



Colombia CO

Humanitarian Situation Report #2



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- *Worst disaster in the history of Mocoa, Putumayo.*
- *Public Calamity declared by the President.*
- *Official report of 254 dead, 262 injured, 441 missing, with figures still rising.*
- *17 neighbourhoods affected, some nearly overtaken by mud and debris.*
- *Road access from Nariño and Huila—initially cut off by authorities—is now restored.*

Date: 5 April 2017

Over 300

of families affected in Mocoa; **1,700** people residing in temporary shelters (OCHA 2 April 2017)

254

of people reported dead, **262** injured and **441** missing (OCHA 2 April 2017)

25

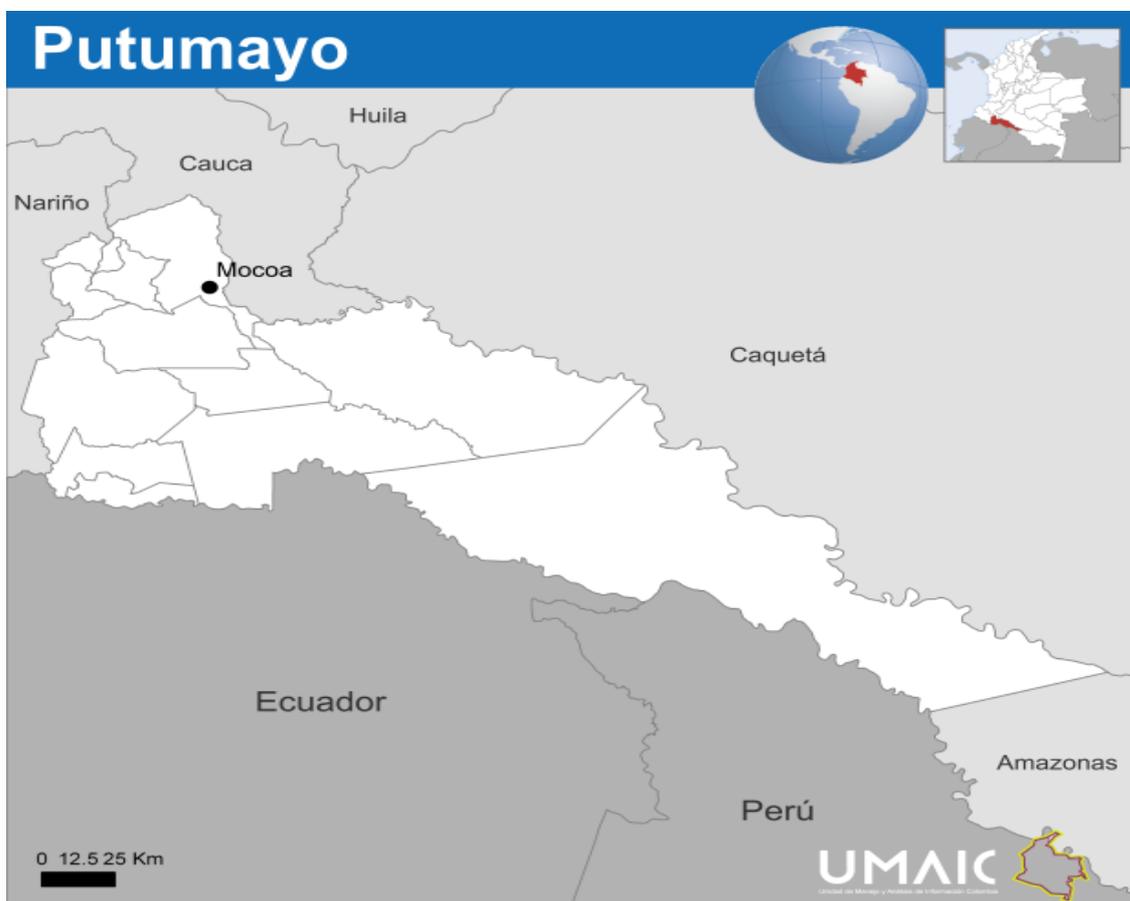
of households destroyed by mudslides (OCHA 2 April 2017)

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of education institutions affected (OCHA 2 April 2017)

