

RESPONSE TO THE CHOCÓ EARTHQUAKE

Cut-off date: [4 September 2026 - 5:30 p.m.]

As of this reporting date, the emergency has affected **466,606** people across 399 municipalities in 14 departments. A total of 159,924 families have been affected, with significant impacts on housing and infrastructure nationwide. Damage has also been reported at 400 health facilities and 4,290 educational facilities. In addition, 5,698 community facilities have sustained some level of damage.

Chocó remains among the departments most affected given the scale of the impacts. Rural and hard-to-reach areas continue to face greater response and recovery challenges.¹

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER'S RESPONSE

Action Against Hunger, through its direct presence in the affected area and a 25-person team, has been carrying out immediate response and stabilization activities since the onset of the emergency to address the affected population's priority needs.



19,879
PEOPLE
ASSISTED



6,977
DISTRIBUTIONS
Individual and household kits,
MPCA and community
distributions



11
MUNICIPALITIES
Quibdó - Nóvita - Tadó
Alto Baudó - Unión
Panamericana - Lloró - San José
del Palmar - Medio Baudó



2
DRINKING WATER
TREATMENT PLANTS
Unión Panamericana
Nóvita

SECTOR / MODALITY	PEOPLE REACHED ²	ASSISTANCE/ KEY RESULT
SHELTER	544	68 shelter kits distributed in Quibdó, 23 in Nóvita and 45 in San José del Palmar, in coordination with institutional shelters or community accommodation sites.
FOOD SECURITY	16,192	Distribution of 4,048 food packages in Nóvita, Quibdó, Unión Panamericana, San José del Palmar, Tadó, Alto Baudó, Medio Baudó and Nóvita ³
MPCA MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE	1,084	Distribution of 479 cash transfers in the city of Quibdó and in Lloró.

¹ Based on UNGRD Situation Report No. 63, issued on 1 September 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

² 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 breakdown by type of assistance, as well as the 100 people in Unión Panamericana who received both food and hygiene kits.

³ Food packages have been distributed directly, some in coordination with local institutions and others with community leaders.

WATER AND SANITATION	3,574⁴	• Installation of a water treatment plant with a capacity of 7,000 L/hour in Nóvita • Installation of a water treatment plant with a capacity of 2,000 L/hour in Unión Panamericana. • Distribution of 200 household 500 L water tanks. • Distribution of 28 community water tanks: 24 with a capacity of 1,000 L and four with a capacity of 2,000 L. • Installation of one 5,000 L tank at the Jardín shelter in Quibdó.
SAFE ENVIRONMENTS / WATER AND STORAGE	684	151 kits distributed in Tadó.
FAMILY, MENSTRUAL AND BABY HYGIENE	714	Distribution of 288 kits tailored to different needs based on population profiles in Nóvita, Quibdó, Unión Panamericana and Alto Baudó.
ASSESSMENTS / INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	7*	• Needs and capacity assessments in Nóvita, Quibdó, Unión Panamericana and Alto Baudó. • Water access stabilization assessments with Veolia in Nóvita, Unión Panamericana and Istmina. • Assessment of damage to community infrastructure to inform rehabilitation



Installation and commissioning of the water treatment plant in San Rafael El Dos, Unión Panamericana, 28/08/2026

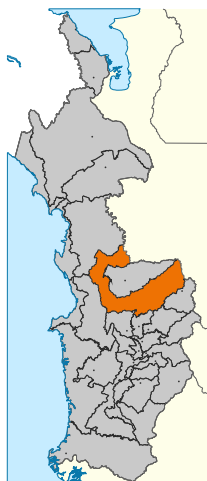


Distribution of food kits in Barrio Obrero, Quibdó, Chocó, on 27/08/2026

⁴ Unique beneficiaries are calculated based on the amount of safe water provided per person. The minimum quantity delivered is 50 liters per person per day. A total of 30,000 liters has been provided in Unión Panamericana and 120,000 liters in Nóvita.

