



Emergency Operations Center Situation Report #4 Chile Earthquake

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Among countries in Latin America, Chile has some of the best health and development indicators. Life expectancy at birth is 78.7 years (81.9 for women) (2009) and the infant mortality rate is 7.6 per thousand live births (2006).
- However, noticeable differences do exist from region to region in terms of the social determinants of health. For example, in 2009, the Region of Maule (hardest hit by the earthquake) ranked last nationally on the index of social vulnerability as well as the human development index, a reflection of existing inequalities.
- The neighboring Region of Biobío (capital Concepción) shares similarly high levels of vulnerability.
- Together, these Regions are home to more than 3 million people, 18% of the national population, yet their contribution to the gross domestic product is only 13%. Overall, both regions have poorer health indicators than the rest of Chile. The infant mortality rate, for example, reached of 8.7 per thousand live births (Maule) and 8.9 per thousand (Biobío).



HEALTH SITUATION

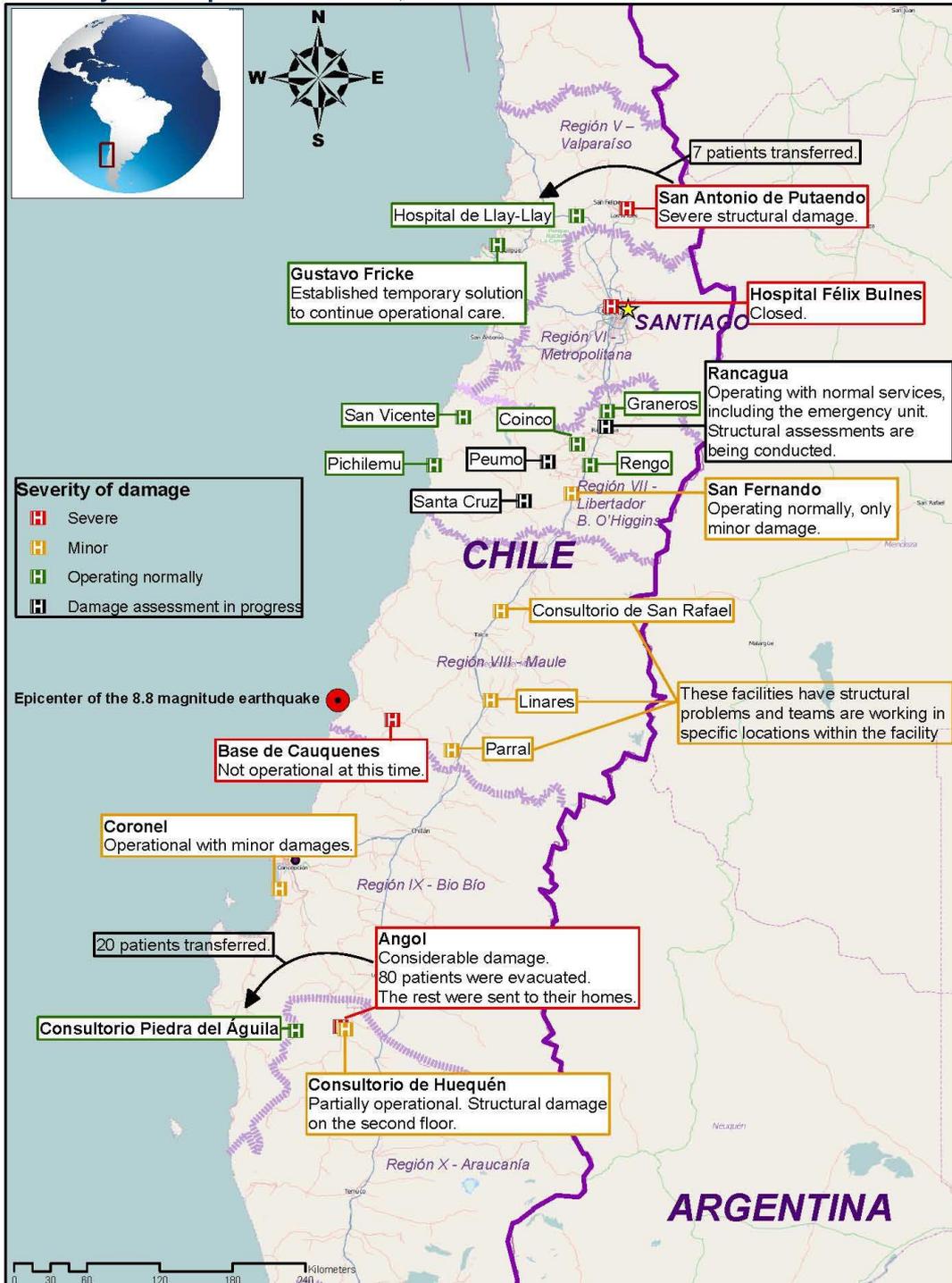
- Radiotherapy services for patients at Chile's National Cancer Institute have returned to normal after mechanical and dosimetric tests were performed and confirmed that all equipment is in optimal condition.
- The Ministry of Health decided to close the Hospital Félix Bulnes, one of the principal public hospitals in Santiago, due to severe structural damage following the earthquake. Some 217 patients were already evacuated to other health facilities in the Metropolitan Region. Due to the extent of the damage, it may be less costly to rebuild than to repair the facility
- Chile's Medical Board has offered 68 medical volunteers who are willing to be deployed to the Regions of Maule and Biobío to support health teams in hospitals and health centers. Meanwhile, the managers of Chile's principal drugstore chains in the affected area have agreed to coordinate actions—including the use of mobile field pharmacies—so that an adequate supply of drugs will continue to be available.
- The first foreign field hospitals from Argentina and Peru have already arrived in Chile and will be deployed to areas where the local hospitals sustained severe damage. These areas include Curicó, Parral, Cauquenes, and others.

PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

- Yesterday's situation report spoke about coordination efforts underway to procure additional mobile field hospitals for the hardest hit areas. WHO/PAHO have produced guidelines on how to ensure that mobile field hospitals will satisfy expectations and not place an undue burden on local health authorities. To be sure, mobile field hospitals will make a contribution if they are requested by the national health authorities; they can be quickly dispatched and set up without draining resources at the local level; and if they require only minimal support from the community itself (water, electric, etc.) Consult the complete guidelines on the web at www.paho.org/english/dd/ped/FieldH.htm.
- PAHO received the confirmation of Sanofi-Pasteur's donation of 80,000 doses of vaccine for Hepatitis A. The majority of adolescents and adults in Chile are susceptible to contracting Hepatitis A. Therefore, as soon as conditions permit, the Ministry of Health will begin vaccination, particularly in temporary shelters and other areas where there is not enough supply of safe drinking water. The government estimates it will require a total of 800,000 doses to protect the displaced population.

**Contact the PAHO EOC at +1 202 974 3399 or eoc@paho.org.
This report and others are online at www.paho.org/disasters**

Health Facilities in Chile Affected by the Earthquake of 27 February 2010. Updated: March 2, 2010.



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