EL NIÑO FORECAST AND HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES

• Above-average rainfall is anticipated in northern Peru, possibly causing flooding and an upsurge in locusts. Extreme cold temperatures and snowfall have already created population displacement, caused loss of cattle and crops, and affected nearly 500,000 people in Puno and Pasco.
• Drought is likely to affect the southern part of Peru, reducing crop production and water availability.

CURRENT AND PROJECTED HEALTH CONDITIONS

• Flooding may destroy crops and cause related food insecurity. It may also cause damage to health facilities and infrastructure (roads, bridges) thus reducing access to health services.
• Increased rainfall, flooding and cold temperatures may cause increased incidence of vector- and water-borne diseases and acute respiratory infections and skin lesions.
• Historically, El Niño event has been associated in Peru with an increased number of poisonous animals (snakes, spiders and scorpions).

HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

• The Government has deployed a response mechanism to assist affected populations. It has declared a sanitary emergency in 20 of its 24 regions in order to implement immediate protective measures in more than 700 hospitals and health centres, purchase and distribute medicines and critical supplies, and train its medical and public health response teams.
• PAHO/WHO is providing technical support and cooperation to the Ministry of Health for the development of contingency plans and risk assessments to prevent the physical and functional collapse of health facilities.
• PAHO/WHO is also supporting capacity development at the national and regional levels through training workshops on health services response, and response coordination in the water and sanitation sector in Peru’s 14 regions.
• The Ministry of Health has already committed USD 5.8 million to El Niño prevention activities particularly targeting hospital maintenance at the level of its most vulnerable regions.

*INFORM (Index for Risk Management) is a global risk assessment index for humanitarian crises and disasters: http://www.inform-index.org/