



FLOODING IN PERU



Heavy rains and flooding have caused massive devastation across large parts of the country, killing 90 people and affecting another 863,000, including 285,000 children. The hardest-hit districts include Lima, Piura, Lambayeque, Tumbes, Cajamarca and Ica. Access continues to be an issue, with many communities cut off by damaged roads.



Intense downpours have caused deadly flooding and mudslides in Peru. Here, the Urubamba river is raging. Photo courtesy of [Aufgang/Wikimedia Commons](#)

CONTEXT

The intense rains, which started in January, are linked to the El Niño coastal phenomenon, caused by unusually warm ocean temperatures between Ecuador and Peru disrupting weather patterns. Expectations are that the severe rains will continue through April. With nearly 30,000 homes destroyed or collapsed, people's needs are wide-ranging. Many have lost all their belongings,

including personal documents. Clean water is in limited supply, and fears are rising of disease outbreaks, including diarrhea, dengue fever and the Zika virus. There is also concern for the health and nutrition of vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, young mothers and children. A state of emergency is in effect in 11 departments.

It is estimated by Unicef that more than 2 million children will continue to be out of school as these remain closed either due to sustained damage or as a preventative measure. The large number of children temporarily out of school also raises child protection concerns.

- **Immediate needs:** Food, clean water, mosquito nets, and access to health care
- **Short-term needs:** Temporary shelter, debris clearing, water drainage, disease prevention
- **Recovery needs:** Repair and rebuilding of homes and livelihoods

PRIORITY NEEDS: DIOCESE OF CHULUCANAS

Significant needs are rising in the Diocese of Chulucanas (in the province of Piura), in which 7 of its 10 districts are suffering and several hundred homes have fallen. In the town of Batanes, all roads have been cut off due to the overflow of the river, and 600 families are isolated. Some help arrived by helicopter. On March 25 across the diocese, the rain fell uninterrupted for 17 hours. The diocese has a population of 90,000 across 1,600 small communities (each consisting of an average of 40 families). It also supports the regional capital of Piura where, last week, the river overflowed and families were evacuated. The water has since been pumped out of the city and families have returned.

CRS PARTNER/CARITAS RESPONSE

CRS' local partner, Caritas Peru, is supporting the local dioceses in the following areas: Chulucanas, Piura, Tumbes, Chiclayo, Trujillo, Chimbote, Chosica, Ica, Cañete and Camaná (Arequipa).

CRS support for Caritas efforts will include food, water, clothing and transport assistance.

In the Diocese of Chulucanas, Bishop Daniel Thomas Turley is heading a coordinating body that has been established with representatives from the local government, diocese, local community-based organizations, and private enterprises. The group continues to evaluate needs and reach out to nearby communities.

CRS has staff on the ground in the Diocese of Chulucanas to assist in its emergency relief and recovery. Funds raised will be used to reinforce and provide the resources needed for the diocesan, local government and community response infrastructure.

“The most vulnerable people are in areas with flooding expected during every downpour. Rivers and canals are at capacity and drainage is a huge issue, with stagnant water everywhere. This situation will not be resolved anytime soon. People need urgent help.”

Alan Grundy, Technical Advisor,
CRS' Humanitarian Response Team, Chulucanas

HOW TO HELP

- Donate online: donate.crs.org
- Donate by phone: 877-HELP-CRS
- Donate by check: Peru Flooding, Catholic Relief Services
P.O. Box 17090 Baltimore, Maryland 21203-7090

30,000

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Caritas staff meet with community leaders to discuss the needs of local flood-affected families. Photo by Alan Grundy/CRS

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