

SITREP No. 2 – COLOMBIA EARTHQUAKE (Magnitude 7.4)

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

SITUATION REPORT No.:	02
EVENT:	EARTHQUAKE IN COLOMBIA
LOCATION (COUNTRY, REGION, AFFECTED AREA):	Colombia, central Pacific region. Chocó. Epicenter: San José del Palmar
REPORT DATE	10/08/2026

Context

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



The earthquake has left at least **132 people dead in Colombia (Asocapitales)**. In addition, the National Government reported more than 1,500 homes affected and **61 buildings completely**

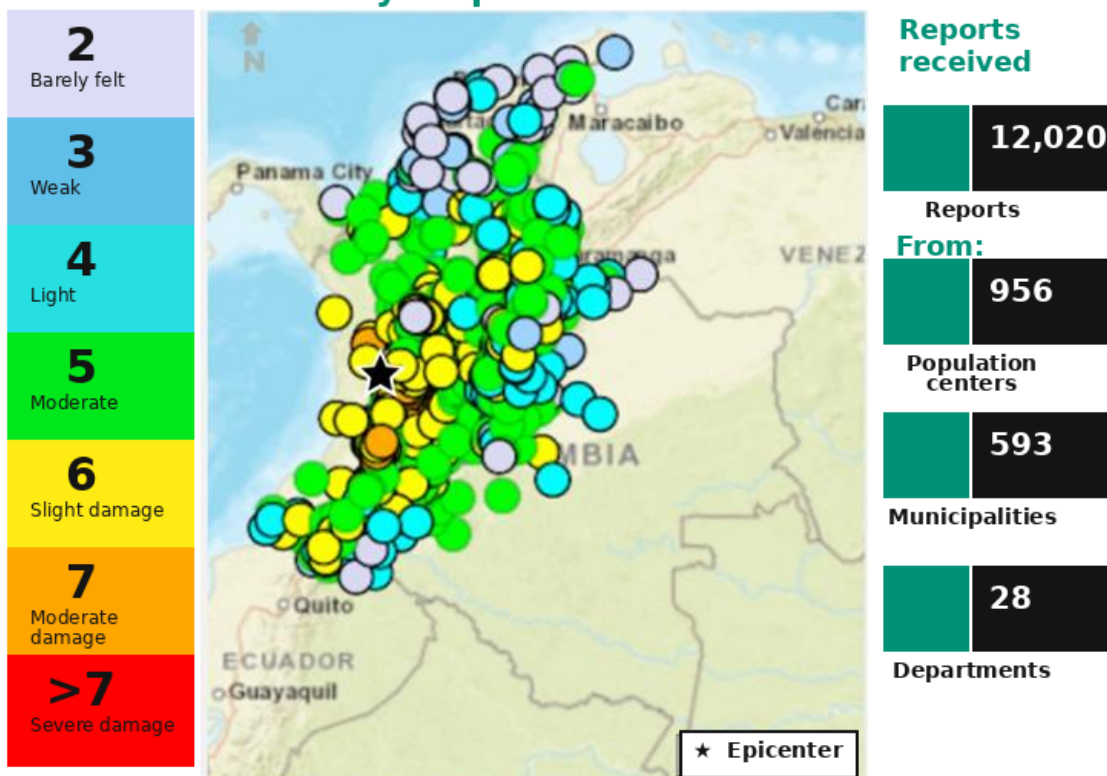
- Following the event, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) activated the crisis room to coordinate monitoring. Through the National Disaster Management Committee, a national disaster declaration was issued, enabling the mobilization of emergency resources.
- At the territorial level, Departmental and Municipal Disaster Risk Management Councils activated their coordination and response mechanisms, including Unified Command Posts (PMU), to determine damage and impacts on the population, infrastructure and essential services.
- UNGRD and the Minister of the Interior announced the deployment of four USAR teams from Bogotá, Envigado, Medellín and Yopal to respond in the most affected areas. At the Unified Command Post, it was agreed that search and rescue operations with machinery and personnel would be prioritized throughout August 10.
- Humanitarian assistance is expected to be activated on the morning of August 11 under UNGRD leadership, together with temporary accommodation and shelters.**
- Given access difficulties to municipalities near the epicenter and the lack of information, the National Government estimates that air transfers to affected municipalities will begin on August 11 to assess the scale of impacts.

