

SITREP No. 5 – COLOMBIA EARTHQUAKE (Magnitude 7.4)

Date and time of issue: 13 August 2026 (10:00 p.m.)

SITUATION REPORT No.:	05
EVENT:	EARTHQUAKE IN COLOMBIA
LOCATION (COUNTRY, REGION, AFFECTED AREA):	Colombia, central Pacific region. Chocó. Epicentre: San José del Palmar
REPORT DATE	13/08/2026

Context

On 10 August 2026 at 7:34 a.m., an earthquake struck with its epicentre in the municipality of San José del Palmar, Chocó Department. The Colombian Geological Service (SGC) reported that the magnitude 7.4 event became the strongest earthquake recorded in the country in the past decade.¹



According to the latest UNGRD report, 281 people have died, 3,971 have been injured and 379 remain missing nationwide. Infrastructure damage has increased significantly:

10,677 homes destroyed and 65,841 damaged, 2,136 educational facilities, 236 health facilities, 71 water supply systems and 198 roads affected.

10 August 2026

Following the event, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) activated the crisis room to coordinate monitoring. Through the National Committee for Disaster Management, a national disaster declaration was issued, allowing emergency resources to be mobilised.

11 August 2026

UNGRD continues to maintain readiness and deploy Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (EDAN) teams, in coordination with territorial authorities, to guide the response and humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

12 August 2026

The National Government officially declared a nationwide disaster situation through Decree 1171. The decree establishes that the declaration will have an initial duration of 12 months. The departmental Risk Management coordinator in Chocó reports more than 29 landslides associated with mass movements in San José del Palmar, along with internet and power outages. This represents substantive progress in characterising access constraints that had previously been reported without quantification.

13 August 2026

¹Colombian Geological Service

- The road connecting Cartago (Valle del Cauca) with San José del Palmar (Chocó), which had remained closed since the beginning of the emergency due to more than 20 landslides along the road corridor, has now been partially reopened.
- Fedemunicipios asked the National Government to adopt six extraordinary measures to strengthen the financial capacity of affected municipalities and accelerate recovery. The proposals include exceptional use of resources from the General Participation System, greater flexibility in the General Royalties System, tax relief for affected households and businesses, expansion of the Works for Taxes mechanism, and a temporary exception to operating expenditure limits for territorial authorities.²

Territorial impacts - CHOCÓ

Chocó is moving through the humanitarian assistance and stabilisation phase. On 13 August, the response focused on expanding shelter capacity for families who lost their homes, mobilising humanitarian aid and strengthening logistical conditions to reach affected municipalities. Nearly 18 tonnes of food, mattresses, hygiene kits and other supplies arrived in Quibdó, while new shelters were announced, including a second facility in the departmental capital. At the same time, construction materials and machinery pools by subregion will be requested to support debris removal and the recovery of homes and infrastructure.³

Likewise, as part of the national response, UNGRD deployed Starlink equipment in San José del Palmar and strengthened connectivity in Nóvita, Medio San Juan, Istmina and Unión Panamericana to restore communications, improve damage reporting and strengthen emergency coordination. The Government announced a second shelter in Quibdó and five new shelters in other municipalities, as well as the delivery of fuel and supplies to ensure hospital care and advance recovery in affected areas.

Territorial gaps in humanitarian response coverage persist, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach communities in Chocó. Intermittent telecommunications, damaged roads and pre-existing access restrictions have delayed the arrival of assistance, meaning that some communities are still not fully reflected in centralised assessments and response efforts. Damaged roads, collapsed bridges and other transport obstacles also continue to isolate communities, especially in remote areas of the department.^{4,5}

²Colombian Federation of Municipalities. *Proposal for extraordinary measures to respond to the emergency and accelerate the reconstruction of municipalities affected by the 10 August 2026 earthquake, 12 August 2026.*

³*El Espectador*. Restrepo and Lara announce new measures for several municipalities in Chocó following the earthquake, 13 August 2026.

