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

- 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, Llaiten 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.
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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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

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