


# National Policy
## on Disaster Risk Management

ONEMI
Ministerio del Interior
y Seguridad Pública

Gobierno de Chile

# National Policy
## for Disaster Risk Management



**ONEMI**
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*President Michelle Bachelet visiting affected areas damaged by Valparaiso's fire.*









# WORDS OF THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND PUBLIC SAFETY

In the light of the natural disasters lived in the recent years, that as a country we're permanently exposed, it is clear that the State of Chile requires modernize and strengthen both, their political as its institutional framework, in matters of emergency.

The National Policy for Disaster Risk Management that we are presenting is a step forward in this regard and it allows complying with international commitments acquired by Chile as signatories of the Hyogo Framework for Action (MAH), signed the year 2005. This policy serves as a framework Guide to the various institutions of the State to significantly reduce the adverse effects that cause disasters, providing a set of guidelines to develop a sustained process of disasters risk reduction and respond properly with regard to emergency situations in the country.

In this sense, the goals are articulated around five priorities for action: institutional strengthening, so the reduction of risk of disasters becomes a priority throughout the national territory; strengthening monitoring and early warning systems and preparedness, which will provide quality information for timely decision making; promotion of the culture of prevention and self-care, because in the light of experience we know that an educated and prepared community is the best prevention tool; reduction of the underlying factors of risk, so that we have proper spatial planning that takes into account the risks involved; and strengthening the capacity of response to emergencies, which implies a better institutional coordination.

It has become clear that the country cannot have partial answers and worry about these issues only when an emergency occurs. The Government of H.E the President of the Republic, Michelle Bachelet has a commitment in this matter, which is reflected in the National Policy that we present and that it confirms each of the purpose that should take into account by the State and its institutions, in the sense of ensuring that the actions deployed in each of the phases of the risks guarantee criteria of effectiveness, efficiency, welfare and dignity, standing in the center of our response, each of the individuals and communities affected by this type of situations.



*Authorities handing out emergency houses, considering new standar and integral solution for families affected by frontal system ocurred during winter 2014 in the Los Lagos Region.*

# WORDS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ONEMI

Given its geographical position on the "Pacific ring of fire", Chile is one of the most seismic countries of the world. In addition, is vulnerable to almost all types of threats of natural and anthropogenic origin, which combined with the effects of climate change, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, imposes have an institutional and a system that allows to efficiently face this reality.

In this context, today we present the first National Policy for Disaster Risk Management, document that establishes guidelines to develop in this matter. This Policy, which addresses from a comprehensive perspective of disaster risk reduction, constitutes a fundamental component for achieving sustainable development in the short, medium and long term; at the same that will allow us to comply with the commitments and standards that State of Chile has taken over the strategy of reduction of disaster (ISDR) of United Nations. From this policy will be derived the National Plan for Disaster Risk Management and the equivalent plans at different levels of the political and administrative structures of the State (regional, provincial and communal) as well as the sectorial plans of each of the organism of the Government incorporating the concept of reduction of risk disaster, allowing thus generating capacity and coordinate the agencies and related public and private services.

The enactment of the National Policy for Disaster Risk Management is an important part of the institutional framework that the country required in these matters and is in full harmony with the strategic objectives that ONEMI has projected in its Plan of Development for the period 2014-2018:

Strengthen basic and functionally to the national institution responsible for the management of the risk of disaster, strengthen the National System of Civil Protection and promote a culture of prevention and resilience in the community.

Accordingly, its enactment constitutes a substantial progress in the form hoy Chile will face in an integrated form a situation of emergency or catastrophe affecting the lives of people, goods and environment, being at the same level of most developed countries in this matter.

Be prepared, is a task for all.

**Ricardo Toro Tassara**
**National Director of ONEMI**



*Authorities conform the National Operations Emergency Committee, chaired by the Undersecretary of the interior, by the earthquake was shaked the North of Chile.*

# ABSTRACT

Chile is constantly exposed to natural and anthropogenic threats, to date leading with innumerable disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, droughts, forest fires, etc. Following the global trend on this issue, integral management of disaster risk is increasingly important as a national priority.

In 2005 Chile signed the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) though which countries commit to considerably reducing losses caused by disasters, in terms of human life as well as social, economic and environmental assets. In 2010, a UN mission evaluated the progress made, setting out 75 recommendations for compliance with the HFA, the first of which is the formulation of the National Policy on Disaster Risk Management.

As a result, the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was formed to be run by the ONEMI, and whose first mission was the formulation of the aforementioned policy to allow the development of a comprehensive disaster risk management within the country.

For more than a year the members of the National Platform, divided into five sectorial working groups corresponding to the five priority actions of the HFA, worked to formulate the present document to contribute to advancement in safe and sustainable development planning, incorporating sectorial policies of land management, poverty reduction, adaptation to climate change, self-care culture, financial protection, capacity strengthening, risk analysis and research, and integral assistance for vulnerable populations, among others.




*The National Early Warning Centre remains operative 24 hours a day, seven days a week, monitoring the different risk situations in the country and in constant communication with technical organisms and the regionals ONEMI, through the various systems telecommunications implemented.*

# INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, human beings have lived within certain territories, interacting with the natural environment that surrounds them and which provides them resources for their own development. However, within this interaction, people are affected by the dynamics and actions of the environment itself which can be very unstable due to the occurrence of natural phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and floods.

Societies have made great efforts in their responses to natural disasters which, depending on the case, can be known as civil defence, emergency assistance, disaster response and relief, civil protection or humanitarian aid. However, in recent decades a global trend has been seen in increased losses caused by disasters, making it increasingly relevant to apply protection strategies that can save lives and protect assets and resources (ISDR, 2004).

As a result, States have signed a series of regulations to ensure their political and legal commitment along with public understanding, scientific knowledge and development planning (ISDR, 2007). It is therefore necessary that these countries set up national platforms for disaster risk reduction, which must be aligned with regional platforms that unite the countries of one continent and with the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which comprises the 168 countries that signed the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Taking into account the vulnerability of the country, the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was established. Its first mission was the formulation of the National Policy for Disaster Risk Management, an essential document for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into all sectors of the country.

The work carried out by the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2012 and 2013 has led to this document, which is divided into three sections. The first discusses the importance of having a risk management policy in Chile. The second contains the main body of the text and the formulation of the policy, the basic premise, the strategic priorities and the agreed objectives for each working table. Finally, there is a series of annexes that complement the document, briefly describing the geographic context of Chile and its natural threats, as part of the existing legal framework regarding risk management and the methodology used to formulate the policy.