¹ Colombian Geological Service

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

 Preliminary information San José del Palmar, Chocó August 10, 2026 07:34 a.m.	Depth 103 km	Magnitude 7.4	Maximum reported intensity 7 Moderate damage
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Intensity Map



Maximum reported intensity in:

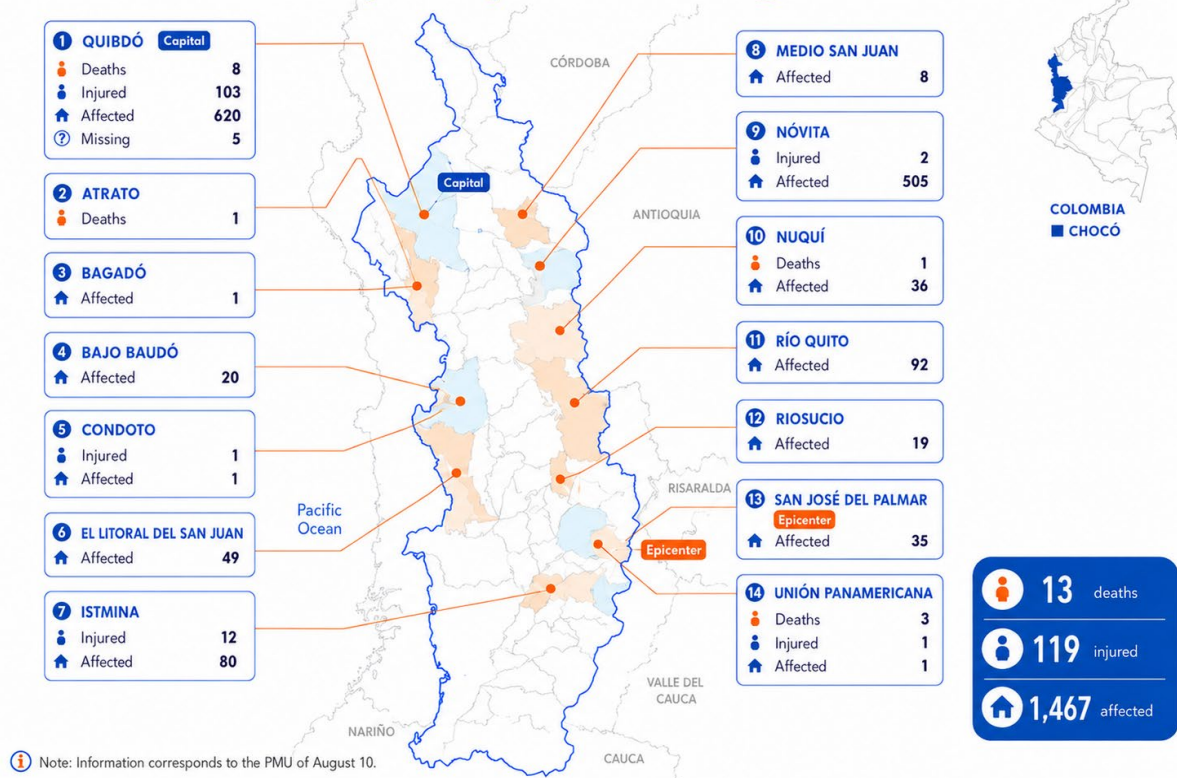
Municipalities of Atrato (Chocó); Bugalagrande, Candelaria, Dagua, La Victoria, Roldanillo, Toro, Versailles, Vijos, Yotoco and Zarzal (Valle del Cauca); Dosquebradas and Pereira (Risaralda); Chinchiná, La Merced and Neira (Caldas); Circasia, Filandia, La Tebaida and Quimbaya (Quindío); Angelópolis and Venecia (Antioquia); Villa Rica (Cauca); Anzoátegui, Cajamarca, Planadas and San Antonio (Tolima).

Territorial impacts

Chocó Department, where the epicenter was located, remains one of the priority areas for the response. At least 9 municipalities have documented earthquake-related impacts, including direct damage and disruptions to essential services. According to Situation Report No. 7 from the Governor's Office (6:10 p.m.), 13 deaths, 131 injured people, 5 missing people, and 3,166 material impacts had been reported.

However, access constraints and connectivity gaps have prevented an estimate of the scale of impacts at the municipal level or in rural areas, and impacts are still being assessed. Based on ACF Colombia's participation in the Unified Command Post (PMU), Quibdó, Nóvita, Nuquí, Unión Panamericana and Bajo Baudó are estimated to have the highest reported impacts to date.

