

Situational Report	N°1
Date	7 February
Reporting period	29 January to 7 February

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since 29 January 2024, an extended heatwave has 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 central regions of the country. Valparaíso has been identified as the main region where the fire has impacted considerably to urban areas such as the municipalities of Limache, Quilpué, Villa Alemana, and Viña del Mar.

On 2 February, the President of the Chilean Republic declared a State of Constitutional Catastrophe in the provinces of Valparaíso and Marga Marga, Valparaíso region. The State of Catastrophe allows the restriction of freedom of movement and assembly; requisition of goods; limitations on the exercise of property rights; and the adoption of all necessary extraordinary administrative measures for the prompt restoration of normalcy. In addition, the President convened the Disaster Risk Management Committee (COGRID) meeting, which has been gathering daily at regional and national levels since then.

Until Sunday, 4 February, the focus was on controlling and preventing the spread of the fires. On Monday 5 February most of the work was dedicated to recovering the bodies of the deceased, debris removal, and supporting the affected population, although the fires have not completely ceased.

Meanwhile, as 6 February, the [Legal Medical Service](#) has confirmed the death of 131¹, of those, only 33 bodies have been identified. Additionally, there are approximately more than 200 missing people (unofficial figure) that could increase the death toll in the coming days.

Regarding the magnitude of wildfires, as of 6 February, there were 28 active fires being fought throughout the country² and over 28797.58 affected hectares. The estimated number of affected homes in the Valparaíso region is up to 12,000 in Viña del Mar and 2,000 in Quilpué. The total number of affected individuals would be close to 40,000 (around 32,000 individuals in Viña del Mar and approximately 8,000 in Quilpué).

Regarding the migrant population in the mainly affected territories, it is important to highlight that Valparaíso is the third region with the highest proportion of the migrant population (6.1%) in the country, with 99,456 individuals, comprising 52,750 men and 46,706 women and 59.1 per cent of the migrant population in this region is between 25 and 44 years old (INE 2023).

¹ <https://twitter.com/SmlChile/status/1754890956719939996>

² <https://www.conaf.cl/situacion-nacional-de-incendios-forestales/>

Regarding the origin of the fires, several authorities, such as the Regional Governor and the Prosecutor's Office, are considering the hypothesis of intentionality, although no one has been arrested in connection with this assumption³.

The provinces of Valparaíso and Marga Marga would continue with a curfew. The measure will be in effect from Monday, 5 February, at 9:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 6 February.

Tuesday morning, the government through the “Comité de Ayuda Temprana” announced assistance for affected people, which consists of monetary aid and the donation of home furnishings which requires prior implementation of the Basic Emergency Form (FIBE) In this context, government authorities have already begun conducting surveys and by Tuesday 6, there were 500 forms already completed.

IOM CHILE RESPONSE

1. Principal needs, geographic and population scope

- Urgent needs are identified in Shelter, Food Security and Wash sectors as 15,000 households were affected by the fires to this date in the Valparaíso region.

2. IOM actions to complement the state response

- Through the leadership of the Resident Coordinator's Office, along with other UN agencies in the country, IOM is coordinating an emergency response, complementing the efforts of the Chilean Government through the National Service of Disaster Prevention and Response (SENAPRED).
- So far the main focus of the government has been on controlling and preventing the spread of the fires and the majority of the work has been dedicated to recovering the bodies of deceased individuals, clearing debris (157 machines were deployed on the ground).
- The Government also launched a series of measures to provide support to the affected people such as recovery allowance for the affected families and the donation of all items used in the Pan American Village to those affected by fires, which includes beds, dining sets, tables, chairs, among other items.
- 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 an urgent need to bring support to affected people living in informal settlement, particularly to migrants in irregular situation.

3. Response actions up to now

- To gather information on the affected population and understand their principal needs, IOM will implement a Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTMs) on 08 and 09 February in the main shelters in Quilpué where affected people have been relocated, in coordination with the municipality and SENAPRED. This initiative will enable the collection of primary data to characterize the affected

³ <https://www.latercera.com/la-tercera-pm/noticia/sin-detenciones-por-incendio-y-4-focos-pericidados-los-detalles-de-la-investigacion-por-la-catastrofe-que-azota-valparaiso/JWF7SRLNCRGIZNHJXXUEKASITA/>

population and identify their needs, facilitating the design of a more effective humanitarian assistance.

- IOM, in coordination with SENAPRED and, at the direct request of the Municipality of Quilpué, is managing acquisition and distribution of water cans, food items, tents, mattresses protective awning and hygiene products for the upcoming days, for a total of USD 13,500 allocated for this initial stage.
- Additionally, IOM Chile will provide assistance to migrant population through CBI modalities and temporary shelters, for a total amount of USD 60,000 for this initial stage.

4. IOM standing capacity

- IOM is mobilizing its field staff located in different regions of the country to provide assistance in the affected areas according to the needs indicated by SENAPRED. Additionally, IOM is dedicating all its human resources to the emergency, both at the operational and administrative levels.

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



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