

SITREP No. 1 – MAGNITUDE 7.4 EARTHQUAKE IN COLOMBIA

Date and time of issue: August 10, 2026 (1:00 p.m.)

Event date: August 10, 2026 – 7:34 a.m.

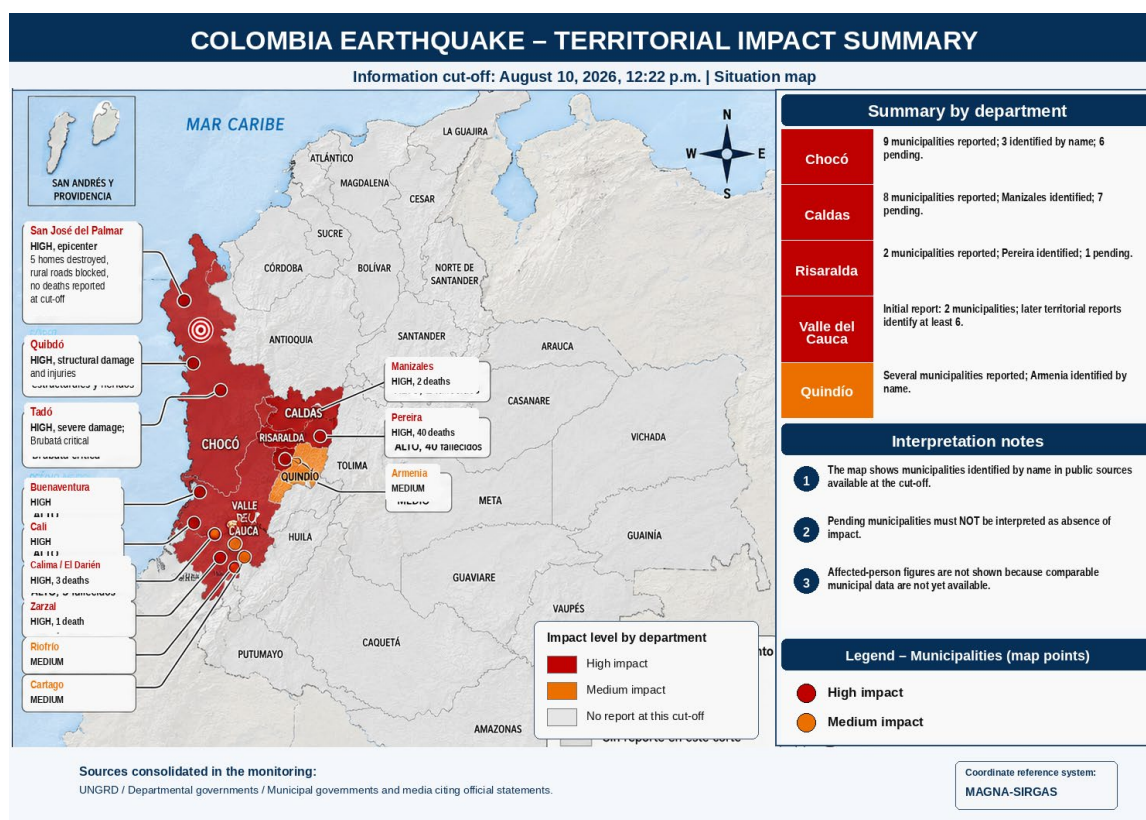
Event: Magnitude 7.4 earthquake

Epicenter: San José del Palmar, Chocó, Colombia

Reporting period: First 5 hours after the event

1. Context

On August 10, 2026 at 7:34 a.m., an earthquake was recorded with its epicenter in the municipality of San José del Palmar, department of Chocó. The Colombian Geological Survey (SGC) reported that the magnitude 7.4 event became the strongest earthquake recorded in the country during the last decade.¹ The earthquake was widely felt across 16 departments² and 32 major cities.



¹Colombian Geological Survey

²National Unit for Disaster Risk Management. Preliminary Report No. 2

Preliminarily, Chocó, the Coffee Region (Caldas, Quindío and Risaralda), and Valle del Cauca account for the main reports of impacts. According to the Colombian Maritime Authority (DIMAR), there is no tsunami threat to Colombia's Pacific coast.³ As a precautionary measure, and while safety assessments of airport infrastructure are carried out, at least seven airports in the country temporarily suspended operations.⁴

Following the event, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) activated its Crisis Room to coordinate monitoring. Through the National Committee for Disaster Management, a national disaster declaration was issued, enabling the mobilization of emergency resources.

At the territorial level, Departmental and Municipal Disaster Risk Management Councils activated their coordination and response mechanisms, including Unified Command Posts (PMUs), to determine damage and impacts on the population, infrastructure, and essential services.

