



SITREP No. 8

RESPONSE TO THE CHOCÓ EARTHQUAKE

Cut-off date: [20 August 2026 – 4:00 PM]

To date, the emergency has affected 282,709 people across 476 municipalities in 15 departments, with significant impacts on the infrastructure and services of 348 health facilities, more than 3,470 educational institutions and 4,996 community centres. The number of reported impacts continues to rise after the first week following the event and compared with the previous SITREP. Chocó remains one of the most affected departments, both in terms of the scale of impacts and the challenges associated with recovery, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER RESPONSE

Action Against Hunger, through its direct presence in the affected area and a team of 25 staff, has been implementing immediate response and stabilisation activities since the onset of the emergency, focused on addressing the priority needs of the affected population.


2,768
PEOPLE
ASSISTED


809
DELIVERIES
Individual and family kits, MPCA
and community-level distributions


6
MUNICIPALITIES
Quibdó – Nóvita - Tadó
Alto Baudó - Unión Panamericana -
Lloró

SECTOR / MODALITY	PEOPLE REACHED ¹	ASSISTANCE / KEY RESULT
SHELTER	320	96 shelter kits distributed in Quibdó and Nóvita, coordinated with institutional shelters or community accommodation sites
WASH	184	Installation of one 2,000-litre water tank at the Jardín shelter in Quibdó
SAFE ENVIRONMENTS / WATER AND STORAGE	684	151 kits distributed in Tadó
FAMILY, MENSTRUAL AND BABY HYGIENE	450	Distribution of 151 kits tailored to different needs according to population profile in Nóvita, Quibdó and Unión Panamericana

¹ The same person or family may receive more than one type of assistance. This overlap, identified in Nóvita and Quibdó, explains the difference of 146 people between the total reached and the disaggregation by type of assistance, as well as the 100 people in Unión Panamericana who received both food and hygiene kits.

FOOD SECURITY	804	Distribution of 213 food packages in Nóvita, Quibdó and Unión Panamericana
MPCA / MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE	776	177 cash transfers delivered in Quibdó and 20 in Lloró, following an assessment of market functionality and capacity
ASSESSMENTS / INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	6*	4 needs and capacity assessments in Nóvita, Quibdó, Unión Panamericana and Alto Baudó (jointly with Médicos del Mundo Colombia), 2 assessments in Quibdó (with UNICEF), and an assessment of water-access stabilisation with Veolia in Nóvita and Istmina

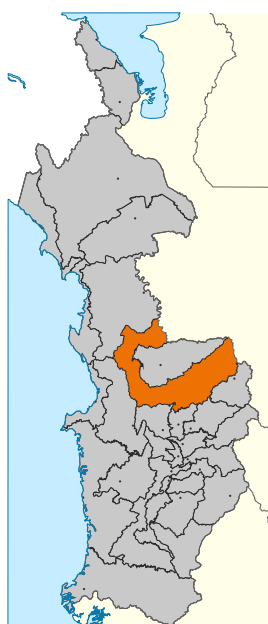


WASH technical visit, Action Against Hunger Chocó, Nóvita - 16 August 2026.



Action Against Hunger team providing assistance. Unión Panamericana - 15 August 2026.

RESPONSE BY MUNICIPALITY



QUIBDÓ

REACH

1,483 people

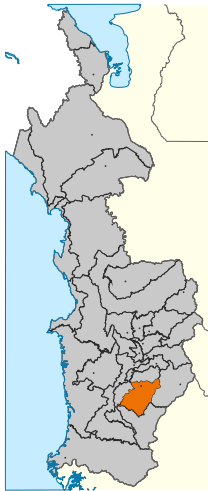
AREA OF INTERVENTION

Urban area: Barrio Obrero, Coliseo Shelter, Jardín Shelter, Flores Buen Años Shelter
Rural area: Guadalupe village

ASSISTANCE

73 shelter kits, 177 MPCA transfers, 10 baby hygiene kits, one 5,000-litre water tank and 93 food kits.

Updates: local organisations' response capacities were strengthened through 16 tonnes of food to support redistribution to the most affected areas.



