

Dear SOS Supporter,

As we reported to you last Saturday, there are 13 SOS Children's Villages in Chile with four Villages close to Concepcion. We had planned to report to you today that everything was under control in these Villages. As of yesterday afternoon, this was the case. The earthquake itself, while causing some structural damage, left no children or staff injured.

However, we are receiving troubling reports from our on-the-ground staff in Concepcion, Chile. Please note that we are including here unfiltered information about events that are creating real danger for children in our care. Also, please be advised that we are doing everything in our power to keep our children safe.

Report from Concepcion, Chile

"After the heavy earthquake, the town of Concepcion and other affected areas are in a state of emergency. SOS staff at various SOS facilities, several of which have suffered severe damage to buildings, are also reporting that the situation is very threatening. Plunderers have tried to break into the SOS Children's Village in Concepcion while the SOS Children's Village in Chaimavida reports thefts of cars and fuel.

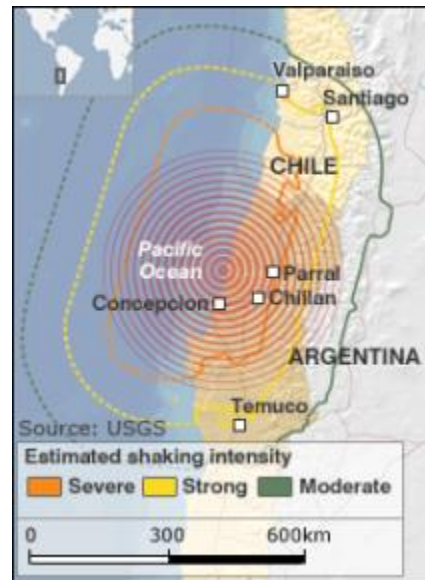
What has been giving cause for alarm is the security situation, which is rapidly deteriorating. As the Director of the SOS Children's Village in Concepcion, Jessica Lange has reported, plunderers attempted to break into the village yesterday. All children and staff have been instructed to remain inside the village without exceptions, as armed and potentially violent people roam the streets.

Norma Valdes, the Director of the SOS Mothers Training Center in the vicinity of Concepcion, has also reported the sound of gunfire and the looting of all businesses in the area. The phone connection with her was cut off in mid-conversation and it hasn't been possible to reach her since. The SOS Children's Village in Chaimavida, some 20 minutes by car from Concepcion has had cars and fuel stolen from it.

A rescue team of SOS co-workers, headed by Pablo Perez, who just recently returned from a rescue mission in Haiti, is currently on the way to Concepcion. SOS staff from the National Office are trying to get the police and the military to ensure safety at the different locations of SOS facilities in the disaster area."

We will keep you informed as soon as we receive further updates. We desperately hope that each child in our care in Chile has a safe night.

Since Saturday, major earthquakes have also occurred in [Kyrgyzstan](#) and [Argentina](#) where SOS Children's Villages are present. These far-ranging earthquakes remind us how important it is for SOS Children's Villages to maintain an ongoing presence across the world, where all we do is focus on children and strengthening families. Our ongoing presence in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the U.S. ensures that whenever and wherever a disaster strikes, we are already there, positioned to help.





Heather Paul
Executive Director
SOS Children's Villages - USA

P.S. [Please make a donation to support SOS Children's Villages' efforts in Chile and around the world. Our resources become stretched when we must mobilize responses to earthquakes while also maintaining our Villages around the globe. There is no better time to help than right now.](#)

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SOS Children's Villages - USA
1001 Connecticut Ave, NW
Suite 1250
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 1 888-SOS-4KIDS or 202-347-7920