

### Situation overview

Situational Report	N°3
Date	20 February 2024
Reporting period	14 to 20 February 2024

#### 1. Wildfires in Central Chile: Onset and Progression

- On 29 January 2024, an extended heatwave affected six regions of Chile, including Coquimbo, Valparaíso, Metropolitan (where the capital, Santiago de Chile, is located), O'Higgins, Maule and Ñuble, creating favourable conditions for the development of wildfires in the Region of Valparaíso on 2 February, affecting the municipalities of Limache, Quilpué, Villa Alemana, and Viña del Mar.
- On 19 February, two weeks after the start of the wildfires affecting the Region of Valparaíso, one ongoing wildfire remains, which is under control. The total impact of the wildfires in this region reaches a coverage of nearly 9,000 hectares. At the national level there are currently 145 wildfires reported, and more than 16,929 hectares have been affected, according to the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF). <sup>1</sup>



- According to the updated data from the National Service for Prevention and Response to Disasters (SENAPRED), as of 19 February, there were 5,387 affected individuals in the Valparaíso region, of which 907 are currently housed in publicly managed shelters, representing a decrease compared to the previous week. It is worth noting that, according to SENAPRED's classification, these figures also include affected second homes or affected properties.
- As of 19 February, the Legal Medical Service reports a total of 1332 deceased individuals, with 108 bodies having been identified. As of 8 February, there were 35 individuals reported as missing; no updates have been provided.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.conaf.cl/situacion-nacional-de-incendios-forestales/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/SmlChile/status/1759330927753240751/photo/1>

### 2. Characterization and Principal Needs of the Affected Population

- The affected population comprises both Chilean citizens and migrants. However, as of now, there is still insufficient data to quantify the proportion of migrants within the affected population.
- Upon request of the Municipality of Quilpué and in coordination with SENAPRED, IOM implemented two data collection exercises in Quilpué, in order to gather information on the affected population and understand their principal needs:

→ Between 8 and 10 February, IOM conducted a DTM Site Assessment in three (3) temporary shelters where affected people were relocated, the latter allowed to gather data on 322 individuals representing 95 families who were living in the informal settlements of Pompeya Sur, Pompeya Norte, and Población Argentina, revealing that 42.2 per cent were foreigners.

→ Between 13 and 15 February, IOM implemented a DTM Multisectorial Local Assessment (MLSA) in Pompeya Sur and Población Argentina, the most affected areas in Quilpué, through key informants from the same population, such as delegates from the neighbourhoods or street-level areas. This initiative collected information from 49 surveys and reflected over 3,500 affected individuals in these areas, of which 10% were migrant population, representing approximately 300 people. The results of these surveys are still being processed, and a more in-depth analysis is expected to be shared in the next Sit Rep.



©IOM Chile 2024, Rocío Sanhueza. IOM applying DTM Multisectorial Local Assessment, Quilpué.

- Based on those data recollection exercises and observations from IOM and other actors on the field, urgent needs are identified in Shelter and especially construction, Food Security and Wash sectors.
- As many emergency shelters were established in public schools, the imminent start of the school year on 1 March raises concerns about where these displaced individuals will be housed. This urgency underscores the imperative to find other alternatives for those who will be left without a place to live and highlights the importance of delivering timely shelter solutions to the affected population.
- Valparaíso is the third region with the highest rate of migrant population, totalling 99,456 individuals, which accounts for 6.1 percent of the region's total population (INE 2023). To this number must be added the population registered in the national biometric registry for migrants who entered through unauthorized crossings, representing more than 5,000 individuals for the cities of Valparaíso and Viña del Mar. The number of irregular migrants who did not register in this national biometric registry remains unknown.



The affected area of Población Argentina, Quilpué.



The affected area of Pompeya Sur, Quilpué.

