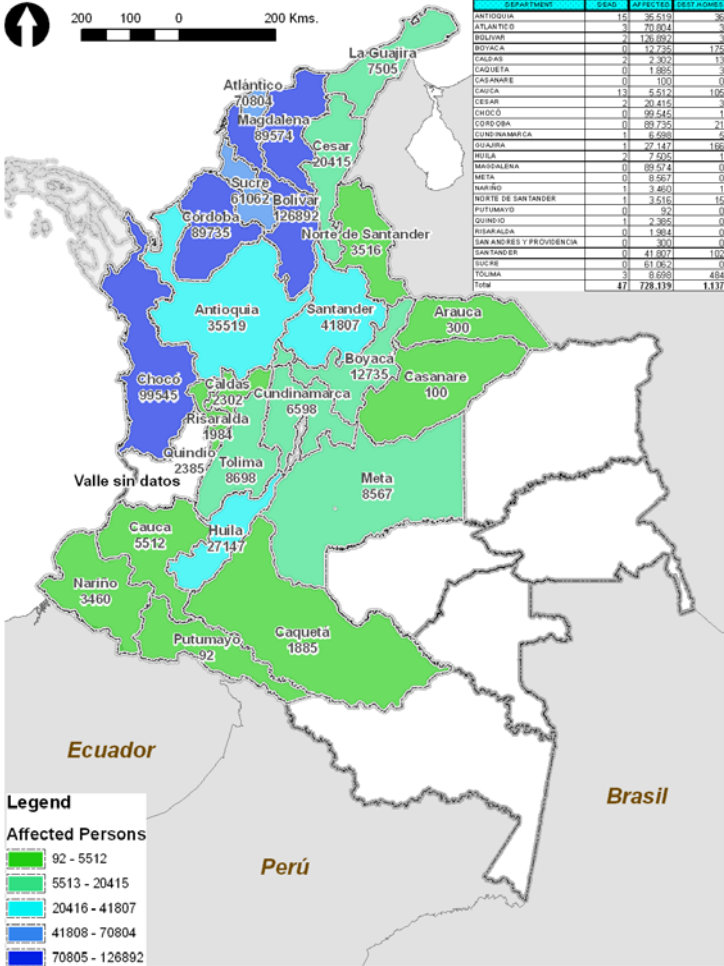




Colombia Colombia floods report (Second rainy season): November 29



Number of Affected Persons Second Rainy Season
Cumulative September 15th to November 27th, 2008
Source: DPAD



emergency has also included **Santander, Vichada, Caquetá, Putumayo, Guaviare and the Archipiélago of San Andrés and Providencia.**

According to IDEAM, alerts are present in:

- Municipalities along the Magdalena river between the municipality of Purificación (Tolima) to the river’s mouth in the Caribbean
- Along the Cauca river, from Cali to the river’s mouth on the Magdalena river.

In addition, there are alerts present for the Prado and Betania reservoirs which are reaching their maximum capacity. Water levels continue to rise on the lower reaches of the Patía (Cauca) and Atrato (Chocó) rivers.

Impact

The Dirección de Prevención y Atención de Desastres del Ministerio del Interior and de Justicia (DPAD), reported that throughout the second rainy season beginning on September 15th and through to the date there have been 48 dead, 85 injured, 9 missing, and 735,055 in total affected including 149,457 families. A total of 1,159 homes have been destroyed with 67,475 damaged.

Ministry of Agriculture data indicate that 11,483 hectares of rice were destroyed by water, along with 10 thousand head of cattle in Bolívar, Córdoba, Cesar, La Guajira, Magdalena, Santander, Sucre, Tolima and Valle del Cauca.

Some of the most affected regions by the rainy season include Antioquia, the coffee growing region, Chocó, Cauca and La Mojana region.

Antioquia DAPARD reported that to present 12,000 families with 60,000 people have been affected in 240 emergency events. There are still no disaggregated data available by age group and gender. Damage has principally been reported by flooding along the Cauca, Atrato and Magdalena rivers. The lower Cauca region has been 50% flooded by rains and the overflow of the Cauca rivers, its tributaries and the Nechí river.

