institute (INDECI) and been informed that an INDECI assessment team has been deployed to the provinces of Ica and Chincha (three hours by land from Lima) and a report is expected in the incoming hours.
3. The Ministry of Health has deployed medical teams to the Ica Department in support to the local hospitals.
4. An aerial assessment is expected in the early hours of Thursday 16.

5. The increase of the number of victims in this initial stage of the assessment might point to a strong alert to the USAR teams in the area. At the moment a local team of 40 firemen with USAR capabilities are on their way to Ica.

The UN Response

6. The RC has activated the Emergency Operations Centre on a 24 hrs basis and convened a meeting at 8:00 local time with the UNDMT.
7. Several agencies have received requests and the reply is being coordinated by the UNDMT.
8. The RC has informed National Authorities the availability of an immediate release of an emergency cash grant in support of the assessment needs.
9. The government of Peru is requesting international support to handle the situation, the UNNETT is closely following any possible request of deployment of USAR teams.
10. Coordination support from OCHA Panama is due to arrive in Lima at 00:00 august 17th.

International Organizations response

9. The IFRC and the PADRU (Pan American Disaster Response Unit) have offered an immediate provision of blankets, water bladders, tents. The field team has reached Pisco - their first impression a large percentage of destroyed houses - no update on numbers of dead or injured yet. It took them 6 1/2 to 7 hours to reach Pisco, instead of 2 hrs - road is severely damaged. They are heading for the hospital to ascertain the needs and then are going to leave for Ica. Indeci (local authorities) have formally asked PADRU to send the two planes (full of tents, plastic sheeting, blankets and jerricans - for 2,000 families).
10. RAPID LA- USAR- 15 people
11. Telecoms Sans Frontieres has deployed 3 technicians. Satellite Phones: 3 MiniMs + 1 Iridium Satellite modems: 2 Bgan + 1 RBgan + 1 GanM4 . 5 Laptops.
12. Swiss Humanitarian Aid / Peru. Assessment. Country Switzerland. Switzerland has offered an specialist in water and sanitation and a rapid reaction response team for assessment.