

Call for donations: Earthquake in Ecuador

Help El Páramo's inhabitants today

Dear members, donors and friends of FHN,

Ecuador is in a state of emergency after an earthquake, which hit the Northwestern part of the country on the night of the 17th April 2016. The earthquake's magnitude was 7.8 on the Richter-Scale. Its epicenter was located only about 20 km away from our project region El Páramo. Since then, there have been more than 400 aftershocks.

According to local media reports, the number of deaths has surpassed 650. More than 4.605 people have been injured and people are still being missed.

Sadly, our health center has been damaged badly and can only function partly.

Our entire board has since the earthquake worked intensely in order gather information and disseminated it, provide acute assistance and support our local team. However, it is the local team who has to carry the heaviest load in this catastrophe - besides being traumatized themselves. They deserve our full respect and support!

On these two pages we want to give you an overview over the situation in El Páramo. We have quickly and unbureaucratic sent 2.500 US-Dollars for acute disaster relief. Further aid and reconstruction of the health center will obviously require a lot of funds and effort.

In the name of the entire board, our local colleagues and volunteers and the affected local population I hereby ask you for your kind support. As always, 100% of your donations will reach the project.

Further information can be found on our website www.fb-n.de/newsletter which will be updated continuously.

Thank you very much for your interest and support!

Sincerely,

Dr. Martin Eckhardt
President and Founder

Report from Ecuador, by Andrea Muschiol, Olivia Biermann and Antonio Beltrán

Support for the people of El Páramo

In La Y de la Laguna where our primary healthcare center is located, luckily no deaths or severe injuries have been reported so far. Yet, many people of all ages are in a state of shock and need psychological support. It has been challenging to get in contact with the team in the health center because of the unavailability of the mobile phone network. The majority of the more than 30 villages surrounding La Y have not been reached yet due to long distances (up to 10 hours walking in difficult conditions). It is possible that cases of injuries and deaths will still be stated during the upcoming days.

Parts of the road from the district capital Quinindé to La Y got destroyed making people's transportation difficult and dangerous, and impeding the haulage of goods

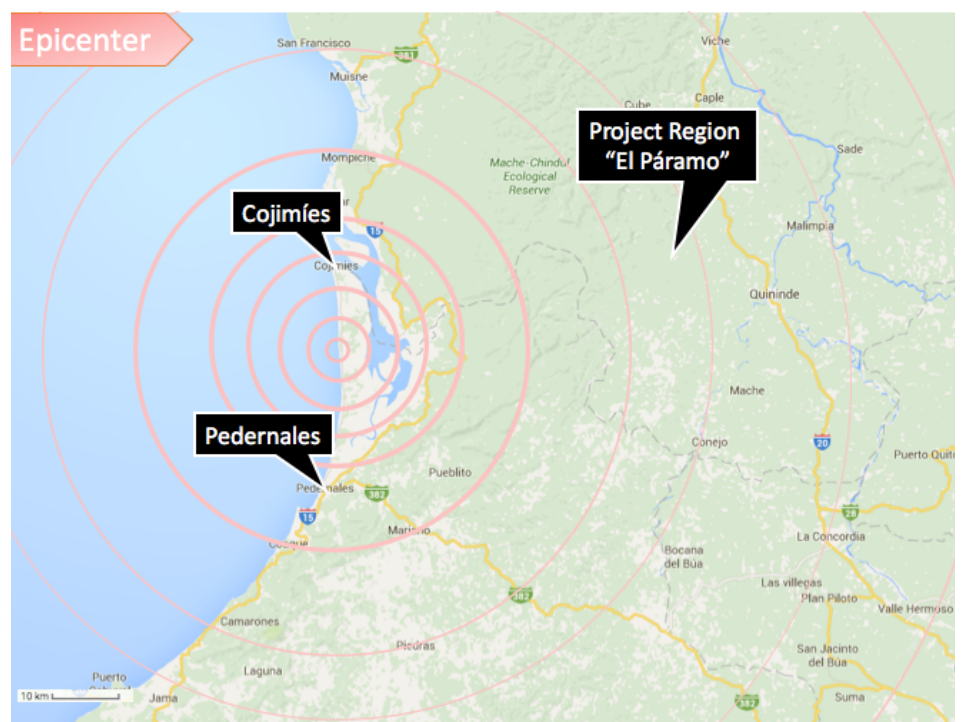


Cracks in a wall of the health center. Sadly, the entire building looks like this.