NÓVITA

REACH

68 people

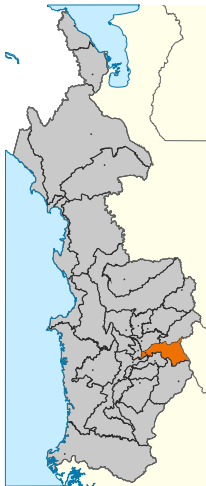
AREA OF INTERVENTION

Las Aguas, Jesús Pobre and El Rosario neighbourhoods

ASSISTANCE

23 shelter kits, 20 food kits, 20 family hygiene kits, 16 menstrual hygiene kits and 5 baby kits.

- Since 15 August, feasibility assessments have been underway to implement water-access solutions in the municipalities of Nóvita and Istmina, in coordination with Veolia.



TADÓ

REACH

684 people

AREA OF INTERVENTION

El Tabor rural area

ASSISTANCE

151 safe-environment kits distributed and water-quality samples collected.

UNIÓN PANAMERICANA



REACH

450 people

AREA OF INTERVENTION

San Rafael El Dos area

ASSISTANCE

100 food kits and 100 family hygiene kits.

LORÓ

REACH

83 people

AREA OF INTERVENTION

Urban area

ASSISTANCE

20 multipurpose cash transfers

3. OPERATIONAL PROGRESS, PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

- The localisation approach to the response in Quibdó has been strengthened by complementing the capacities of four local organisations through support for the reception, sorting, storage and organisation of 16 tonnes of food for redistribution to the most affected areas.

The localisation approach has enabled the delivery of food assistance through local organisations in Quibdó: Fundación Te Abrazo Colombia (86 families), Fundación Andamios (90), Fundación Semillas de Oportunidades (87) and the local Aldeas Infantiles team (96), collectively reaching 359 families.

- San José del Palmar: coordination with the Mayor's Office for the delivery of food assistance and shelter kits in prioritised communities, in partnership with Grupo Éxito.
- Nóvita: coordination with the Mayor's Office and the Secretariat of Government, with a joint deployment by Action Against Hunger and Veolia to identify water-response actions.
- Istmina: coordination with the Health Secretariat to identify potential water-supply and storage solutions.
- Unión Panamericana: coordination with the Secretariat of Government for the delivery of hygiene kits and food assistance in prioritised communities.
- WASH assessments: joint assessments with Veolia were conducted in Unión Panamericana, Istmina and Nóvita to identify needs and response options.

4. EMERGENCY CONTEXT UPDATE CHOCÓ

AFFECTED PEOPLE	FAMILIES	AFFECTED HOMES	AFFECTED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	AFFECTED HEALTH FACILITIES
45,044	22,923	22,381	274	44

Source: [Government of Chocó. Departmental Situation Report, 1 August]

Latest departmental updates

- Inverse phenomena continue to occur in the context of El Niño, involving heavy rainfall and flash floods in Chocó. This worsens conditions for people affected by the earthquake, increases risks to infrastructure and creates compounded impacts.
- Superservicios reports approximately 11,000 users without electricity in a highly vulnerable system that depends on a single line that is currently damaged. Restoration work continues in Lloró, Yuto, Paimadó, Managrú, Tutunendo, Río Quito and hard-to-reach Indigenous and rural areas.
- UNGRD has established Starlink internet connection points in Atrato, Unión Panamericana, Nóvita, Medio San Juan, Istmina, San José del Palmar and Tadó, at locations such as municipal offices, fire stations and Houses of Justice.
- As part of the Ombudsman's Office monitoring in Chocó, impacts have been identified in Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities across nine municipalities, where the effects of the earthquake are compounded by isolation, limited access to basic services and pre-existing vulnerabilities:

Municipality	Main impacts and needs
Tadó	Housing damage in Bochoromá; food, water, shelter, housing recovery and electricity are required.
Quibdó	Damage in Emberá Chamí and Wounaan communities, with emotional impacts; food, reconstruction and psychosocial support are required.
Río Iró	Damage to homes and educational infrastructure; needs include food, hygiene items and recovery support.
Medio Baudó	Affected homes, loss of belongings and psychosocial impacts; shelter, water, food and medical supplies are required.
Medio San Juan	Boca de Suruco remains isolated; shelters, reconstruction, soil assessment and psychosocial support are required.
Litoral del San Juan	Needs for medicines and food persist in San Antonio de Togoromá.
Atrato	Homes affected in La Molana; needs include materials, tools and food.
El Carmen del Darién	Damage, lack of electricity and limited institutional assistance; health, water and food are prioritised.
Lloró	Homes affected and destroyed in Boraudo; the need for assistance and relocation persists.

