El Niño and Health
ECUADOR overview - January 2016

EL NIÑO FORECAST AND HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES

• Above-average rainfall is anticipated in south-west Ecuador and the border frontier with northern Peru throughout January–May 2016, which could cause flooding.

CURRENT AND PROJECTED HEALTH CONDITIONS

• Flood disasters can affect health facilities and reduce access to health services in the long term.
• Wetter conditions also create conditions for increased incidence of vector and water-borne diseases. For instance, in 1997-98 malaria outbreaks increased by 440%.

HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

• PAHO/WHO is working with national institutions to support the review of the national contingency plan.
• The response capacity of the health sector has been strengthened through Rapid Response Teams training, and the delivery of several training workshops on SUMA/LSS, Mental Health in Disasters, Hospital Disaster Planning and Incident Command System for Hospitals. There has also been provisional support to the Ministry of Health in order to improve the management of its Situation Room.

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