

SITREP No. 4 – COLOMBIA EARTHQUAKE (Magnitude 7.4)

Date and time of issue: 12 August 2026 (10:00 p.m.)

SITUATION REPORT No.:	04
EVENT:	EARTHQUAKE IN COLOMBIA
LOCATION (COUNTRY, REGION, AFFECTED AREA):	Colombia, Central Pacific region. Chocó. Epicenter: San José del Palmar
REPORT DATE	12/08/2026

Context

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



The latest UNGRD report records 241 deaths, 3,771 injured people and 287 people missing nationwide. Reported infrastructure damage increased significantly:

9,555 homes destroyed and 45,350 damaged, 1,662 educational facilities, 186 health facilities, 45 water supply systems and 125 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 Disaster Management Committee, a national disaster declaration was issued, allowing emergency resources to be mobilized.

11 August 2026

UNGRD continues the readiness and deployment of Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (EDAN, Spanish acronym) 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 national disaster situation through Decree 1171. The decree establishes an initial duration of 12 months for the declaration.

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 a significant advance in characterizing access constraints that had previously been reported without quantification.

¹Colombian Geological Service

Territorial impacts - CHOCÓ

Chocó formally closed the search and rescue phase. The Departmental Government confirmed that the last four people reported missing were found alive and that there are no longer any missing persons being searched for in the department. The Unified Command Post (PMU) will therefore focus on assisting disaster-affected people, with efforts centered on humanitarian aid kits, transport logistics and building material banks.

The latest report records 13 deaths and 182 injured people. It also reports 21,216 disaster-affected people and 24,662 affected people, equivalent to 8,056 disaster-affected families and 4,027 affected families. The housing impact in Chocó increased substantially: 1,144 homes destroyed and 8,868 damaged, as well as 7 affected vehicular bridges and 29 impacted municipalities. Based on ACF participation in the Departmental Risk Management Coordination, it is estimated that San José del Palmar, Nóvita and Río Iró account for 80% of documented impacts (cut-off: 11 August at 5:00 p.m.).

Municipality	Families	People	Deaths	Injured	Damaged homes	Destroyed homes	Health facilities affected	Educational facilities affected	Community centers
Unión Panamericana	426	2135	3	1		69		3	3
Bajo Baudó					200	100			
Istmina	16	50		12	65	15		3	
Acandí	10	28				10			
Bahía Solano				12	24				
Quibdó			9	119	1198	48			
Nóvita	1230	4900		2		35		5	
Condoto				1	407			6	
Atrato	749		1	3	661	3		3	
Nuquí			1		15	1	2	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 constraints, shortcomings in electricity supply across the department, and UNGRD damage assessment and needs analysis processes.

 Food Security	- Although community kitchens have been implemented in some municipalities as an immediate response mechanism, needs related to regular access to food persist, especially for households that have lost their means to prepare, store or obtain food. - There is a need to prepare and distribute hot meals for both the affected population and rescue, response and assistance personnel who remain deployed. Cash assistance should be considered for households that lost their homes, are staying with support networks, or face extraordinary expenses resulting from the emergency, subject to a prior assessment of providers.
 Shelter	Assistance to families whose homes were destroyed needs to be strengthened, 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 the opening of collective shelters, such as the one established at the Quibdó Coliseum, there is a need to provide kitchen kits, utensils and other basic items that enable food preparation and consumption under adequate conditions. - A significant proportion of people whose homes were damaged are temporarily staying with support networks. Shelter kits and essential items are needed for both affected families and host households. - Given the reported damage to community and institutional facilities, technical assessments of homes, hospitals, educational facilities, government buildings and other public spaces are required to

	determine their safety and ensure continuity of service delivery and assistance points. • Rehabilitation and repair materials: The Mayor's Office of San José del Palmar has identified a need for construction materials, including reinforcing steel bars, bricks, corrugated zinc roofing sheets and cement, for the rehabilitation of affected homes and public infrastructure.
 Health	• During the PMU, high pressure on the hospital network was reported, with needs for medicines and hospital supplies (sutures, osteosynthesis materials, chest tubes, gloves, protective eyewear and medicines). • Health needs assessments and assessments of affected health facilities are required, particularly in rural areas, to ensure a primary health care response.
 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	• Hygiene kits are needed, particularly at evacuation points and established shelters. This includes water purification tablets and support for water storage and access. • Pre-existing intermittent supply and dependence on purchased water in some areas make it necessary to strengthen water supply mechanisms. • Technical support is requested to ensure the rehabilitation of water supply systems in at least five affected municipalities.
 Information Management	• The consolidation and dissemination of the results of Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (EDAN, Spanish acronym) conducted in the affected departments and municipalities are still pending. • Complementarity and coordination with humanitarian organizations have been requested for data collection to enable people to be included in the Disaster-Affected Persons Registry. • There remains a need to strengthen registration and identification of affected populations, particularly in rural areas, as well as sectoral assessments to guide the response.

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER RESPONSE ACTIONS

QUIBDÓ



- Following the establishment of the shelter at the Quibdó Coliseum, which currently hosts 104 people, and in coordination with the Municipal Mayor's Office, Action Against Hunger plans to deliver 35 family kits containing shelter items, food and basic assistance. Each kit can 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 neighborhood, with the aim of facilitating their inclusion in the Unified Registry of Disaster-Affected Persons (RUD, Spanish acronym). This action was previously coordinated with the Quibdó Mayor's Office and UNGRD.
- As a result of the assessment conducted in the Obrero neighborhood, eligibility screening has begun for the delivery of multipurpose cash assistance to 103 affected families. Household prioritization was jointly agreed with the Community Action Board.

NOVITA



- A humanitarian team was deployed to assist affected families, particularly those coming from rural areas. In the absence of an established collective shelter in the municipality, families are temporarily staying in the homes of their support networks across different neighborhoods in the urban area.
- Based on the needs assessment and household profiles, 19 families received tailored assistance through the differentiated delivery of multiple kits, including shelter kits, family hygiene kits, menstrual hygiene kits, baby kits and food kits.
- Assessment, prioritization and assistance activities were carried out in coordination with the Nóvita Mayor's Office, the Government Secretariat, Colombian Civil Defense and UNGRD, in order to coordinate the response and complement assistance to the affected population.



• TADÓ

- In the El Tabor community, in rural Tadó, 131 safe environment kits were delivered to strengthen access to and safe 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.
- 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 within host networks.

12 August. Delivery of safe environment kits. Tadó



ACTION AGAINST HUNGER RESPONSE CAPACITY

Humanitarian personnel:

15 professionals based in the intervention area, complemented by a 9-person mobile team with deployment capacity, as well as support from operational support functions both in the field (Chocó) and through national-level coordination.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

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

- Water treatment plant with an estimated capacity to serve 2,000 people, in coordination with Veolia.

Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL):

- 320 family food packages and 4 community food packages.
- With the support of Grupo Éxito and Fundación Éxito, we will reach 5,000 families in San José del Palmar.

Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA):

- Capacity to provide 550 multipurpose cash transfers.

Shelter and infrastructure:

- Availability of 200 shelter kits.

Needs Assessment and Information Management:

Between 12 and 17 August, humanitarian needs and early recovery assessments will be conducted in six municipalities, with an emphasis on rural areas and assistance locations: 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.

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