



USA – Oil Spill (EMSA)

- On 22 March, the bulk carrier Summer Wind collided with a barge carrying around 4 370 tons of fuel oil that was being towed by the tug Miss Susan near Texas City, in the Houston Ship Channel. One of the barge tanks was pierced and at least 600 tons of fuel oil is reported to have spilled into the waterway.
- The US Coast Guard subsequently suspended marine traffic in the channel. A total of 24 vessels were brought in to clean up and 27 400m of boom were deployed.

USA – Landslide (County Authorities)

- The number of people killed by the landslide that hit the area near the town of Oso (Snohomish County) two days ago is still rising. According to the county authorities, there are 14 people killed and 176 missing.

Paraguay – Severe Weather (UNOCHA)

- Recent heavy rains affected approx. 2 000 people and flooded 648 houses in Paraguay, mainly in the area near the border with Argentina. Itapúa, Misiones and Neembucú were the departments most affected.

CAR – Complex Crisis (ECHO)

- The security situation is worsening in Bangui, particularly in PK5 where attacks from anti-balaka against Muslims have increased leading to the death of four people during the weekend of 22-23 March.

DRC – Humanitarian Crisis (ECHO)

- The security and humanitarian situation in Katanga remains precarious and volatile. Conflict between Pygmy and Bantu is intensifying with the creation of self-defense groups on the axis Moba-Kalemie. Several Bantu chiefs have been suspended by the authorities after sending hate messages against pygmy population.
- Around 7 500 people have fled their place on the axis Mpiana-Shamwana because of operations by the National Forces (FARDC) against Mayi Mayi armed groups. Nutritional situation of children is critical.

Syria – Cross-border Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)

- The UN confirmed that 66 out of the 80 trucks carrying UN humanitarian aid from Nusaybin, Turkey, crossed the border to Qamishli, Hassakeh, in Syria, over 20-24 March. Syrian authorities at the Qamishli border point will continue to grant access to the planned convoy. Essential food, health supplies, medicines and household non-food items will be distributed to about 50 000 people, including IDP, in the area.

Iraq – Polio Outbreak (ECHO)

- Iraq reported its first case of Wild Polio Virus (PV1) since 2000 in the outskirts of the capital Baghdad. The Iraqi Ministry of Health, in cooperation with WHO, UNICEF, the Iraqi Red Crescent and health NGOs, is strengthening the on-going vaccination campaign and polio surveillance countrywide.
- Iraqi health authorities give priority to Baghdad and border areas with Syria, particularly Al-Anbar governorate, given its proximity to the governorate of Deir ez-Zor, where the majority of polio cases in Syria have been identified to date. Due to limited access, insecurity, breakdowns in the health system and widespread population displacement, the organization of vaccination activities in Al-Anbar is an important challenge. According to WHO, from the last immunization round that ended on 10 March, coverage in Al-Anbar reached 48% of eligible children, while coverage in the rest of the country was above 98%.