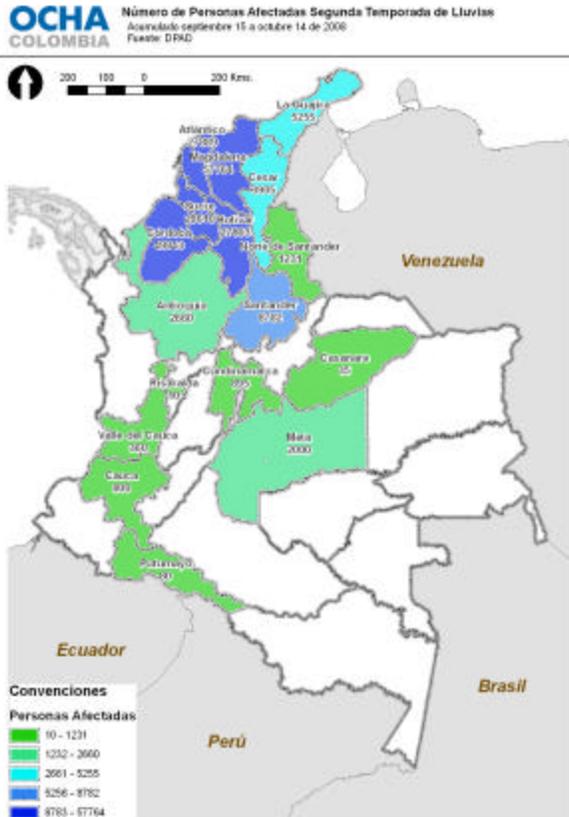




Colombia

Second rainy season: starting September 15th, 2008 Impact of natural disasters. January 1st to October 13th, 2008

I. SECOND RAINY SEASON:



Situation

According to IDEAM¹, the **second rainy season in Colombia** began on September 15th and runs through mid-December. Thus far, the impact has reached alarming levels for the humanitarian community, since the rainy season already arrived following a dry season which was reduced to only a few days. This situation, according to IDEAM, is due to tropical depressions crossing the country and cyclone systems which have been moving through the Caribbean over the past three months.

According to IDEAM's predictions, precipitation should continue and increase in northern and central Colombia, with the possibility of flash flooding, landslides, floods and avalanches; as well as a probability of wind storms,

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

with alerts issued for the river basins along the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta for flash flooding due to Tropical Storm Omar and tropical depression no. 16 of the hurricane season. For this same reason, the Magdalena and Cauca rivers, particularly along their lower stretches, have had greater rainfall than in past years.

Climactic conditions:

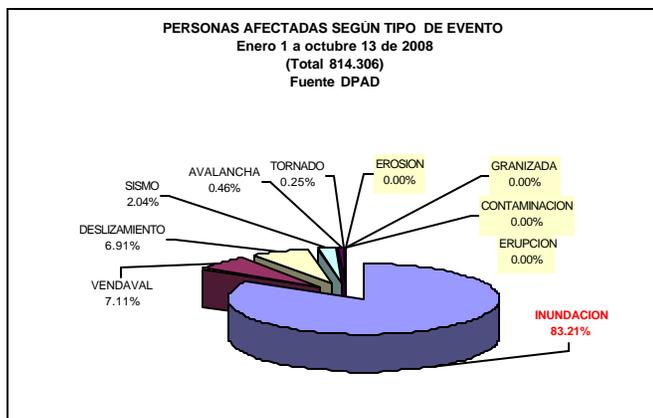
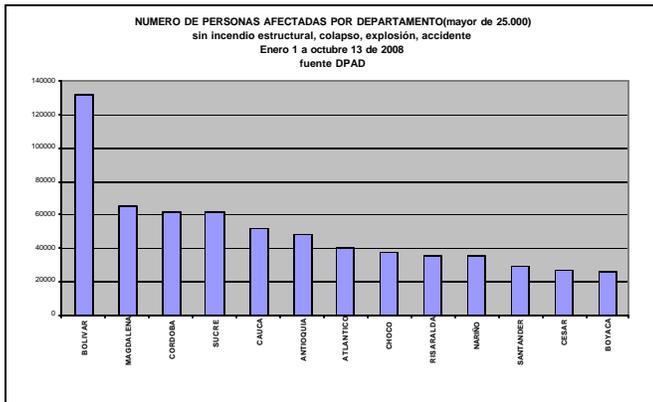
Hurricanes: On June 1st the hurricane season for the Atlantic Ocean officially began, and typically extends to November 30th. To date, 3 events have become hurricanes, with an important impact throughout the Caribbean and an impact as well on climactic conditions in Colombia, without making landfall in the country. IDEAM on October 14th in special communiqué No.75 warned that along the Nicaraguan and Honduran coasts tropical depression No. 16 had formed in the western Caribbean. Tropical Storm Omar continues to pass east in the Caribbean. These two tropical systems do not represent any direct threat to Colombian territory, but they do have an indirect impact due to persistent rainfall and high wave height.

