

**CORDOBA AND LA MOJANA FLOODS –September 4th, 2007****I. SITUATION REVIEW****CÓRDOBA**

In Córdoba department, due to the overflow of the San Jorge and Sinú rivers and their tributaries, 17 municipalities were severely flooded. The most serious impact started on 27 June during the evening hours, when the Sinú River overflowed.

The Government of Colombia, via the Government of Córdoba, declared a Red Alert (Decree 423 of 11 July 2007) to evacuate the riverside areas along the Sinú and San Jorge rivers along a 132 km stretch, from the Urrá dam to the mouth of the rivers on the Magdalena river. A total of 65,588 people were affected, comprising 13,667 families, along with the loss of commercial and subsistence crops, livestock and fish farms. At the same time, there was an impact on road, education, healthcare and social infrastructure.

Beginning on 19 August, Córdoba department has experienced new flooding principally in the municipalities of Chimá, Ciénaga de Oro, Loricá, Momil, Montería, Purísima, San Bernardo del Viento, San Pelayo, Tierralta and Valencia. The emergency could last into the month of October according to information from IDEAM, for the rest of the rainy season. The majority of the families affected by the flooding that began on 27 June had not yet recovered to their pre-flooding living conditions, when they were again affected by the 19 August flooding.

LA MOJANA

According to information provided by DPAD, Majagual and Guaranda municipalities in La Mojana region continue to experience the same flooding level due to new flooding at the sources of the river between 11 and 20 August.

The agricultural sector has not yet begun its normal production. The new flooding principally impacts the municipalities of San Benito Abad, Caimito, San Marco in Sucre department, and Achí and San Jacinto del Cauca in Bolívar department, where 1,780 families (9,000 people) were affected.

IMPACT IN CÓRDOBA DEPARTMENT

No.	MUNICIPALITY	No. families	No. persons
Source: CREPAD Córdoba, August 29			
1	Ayapel	163	815
2	Buenavista	839	4.195
3	Canalete	595	2.975
4	Cereté*	730	3.650
5	Chimá*	623	2.570
6	Ciénaga de Oro	241	1.085
7	Cotorra*	1.993	8.893
8	La Apartada	300	1.500
9	Loricá	3.902	14.767
10	Momil	871	3.484
11	Montería	1.064	4.608
12	Pueblo Nuevo*	291	1310
13	Puerto Libertador	350	1.750
14	Purísima*	299	1.133
15	San Bernardo del Viento	1.522	6.433
16	San Pelayo	1.225	4.375
17	Tierralta	178	869
18	Valencia*	81	509
		14.976	63.611

*Census in verification

People affected since August 19

	No	% increase
Families	3.068	20
People	8.158	13

II. IMPACT

According to field missions held to organize CERF projects, the following are observations on the situation both in Córdoba and Sucre, where implementation is occurring:

- ✓ The impact in Córdoba department is widespread, however the most impacted municipalities are: Montería, Buenavista, San Pelayo, Cerete, Lorica, Momil, Purísima, San Bernardo del Viento, Cotorra and La Apartada.
- ✓ At the moment of the evaluation the most affected centers were **Lorica, San Bernardo del Viento, Purísima and Momil.**
- ✓ The principal impacts included: damage on water systems, destruction and damage of houses, destruction and damage of roads (highways and rural), loss of crops and productive land, loss of small animals (corral animals, fish in fish farms), damage on education and healthcare infrastructure.
- ✓ Several communities were left with debts which cannot be covered by subsidies or compensations.
- ✓ The humanitarian assistance efforts to affected people provided by SNPAD have been adequate; however it is necessary to complement the State's effort.
- ✓ The key needs detected in shelter sites include: 1) availability of adequate quantity and quality of water, 2) inadequate basic sanitation infrastructure, 3) an absence of public health and hygiene actions, 4) inadequate mosquito nets and 5) a lack of food
- ✓ The CLOPAD lacks a contingency plan for prevention, assistance and recovery in emergencies.
- ✓ There is a strong presence of Córdoba and Sucre sectional offices of the Red Cross.
- ✓ There is a presence of international actors including AAH, IOM, Save the Children, Diakonia and UN agencies (UNICEF, WFP and PAHO/WHO), with strong coordination between them.
- ✓ At the departmental level, the SNPAD – CREPAD – CLOPAD structures are working properly.

By sector, the following was found:

WAT/SAN

The affected municipalities in Córdoba lack adequate receptacles to store the scarce water that is arriving for the population. Water pipeline systems are non-operational due to a lack of electricity; this means that the vast majority of the affected population lacks an adequate quantity of water to cover their needs.

The sites being utilized as shelters include school centers with a lack of sanitation infrastructure even for student's daily use, but this lack is more acute with the current sheltered population. There are no showers and several bathrooms are in very poor repair. These deficiencies are critical in the emergency situation.

HEALTH

According to information provided by the healthcare authorities, the situation is normal, but there is the likelihood that once water settles in the area there will be IRAS and EDAS outbreaks.