*Valparaiso fire, which started on Saturday April 12th 2014, affected the hills leaving the port city with over 12,500 homeless and destroyed 2,900 houses.*

# I Importance of a National Policy for Disaster Risk Management





# Importance of a National Policy for Disaster Risk Management

A public policy is defined as a programme of action for governments in a particular sector of society and a specific geographical space, implemented by an authority invested with public power and governmental legitimacy. It is aimed at the development of society by means of principles that the State declares as priority upon detection of a problem or failing that must be resolved or repaired, since all public policies encompass the theory of social change (Meny Yves and Thoenig, 1992).

For the specific case of the Chilean State, the triggering factor that led to the need to formulate a National Policy for Disaster Risk Management lies in the fact that the country with its extensive latitude is exposed to a large number of natural and anthropogenic threats, as well as those derived from climate change (see Annex 1). These have been seen throughout history, leading to emergency situations (see Annex 2) and exposing the high degree of vulnerability of the country and its inhabitants.

With the aim of achieving sustainable development, Chile must have a framework to guide its political actions and decisions from an integral perceptive of DRR, taking into consideration that risk management must be a multi-sector effort between different institutions that form the National System of Civil Protection. The policy must be transversal and its impact observed through different entities, putting particular emphasis on ensuring it is nor contradictory, but rather complements the other sectorial policies of the institutions involved.

# 1. Global Context

In 1990, with growing concern for the effect of natural disasters on a global scale, the United Nations General Assembly declared the period of 1990-1999 as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), under the title "Building a Culture of Prevention", and the basis to assume widespread commitment were endorsed by the member states to mitigate the adverse consequences of natural disasters.

Four years later, in the Japanese city of Yokohama, a world conference was held on natural disaster reduction, where the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World was drawn up. It placed particular emphasis on the fact that "all countries have the sovereign and fundamental responsibility to protect their population, their infrastructure and their national, social and economic heritage from natural disasters" (ISDR, 2004), adding that human activity plays a vastly important role in the reduction of the vulnerabilities of societies to all threats.

Thanks to the progress made along this line, it was concluded that the reduction of natural disasters was a social and economic imperative that would take more than ten years to achieve. Thus, in 2000 the UN General Assembly set out the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), as a successor to the IDNDR.

The ISDR "provides a framework for global action to reduce human, social, economic and environmental losses arising from natural threats and other related technological and environmental phenomena" (ISDR, 2004), aiming to create communities capable of facing disasters.

In January 2000, the UN General Assembly created the Inter-institutional Secretariat for ISDR, which acts as a centre for coordination of strategies and programmes for disaster reduction and to ensure synergy between the activities of Disaster Risk Reduction and those related to other socioeconomic and humanitarian fields.

## Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

In Kobe, Japan, on 22nd January 2005, at the ninth session of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action for 2005-2015 was approved: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.

The HFA is the most important instrument in the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) adopted by United Nations member states. Its general objective is to build resilience of nations and communities to disasters by achieving a considerable reduction in losses caused by such disasters by 2015 in terms of human life and social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries. The HFA sets out five priority areas for taking action, and guiding principles and practical means for increasing resilience of vulnerable communities to disasters, in the context of sustainable development (HFA, 2005-2015).



## Priorities for Action

**PRIORITY 1**

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

**PRIORITY 2**

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.

**PRIORITY 3**

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

**PRIORITY 4**

Reduce the underlying risk factors.

**PRIORITY 5**

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

# 2. International Diagnostic



The earthquake on 27th February 2010 marked a turning point on the issue of risk management in this country, leading to the opportunity to reflect on the scope and failings of the National System of Civil Protection and Emergency.

The Chilean State, through the Ministry of the Interior, requested advice and recommendations from different international organisms on the issue of disaster risk management, detecting a series of vulnerabilities, limitations and deficiencies. These focused mainly on the capacity for monitoring, early warning and response throughout the country, as well as the practices and updating of protocols and the management of the risk cycle, particularly in prevention activities.

A large number of recommendations stem from this assessment, which formed the basis for immediate strengthening of the ONEMI in its organisational structure and technological capabilities through the entire country, while also enhancing activities regarding prevention and response.

The most relevant diagnostic was conducted by United Nations, through the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in October 2010. Its main objective was to analyse the progress made in the country regarding compliance with the HFA. This diagnostic was carried out on the entirety of the National System of Civil Protection, revealing a series of aspects that required improvement.

As a result of the diagnostic, a document was written up containing 75 recommendations. The first of these was to "formulate a national policy for disaster risk management through a multi-sectorial and inter-institutional process involving all stakeholders in the public and private sectors and in civil society".

Following this recommendation, and having created the basis in the National Platform, this document presents the project of the National Policy for Disaster Risk Management.




*The Regional Emergency Operations Committee evaluates Tarapacá action courses after the earthquake that affected north of Chile, forcing to declare a State of Constitutional Exception in the area of disaster.*

# 3. National Context

Systematic management of natural and anthropogenic threats that affect the country[1] is based on the Political Constitution of the Republic of Chile, Article 1, paragraph 5, which states that "It is the duty of the State to protect the population and family". Therefore, with the objective of implementing actions to ensure this constitutional duty, power has been assigned and granted to different bodies of the State Administration through legal orders written up at different times[2].

The destruction caused by the earthquakes in Valdivia in 1960 and in Valparaiso in 1965 led to the need for legislation to allow measures to be taken in these situations, and to create a specialised body for the planning and coordination of resources and actions to prevent and solve problems resulting from such situations.

Through Decree of Law N° 369 dated March 1974, the National Emergency Office (ONEMI) was created as a public centralised service and a dependent of the Ministry of the Interior, as a body of reference and connection for actions to be carried out on issues of Civil Protection. Its mission is to plan, articulate, boost and execute actions for prevention, response and recovery from situations of risk.

Seven years later in Decree N° 737, the President of the Republic designated a committee to create and propose to the Interior Minister and the Defence Minister an organic plan to respond to emergencies resulting from earthquakes and other catastrophes, which was promulgated in 1977.

In 1990, in line with global trends, a diagnostic was initiated in Chile on the country's capacity to change from a centred perspective of response capacities to integral risk management for national disasters. This project was supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which demonstrated the "need to adjust the conceptual vision, the prevailing programmatic, legal and procedural basis of the management in Civil Protection, to the political/administrative, programmatic, strategic and future changes experienced in the country in recent years (UNDP, 1992, in ONEMI, 2004).