### 3.State Response

- The State of Constitutional Exception of Catastrophe declared in the provinces of Valparaíso and Marga Marga, Valparaíso region, remains active since the onset of the wildfires on 2 February. Additionally, the curfew for the affected areas of the municipalities of Viña del Mar and Quilpué has been extended and will be in effect until 21 February.
- The government, via the “Ayuda Temprana” Committee, announced assistance for affected individuals, which includes Economic benefits, early social care, tax relief, and access to services, contingent upon the completion of the Basic Emergency Form (FIBE). As of 17 February, 7,735 FIBE surveys have been conducted at national level.
- On 9 February, the monetary recovery allowance, part of the economic benefits announced by President Gabriel Boric, began to be deposited to affected families, amounting to USD 1,545. As of 17 February, 6,747 households have received the payment. Given that many of the affected population lost their identification documents in the fires, the Civil Registration, the National Migration Service (SERMIG for its acronym in Spanish) alongside local governments are working to find immediate solutions for these people to renew their documents in order to access public services or benefits.



©IOM Chile 2024, Francisca Salinas. Affected population removing debris in Población Argentina, Quilpué.

- To address the WASH needs of affected people, the Government has installed 623 chemical toilets in Quilpué, Viña del Mar, and Villa Alemana. Additionally, 1,198 water taps damaged by the fires were restored in Viña del Mar and Quilpué.
- During the Disaster Risk Management Committee (Cogrid) held on 19 February, a case of scabies was reported, raising concerns about the health situation. The government has also



made an announcement regarding the cessation of donations of used clothing in poor condition, citing health risks as the primary concern.

- As to the date and according to the Government, debris removal in the region has reached 68% completion, with a total of 58,000 tons removed.

#### 4. IOM Response

- IOM continues to coordinate an emergency response, through the leadership of the Resident Coordinator's Office, along with other UN agencies in the country, complementing the efforts of the Chilean Government through the National Service of Disaster Prevention and Response (SENAPRED).



- Considering that many of the affected families lived in informal settlements, including irregular migrant population, there is a likelihood that they will be left out of the government's response benefits. Therefore, IOM identifies and urgent need to bring support to affected people living in informal settlement, particularly to migrants in irregular situation, whether they are registered or not in the national biometric registry.

- As of now, IOM has donated the equivalent of USD 13,900 worth of water cans, food items, protective awnings, and hygiene products to the Municipality of Quilpué, which were distributed to those most in need.
- Additionally, IOM Chile will provide temporary shelter solutions, totalling USD 50,000 thanks to the contribution from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), to be distributed shortly to the affected migrant population and the host community.
- IOM will also distribute multipurpose cash transfers to individuals without bank accounts, totalling USD 10,000 and 60,000 EUR, respectively, thanks to PRM and the Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission (ECHO)'s support.
- It is important to highlight that IOM will provide multipurpose cash transfers exclusively to people without bank accounts, in order to reach those in need who would otherwise not



be covered by assistance provided by the government or other civil society organizations (CSOs) distributing cash-based transfers to people with bank accounts. The latter will enable support for, for instance, irregular migrants.

- On February 14th, IOM set up the first Emergency Assistance and Orientation Point (PAO) at Nuestra Sra. del Rosario Parish in Quilpué. PAOs aim to provide information in coordination with local stakeholders by setting up information stands. Representatives from the Quilpué Municipality, the Chilean Catholic Migration Institute (INCAMI), and the National Migration Service (SERMIG) participated in this PAO alongside IOM staff. It enabled the assistance of affected migrants as well as Chileans, offering essential guidance and information, including legal and migration advice. Furthermore, this initiative facilitated the identification of 34 cases requiring assistance through Cash-Based Interventions or temporary accommodation, which will be provided shortly by IOM.
- In the upcoming weeks, PAO sessions will be held once a week, ensuring the participation of relevant public entities, NGOs, as well as UN agencies.
- The importance of interagency and institutional coordination is highlighted to continue and replicate the PAOs, aiming to address the majority of needs through the participation of specialized actors.
- As part of the state's emergency response and at the request of SERMIG, IOM financed a mobile and itinerant Unit to provide essential services covering affected municipalities of the Region of Valparaíso. This Mobile Unit started to be functional as of 19 February.



For more information about this report, please contact: [oiomchilecomunicacion@iom.int](mailto:oiomchilecomunicacion@iom.int)

For information on previous SitRep, click [here](#).

IOM is grateful to partners that have enabled our rapid response in affected areas.



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