

Peru Earthquake Disaster – Rapid Response Initiative

Ministers order dispatch of emergency supplies of tents, blankets & cooking equipment

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dermot Ahern, T.D. and the Minister of State for Overseas Development, Mr. Michael Kitt T.D., this morning (Friday) ordered the dispatch of emergency supplies from the Irish Aid relief stocks held at the UN humanitarian base in Brindisi, Italy.

In a joint operation with the Italian Government, a special aircraft has been chartered to airlift emergency supplies overnight to Lima, Peru. The shipment will include emergency supplies from both the Italian and Irish stocks being held in Brindisi. The Irish supplies will consist of 60 All Weather tents; 500 kitchen sets; and 1,000 blankets.

Authorising the dispatch of this material Minister Ahern said,

“Once again the Rapid Response Initiative has proved its worth and I am pleased that Ireland has been able to respond so quickly to this tragedy in Peru. It is particularly gratifying that we were able to do so in conjunction with one of our EU partners.”

Minister Kitt added,

“Along with this material, the members of our Rapid Response Corps are on stand-by to respond if their particular skills are called for by any of our UN partner agencies. I am delighted to see this new Irish Aid response mechanism to natural disasters working so effectively”.

Note for Editors:

Under the first element of the Rapid Response Initiative, Ireland has pre-positioned humanitarian supplies at the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Brindisi and at the Defence Forces Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare.

Further information on Irish Aid's Rapid Response Initiative is available at:
www.irishaid.gov.ie

ENDS +++

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Press Office

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