1 For further information, see Annex 3
2 For further information, see Annex 4

In 2002, Decree 156 was promulgated. It repeals the National Emergency Plan of 1977 and approves the National Plan for Civil Protection for risk management in Chile, "seen as a dynamic and controllable reality that supports the process of sustainable development by strengthening safety as a factor wich improves quality of life and for sustainable development".

As a member state of United Nations, the Chilean State signed the HFA in 2005, committing to carry out a series of actions to increase resilience in the country and its communities to disasters, which have been gradually implemented ever since. It can also be noted that the National Platform for DRR[3] was formed in 2012 as part of the opening ceremony of the III Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, held in Santiago de Chile.





3 Committee or forum composed by multisectorial groups, directed at national level and inside which it is developed a sense of belonging to this one. The National Platform acts as a promotion agent of the RRD at different levels. It offers coordination, analysis and advice about the priority areas that need actions agreed through a process of coordination and participation. The Platform must be the mechanism of coordination to achieve the full incorporation of the DRR in the policies, the planning and the programmes of development, according to the implementation of the HFA. The purpose of this one must be to contribute to the establishment and development of an important national system for the RRD, concerning every country (EIRD, 2005).
The use and occupation of the territory shows the model of development that has prevailed in a country. The risk of disaster is therefore a result from all the forms and historical processes of development, that makes the risks differentially distributed in the territory and a part of the population more exposed to the risk.




*During the month of August 2014 the Region of Coquimbo tested the Comprehensive School Safety Plan (PISE for its acronym in Spanish), making a drill with the participation of 728 educational establishments and it included the evacuation of these in coastal areas.*

# 4. Reconstruction and Resiliency: Lessons Learned and New Challenges

The risk cycle includes the stages of prevention, mitigation, preparation, response, rehabilitation and rebuilding. In the final stage, efforts aim to provide a definitive solution to the impact caused by the adverse event, thus constituting an opportunity to develop and apply measures to reduce disaster risk. This stage requires prior diagnostics and is directly related to the processes conducted in earlier stages in the cycle, producing a turning point in rehabilitation.

Rebuilding requires a specialised multi-sectorial group to lead the process of planning and execution up to the final stage, as was the case in the most recent large-scale emergencies to affect Chile. The experience obtained and applied by the presidential delegates who led these teams marked the biggest challenges to be overcome to strengthen future rebuilding processes in the country.

## Emergencies as a revealing factor

Post-emergency assessments by on-site authorities indicate that it is necessary to continue enhancing the actions related to DRR. Aspects such as land-use planning, management of integral habitation solutions to assimilate DRR in their initial conception, emergency assistance with an inclusive focus, and effective and efficient coordination of the first response through a connective entity are just some of the commitments that were revealed and can be considered priority for facing future disasters with a prospective vision.

In emergencies in Tarapacá and Valparaíso, damage assessment was a fundamental tool for projecting future rebuilding actions. In the case of the earthquake in the north of the country, in addition to the immediate response in the first hours after the earthquake hit, the tasks of rehabilitation and rebuilding began with information gathering to create the necessary report, identifying the effects on critical and social infrastructure in the two regions.

In the case of the fire in Valparaiso, it was fundamental that the majority of the people affected were able to recover through different opportunities for integral support implemented by the State as a whole. As an example of this, 30 days after the event and while clean-up operations were still being carried out, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning was already giving out information on subsidies aimed at providing definitive solutions to affected families.

The investment plans of the State to deal with catastrophes must not only aim to re-establish prior conditions, but should also include the design and execution of work to guarantee safety and connectivity, in association with sustainable development, and incorporating disaster risk management as a key axis in the conception of construction and urban planning in the country.

## The road well-travelled

A priority challenge that the State must assume is that of promoting a culture of prevention in the population to mitigate the effect of natural or man-made disasters. Opportunities arising from aware communities and authorities must be leveraged and, from this perspective, we must continue the permanent task of minimising both human and material losses through training, simulations and drills in order to prepare the population and those in charge of making decisions before events occur.



## Rebuilding as an opportunity for sustainable development

The Chilean State's National Policy for Disaster Risk Management aims to incorporate the variable of DRR in all possible areas, permeating to the bodies that comprise the National System of Civil Protection in order to safeguard society against future threats.

As a result, it is necessary to create new functions, assume new responsibilities and consolidate an integrated system that is able to mobilise in the event of a disaster, significantly reducing the risk of the loss of human life.

Rebuilding must be undertaken as a definitive solution to the problem and whenever possible become an opportunity for improvement that will maintain and/or increase the quality of life existing prior to the emergency, directly benefiting the affected communities all over the country.



*The Copahue volcanoe, which erupted during June 2011, corresponds to one of the more than 2,900 volcanoes in Chile, most of them located in the southern part of the country.*

# II National Policy for Disaster Risk Management





# 1. Guiding Principles

The guiding principles are those that will govern the National Policy for Disaster Risk Management and they are the issues that must be covered in a transversal manner and which are implicitly part of the strategic axes on which the Policy is based.

The objectives and guidelines of the policy will align with the legal stipulations of the Republic of Chile established in its Political Constitution, with protection of life as its fundamental principle and the main duty of the State.



## Principles

**Progression:** It must include goals and timeframes that incorporate the reality of each locality and the availability of resources under a system of constant evaluation.

The goals and timeframes will be established once the National Strategy on Civil Protection has been created.

**Safety:** A principle that must be included in all actions carried out by the State, the private sector and the citizen making it necessary to assess the impact of each human decision on the land.

This implies the commitment of all involved, thus benefiting the human communities and ecosystems such that the dynamics of one does not become a threat or generate risk for any others.

**Prevention:** The preventive focus is an excellent mechanism for reducing loss of human life, and material and economic damage. Thus, prevention must be applied in land-use planning processes and in different sectorial planning processes.

**Solidarity:** It is the responsibility of all to make a common effort to protect the lives, physical integrity, and possessions of the inhabitants of our country.

This principle must be based on spontaneous assistance by different members of the National Platform for DRR.

**Complementarity:** The National Policy for Disaster Risk Management must contribute to better use of synergies between different parts of the public sector, private sector, civil society and other relevant areas for integral management of disaster risk.



**Responsibility:** Any action or event that generates risk must have a response in terms of relevant mitigation activities and their consequences.

**Equity:** The Policy must consider equity, taking into account socioeconomic vulnerability, gender equity, cultural diversity and the situation of people with special needs, both in its creation and in the implementation of measures associated with it.

**Decentralisation:** The strengthening on a local level and promotion of decentralisation of responsibility on



issues relating to DRR, given that it is one of the main aims of the policy.

