

SITUATION REPORT

Chile Earthquake –2 March 2010



BACKGROUND

United Nations' preliminary evaluations indicate that two million people were affected by the earthquake. The death toll is 795 and still expected to rise. Six regions have been designated disaster zones by the Government of Chile.

The airport in the capital, Santiago, continues to operate with some restrictions. A special air route is being set up to deliver aid from Santiago to Concepcion. Water and electricity are being restored very slowly, and telephone systems continue to be overwhelmed.

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet has dispatched some 14,000 troops to help control looting. The majority of Concepcion's half million residents remain short of food.

Coastal towns and villages were also devastated by the tsunami that hit the area in the aftermath of the earthquake. Efforts to reach them with necessary assistance have been hampered by severe infrastructure damage. Many bridges have been completely destroyed.

HOW SAMARITAN'S PURSE IS RESPONDING

Samaritan's Purse immediately mobilized the Incident Management Team (IMT). Our efforts-to-date include:

- Our DART was able to reach the coastal city of Constitucion today and begin distributing relief items. This area was completely washed out by the tsunami, and the residents are in desperate need. The items distributed include food, water, 250 blankets, baby food, and other infant care items. The team reports that there is a great need to provide assistance for infants and small children.
- The team is coordinating with churches in Concepcion to organize communal feeding centers.
- The team has begun purchasing non-food and infant care items to bring back to Constitucion.
- We are assessing how we can best supply clean water to the affected population.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Pray:

- For survivors as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.
- For the safe arrival of our team in Concepcion.
- For wisdom in assessing needs and acting quickly to meet them effectively.

Donations: Go to www.samaritanspurse.org or call (800) 528-1980.