

CRS' Response to the Earthquake in Ecuador

Over the weekend, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck coastal Ecuador. As of this communique, more than 270 people have died and that number is expected to rise. The tremor has caused widespread damage not only to infrastructure but to thousands of homes.

Catholic Relief Services is collaborating with the local Church and our Caritas partners on the ground to assess where to respond and what the most urgent needs are. Our teams and local partners are out as we speak to make sure immediate aid can get to those most affected. We anticipate that water, food and emergency shelter will be the biggest needs in the coming days.



The earthquake struck in areas where extreme poverty and recent flooding caused by El Nino rains have already caused a great deal of suffering. Now people are faced with the aftermath of a major earthquake, and the loss of homes and loved ones.

CRS has worked in Ecuador since the 1960s. Over the past five years, CRS has greatly invested in training Caritas diocesan members on risk mapping, contingency planning, first responders, and other measures in areas prone to flooding, seismic activity, and extreme weather. CRS also has ongoing programming in the affected areas with the Scalabrini



Mission Sisters that provides critical humanitarian, psychological, social and legal aid to Colombian refugees.

Please join in continued prayer for our Ecuadorian brothers and sisters facing this tragedy.

Prayer for Ecuador

God, you are in the midst of those who suffer. May all affected by the earthquake in Ecuador feel your healing presence.

God, you are in the hands of those who reach out. Help responders in their courageous work.

God, you are in the hearts of those compassionate ones whose prayers cry out for their families, whose prayers cry out for their neighbors, whose prayers cry out even for strangers. Bless and comfort those who mourn.

God, you are in the still small voice, the gentle whisper that follows. May our ears always hear, may our hearts always cry out for one another. May our hands always reach out to one another, and may we always walk like you walk in solidarity with those who suffer and so reflect your presence and comfort. Amen.



Our Brothers and Sisters in Ecuador need help from the Body of Christ in Canton

Special Second Collection Sunday, April 24, 2016