**Sustainability:** It must be conceived as an instrument for the achievement of sustainable development, decreasing levels of poverty and risks to vulnerable populations, strengthening the development of capacities and infrastructure and improving the levels of health and safe hospital facilities, among other factors. Therefore, an action taken as part of the implementation of the Policy on DRR will lead to sustainability and development.

**Coordination:** It is necessary to unite the different competencies of the different participants towards a single goal, allowing recognition of the autonomy and independence of each one, and directing their actions in a solid and systematic manner towards common goals and purposes.



*The "Chile Prepared" program seeks to strengthen preventive and self-care culture, and is framed in the continuous improvement of disaster risk management impulsed by ONEMI. In recent years it has managed to mobilize more than 6 million people, through various exercises throughout the country.*



## 2. Scope

As the implementation of a policy implies executing actions in the short, medium and long term, and generating change in the development of the country, two clearly defined levels of scope have been established.

The first is Territoriality and it will be implemented on the three levels of Political/Administrative Division that governs the country: communal, provincial and regional. Irrespective of this, it must be considered that disasters do not respect boundaries, implying that integral disaster risk management must include, in the future, other units of territorial planning and/or boundaries, such as watersheds, ecosystems and biodiversity macrozones, among others.

The second level of scope is Temporal, as many actions resulting from the proposed guidelines in the National Policy for Disaster Risk Management are slow or of long duration, and therefore, they require continuity over time, transcending governments.

## 3. Objective

To grant the Chilean State an instrument or framework to allow it to carry out integral disaster risk management, linking general policy with transversal policies and sectorial policies, and within which the actions of prevention, response and recovery can be carried out in the framework of sustainable development in the event of any disaster.



*Richter 8.2 earthquake recorded on April 1st 2014 and its subsequent aftershock 7.6 Richter the next day, affected more than 15,000 houses, many of them in communes and localities within regions of Tarapacá and Arica y Parinacota.*

# III The Strategic Priorities







# The Strategic Priorities

The Policy revolves around five strategic priorities, each corresponding to the five priority actions of the HFA. The diagnostic conducted by different national and international organisations showed the lack of implementation of public policies that would lead to compliance with these priority actions. For this reason, it was decided to set them as the strategic priorities of the policy, upon which the general and specific objectives were then defined.

## 1. Institutional Strengthening



Inter-sectorial creation and development of coordinated and integrated, national and international institutional documents that efficiently respond to the needs of the country in terms of DRR in a long-term and sustainable scenario

### General Objective

To make Disaster Risk Reduction a national, regional and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

### Specific Objectives

- Define the National Platform for Risk Management coordinated by the ONEMI as the advisory and consultancy entity on DRR issues.
- Adequately incorporate Disaster Risk Management into sectorial and territorial policies, strategies and plans, on all levels of the political and administrative division of the country.
- Consider the actions needed to reduce disaster risk within budgeting and the appropriate accountability thereof.
- Guarantee spaces for the participation of organised civil society and the private sector in the Risk Management stages.

## 2. Monitoring and Early Warning Systems

Development and maintenance of capacities and infrastructure in order to observe, analyse and predict threats, vulnerabilities and the impact of disasters by means of compiling and using data on disaster risk.



### General Objective

To make high-quality and timely technical information available to the National Civil Protection System allowing efficient and effective risk assessment for decision-making during relevant courses of action.

### Specific Objectives

- Strengthen monitoring systems to detect threats in an timely manner, within the field of competence of each participant involved, and in a continuous mode with a 24/7 system.
- Strengthen a robust communications system that acts effectively and efficiently in emergency situations.
- Create a statistics and record system with sufficient spatial representation to allow ex-post assessment and obtain lessons learned.
- Support the development of technical organisations with the necessary human and technical resources to monitor different threats and to fulfil their specific functions.
- Develop the country's scientific capabilities in risk scenarios identification.

## 3. Promoting a Culture of Prevention and Safety

Disasters can be reduced considerably through the development of knowledge building and socialisation of information to give access to said information, informing and motivating the population to promote a culture of resilience and prevention in the event of disasters.

From this perspective, human beings are conceived not only as mere victims of emergencies and/or disasters, but also as being responsible for helping deal with the risks. Thus, it is necessary that the role of risk management places emphasis on improving people's capacity for self-protection and self-management on an individual and a group level, understanding this as a fundamental pillar of the path to risk reduction in the country.

### General Objective

To promote a culture of safety and resilience in the country through the use of knowledge, innovation and education.

### Specific Objectives

- Include the concepts and focus of Disaster Risk Reduction in formal and informal education.
- Strengthen the existing capabilities of the community in DRR in order to improve resilience.
- Contribute to the education of professionals in Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Promote research into Disaster Risk Reduction, with particular consideration of community knowledge and ancestral cultures.
- Promote and guarantee public access to quality information on Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Promote a perspective of Disaster Risk Management in the public and private sectors.

## 4. Reduction of Underlying Risk Factors

It is understood that in addition to physical threat factors with levels and periods of return or recurrence, disaster risk also includes underlying or explicative factors or causes in the variable conditions in social, economic and environmental fields.



Planning must therefore account for physical, environmental, economic and social factors that increase risk to territories, as well as the measures needed to mitigate them (Diagnóstico de la situación de la RRD en Chile [Diagnostic of the DRR situation in Chile], 2010).

### General Objective

To take into account underlying disaster risk factors in the country when making decisions in the public or private sector, aiming to aid sustainable development.

### Specific Objectives

- Identify and characterise the underlying disaster factors in the country, considering a focus on climate change as another risk factor.
- Permanently develop and analyse risk maps that include the variables of threat, vulnerability and exposure.
- Identify and implement measures to ensure the continuous operation of basic services, critical infrastructure and critical public facilities, contributing to the mitigation of underlying risk factors.
- Consider risk factors in the development of Land-Use Planning Documents.
- Incorporate variables associated with disaster risk reduction into systems of social and environmental impact assessment for projects with the National System of Public Spending.
- Develop strategies of risk transfer.
- Update the regulations on structure design and calculation and soil mechanics, considering international examples and taking into account macro and micro zoning terms.

## 5. Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response

It is necessary to strengthen institutions, as part of preparation for the response to emergencies, disasters and/or catastrophes, increasing capacities and creating synergies on different sectorial, institutional and jurisdictional levels with more active participation of the community (Diagnóstico de la situación de la RRD en Chile [Diagnostic of DRR situation in Chile], 2010).