Source: Ombudsman's Office. *Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities face damage and urgent needs following the earthquake. 17 August 2026*

NATIONAL LEVEL

National response updates

- 20 August: The Abelardo Government declared a State of Economic, Social and Ecological Emergency in the earthquake-affected areas through Decree 1261 of 2026, granting extraordinary powers to finance humanitarian assistance, recovery and reconstruction for 30 days.
- OCHA published the earthquake addendum to the Humanitarian Response Plan, estimating 1.2 million additional people in need, a response target of 671,000 people and a prioritised population of 127,100 people. Requirements total USD 148.1 million, of which USD 82.2 million corresponds to prioritised needs.
- First recovery phase through 30 September: the so-called first-aid phase, which began in August, will focus on completing the initial damage assessment as the basis for subsequent stages of the recovery plan.
- Preventive environmental measure during the emergency. MinAmbiente requested the suspension or avoidance of controlled agricultural burning and other practices that could trigger forest fires, to prevent firefighters, security forces and emergency-response capacities from being diverted from earthquake response operations.
- Recovery and financing: the national disaster declaration remains in force for 12 months. Decree 1171 assigns UNGRD responsibility for the Specific Recovery Action Plan and allocates FNGRD resources, including the creation of the SISMO 2026 Sub-account, for response, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

5. NEEDS ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED

Municipality	Main findings / impacts	Priority needs or constraints
Quibdó <i>(Pacurita)</i> 11 Aug. 2026	24 households and 78 affected people are reported, along with 24 destroyed/collapsed homes. Electricity and telecommunications are operating on a limited basis. Water supply is intermittent and shows turbidity. Difficulties accessing food are reported, with food availability estimated at 3–7 days; only some shops are operating. Classes are suspended.	Electricity and communications, essential items/NFIs, and sanitation and hygiene. A need for technical assessments, materials and assistance for the safe repair of homes is also reported.
Nóvita <i>(Alto Tamana)</i> 12 Aug. 2026	4,500 affected people are reported. Access is partially restricted, and some areas are isolated due to road damage and security conditions. Communications are intermittent, while electricity and telecommunications are partially operational. Difficulties accessing food, crop damage and loss of access to markets are reported. Sanitation is reported as unavailable and classes are suspended.	Food, information/registration to access assistance, and essential items/NFIs. Access and mobility constraints associated with road damage, security conditions and the isolation of some areas are also reported.
Unión Panamericana <i>(El Dos)</i> 14 Aug. 2026	100 households and 1,000 affected people are reported, along with 100 destroyed/collapsed homes and 400 people staying outside their usual homes. Telecommunications are out of service. The main water system is out of service; available water is insufficient and presents contamination risks, with no means of treatment. Food availability is estimated at 1–2 days. One educational institution is unusable and classes are suspended.	Housing repair, food and psychological support. Additional needs include shelter/accommodation, essential items/NFIs, safe water and repair of housing infrastructure.

Municipality	Main findings / impacts	Priority needs or constraints
Alto Baudó <i>(Pie de Pato)</i> 14 Aug. 2026	2,493 households and 5,656 affected people are reported, along with 15 destroyed homes and 192 people staying outside their usual homes. Access is constrained by landslides, road damage and a lack of transport/fuel. Water service was interrupted and water-quality problems are reported, with no means of treatment. The health post is partially operational and has infrastructure and service limitations. Impacts on livelihoods, protection and psychosocial well-being are also reported.	Housing repair, health and medicines, and access to safe water. Additional needs include essential items/NFIs, hygiene, psychosocial support and livelihood recovery, as well as mobility and transport constraints.