SHELTER

In La Mojana region, the population returned to their homes, despite a lack of adequate conditions. In Córdoba, they are living in shelters in educational centers and in huts. Shelter is a need that stands out and which is widely requested by the local population and the authorities, as the emergency situation has prolonged.

TEMPORARY SHELTERS IN CÓRDOBA

Source: CREPAD, August 29

MUNICIPALITY	No.Shelters	No.Families	No.Persons
Chimá	3	26	864
Lorica	16	183	915
Momil	3	79	395
Purísima	5	94	363
San Bernardo del Viento	49	349	1417

EDUCATION

The census of the affected educational centers has not yet been completed, as evaluators are waiting for water levels to drop. Nonetheless, it has been observed that several education centers will require repairs

and in some cases total reconstruction of classrooms and sports and recreational spaces. Several are being used as temporary shelters.

The Government of Córdoba is considering a new change in the school calendar until the emergency is over.

III. NATIONAL RESPONSE

SHELTER

A census of destroyed and damaged houses is being conducted in the rural areas and marginalized neighborhoods of Córdoba and La Mojana. The Ministry of Housing and the Environment, together with the Ministry of Agriculture, have special housing subsidy programs for these types of events, which are focused on supporting peasants for the recovery of their houses.

FOOD SECURITY

With respect to the agricultural crisis in Córdoba and La Mojana, the Ministry of Agriculture has conducted censuses of productive hectares impacted by flooding, and has begun a subsidy and compensation distribution effort to support the owners of these properties.

The Ministry of Social Protection activated Emergency Hospital Plans to provide healthcare support and epidemiological surveillance. The Ministry of Agriculture coordinated the consolidation of affected agricultural production systems to provide support to farmers and livestock owners. For its part the Ministry of the Environment, Housing and Territorial Development, in coordination with CVS (Regional Corporation for Sinú River Valley), are implementing infrastructure improvements in critical points and early warning systems with information provided by IDEAM.

The Directorate for the Prevention and Assistance to Disasters of the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, via all the entities making up the National System for Disaster Prevention and Assistance, both technical

and operational, are working in the area hand in hand to attend the affected population. Nonetheless, they have requested UN aid to complement their assistance in Water and Sanitation, shelters and food security.

IV. LOCAL RESPONSE

The national and local governments will start next week with the CVS dragging at the mouth of the Sinú River in the Caribbean Sea, in the jurisdiction of San Bernardo del Viento municipality. Although the CVS has warned that the dragging will lead to negative consequences for the area, the authorities trust that this measure will allow for greater release of water and subsequent drying, allowing conditions to return to normal for the department.

V. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Action Against Hunger, WFP, UNICEF and delegates from Oxfam and the Colombian Red Cross have identified the municipalities, and rural areas that will receive assistance.

VI. CERF PROJECTS

So far, the implementation of CERF Projects has developed as follows:

WAT/SAN

Assistance will be sent utilizing criteria of coordination and complementation. In this way, Oxfam UK will participate in association with the Colombian Red Cross, the National Directorate for Aid and the Córdoba Sectional office of the Colombian Red Cross, with support provided from the Secretary of Health of Córdoba, the CRUE, CREPAD and CLOPAD of aforementioned municipalities.

Psychosocial assistance is being coordinated for shelters, and food aid for special groups, including children under 5, pregnant and nursing mothers (with ICBF). A vaccination program and monitoring for expanded immunization work is being prepared in alliance with Oxfam and UNICEF.

UNICEF will implement an integrated public health project with the Government of Córdoba in Lorica, Purísima, Momil and San Bernardo del Viento municipalities, which were prioritized due to the increase in number of affected people by new flooding. The project will benefit around 11,000 people.

FOOD SECURITY

The criteria utilized by WFP and AAH to prioritize food assistance were based on geographic criteria, identifying initially the areas where populations have lost subsistence crops and their means of production and sustenance. Identified municipalities included Majagual, Guaranda, Sucre, San Benito Abad, Achí, Montecristo, San Pelayo.

SHELTERS

IOM's criteria to prioritize their shelter project were the following:

- Areas receiving less aid from the national and local governments.
- Locations with the longest period flooded.
- Locations close to schools that serve as temporary shelters to transfer affected populations from schools to shelters so that children can continue the school year.
- Locations with adequate physical conditions, access to public water, sewage and electricity, to guarantee dignified living conditions.
- Locations nearby habitual residences which allows the population to care for their belongings.
- Logistics for the management of materials for shelter construction.

During the missions, it was possible to prioritize, in coordination with the National Directorate for Disaster Prevention and Assistance and the CROPAD of Córdoba and Sucre, municipalities for intervention. In Córdoba, they included Lorica, Purísima, Momil, San Bernardo del Viento and San Pelayo. In La Mojana, San Jacinto del Cauca, Achí, Guaranda, Majagual and Sucre.

In addition, rural areas were identified for temporary shelter installation. It was also possible to verify the conditions for shelter storage for the Red Cross and Civil Defense, transportation to identified sites and identify requirements for project operation in the area.