2. Impacts

According to preliminary reports from territorial authorities, the earthquake has left at least **52 people dead nationwide**.⁵ The department of Chocó, where the epicenter was located, remains one of the priority areas for the response.

Departmental authorities activated the Extraordinary Disaster Risk Management Committee, which reported that 20 of the department's 31 municipalities² are experiencing varying levels of impact, reflecting the scale of the territorial effects. Quibdó, Nóvita, Sipí, Bajo Baudó, Riosucio, and San José del Palmar are among the most affected municipalities. Partial and total damage has been reported in more than 1,678 homes, as well as impacts on public and private buildings and infrastructure.

Information attributed to the Ministry of Mines and Energy indicated that, at around 12:01 p.m., 16 municipalities in Chocó were without electricity, with disruptions to telephone and communications services in several areas of the department.⁶

- The Municipal Ombudsman's Office of San José del Palmar reported damage to public and private infrastructure, including 130 damaged homes and 30 destroyed homes.² In addition, landslides were reported blocking tertiary roads leading to rural villages and the main road connecting with Valle del Cauca.
- Urban infrastructure damage has been reported in Quibdó, in the neighborhoods of Casa Blanca, El Reposo, Samper, La Unión, Parque La Gloria, and El Futuro. Residents of El Futuro neighborhood reported the appearance of a sinkhole that

³Colombian Maritime Authority

⁴Colombian Civil Aviation Authority: Quibdó, Pereira, Manizales, Armenia, Cartago, Buenaventura, and Cali airports

⁵EL PAÍS. Colombia earthquake live updates | At least 52 dead after magnitude 7.4 earthquake in Colombia

⁶Nubia Carolina Córdoiba – Governor of Chocó. Post on X, August 10, 2026,

may have caused the collapse of several homes. Authorities continue field assessments to verify the extent of the reported damage.

- Riosucio reported 3 collapsed homes, 15 damaged homes, and impacts on a water supply system.²
- Bajo Baudó reports approximately 1,500 damaged homes and 4,300 affected families.²
- In Tadó (Chocó), damage was reported to educational facilities, homes, and other buildings, both in the municipal center and in rural areas. A critical situation was also reported in Brubató village. A damage census has not yet been published to verify the extent and location of the impacts.

Impacts – Chocó

- 4 people dead.
- 69 people injured
- People trapped in buildings in Quibdó.
- 2 children reported missing.
- Patients transferred to Antioquia due to limited hospital capacity in the department.

Immediate requirements from the disaster

The scale of the damage and humanitarian needs continue to be assessed due to access constraints and communication disruptions with several affected municipalities. Authorities are currently conducting aerial surveys and deploying rapid assessment teams to facilitate information collection and identify priority needs.

- **Temporary shelter and non-food items (NFI)** for families whose homes were damaged or destroyed.
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**, especially if aqueducts, water supply systems, or water storage systems have been affected.
- **Emergency medical care and patient referral**, particularly in areas with limited hospital capacity.
- **Psychosocial support and mental health services** for people affected by loss, displacement, or exposure to the event.
- **Food security**, in the event of disruptions to access to markets, supply routes, or livelihoods.
- **Protection**, with particular attention to children, older people, persons with disabilities, and female-headed households.
- **Restoration of basic services**, including electricity, telecommunications, and access to education and health services.

Action Against Hunger Response Capacity

Action Against Hunger is currently analyzing the evolution of the emergency and the needs identified in the affected areas, with particular emphasis on the department of Chocó. Within this framework, the organization has developed a preliminary response plan to support humanitarian assistance for the affected population and is focusing on assessing needs and the assistance required in the departmental capital, given the limited local response capacity. In other affected areas, Action Against Hunger will coordinate with the Local Coordination Team (ELC) and other humanitarian actors to assess potential interventions based on identified gaps in the local response.

The organization is also assessing the potential activation of funding mechanisms, including resources from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Regional Humanitarian Fund, to strengthen response capacity and expand assistance across priority sectors. ACF currently has the following deployment capacity:

- **Humanitarian personnel:** 15 professionals currently based in the intervention area, complemented by a five-person mobile team that could be deployed to the affected territory, as well as support from operational support departments.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** 80 baby hygiene kits, 260 menstrual hygiene management kits, 20 family hygiene kits (with the possibility of increasing this number according to needs), and 470 household water filtration systems, as well as the capacity to rehabilitate one WASH facility.
- **Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL):** 20 family food packages and 4 community food packages (with the possibility of increasing this number according to needs).
- **Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA):** Capacity to provide 550 multipurpose cash transfers.
- **Shelter and Infrastructure:** 100 shelter kits.

Furthermore, ACF has established contact with ethnic authorities and community councils in San José del Palmar, Nóvita, and Tadó to facilitate coordination of the response in areas where access to information on the needs of affected populations is particularly limited. However, communication and access constraints persist across the region.