

*This report was issued by OCHA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and contains preliminary information following the earthquake. The next report will be issued on or around the 1 March.*

## I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **At 03:34 am (local time) an earthquake with a magnitude of 8.8 on the Richter scale has struck off the Chilean coast.**
- **At least 150 are reported dead; numbers are expected to rise.**
- **The Government of Chile has declared 6 regions as zones of catastrophe; to date no formal request for international assistance issued.**
- **Basic services initially interrupted in affected areas.**

## II. Situation Overview



Map Sources: UNCS, Europa Technologies, GAUL  
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 Jan 2010 - [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org)

Reliefweb map showing most impacted areas after an 8.8 magnitude earthquake that hit the Chilean Coast on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2010

- The epicentre of the earthquake was 325km southwest of Santiago, 35km depth; with Concepcion, the second largest city in Chile (population approx 200,000) most affected.
- The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued the highest-level tsunami warning for most Pacific coast countries and island states (*see annex*).
- The Government of Chile declared 6 regions as zone of catastrophes; to date no formal request for international assistance has been issued. The 6 regions affected are Valparaiso, Metropolitana, Libertador O'Higgins, Araucania, BioBio and Maule.
- Santiago Airport international terminal has suspended commercial flights for a maximum of 72 hours.

## Preliminary extent of damage

- Several buildings in the areas of Santiago and Valparaiso have partially collapsed.
- The principle hospitals in Temuco-Parral, Laiten and Concepcion were affected; patients and staff were evacuated. Many other medical facilities have also been damaged in the region.
- In Concepcion and Valparaiso, public services such as electricity and communications were initially interrupted but have been mostly restored; the telephone system is overwhelmed.
- At least 3 bridges along the main Quinta highway and roads in the country's interior have been damaged; the ports of Valparaiso and Talcahuano are affected.

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

- Only preliminary reports have been received, the Chilean Government is preparing to comprehensively assess the extent of damage. World Vision will support the assessment.
- Education: the Ministry of Education has suspended the start of the school year from 1 to 8 March in affected areas, pending assessment.
- Most agencies have been able to account for their staff and their family.
- A number of organizations plan to deploy individuals to offer support to national response and partners *in situ*. Telecoms without borders (TSF), ECHO, the Swiss Corporation, MSF and PAHO are few ones reporting deployments.
- OCHA ROLAC will deploy a Regional Disaster Response Advisor and an information officer to support UNETT coordination.
- IFRC has resources including Search and Rescue on standby to be deployed if requested.
- Structural analysis of UN buildings is underway.

### IV. Coordination

- The Government of Chile held an emergency meeting and outgoing President Bachelet together with President-elect Sebastian Pinera are inspecting the extent of damages.
- Chilean National Emergency Office (ONEMI) has advised until there is a clear understanding of the extent of damage and needs, international assistance will not be requested.
- UNDAC team has been alerted and is on standby.
- The UN agencies to meet on Sunday 28, to discuss situation and possible response.

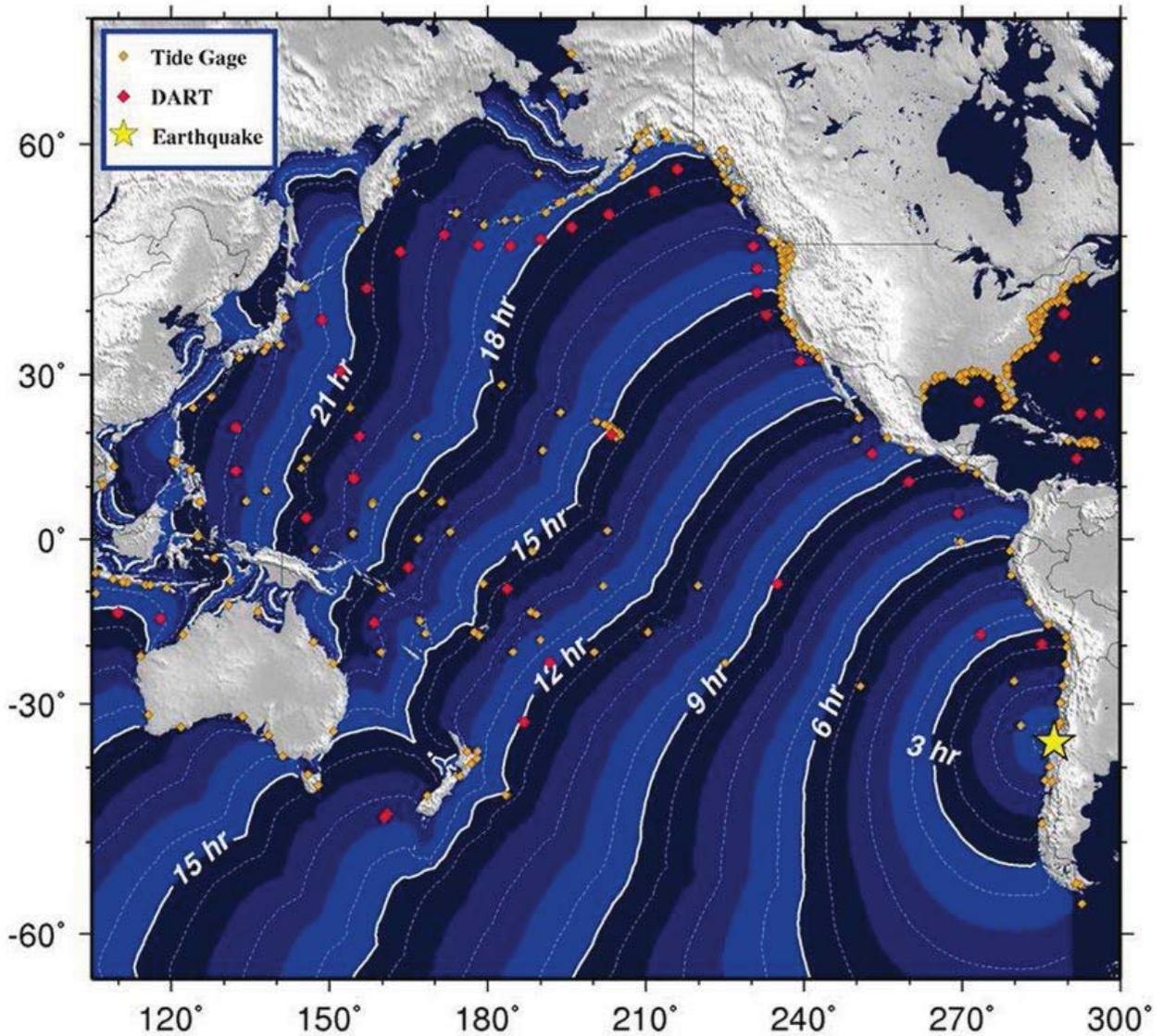
### V. Funding

- IFRC released \$280,000 from its Disaster Emergency Response Fund to support Chilean Red Cross relief operations.
- American Red Cross has pledged an initial \$50,000 from its International Response Fund.
- ECHO has offered \$3 million in emergency funding.

### VI. Contacts

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## Tsunami Travel Times



GM 2010 Feb 27 10:00:08 UTC

**Source: National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration**

Travel times are estimated and may not be accurate.

A Tsunami warning maybe decreased in scale and intensity at any time.

For more information about Tsunamis, please visit

<http://www.noaa.gov/features/tsunami/index.html>