Municipal Impact. PMU August 10



Quibdó: the departmental capital, concentrates some of the most severe human and structural impacts. **More than 103 injured people have been reported and, according to the PMU, more than 2,000 people and 600 homes have been affected.**

San José del Palmar: Access and communication constraints continue to limit consolidation of the rural impact.³ As the municipality lies within the epicentral area, significant impacts are estimated in both the urban center and rural areas. The mayor's assessment mentions 400 affected homes and between 10 and 20 buildings completely collapsed.³ Landslides blocked the road connecting the municipality with Cartago, Valle del Cauca, hindering the entry of machinery, emergency teams and assistance. **The PMU reported 35 affected homes.**

Nóvita: shows particularly significant impacts on health infrastructure and community facilities. According to the municipal Secretary of Government, the earthquake caused the total collapse of the health center, as well as damage to the church, an educational institution and numerous homes. **The PMU identified more than 505 affected people.⁵**

Istmina: initial reports show impacts on both road infrastructure and Indigenous territories. Significant cracks were observed on sections of paved roads in the municipality, and the collapse

³ <https://www.eltiempo.com/unidad-investigativa/atencion-habla-alcalde-de-san-jose-del-palmar-el-epicentro-del-fuerte-terremoto-de-7-4-magnitud-que-se-registro-en-la-manana-de-este-lunes-3577338>

of a structure in an Indigenous community was reported. Territorial reports identify impacts specifically in the Unión Chocó Indigenous community, part of the Unión Chocó–San Cristóbal Reserve. ^{6 7} According to PMU information, more than 12 injured people and 80 affected people are estimated.

Río Quito: The PMU identified more than 95 people affected by infrastructure impacts.⁵

Municipality	Deaths	Injured	Affected	Missing
QUIBDÓ	8	103	620	5
ATRATO	1	-	-	-
BAGADÓ	-	-	1	-
BAJO BAUDÓ	-	-	20	-
CONDOTO	-	1	1	-
EL LITORAL DEL SAN JUAN	-	-	49	-
ISTMINA	-	12	80	-
MEDIO SAN JUAN	-	-	8	-
NÓVITA	-	2	505	-
NUQUÍ	1	-	36	-
RÍO QUITO	-	-	92	-
RIOSUCIO	-	-	19	-
SAN JOSÉ DEL PALMAR	-	-	35	-
UNIÓN PANAMERICANA	3	1	1	-
Total impact	13	119	1467	

Source: Unified Command Post, August 10, 2026

Emergency-related needs

The scale of the damage and humanitarian needs is still being assessed due to access constraints and communication disruptions with several affected municipalities.



- Food kits or food assistance are required for evacuated families whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged.
- At the time of the PMU, detailed information on the coverage, location or scope of distributions by other organizations had not yet been shared.



- People whose homes were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable need to be identified and located, and temporary accommodation solutions need to be established. Although this need has been explicitly identified, no shelters had been established as of the reporting cut-off, representing a significant response gap.

	Shelter/accommodation kits and adequate water and sanitation conditions will also be needed at any sites that are established.
 Health	During the PMU, high pressure on the hospital network was reported, with needs for medicines, medical supplies and referral pathways to other cities for more complex injured patients. To date, no direct humanitarian health-care needs have been reported.
 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	- Hygiene kits are needed, particularly at evacuation points and future accommodation sites. - Although no widespread impact on water supply systems has been reported to date, pre-existing intermittency and reliance on purchased water in some areas make it necessary to anticipate safe-water supply mechanisms for evacuated people or those in temporary accommodation.
 Information Management	- Consolidation and dissemination of the results of EDAN damage and needs assessments conducted in affected departments and municipalities are still pending. - There remains a need to strengthen registries and identification of affected people, particularly in rural areas, to guide response prioritization and coverage.

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER RESPONSE CAPACITIES AND ACTIONS

During the first day of the emergency, Action Against Hunger actively participated in the Unified Command Post (PMU) and advanced operational readiness, pre-positioning of supplies and inter-institutional coordination, **with the aim of enabling a priority response in Quibdó starting on August 11**, in line with documented impacts and the priorities to be confirmed by the authorities and coordination mechanisms.

The organization currently has the following capacities available for the response:

Humanitarian personnel:

15 professionals based in the intervention area, complemented by a mobile team of 5 people able to deploy, with additional support from support departments.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

160 baby hygiene kits, 260 menstrual hygiene kits, 352 family hygiene kits —with the possibility of scaling up according to needs— and 470 water filtration systems.

In addition, the organization has capacity to rehabilitate WASH infrastructure and a water treatment plant with an estimated capacity to serve 2,000 people.

Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL):

320 family food packages and 4 community food packages.

Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA):

Capacity to provide 550 multipurpose cash transfers.

Shelter and infrastructure:

Availability of 200 shelter kits.

Needs assessment and information management:

Capacity to support needs assessments in Chocó Department, as well as data collection, consolidation and analysis related to damage, impacts, needs and response gaps.

In terms of coordination, the organization has contributed to joint exercises to map response capacities, operational presence and contact points, in order to facilitate coordination and complementarity of response actions.

Two key coordination spaces are planned for August 11: the Unified Command Post (PMU) at 8:00 a.m., and a coordination meeting with UNGRD, the Chocó Governor's Office and the Mayor's Office. These spaces are expected to validate priority intervention areas, complement information on damage and needs, and define coordination mechanisms for the response.

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