### General Objective

To maintain permanent mechanisms for inter-institutional coordination to strengthen disaster preparedness with the objective of achieving adequate Risk Management to ensure timely, effective and efficient response.

### Specific Objectives

- Maintain up-to-date information for the participants in the National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and the National System of Civil Protection.
- Define and coordinate roles and areas of action for each of the institutions involved in Disaster Risk Management.
- Conduct actions to strengthen the minimum capacities and competence of the institutions that form part of response mechanisms.
- Generate strategies to support local DRR initiatives.



*During the month of May 2008, the valley of Maule region was affected by one of the largest floods due to overflowing of Mataquito river, disrupting the habitability of people and agriculture of the communes Licantén and Hualañé.*

# IV Annexes



# **ANNEX 1.** Legal framework for the National Civil Protection System

The National Civil Protection System is based on the Political Constitution of the Republic of Chile, Article 1, paragraph 5, which states that "It is the duty of the State to protect the population and family", from which the following laws have been created to ensure this constitutional duty.



**RELEVANT LAW:** Legislative Decree N° 7912 of 1927, of the Ministry of the Interior, including the Secretaries of State.

**DESCRIPTION:** According to Art. 3, letter a), the Ministry of the Interior has responsibility for all aspects relating to the maintenance of Safety, Peace and Public Order.-

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**RELEVANT LAW:** Legislative Decree N° 22 of 1959, sets the Text of the Organic Law of the Service of the Internal Government of the Republic.

**DESCRIPTION:** This sets out the provisions in order that intendants and governors have the power to require the heads of services under their authority provide immediate necessary assistance to an emergency and to require extraordinary funds, providing all necessary documentation to the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic.

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**REGULATION:** Publication N° 3014 of 1964, of the SHOA.

**DESCRIPTION:** Outlining the "General Instructions on the National Tsunami Warning System".

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**RELEVANT LAW:** Law N° 16282 of 1965, setting permanent stipulations for earthquakes or catastrophes.

**DESCRIPTION:** Law promulgated by the Ministry of Finance, stipulating that in the event of an earthquake or catastrophe that causes damage to persons or materials, the President of the Republic decrees by supreme decree, a zone affected by the catastrophe.

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**REGULATION:** Supreme Decree N° 26 of 1966, of the Ministry of National Defence.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Chilean Navy Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service (SHOA - acronym in Spanish) is designated as the representative body of the country to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC). The decree also stipulates the creation of a National Tsunami Warning System (SNAM - acronym in Spanish) in which it is stated that it is the sole and exclusive responsibility of SHOA to assess seismic and tidal information to determine the possibility of a tsunami and to raise the tsunami alarm.

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**RELEVANT LAW:** Law Decree N° 369 of 1974, creating the National Emergency Office.

**DESCRIPTION:** Public Service dependent on the Ministry of the Interior, with the task of planning, coordinating and executing activities to prevent or resolve problems derived from earthquakes or catastrophes. It is also responsible for planning and coordinating the employment of human and material resources of public agencies and services and private organisations related to any public catastrophe variable in order to avoid or mitigate such events, with the power to require any necessary information from these services or agencies.

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**REGULATION:** Supreme Decree N° 753 of 1975, of the Ministry of National Defence.

**DESCRIPTION:**Updates Regulations and Methods recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization on search and rescue tasks.

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**RELEVANT LAW:** Law N° 18.168 of 1982, of the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications.

**DESCRIPTION:** The General Law on Transport and Telecommunications states in Art. 7 that in emergency situations resulting from natural phenomena, widespread electrical faults or in catastrophe situations, telecommunications licensees or concessionaires shall transmit warning messages free of charge as instructed by the competent authority.

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**REGULATION:** Supreme Decree N° 509 of 1983, of the Ministry of the Interior.

**DESCRIPTION:** Establishes the regulations for the application of D.L. N°369, which creates the National Emergency Office of the Ministry of the Interior.

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**REGULATION:** Supreme Decree N° 294 of 1984, of the Ministry of Public Works.

**DESCRIPTION:** According to the Organic Law of the Ministry of Public Works, special powers are given to the institution for the undertaking of works in the event of an emergency as per supreme decree.

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**RELEVANT LAW:** Organic Law N° 18415 of 1985 on the State of Constitutional Exception.

**DESCRIPTION:** In an emergency situation, when the capacities of authorities to impose law and order are overwhelmed, a state of Constitutional Exception can be declared in the affected zone, where the exercise of the rights and guarantees ensured to all people by the Political Constitution of the Republic of Chile can only be affected in cases in which the law authorises. Once this state has been declared, the powers conferred upon the President of the Republic can be delegated, in whole or in part, to the appointed Commanders in Chief of the Armed Forces, with the exception of the power to prohibit entry into the country of certain persons or to expel them from the country.

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**RELEVANT LAW:** Organic Law N° 19175 of 1992 on Regional Government and Administration.

**DESCRIPTION:** In Art. 4, letter e) and Art. 16, letter f), this law states that is it the general function of Regional Government, though intendants and governors, to adopt any necessary measures to deal with situations of emergency or catastrophe and to develop programmes of protection and prevention against situations of emergency or catastrophe.

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**RELEVANT LAW:** Law N° 19601 of 1999, establishing Regulations on the Promotion of Irrigation Work in Areas Affected by Earthquakes or Catastrophes.

**DESCRIPTION:** Aiming to mitigate the effects of droughts, or to repair works completely or partially destroyed by earthquakes or other damaging natural events.

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**RELEVANT LAW:** Supreme Decree N° 156 of 2002, approves the National Civil Protection Plan.

**DESCRIPTION:** The National Civil Protection Plan is an indicative document for Risk Management in Chile, seeing it as a dynamic and controllable reality, supporting the process of sustainable development through the strengthening of safety conditions to contribute to improving quality of life and sustainable development.

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**RELEVANT LAW:** Organic Law N° 18.695 of 2006 on Municipalities.

**DESCRIPTION:** In Art. 4°, letter i), risk prevention and assistance in emergency situations is designated as a function of a municipality.

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**RELEVANT LAW:** Supreme Decree N° 68 of 2009, of the Ministry of the Interior.

**DESCRIPTION:** This law establishes a Permanent Coordination system of Seismic and Volcanic Monitoring, aiming to strengthen the technical capacities of permanent observation and monitoring of the country's geological dynamics. The coordination of the monitoring network is the

responsibility of the National Emergency Office and is comprised of the National Seismology Service and the National Geology and Mining Service.

**REGULATION:** **S**upreme Decree N° 38 of 2011, determining the constitution of the Emergency Operations Committee (COE - acronym in Spanish)).