⁴ACT Alliance, Alert Note. Chocó, Colombia Earthquake, 10 August 2026.

⁵World Food Programme (WFP). Colombia earthquake deepens hunger in communities already under strain

These constraints are compounded by logistical challenges identified by field teams, including limited warehouse availability in Chocó, which may hinder the prepositioning, storage and sustained distribution of humanitarian supplies.

Municipality	Families	People	Deaths	Injured	Damaged Homes	Destroyed Homes	Health Facilities Affected	Educational Facilities Affected	Community Centres
Unión Panamericana	426	2135	3			69		3	3
Bajo Baudó					200	100			
Istmina	16	50		12	65	15		3	
Acandí	10	28				10			
Bahía Solano					24				
Quibdó			9	119	1198	48			
Nóvita	1230	4900				35		5	
Condoto					407			6	
Atrato	749		1	3	661	3		3	
Nuquí			1		15	1		1	
Tadó									
Río Sucio					40	6			
Carmen del Darién									2
Cértégui					5				
Medio San Juan	78	390			27	3			
Litoral de San Juan					46	3	2		
San José del Palmar					100	30			
Carmen de Atrato					1				
Lloró	140	420		4				5	
Medio Atrato					30				
Medio Baudó	248			1	255	78		4	
Río Quito	5	17			87	5			
Alto Baudó	176	610			114	12			
Bagadó	148	412			126	7		3	
Bojayá	4	16			4				
Sipí	200	1200			170	30		5	
Río Iró	500	3000							
Cantón de San Pablo	194				194	4			
TOTAL	4124	13178	14	155	3769	459	4	38	5

Source: Departmental Risk Management Coordination. 12 August

Needs arising from the emergency

The scale of damage and humanitarian needs continues to be assessed due to access limitations, shortcomings in electricity supply across the department, and ongoing damage assessment and needs analysis processes led by UNGRD.

 Food Security	• Although community kitchens have been set up in some municipalities as an immediate response mechanism, needs related to regular access to food persist, especially among households that have lost their means to prepare, store or obtain food. • Cash assistance should be considered for households that lost their homes, are staying with support networks or face extraordinary emergency-related expenses, subject to a provider assessment.
 Shelter	• Support needs to be strengthened for families whose homes were destroyed, especially in municipalities with the highest figures, such as Quibdó (1,246), Atrato (664), Bajo Baudó (300), Medio Baudó (333), Sipí (200) and San José del Palmar (133). • With shelters being opened, such as the one operating at the Quibdó Coliseum, there is a need to provide kitchen kits, household utensils and other basic items that allow food to be prepared and consumed under adequate conditions. • Given the reported damage to community and institutional facilities, technical assessments are required for homes, hospitals, educational institutions, government buildings and other public spaces to determine their safety and ensure continuity of service points and service delivery.
 Health	• During the Unified Command Post (PMU), high pressure on the hospital network was reported, with needs for medicines and hospital supplies (sutures, osteosynthesis supplies, chest tubes, gloves, goggles and medicines). • Health needs assessments and assessments of affected health facilities are required, especially in rural areas, to ensure primary health care responses.
 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	• Hygiene kits are needed, especially at evacuation points and established shelters; this includes water purification tablets and support for water storage and access. • Technical support is requested to ensure the rehabilitation of water supply systems in at least five affected municipalities.



Information Management

- Complementarity and coordination with humanitarian organisations have been requested for data collection to support the inclusion of people in the Disaster-Affected Persons Registry.
- There remains a need to strengthen censuses and the identification of affected populations in rural areas, as well as sectoral assessments to guide the response.

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

After the first 72 hours of the emergency, and as humanitarian assistance has increased—concentrated mainly in the municipalities with the greatest impacts—Action Against Hunger continues to expand monitoring to areas where impacts are less visible, including Sipí, Medio Baudó, Lloró and Medio San Juan. This monitoring seeks to identify emerging needs, response gaps and areas that may have lower coverage of humanitarian assistance.

