

## Relief Activity Report No. 1

5 March 2010

### Chile: Earthquake relief

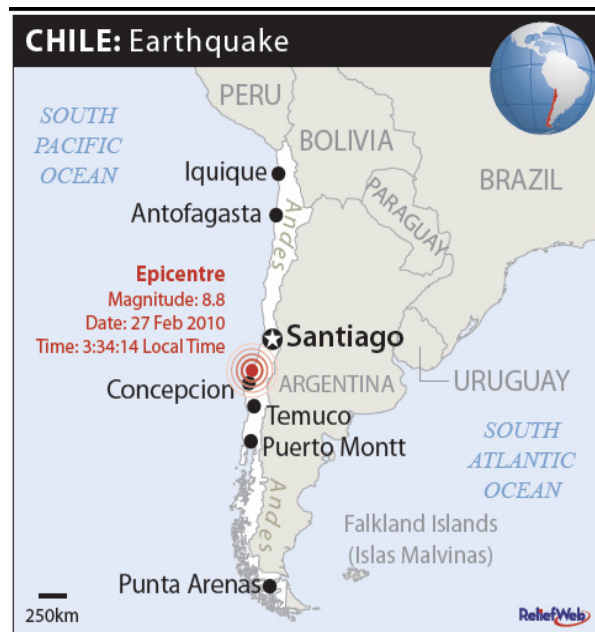
#### I. Overall Situation

On 27 February at 03:34 am (local time), an earthquake with a magnitude of 8.8 on the Richter scale struck off the Chilean coast with the epicentre 115 km (70 miles) north-east of Concepción and 325 km south-west of Santiago. According to the Chilean National Emergency Office (ONEMI), the number of deaths has risen to 799; 2 million have been severely affected. An estimated 1.5 million houses have been damaged. A tsunami warning was initially released for the entire Pacific region. According to the Chilean President Michelle Bachelet the quake was "one of the five most powerful in the history of the country".

While authorities are currently establishing a comprehensive overview of the situation, immediate priorities continue to be search and rescue, medical services, shelter, food and water, transport, communications and the restoration of basic services.

Santiago airport still operates with restrictions to international and domestic flights.

Up to know Chilean authorities installed eight field hospitals in the affected areas. Four others are being deployed. In addition, the Chilean Government installed 40 temporary shelters.



Source: [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

Via a staff member in Malteser International headquarters who has personal contacts with families in Chile, we received the following reports from the crisis region

*"Our supplies at home are all we have left to eat. The supermarkets are empty and looted."* (Evelyn from Talcahuano, part of Concepción)

*"My family in the south is severely affected; there is neither electricity nor water. So far they have nothing to eat, as many of my relatives. I'm very worried. I personally feel good, even if I will probably never forget an earthquake on the 16th floor of a building. I hope that tomorrow will be a better day for everyone."*

(Roni from Santiago de Chile)

*"I can not reach anybody in Concepción, the people are without electricity. Don't expect to reach someone within the next days."* (Lorena from San Pedro in the north of Chile)

### International response:

Peru is sending one field hospital with surgical capacity and in-patient hospital care, Brazil has promised to send further hospitals. Cuba provided a 26-person medical team and a field hospital, Argentina is supporting emergency relief with three field hospitals. Russia sent a plane with 28 MT of relief items, including blankets and generators, Australia is sending generators, Japan is sending water purification systems, tents and generators, as well as a medical team, Spain is sending 7.5 MT of emergency relief items and a 75-person team.

PAHO/WHO has one staff in the Ministry of Health to help in assessing the health situation. Furthermore it has transferred 80,000 doses of vaccine for Hepatitis A to the Ministry of Health.



Source: [www.ordendemalta.cl](http://www.ordendemalta.cl)

For further information, please visit: [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

## **II. Malteser International activities**

Immediately after the disaster, Malteser International has got in close contact with the Embassy of the Order of Malta in Santiago and has offered its assistance. On 2 March 2010, H. Exc. Sr. Raúl Irarrázabal C., President of the Chilean Association of the Order of Malta, has transmitted the association's request for help to Malteser International.

In order to support the relief activities of the Chilean Association and the Chilean Malteser relief service "Auxilio Maltés", Malteser International has made available initial 50,000 Euros and now assesses the situation to prepare supporting relief activities. In his email dated 2 March 2010, the President of the Chilean Association reports that there is a need of food, medical care and shelter.

According to local Malteser experts, the emergency relief will mainly be provided by the Chilean government and civil society structures. In the following rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, however, support of international non-governmental organisations will be needed. Then, the rehabilitation of kindergartens, schools, health centres and old people's homes in the up to 95 percent damaged poorer areas will have to be the focus of aid. Malteser International will therefore concentrate on these tasks.



Source: [www.ordendemalta.cl](http://www.ordendemalta.cl)

In order to support the relief activities provided by the Chilean Association and its relief service “Auxilio Maltés”, Kathrin Meier, Malteser International staff member will leave for Chile on Sunday, 7 March. K. Meier lived in Concepción for two years and therefore knows the national structures very well. Last year, she spent several months in Peru in order to support the activities of the Peruvian Association and of “Malteser Peru”. Now, she is in close contact with H.I.H. Archduchess Alexandra von Habsburg de Riesle, Ambassador of the Order to Chile.

### III. Appeal for donations

In addition to the earthquake relief in Haiti, Malteser International also needs your generosity to support the Chilean Association and “Auxilio Maltés” to help the people in Chile affected by this devastating earthquake. The homeless people, the injured and the hungry need our support not only in the current disaster situation but also for the rehabilitation period. The extent and sustainable success of our assistance in these emergencies is largely depending on external and internal funding.

Malteser International is therefore highly appreciating all financial contributions to the benefit of the people in Chile. Your contribution will directly support a workable and reliable relief effort based on the greatest needs of the earthquake survivors.

In order to avoid “fundraising confusion” and high bank fees, we suggest that all associations should first use their own internal system for collecting donations and afterwards transfer donations to the following Malteser International bank account:

**Donation Account 2020122**  
**Pax-Bank Köln, von-Werth-Str. 25-27, D-50670 Köln, Germany,**  
**Sort Code 370 60 193**  
**IBAN DE93 3706 0193 0002 0201 22**  
**BIC GENODED1PAX**  
**Reference: "Earthquake relief Chile"**

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We shall keep you informed about all further developments.

Yours sincerely

Ingo Radtke  
Secretary General