**DESCRIPTION:** This law states that "a National Emergency Operations Committee must be set up when emergencies, disasters or catastrophes occur, causing damage to persons or materials and affecting all or part of the country. This is the case when two more regions of the country are affected or one or more districts of the same region and the Minister of the Interior determines that the event has caused significant impact on the population, in accordance with its magnitude".

The members of the COE will be the following authorities:

- Minister of the Interior and Public Security
- Minister of Defence
- Undersecretary of the Interior
- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Minister of Energy
- Minister of Transport and Telecommunications
- Minister of Health
- Minister of Public Works
- General Director of Carabineros de Chile
- National Director of ONEMI

# **ANNEX 2.** Glossary of Terms

For the purposes of this policy the following definitions apply:

**Early Warning:** Timely and effective information through identified institutions to allow individuals exposed to a threat to take action to avoid or reduce their risk and to prepare for an effective response.

**Threat:** Potentially damaging physical and/or natural event, phenomenon and/or human activity that may cause death, injury or other impact on health, as well as damage to property, loss of livelihoods and service, social and economic upheaval or environmental damage.

**Assistance:** Help or intervention during or immediately following a disaster, aiming to preserve life and cover the basic needs of subsistence of the affected population. Assistance can be immediate, short-term or prolonged.

**Self-care:** This is the progressive capacity of children, adolescents and adults to make decisions regarding the value of life, their bodies, their wellbeing and their health, as well as to develop practices and habits to improve their own safety and thus prevent risks.

**Capacity:** For the purposes of Disaster Risk Management this is understood as the aptitude and potential of an individual, organisation, entity or institution, either public or private, resulting from the competence, abilities, skills and training of human resources and specialised materials that allows it to efficiently and effectively perform certain functions, activities or actions when necessary and pertinent to contribute to the reduction of disaster risk throughout the risk cycle.

**Coping capacity:** The ability of the population, organisation and systems to use available resources and skills to deal with and manage adverse conditions, emergency situations or disasters.

**Public awareness:** The degree of common knowledge on disaster risk, the factors that lead to disasters and actions that can be taken to reduce exposure and vulnerability to threats.

**Civil Defence:** Actions to protect, safeguard and support the normal tasks of people in society, including all permanent measures that have this aim, including actions to prevent, reduce, assist and/or repair the damage to people and material goods that may be caused or have been caused by catastrophic events of natural or manmade origin, as well as actions to cooperate in the sustainable development of the community.

**Sustainable Development:** The process of sustained and equitable improvement of the quality of life of people based on appropriate measures of conservation and protection of the environment, without compromising the expectations of future generations.

**Disaster:** A serious interruption in the functioning of a community or society, causing a high number of deaths and material, economic and environmental losses that exceed the capacity of the affected community or society to deal with, using their own resources.

**Informal education:** A process linked to the development of the people in a society, facilitated by interaction between them and without tuition from an educational establishment as the institutional agent. It is obtained in a non-structured and unsystematic way from the family, the media, work experience and, in general, from the surroundings of the individual in question.

**Formal or regular learning:** Learning that is structured and is provided in a systematic and sequential manner. It comprises levels and modes that ensure unity in the educational process and facilitate the community throughout people's lives.

**Non-formal learning:** An educational process carried out through a systematic programme, but not necessarily assessed and which can be recognised and verified as valuable learning, possibly ending in certification.

**Risk Assessment:** A method to determine the nature and degree of risk through analysis of possible threats and assessment of conditions of vulnerability which together can potentially damage the population, property, services and livelihoods, and the surroundings on which they depend.

**Exposure to a Threat:** The population, properties, systems or other elements present in an area with a perceived threat and which are therefore exposed to potential losses.

**Emergency Management:** The organisation and management of resources and responsibilities to deal with all the aspects of an emergency, particularly the preparation and response and the initial stages of rehabilitation.

**Disaster Risk Management:** The systematic process of using administrative directives, organisations, skills and operative capabilities to execute policies and strengthen the capacity to deal with an emergency situation in order to reduce the adverse impact of natural threats and the possibility of a disaster occurring.

**Structural Measures:** Any physical construction to reduce or avoid the possible impact of threats, or the application of engineering techniques to improve resistance and resilience of structures or systems to deal with threats.

**Non-Structural Measures:** Any measure that does not include a physical construction and that uses existing knowledge, practice or agreements to reduce risk and its impact, particularly through policies and laws, greater public awareness, training and education.

**Mitigation:** Decreasing or limiting the adverse impact of threats and similar disasters.

**Policy on Disaster Risk Management:** A document that provides a series of guidelines for carrying out a sustained process of Disaster Risk Reduction, avoiding the generation of new risk conditions and responding adequately to emergency situations as an integral part of planning for the country's sustainable development. It includes guidelines, commitments, and general short and medium-term actions to guide the national agenda on risk management. It also establishes the scope to determine the limits of different sectors and to guarantee that they act adequately.

**Preparedness:** The knowledge and capacities developed by governments, professionals, response and recovery organisations, communities and people to prevent, respond and recover effectively from the impact of events or probable, imminent or real conditions related to a threat.

**Prevention:** A process aimed at avoiding the adverse impact of threats and related disasters.

**Risk Prevention (in the setting of school safety):** A process that implies that the education community as a whole is able to understand and develop resources to identify risks, avoid them, mitigate them and respond effectively to their consequences.

**Recovery:** The restoration and improvement, when necessary, of school buildings, facilities, livelihoods and living conditions of the communities affected by disasters, including efforts to reduce disaster risk factors.

**Disaster Risk Reduction:** Systematic efforts to analyse and manage the factors that cause disasters, including reduction of the degree of exposure to threats, decreasing vulnerability of the population and property, sensible management of land-use and the environment and improvements to preparedness for adverse events.

**Response:** The supply of emergency services and assistance from the Civil Protection System during or immediately following the occurrence of a disaster, with the aim of saving lives, reducing the impact on health, ensuring public safety and satisfying the basic subsistence needs of the affected population.

**Resilience**: The capacity of a system, community or society exposed to a

threat to resist, absorb, adapt and recover from its effects opportunely and effectively, including the preservation and restoration of its structure and basic functions.

**Risk:** The probability of damaging consequences or losses (death, injury, property, means of subsistence, interruptions in economic activity, or environmental damage) resulting from interaction between natural or anthropogenic threats and conditions of vulnerability.

**Disaster Risk:**Possible losses caused by a disaster in terms of lives, health conditions, means of subsistence, goods and services and which may occur in a community or society at a particular time in the future.