including food. There have been reports about tumbled down houses in some of the communities. The electrical grid is still not working in a stable way – blackouts often occur.

The health center has been damaged by the impact of the earthquake and can currently only function partially, i.e.:

- Walls have cracked and are now fragile, making it impossible to use the health center in its entirety due to safety issues. Fewer patients can be attended.



The epicenter of the earthquake – only about 20 km away from the El Páramo region

- The laboratory got destroyed. None of the much needed tests (e.g. for malaria or dengue fever) can currently be executed. Patients would have to travel to the district hospital in Quinindé to get any urgent tests done. This, however, is dangerous and even costly in terms of time and money – given the current conditions.
- The old water tower between the health center and the nearby multifunctional building “casa múltiple” might collapse – burying nearby buildings. This is an acute threat for the medical personnel, patients and neighbors, especially if any further aftershocks should occur. The medical team is working and living under persisting danger and fear.



Above: The health center laboratory



Below: The state of the only road from the outside world to La Y

Help the El Páramo region

The health center in La Y de la Laguna and the whole region with its inhabitants are facing a major crisis. A potential severe risk of people’s health exists as services cannot or only partially be provided. The Ministry of Health and the local hospital are overstrained and support cannot be expected.

As a kind member, donor and friend, understanding and caring about the difficulties of the people of El Páramo, please consider donating foremost:

- for the immediately purchase of medications and materials (e.g. bandaging material, syringes etc.) to restore the health center’s pharmacy;
- to assess the state of the water tower by an expert in order to know how to proceed. The safety of the health center and its staff need to be restored as soon as possible;
- to stabilize the health center’s walls to make it fully functional and safe for patients and staff;
- to build up the laboratory starting with the most needed equipment for life-saving examinations;
- to employ the voluntary community health workers for a short period of time in order to assess the situation in the surrounding villages (health, infrastructure, etc.); and
- to send medical brigades to the surrounding villages based on the health workers’ assessment and priority-setting to provide health care.

Please send any donations to one of the following accounts, using the keyword „Ecuador earthquake“. As always, 100% of the donations will be used for the project.

Your donation reaches its destination!

All donations are being sent entirely to the project.

Foundation Human Nature

Bank name: Sparkasse Oberhessen

IBAN DE14518500790150022444

BIC HELADEF1FRI

VR Bank Main-Kinzig-Büdingen eG

IBAN DE17506616390007019459

BIC GENODEF1LSR

If you are UK based you may find it more convenient to send your donation to our sister organisation FHN United Kingdom. For details please see www.f-h-n.org. Rest assured that 100% of your donation will reach the El Páramo project.



Foundation Human Nature

We are an international non-governmental organization with 15 years of experience in development cooperation in Latin America and Africa.

We are currently working on two projects, one in Ecuador and one in Ghana. The latter is led by our colleagues from Foundation Human Nature (FHN) England. Our board members in Germany and England are professionals in relevant areas such as health and development. They work with FHN on a voluntary basis. This way we ensure to keep administrative costs to an absolute minimum.

FHN does not hold any political or religious affiliation. The organization is active in remote areas where we support sustainable development projects. Affordable, high-quality primary health care is our focus, as well as public health.

Before FHN became active in the current project regions, the local population had no or very limited access to health care.

We try to use renewable energy as much as possible.

FHN provides technical, human resource and financial support – the project management, however, is always in the hands of our local partners.