RESPONSE BY MUNICIPALITY

QUIBDÓ



REACH

3,635 people

INTERVENTION AREA

Urban area: Barrio Obrero, Coliseo Shelter, Jardín Shelter, Flores Buen Años Shelter, Fuego Verde, Villa del Carmen, Guachosa, Pacurita

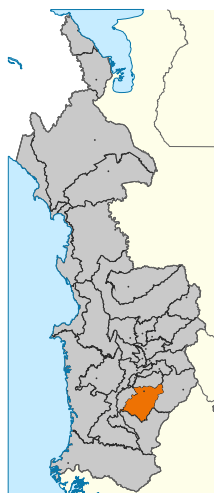
Rural area: Guadalupe village, Villa Esperanza

ASSISTANCE

68 shelter kits, 457 MPCA transfers, 21 baby hygiene kits, one 5,000 L water tank and 515 food kits.

Updates: Response capacities of local organizations were strengthened through 16 metric tons of food for redistribution to the most affected areas.

NÓVITA



REACH

3,556 people

INTERVENTION AREA

Urban areas: Las Aguas, Jesús Pobre and El Rosario neighborhoods

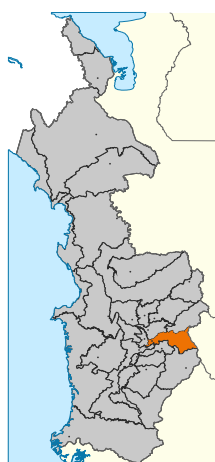
Rural area: Pindaza and Santa Rosa

ASSISTANCE

23 shelter kits, 303 food kits, 20 family hygiene kits, 16 menstrual hygiene kits and five baby kits.

A water treatment plant with a capacity of 7,000 L/hour has been operational since 27 August. This result was achieved in coordination with Fundación VEOLIA and is currently benefiting 2,400 people.

TADÓ



REACH

1,552 people

INTERVENTION AREA

Rural area: El Tabor, Mondo Central, Caracolito, Tomas, La Loma, Farallones, Cañaverales and Alto Bochoroma

ASSISTANCE

151 safe environment kits, 743 household food kits and water-quality sampling.



UNIÓN PANAMERICANA

REACH

1,900 people

INTERVENTION AREA

Municipal seat and the San Rafael El Dos area.

ASSISTANCE

300 food kits, 100 family hygiene kits and six 1,000 L community water tanks.

A water treatment plant with a capacity of 2,000 L/hour was installed in coordination with Fundación VEOLIA and is currently benefiting 300 people.

LLORÓ



REACH

83 people

INTERVENTION AREA

Urban area

ASSISTANCE

22 multipurpose cash transfers

SAN JOSÉ DEL PALMAR

REACH

2,291 people⁵

INTERVENTION AREA

Rural area: La Albania, El Salado, El Copey, Playa Rica, Cruces Bajo, Cruces Alto, Alto San Juanito, La Selva, Corcobado and the urban area of San José del Palmar.

ASSISTANCE

1,000 household food kits and 45 household shelter kits.

LTO BAUDÓ

REACH

2,561 people¹

INTERVENTION AREA

Rural area: Apartadó, Puerto Córdoba, Las Delicias, Puerto Misael and Batatal

ASSISTANCE

187 household food kits, 192 filter kits, 35 baby hygiene kits, 68 menstrual hygiene kits, 150 household 500 L water tanks and two 2,000 L community water tanks.

⁵ Although the kits are designed for an average of four people per household, food kits in San José del Palmar were distributed based on community census data.



MEDIO BAUDÓ

REACH

1,804 people

INTERVENTION AREA

Rural area: Puerto Adán, Puerto Palacios, Guineo, Pablo VI, Barro Blanco, Patio Bonito, San Miguel Baudocito, Retoño Afro, Nucido Viejo and Guayabo

ASSISTANCE

400 household food kits, 51 household 500 L water tanks and two 2,000 L community water tanks.



BAJO BAUDÓ

REACH

1,600 people

INTERVENTION AREA

Municipal seat

ASSISTANCE

400 household food kits

ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER IN AN EMERGENCY: ACTION AGAINST HUNGER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FUNDACIÓN VEOLIA.

- In partnership with Fundación Veolia, we installed two Aquaforce water treatment plants in municipalities where water supply systems were out of service.
- Following joint technical assessments conducted since 15 August, a 2,000 L/hour plant was installed in San Rafael El Dos (Unión Panamericana), where the main water system was out of service and 100 homes had collapsed. A second 7,500 L/hour plant was installed in the urban area of Nóvita and has been operational since 27 August.
- Both plants operate with technical support from Veolia and our WASH staff.
- The response also includes 24 1,000 L tanks (18 in Nóvita and six in Unión Panamericana) for water storage and distribution.
- Under the current operating schedule, the plants have produced more than 100,000 liters of safe drinking water (25,000 in Unión Panamericana and 83,000 in Nóvita).
- To date, 2,160 people have benefited (500 in San Rafael El Dos and 1,660 in Nóvita).
- The installed capacity can meet basic needs in line with the Sphere Standard.

