Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Weekly Report
eoc@paho.org

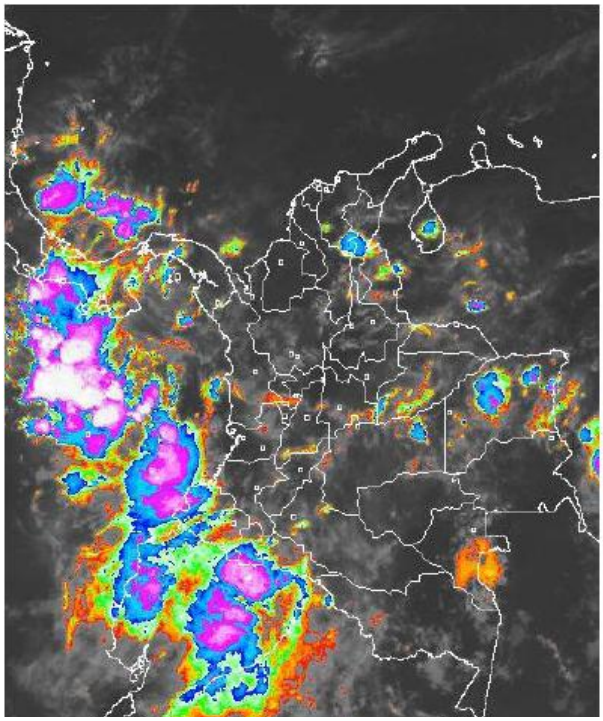
Week of April 22-29, 2011

COLOMBIA – FLOODS

Heavy rain during the last month triggered by La Niña phenomenon in the tropical Pacific has caused extensive damage to Colombia's 28 of the 32 departments. Floods and landslides caused 323 deaths, 321 injured and 7,450 homes destroyed.

The Ministry of Social Protection reported damage to over 225 health institutions, hindering provision of services to the affected population. The government of Colombia will allocate 26 billion dollars for emergency care caused by La Niña Phenomenon.

PAHO/WHO in Colombia mobilized a team of public health experts to work with Colombia's Ministry of Health to identify priorities and humanitarian needs. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is making assessments of the socio-economic impact of the severe rainy season in the sectors of water, sanitation, agriculture and livestock, housing, and health.



Satellite Image 27 April 2011. Source: IDEAM

ECUADOR – VOLCANIC ACTIVITY

Activity in the Volcano Tungurahua of Ecuador began on Wednesday, 20 April, activating the country's response plans. The volcano spewed ash clouds into the air, damaging crops and endangering health of residents in nearby villages.

The recent activities triggered evacuation of the communities near the volcano, including 80 families in Cusua, 30 families in Bilbao, and 30 families in Chacauco. Ministry of Education suspended classes in nearby schools.

The health offices of Chimborazo and Tungurahua continue their normal activity in coordination with the Ministry of Health.

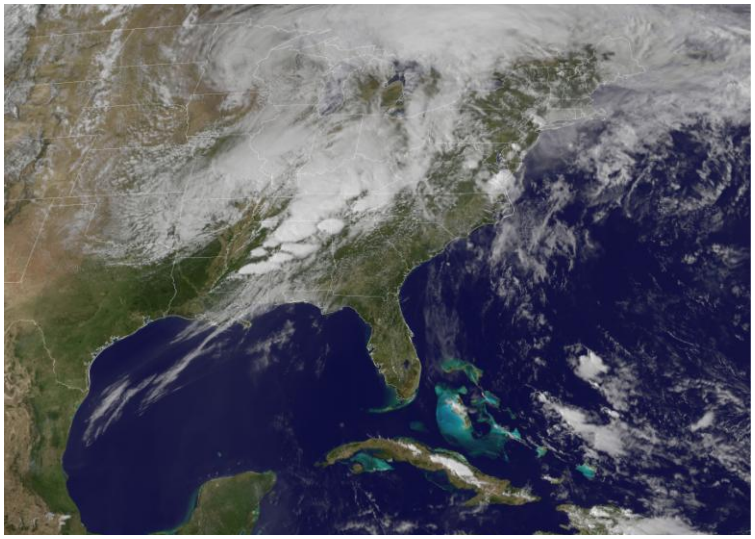
The Geophysical Institute of Ecuador reported increased volcano activity this past week, detecting six eruptions so far. The institute continuously monitors the volcano's activity, both at its headquarters in Quito and from the Tungurahua Volcano Observatory.

26 Apr 2011 - Following Tungurahua volcano's increased activity, more than 240 families were evacuated and ashfall was reported in Baños, Pelileo, Penipe, Patate, Cevallos, Quero and Riobamba cantons.

Map Sources: UNCS, Europa Technologies, GAUL.
Reference: UN Country Team in Ecuador. *Reactivación del Volcán Tungurahua - Informe de Situación 01*. 26 Apr 2011.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 27 Apr 2011 – *www.reliefweb.int http://ochaonline.un.org*

UNITED STATES - TORNADO

Severe weather system brought high winds, hail, and tornadoes to several southeastern states including Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia, killing as many as 321 people.



Source: earthobservatory.nasa.gov

The nuclear power plant in Alabama declared emergency at the lowest of four levels due to damage in the electricity transmission line to the plant.

FEMA has personnel in the field in the severely affected states, and commodities are strategically pre-positioned in the region to support the states.

The President declared emergency for all 67 counties in Alabama, and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local response efforts in the area struck by these storms. No international assistance has been requested.

For more information: http://www.paho.org/disasters.