Action Against Hunger is advancing the identification of and coordination with Community Councils, civil society organisations and other community actors in prioritised municipalities, particularly Nóvita and Tadó, to strengthen localisation of the response by drawing on community capacities for identifying and reporting impacts, information management and the organisation of assistance.

QUIBDÓ

- In Quibdó, Action Against Hunger is strengthening coordination with four local foundations to support the identification of priority areas and households, improve assistance targeting and contribute to better organisation of humanitarian distributions.
- Following the opening of the shelter at the Quibdó Coliseum, which currently hosts 104 people, and in coordination with the Municipal Government, Action Against Hunger delivered 40 family shelter kits, each sufficient to meet the needs of 3 to 4 people. Distribution began on 11 August.
- Action Against Hunger is supporting information management and the general profiling of the affected population in the Obrero neighbourhood, with the aim of facilitating their inclusion in the Single Registry of Disaster-Affected Persons (RUD). This action was coordinated in advance with the Quibdó Municipal Government and UNGRD.

- As a result of the assessment carried out in the Obrero neighbourhood, 69 household profiles were completed to determine eligibility for multipurpose cash assistance, potentially reaching 280 affected people. Household prioritisation was agreed jointly with the Community Action Board.

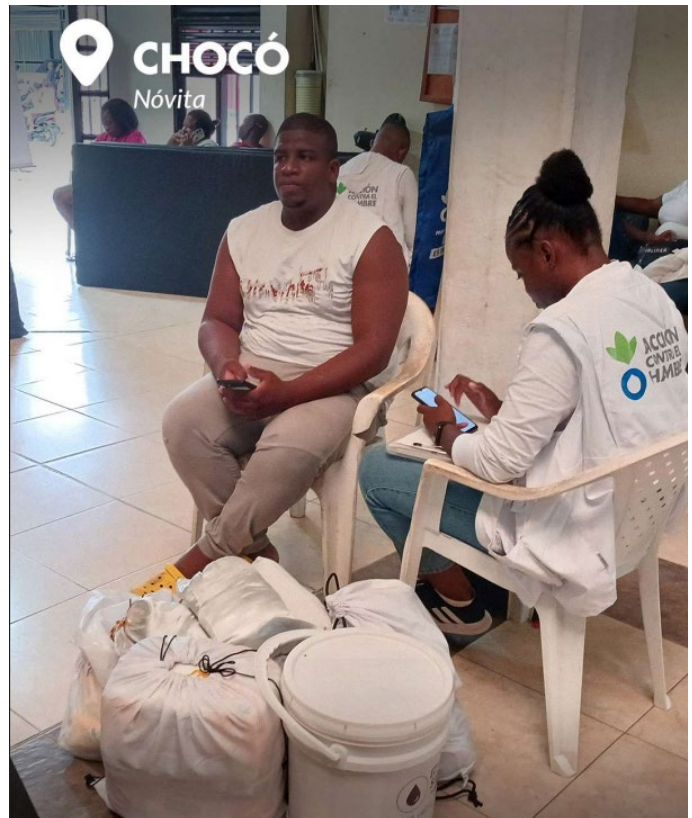
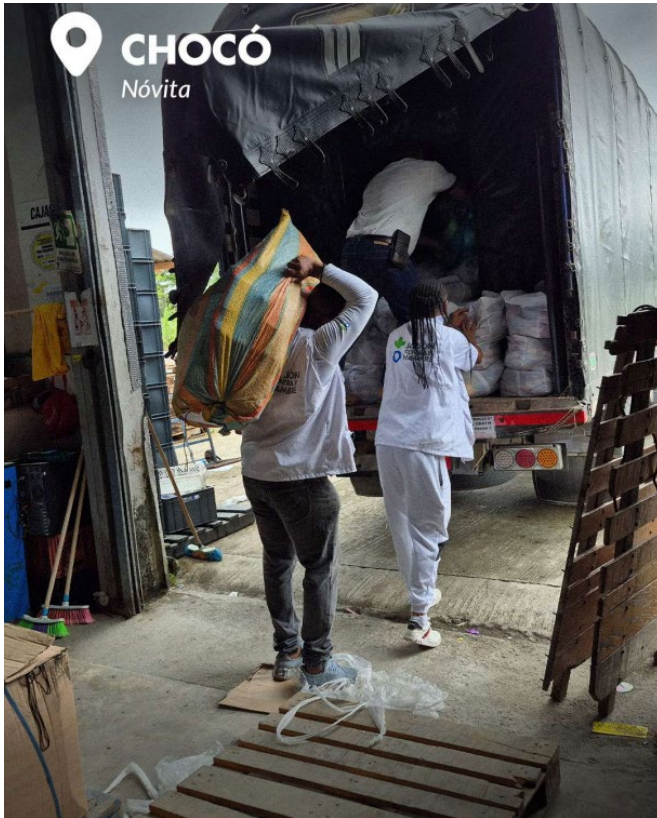