Situation

The increasing crisis related to the rainy season as reported by IDEAM¹ has occurred due to heavy rainfall that has caused landslides, avalanches, flash floods and general flooding throughout Colombia.

The most affected zones have been northern and central Colombia, particularly **Atlántico, Bolívar, Sucre, Córdoba, Huila, Tolima, Valle, Cauca and Chocó.** The

¹ IDEAM: Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y estudios ambientales.

Chocó: According to preliminary information from CREPAD around 110,000 people are affected by the rainy season. In the area there are no reports of injuries, deaths or flooded rural areas, as the flooding has been concentrated in urban areas. In Istmina and the corregimiento of Andagoya the San Juan river has flooded a large part of the urban centers.

In addition, there are reports of 10 communities at-risk, including: Pángala, Estrella de Pángala, Peñita, Unión San Juan, Munguidó, Victoria, Taparal, Las Delicias, Taparal Indígena, San José and La Peña (in Litoral del San Juan).

Cauca: On Wednesday, November 26th, at 6 a.m. heavy rainfall led to a landslide in the vereda Capa Rosa, 40 minutes from the urban center of Miranda. As a result, 10 people were killed, including 3 children aged 9, 11 and 13, 1 child under 5, 3 adults and 3 women, one pregnant.

In **Cauca and Huila** rain combined with the eruption of Volcán Nevado del Huila on November 20th as well as damage caused by the avalanche that flowed down the Paéz river basin. On November 27th, a new eruption of Volcán Nevado del Huila left 11,800 families affected, 6 dead, 8 injured and 6 missing.

Eje cafetero (Valle del Cauca, Caldas and Risaralda): some 10,000 people have been evacuated from high risk areas. In Risaralda, 1,580 homes were evacuated due to flooding. In La Dorada (Caldas) along the Magdalena river an emergency has been maintained with 2,000 evacuated due to the rise in water levels, which last week caused several neighborhoods to become flooded. The most serious cases in the region were reported in the northeast, where Salamina, Pácora and Aguadas municipalities are blocked off by landslides.

According to reports from PAHO-WHO, in Valle del Cauca department there were 9 municipalities affected, including 2 hospitals, with 500 families affected. Some 5 patients were evacuated due to the flooding of La Vieja river in Cartago municipality.

La Mojana (Córdoba, Sucre and Antioquia): Some 90% of urban areas and the entire rural area were affected. In particular, 6,228 families have their homes underwater in swamps and streams fed by the Cauca, Magdalena and San Jorge rivers.

Between Monday the 24th and Thursday the 27th, between 5,000 and 5,500 (nearly 1,000 families) left their homes in Guaranda (Sucre), and have been relocated in shelters, but in rural areas the situation is more critical. In the veredas of Las Pavas, Palmaritico, Tierra Santa, La Ceja and el Aguacate, the population is living in huts, and lack minimal sanitation conditions.

I. NATIONAL RESPONSE

The Government of Colombia has focused oil royalty monies from the departments to attend to emergencies and is working on access road recuperation due to major landslides and the avalanche caused by the eruption of Volcán Nevado del Huila.

According to DPAD, emergency response operations continue, with aid organizations mobilized. Using funding from the National Calamity Fund food and non-food aid is being provided in all affected departments.

The Colombian Red Cross, via National Aid, is conducting permanent monitoring and evaluation in coordination with SNPAD. Assistance is being provided in the most critical areas through trained volunteers and technical brigades.

II. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

UNETE, aside from monitoring the situation, is organizing to:

1. Provide needs assessments in the most affected regions
2. Analyze the activation of emergency funds to respond to the situation and prepare a response plan to flooding in a more integral manner, in addition including CERF funding, with and Emergency Response Fund.

In Cali an inter-agency response center was organized in the offices of OCHA, with the participation of UNDSS, PAHO-WHO, OCHA and WFP, as well as international NGOs and government entities. The objective of the center is to guarantee the monitoring of the humanitarian situation and facilitate response coordination.