

Situational Report	N°2
Date	13 February 2024
Reporting period	7 to 13 February 2024

SITUATION OVERVIEW

1. Wildfires in Central Chile: Onset and Progression

- 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 significantly impacted by the fire, affecting urban areas such as the municipalities of Limache, Quilpué, Villa Alemana, and Viña del Mar.
- On 2 February, the President of the Chilean Republic, Gabriel Boric, declared a State of Constitutional Exception of Catastrophe in the provinces of Valparaíso and Marga Marga, Valparaíso region. This measure 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.
- As of 12 February, the [Legal Medical Service](#) reports a total of 131 deceased individuals, with 87 bodies having been identified. Furthermore, according to the Minister of Interior, Carolina Tohá, as of 8 February, there are 35 individuals reported as missing.
- Regarding the magnitude of wildfires, as of 13 February, according to the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF), there are 111 active fires being fought throughout the country, affecting over 16,293 hectares. In the Valparaíso region, there are currently four active wildfires, impacting nearly 9,000 hectares. According to SENAPRED, as of 12 February, there were 4,798 affected individuals in the Valparaíso region, of which 1,270 are housed in shelters. It is worth noting that according to SENAPRED's classification, these figures also include affected second homes or affected properties.
- 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 assumption¹.

¹ <https://www.latercera.com/la-tercera-pm/noticia/sin-detenciones-por-incendio-y-4-focos-periciados-los-detalles-de-la-investigacion-por-la-catastrofe-que-azota-valparaiso/JWF7SRLNCRGIZNHJXXUEKA5ITA/>

- On 6 February, the government, via the “Ayuda Temprana” Committee, announced assistance for affected individuals, which includes financial aid and donations of household items, contingent upon the completion of the Basic Emergency Form (FIBE). As of 13 February, 6,300 FIBE surveys have been conducted at national level.

2. Characterization and Principal Needs of the Affected Population

- The affected population comprises both Chilean citizens and migrants. However, as of now, there is insufficient data to quantify the proportion of migrants within 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). Additionally, it also must be considered 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.
- Between 8 and 10 February, IOM deployed staff to Quilpué, an affected area in Valparaíso Region, for an emergency mission, upon request of the Municipality and in coordination with SENAPRED. During this mission IOM conducted a DTM Site Assessment in three (3) temporary shelters where affected people have been relocated, to gather information on the affected population and understand their principal needs.



©IOM Chile 2024, Francisca Salinas. IOM applying Shelter DTM to affected population, Quilpué.



©IOM Chile 2024, Francisca Salinas. IOM applying Shelter DTM to shelter managers, Quilpué.

- The preliminary results of this DTM 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. It revealed that 57.8 per cent are nationals while 42.2 per cent are foreigners. The most represented nationalities are Venezuelan (24.5%), Haitian (5.6%), Ecuadorian (3.4%), Peruvian (3.1%), and Colombian (2.5%). In terms of gender and age of the individuals, 42.9 per cent are adult men, 31.7 per cent are adult women, 14.0 cent are boys and adolescents, and 11.5 per cent are girls and adolescents.²
- Many individuals with special needs were identified, such as people with chronic illnesses (115), infants (7), physical disabilities (6), unaccompanied women (3), and pregnant women (2).
- Isolated incidents such as thefts, conflicts among residents, altercations with the local community, and physical violence have been reported as well as xenophobic incidents, such as the case of a Haitian

² Full report is enclosed to this Sit Rep.

family that had to be relocated within the shelter due to rejection by the local population.

- These shelters have a total of 53 rooms, 350 mattresses, and no beds as well as 52 bathrooms and 30 showers. They all have kitchens and dining areas and offer three (3) meals a day. Physical health care is provided, and mental health workshops have been conducted.
- At the regional scale and based on observations from IOM and other actors on the field, urgent needs are identified in Shelter and especially construction, Food Security and Wash sectors.



©IOM Chile 2024, Francisca Salinas. School Fernando Durán Villarreal, temporary shelter for affected population, Quilpué.

- More specifically, there are needs for towels, safety shoes, hygiene kits, water containers, and solar lanterns and batteries, especially in areas still lacking electricity. In terms of shelter needs, both temporary housing solutions and rental subsidies are deemed necessary. Additionally, psychosocial support for the affected population, as well as for the staff deployed in the field, will be crucial, particularly for the workers and volunteers at shelters and collection centres. To bolster coordination efforts, staff training, and logistical enhancements will also be required.
- Given that many of the affected population lost their identification documents in the fires, it is crucial to find solutions for how these people will renew their documents in order to access public services or benefits.
- 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 solutions for those who will be left without a place to live and highlights the importance of delivering timely shelter solutions to the affected population.

3. IOM Response

- Between 8 and 10 February, IOM deployed staff to Quilpué for an emergency mission, upon request of the Municipality. During this visit, IOM met with local authorities and civil society organizations, such as the Collection Center at Nuestra Señora del Rosario Church, where a first aid response is provided based on voluntary donations. An interagency meeting was also held between IOM, UNICEF and PAHO to update on the work carried out by each agency and coordinate joint actions.



©IOM Chile 2024, Francisca Salinas. IOM coordinating assistance with UN agencies, Viña del Mar.

- IOM, in coordination with SENAPRED and, at the direct request of the Municipality of Quilpué, managed the 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. This assistance is already being delivering in in coordination with local authorities.



©IOM Chile 2024, Francisca Salinas. IOM unloading food items at the collection center, Quilpué.



©IOM Chile 2024, Francisca Salinas. IOM unloading hygiene items at the collection center, Quilpué.

- 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.
- Future plans include setting up weekly Orientation and Attention Points (PAOs) with UN agencies, NGO's and various government institutions to offer support and information to migrants and the host community. The frequency of PAOs will be adjusted according to community needs.
- IOM will also implement an Emergency Tracking Tool in Pompeya Sur and Población Argentina to assess the needs of affected individuals through community leader interviews. This will inform IOM response strategies and resource allocation. It's important to note that detailed population data remains unavailable at present.
- IOM Chile was able to deploy a rapid response, leveraging its strong supply chain and logistics network, built through nearly four years of humanitarian work.

3. State Response

- IOM is coordinating 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).
- The Government 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 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.



©IOM Chile 2024, Francisca Salinas. Pompeya Sur sector, irregular settlement and one of the areas of Quilpué most affected by wildfires.

- On February 9, the monetary recovery bonus announced by President Gabriel Boric began to be deposited to the affected families, which amounts to USD 1,545.
- To facilitate communication with the authorities and entities in the Valparaíso region, President Gabriel Boric designated the Minister of the General Secretariat of Government (Segegob), Camila Vallejo, as liaison officer.

For more information about this report, please contact: oiomchilecomunicacion@iom.int

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



*The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
The designations employed in this report and the presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.*