**School Safety:** This is understood as the set of conditions, measures and actions aimed at developing self-case and risk prevention as required by the members of an educational community to fully exercise the rights, freedoms and obligations recognised by or imposed by internal legal orders and international regulations and treaties ratified by Chile.

**Risk Transfer:** The process of formally or informally transferring the financial consequences of a particular risk from one party to another by which a family, community, business or state authority will obtain resources from the other party after a disaster occurs in exchange for continuous or compensatory social or financial benefits provided to the other party.

**Vulnerability:** Conditions determined by physical, social and environmental factors or processes that increase susceptibility and exposure of a community to the negative impact of threats.

# **ANNEX 3.** Methodology for Creating the Policy

The creation of the National Policy on Disaster Risk Management was directed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) - Regional Office - The Americas, working with consultant Nora Villegas, an expert on the formulation of public policies on disaster risk management. In addition to proposing the methodology, she accompanied the ONEMI in 2012 in the process of raising awareness in key sectors in order to implement the policy. The consultancy process ended at the III Session of the Regional Platform on DRR for the Americas, held in Santiago de Chile in November 2012, at which the act of incorporation of the National Platform for DRR was signed, comprising more than 40 institutions from the public and private sectors, academia and organised civil society. Subsequent to the formation of the Platform, at its first session in May 2013, five working groups were established in correspondence to the five priority actions of the Hyogo Framework for Action, each made up of the sectors relevant to its specific theme.

These working groups met on a monthly basis to work, discuss and reach agreement on risk management issues relevant to our country, leading to the present policy.

## Working Groups for National Platform on DRR

### INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- Ministry of the Interior and Public Security.
- Ministry Foreign Affairs.
- Ministry of Finance.
- Ministry of Justice.
- Ministry of Agriculture.
- Joint Chiefs of Staff (EMCO, acronym in spanish).
- Undersecretary of Regional Development.
- Chilean Municipalities Association.
- ONEMI.
- Integra Foundation.
- Chilean Humanitarian Aid Network.

### STRENGTHENING OF MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

- Ministry of Agriculture.
- General Direction of Waters - MOP .
- Chilean Meteorological Office.
- National Forestry Corporation (CONAF).
- Integra Foundation.
- National Early Warning Centre - ONEMI.
- National Geology and Mining Service (SERNAGEOMIN).
- Chilean Navy Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service (SHOA).
- National Seismology Centre.

### PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PREVENTION AND SELF-CARE

- Ministry of Education.
- Ministry de Justice.
- Ministry of Agriculture.
- Ministry of the Environment .
- UNESCO.
- USAID - OFDA .
- UNDP.
- CIGIDEN - PUC.
- ACHNU.
- National Academia of Civil Protection - ONEMI.
- Integra Foundation.
- Institute of Workplace Safety
- Instituto de Seguridad Laboral.
- Chilean Safety Mutual.
- Chilean Safety Association.
- School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Universidad de Chile.
- Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction.

## STRENGTHENING OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TO ENSURE AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Ministry of Justice.
- Ministry of Health.
- Ministry of Agriculture.
- Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications.
- Ministry of the Environment.
- Chilean Investigations Police .
- Carabineros de Chile.
- Joint Chiefs of Staff (EMCO, acronym in spanish).
- ONEMI.
- National Forestry Corporation.
- Legal Medical Service.
- Integra Foundation.
- Chilean Firefighters.
- Chilean Humanitarian Aid Network.
- Chilean Volunteer Psychologists.

## REDUCTION OF UNDERLYING RISK FACTORS

- Ministry of the Economy.
- Ministry of Social Development.
- Ministry of Education.
- Ministry of Justice.
- Ministry of Public Work.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning.
- Ministry of Health.
- Ministry of Agriculture.
- Ministry de Transport and Telecommunications.
- Ministry of National Assets.
- Ministry of Energy.
- Ministry of the Environment.
- National Women's Service.
- Undersecretary of Regional Development.
- ONEMI.
- National Minor's Service.
- Institute of Workplace Safety.
- Risk Management and Gender Working Group - ONEMI.
- Institute of Occupational Safety.
- National Seismology Centre.
- National Geology and Mining Service.
- National Monuments Council.
- Integra Foundation.
- Chilean Safety Mutual.
- Chilean Safety Association.
- Caritas Chile.
- Desafío Levantemos Chile Foundation.
- Chilean Institute of Engineers.
- Chilean Volunteer Psychologists.

# **ANNEX 4.** Chilean Territory and its Natural Threats



"A long thin strip of land" is the sentence that comes closest to describing the country. Located at the south-western end of South America, one of its main distinctive traits is its length at approximately 4300 km, which increases to 8000 km if you include the Antarctic Territory. It ranges between latitude 17°30´ and 56°30´ south, centred around the meridian of 70° west, extending toward the Antarctic territory between meridians 53° and 90° west. It is also present in Polynesia, with Easter Island located in the Pacific Ocean at approximately 27° south and 109° west

The Chilean territories in South America, Antarctica and Oceania gives the country a tri-continental presence, implying a spatial potential that is difficult to find in other countries. This characteristic is based on a series of morphological traits of the three continents, most notably the mountain ranges, depressions, volcanoes and glaciers throughout the country.

The uniqueness of the geographical position and physio-natural characteristics influence and explain the extreme natural events that are part of Chile's history. The more recurrent natural threats are earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, drought and intense precipitation over a short period of time leading to floods and landslides. Taking into consideration the magnitude and impact of events, earthquakes and tsunamis are the most significant in terms of victims and economic losses, but hydro-meteorological events are the most recurrent in the country (UNESCO, 2010). The natural threats present in the country are described below according to their origins.