- The plants are expected to remain in operation for two to three months while the water supply systems are rehabilitated.
- Together with Veolia, technical assessments were conducted in other municipalities, including Istmina and Condoto, in coordination with the Chocó Health and Water Secretariats, to evaluate water supply and storage options.
- In coordination with the Departmental Water Plan and the Chocó Water Management Office, an 8,000 L water tanker was secured to distribute drinking water produced by the plants in Nóvita, Condoto and Unión Panamericana.



Chlorination and water-quality tests on drinking water produced by the treatment plant in Nóvita. (August 2026)

3. PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

Localization:

A total of 36 metric tons of food have been secured through a localized response model that complements the capacities of four local organizations in Quibdó: Te Abrazo Colombia, Fundación Andamios, Fundación Semillas de Oportunidades and the local Aldeas Infantiles team. These organizations manage and distribute the assistance at community level.

Partnership with Fundación Éxito:

- In partnership with Fundación Éxito, we secured 5,000 food packages (55 metric tons).
- This contribution has an estimated value of EUR 93,000.
- Coordination between the two organizations complemented the humanitarian food security response, facilitating distributions to the most affected households and helping cover basic needs during the initial phase of the emergency.

Partnership with Avianca:

- We activated our strategic partnership with Avianca, which facilitated the timely deployment of technical teams to areas affected by the emergency.

- Through its mileage bank, the airline supported staff deployment to San José del Palmar (the earthquake's epicenter), strengthening field coordination and response capacity during the early stages of the emergency.

Partnership with WFP:

- Through a logistics services agreement with WFP, we arranged transportation and storage for humanitarian supplies sent to priority response municipalities. This included transporting Veolia's two water treatment plants from Cartagena to Quibdó.
- This coordination has helped optimize operating costs, expand the geographic coverage of assistance and ensure more efficient and timely delivery of essential supplies, strengthening logistics capacity in areas with significant access constraints.

EMERGENCY CONTEXT UPDATE

AFFECTED PEOPLE	FAMILIES	AFFECTED HOMES	AFFECTED EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES	AFFECTED HEALTH FACILITIES
112,431	36,412	31,462	314	90

Source: [Government of Chocó. Departmental situation report, 1 September]

Departmental updates

- The Government of Chocó preliminarily estimated that reconstruction would require at least COP 4 trillion and four years; no related budget allocation or municipal timetable has been published. It also announced that a public dashboard on donations and aid distribution would be launched in approximately one month.
- The response by ELC organizations is concentrated in 15 municipalities, while another 15 have yet to receive assistance through the mechanism. Río Iró requires particular attention because the impacts affect more than 30% of homes and the population. Humanitarian access remains constrained by hostilities in Condoto, Sipí, Nóvita and Istmina, as well as restrictions on river transport and limited fuel, electricity and connectivity.
- Under the "Build Back Better" approach and the Juntos Levantamos al Chocó campaign, the Government of Chocó announced the creation of a departmental materials bank to support home refurbishment and repairs, with technical assistance where needed. Full reconstruction will also require resources from a departmental fund.

National response updates

- As a response measure, UNGRD activated monthly financial assistance for three months for households registered in the RUD whose homes were destroyed or uninhabitable. Amounts will range from COP 787,907 to COP 1,050,543, depending on the municipality's category. The RUD will close on 4 September, after which municipal authorities will certify households and UNGRD will validate identities and duplicate registrations. The disbursement schedule has not yet been defined.
- OCHA published the earthquake addendum to the Humanitarian Response Plan, estimating 1.2 million newly in need, a response target of 671,000 people and a priority population of 127,100. Requirements total USD 148.1 million, of which USD 82.2 million correspond to prioritized needs. The preliminary UNDP-UNGRD assessment estimates COP 42.1 trillion in direct physical damage, 16.9 million m³ of debris and 27 municipalities with a high or very high overlap between damage and fragility. This calculation is not equivalent to the government's previous COP 30 trillion reconstruction estimate.