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The sudden mudslide that overwhelmed Mocoa, the capital city of Putumayo Department, on 01 April 2017 has caused unprecedented loss of life, damage to infrastructure and serious disruption of services. As of 02 April, OCHA reported over 300 families affected in addition to the figures of dead and injured, which rise daily. There are over 1,700 persons housed in temporary shelters, but this figure is also likely to increase in the coming days as evaluations are completed and more information is available. The key humanitarian needs announced by the Government crisis centre include physical and mental health; food security and nutrition; and water, sanitation and hygiene. Departmental authorities reported damages to three aqueducts, one energy sub-station, one sewerage system, seven bridges, nine main roads and one inter-departmental access highway. Five schools have been closed and numerous houses damaged.



Map of the affected areas (Mocoa, Putumayo)

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

President Manuel Santos declared a “public calamity” the afternoon of 01 April and requested that the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) take charge of the humanitarian response. UNGRD set up an emergency operations centre in Mocoa town and immediately organised the initial humanitarian services of emergency hospitalization, removal of mud and debris, and the delivery of food, water and non-food items. Eleven shelters have been established for those left homeless. The bulk of Government efforts during the first days following the disaster has centred on search and rescue, damage assessment and planning of sectoral responses.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION:

UNHCR, which chairs the Local Coordination Team of humanitarian agencies, has taken the lead in organizing the rapid assessment (MIRA). UNICEF will lead the WASH and Education in Emergency Clusters. FAO leads the Food Security and Nutrition Cluster. WHO is working with the Ministry of Health and will lead the Health Cluster.

PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE:

In close consultation with the authorities and fellow humanitarian responders, UNICEF has planned a response in three sectors: WASH, Protection and Education in Emergencies. With UNICEF’s WASH officer recently deployed to Peru to assist with the flooding emergency in Lima, the Country Office has mobilized one of its WASH consultants to lead the cluster and response on site in Mocoa. Initial actions will include ensuring adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services in the existing shelters to avoid the transmission of water-borne disease.

UNICEF is deploying one of its education consultants to Mocoa on 05 April 2017 to lead the Education in Emergency Cluster and jump-start school activities for the children whose institutions have closed. UNICEF will participate in the needs assessment and is preparing for installation of temporary classrooms and redistribution of affected children to less affected school sites.

UNICEF also stands ready to provide pedagogical kits, didactic materials, sports and recreational equipment and/or school kits, as required. One of UNICEF's psychologists, currently working on the demobilization of child soldiers, will be re-deployed temporarily to Mocoa on 05 April 2017 to initiate psychosocial support at the request of the National System of Family Welfare.

Long-time NGO partner Corporación Infancia y Desarrollo (CID), who is already collaborating with UNICEF on protection issues in Putumayo Department, has agreed to extend its work into emergency response for the Mocoa disaster. CID will participate in the MIRA evaluation in education and protection and is arranging an initial distribution of non-food items to affected populations in the shelters.

SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS:

The bulk of equipment required for the programmatic response is available in country, and requires transport from the place of procurement to Mocoa. UNICEF LAC Regional Office in Panama has also indicated that it has the necessary materials in stock for WASH, education and protection activities, which can be on the ground in Colombia three days after ordering.

As required, and depending on the outcome of the MIRA, specific items will be transported to the shelters, in close coordination with local authorities and UNGRD. The airport in nearby Villa Garzón is operational and overland access is now restored, which facilitates the placement of supplies.

MEDIA AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Due to the sensitivity of situation on the ground and the clear leadership of UNGRD in organizing the response, the Office of the Resident Coordinator and OCHA have requested that no individual UN agency interviews be granted.

For the time being, all media contact is currently channelled through the UN Information Centre. Nevertheless, UNICEF continues to produce regular situation reports and is collecting photographs and human interest stories for when it may be appropriate to provide more robust communication materials.

SECURITY:

Due to the heavy rains affecting much of the northern part of South America, there were initial reports of concern over the possibility of a second avalanche in Mocoa, where three rivers come together and cross the departmental capital. The UNGRD has since reduced the threat level and access by road and air is now assured. In terms of human insecurity, the bulk of the FARC-EP rebels are already cantoned in 26 rural transitional zones across the country, however other non-state armed groups and some criminal bands remain active in Putumayo. All due caution should be exercised in accessing the affected area.

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