## Geological Threats

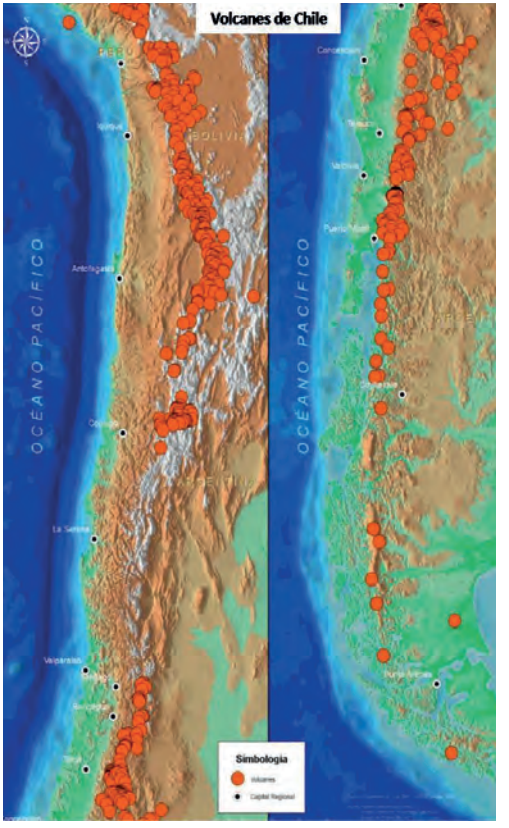
The tectonic location of Chile on the Pacific Ring of Fire means that the country is in a zone with one of the highest levels of energy release on the planet. The permanent convergence of the Nazca and South American plates in the subduction zone gives the country a high number of volcanoes and high-magnitude earthquakes.

## Volcanic Threats

Chile has the second highest number of volcanoes in the world, with more than 2000, of which 91 are considered geologically active, including the two most active in South America: Villarrica and Llaima, both in the Region of La Araucania.

With its geological evolution, Chile has always experienced volcanic activity, with estimates that a significant eruption occurs in Chile every 8-10 years and a total of 413 volcanic eruptions recorded since the 16th century. According to data from the National Geology and Mining Service (Sernageomin), approximately 30% of the country is within areas directly influenced by active volcanoes and up to 50% could be affected in some way. There is also a notably high level of exposure to energy infrastructure, communications and industries of importance to the national economy (OVDAS, 2009).

**Volcanic events in Chile, between the years 1558 and 1999**

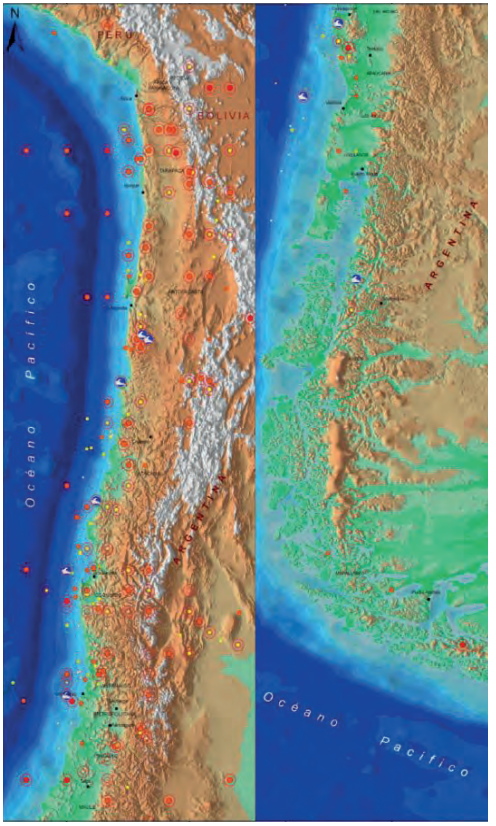


## Seismic Threats

Chile has one of the highest levels of seismic activity in the world, averaging 200 perceptible and imperceptible seismic events on a daily basis. The statistics also show that on average in the last five centuries an earthquake measuring more than 8 on the Richter scale has occurred at some location within the country (Madariaga, 1991), most notably the earthquake of 1960, the strongest every recorded, with a magnitude of 9.5 on the Richter scale.

The last significant event in the country was the earthquake on 27th February 2010, which was the sixth strongest in history.

It reached a magnitude of 8.8 Mw, with a fracture zone of 630 km that affected more than 60% of the population of the country. The resulting tsunami took the lives of 521 people.




## Tsunami Threat

The parallel configuration of the coastline and the subduction zone means that the entire coastline of the country is exposed to a constant threat of tsunami. These are extreme though infrequent natural events that are one of the most complex physical phenomena (Lagos, 2000).

The statistic shows that 52.9% of tsunamis recorded in the world have occurred in Chile (Mc Caffrey, 2007). It is important to note that for an earthquake to generate a tsunami it must have a magnitude of greater than 6.5 on the Richter scale, a surface hypocentre (less than 60 km down) and an epicentre in the ocean close to the coast (Lagos, 2000). The combination of these factors makes the arrival of a tsunami on the coast a complex phenomenon, meaning that the heights of the waves vary considerably at different places along the coastline (Satake et al., 2003).

## Hydro-meteorological Threats

The latitudinal extension of Chile means that it has a diverse range of climates associated with atmospheric and oceanic circulation that generates subtropical and arid climates in the north ranging to subpolar and polar climates in the extreme south. It also leads to the existence of varied morphology due to the narrow geography of the land, with altitudes varying between 0 and 5000 masl, within an average width of only 300 km. Therefore, the rivers that flow from the Andes Mountains to the sea have high erosion potential.

The successive and intense frontal systems that affect the central-southern part of the country, with rainy periods in six to eight months of the year, are the main hydro-meteorological threat to the country, as they lead to a set of processes such as basin overflows and subsequent floods, particularly in flat areas, and landslides, deluges and avalanches in the mountains (UNESCO, 2010).

The Altiplano in the northern part of the country is often affected by intense precipitation and snowstorms in winter, leading to flooding and rivers breaking their banks. This affects the local population in the Altiplano and the foothills of the Andes, and also affecting the Intermediary Depression and the coastal areas of the north.

Along the coast from Arica to Punta Arenas, tidal swells can be caused by storms in the Pacific Ocean, which in recent years have ravaged different towns along the coast. All these processes are aggravated in the years of the El Niño phenomenon, due to the increase in precipitation. On the other hand, when the La Niña current occurs, precipitations decrease and droughts are experienced in many parts of the country, leading to farming emergencies, increased forest fires, etc.


CHILE

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The National Policy on< Disaster Risk Management in Chile arises from the necessity of the State of counting on a guideline to reduce the adverse effects caused by the catastrophes in the country. The global tendencies show the necessity to advance to an integral disasters risk management, which is also a national priority, because it is observed an important increase of the amount of natural catastrophic events and people affected (EIRD, 2014).

Chile is a country permanently exposed to natural and anthropic threats, among them the earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, floodings, bushfires, others, and because of this the formulation of a Policy and its later announcement will contribute to have a safer and more resilient country to face disasters.

Besides, the formulation of this policy constitutes an advance according to the commitments acquired at a global level by our country, as the intern legislative advance, with the formulation of a new juridical scope that will provide the country with the institutional basis to risk management, according to the challenges and threats to which the inhabitants of the Chilean territory are faced up every day.

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