NÓVITA



- Action Against Hunger is advancing coordination with Community Councils, civil society organisations and other community actors in NÓVITA to strengthen localisation of the response and leverage existing capacities for identifying needs, reporting impacts, information management and organising humanitarian assistance.
- A humanitarian team was deployed to provide assistance to affected families, especially those arriving from rural areas. With no collective shelter currently operating in the municipality, families are temporarily staying in the homes of their support networks across different neighbourhoods in the urban area.
- Based on the needs assessment and household profiles in the Las Aguas, Jesús Pobre and El Rosario neighbourhoods, differentiated assistance was delivered, including 23 shelter kits, 20 family hygiene kits, 16 menstrual hygiene kits, 5 baby kits and 20 food kits.

- Assessment, prioritisation and assistance activities were carried out in coordination with the Nóvita Municipal Government, the Government Secretariat, Civil Defence and UNGRD, in order to coordinate the response and complement assistance to the affected population.



TADÓ

- In Tadó, coordination with community actors and local organisations is being strengthened to support the identification of needs and impacts, improve information flows from communities, and contribute to a more localised response aligned with existing capacities in the area.
- In the El Tabor community, in rural Tadó, 147 safe-environment kits were distributed to strengthen safe access to and management of water. The kits include water filtration and treatment systems, hoses, storage tanks and other essential items for proper water management at household and community levels. A total of 660 people were reached.
- There are currently no collective shelters operating in the area, so the response is focused on supporting affected families in their current places of stay and through host and support networks.

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER RESPONSE CAPACITY

Humanitarian staff:

15 professionals based in the intervention area, complemented by a 9-person mobile team with deployment capacity, plus support from field-based teams in Chocó and national-level coordination teams.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

- 120 menstrual hygiene kits, 120 family hygiene kits, 300 hygiene packages and 80 baby kits.
- 520 water filters available and 100 additional filters planned for the response.
- Water treatment plant with an estimated capacity to serve 2,000 people, in coordination with Veolia.

Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL):

- 500 food packages/kits planned.
- With support from Grupo Éxito and Fundación Éxito, 5,000 food packages are available, of which 1,000 are prioritised for San José del Palmar, with additional coverage planned in other affected municipalities.

Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA):

- Capacity to provide multipurpose cash assistance (amount to be determined).

Shelter and infrastructure:

- Identified availability of 240 shelter kits, of which 50 are prioritised for San José del Palmar.

Needs assessment and information management:

- Between 12 and 17 August, humanitarian needs and early recovery assessments will be carried out in six municipalities, with emphasis on rural areas and areas receiving assistance: Nóvita and Tadó (13–15 August), Unión Panamericana and Lloró (15–16 August), and Alto Baudó–Pie de Pató (16 August), the latter jointly with Médecins du Monde (MdM).