Impact:

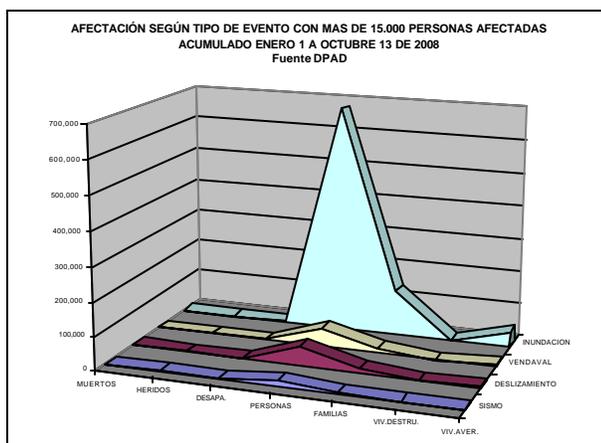
117 municipalities in 18 departments have been affected. Events have left 5 dead, 19 injured, and 2 missing, as well as 214,982 affected, belonging to 42,991 families.

According to the CRC (Colombian Red Cross, report: *La Cruz Roja colombiana asiste en la segunda ola invernal* October 15th, 2008), the majority of affected communities pertain to the most vulnerable population groups. Families have been forced from their homes into temporary shelters such as schools and warehouses in non-flooded districts, while others have moved into family member's or friend's homes. In both scenarios there is an increased likelihood of cases of severe diarrhea, respiratory infections, skin infections and vector disease, among other health situations which worsen the emergencies.

Córdoba with 8% each.



In terms of material damages, flooding left 75% of damaged homes (48,150) and 82% of affected crops (more than 75,800 ha.) While the earthquake which occurred on May 24th left the largest number of educational institutions destroyed, 67, or 37% of the total. Some 55% of affected community centers were impacted by windstorms, while 67% of affected roads were affected by landslides.



III. NATIONAL RESPONSE

SNPAD³, through the Fondo Nacional de Calamidades, between January 1st and October 13th, 2008, has distributed more than COP\$24,800 million pesos, or USD\$11,551,633⁴, in assistance to affected persons and families, as well as in the restoration of destroyed and/or damaged infrastructure. Funds were distributed in the following manner:

Some 30% utensils and plates, 16% food, 5% construction materials, 3% sandbags for river dykes, 7% other and economic subsidies 38%.

SNPA Response by Event
January 1st through October 13th, 2008

Event	COP	%
FLOODING	16,780,027,741	67.66
LANDSLIDES	2,558,356,201	10.32
EARTHQUAKE	1,458,642,756	5.88
AVALANCHE	1,100,268,088	4.44
EROSION	140,000,000	0.56
WINDSTORM	1,688,848,053	6.81
CONTAMINATION	25,750,000	0.10
ERUPTION	1,049,463,507	4.23
TOTAL	24,801,356,346	

Source: DPAD

The Colombian Red Cross, through National Aid, continues to perform on-going monitoring and evaluation of the emergency in coordination with SNPAD. At the same time it provides assistance in the most critical areas through its team of trained volunteers and with other equipped technicians for emergency assistance. The CLOPAD and CREPAD also provide support in damage evaluation, needs analyses and initial assistance to those affected through National Aid, Section and Municipal Units.

All organizations members of SNPAD are placed on alert to assist persons and families affected by natural

³ SNPAD: Sistema Nacional para la Prevención y Atención de Desastres

⁴ Tasa de cambio oficial ONU septiembre de 2008, \$2.147 por dólar

disaster events. Particularly during the second rainy season.

IV. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

UNETE continues monitoring the situation through official SNPAD information and is on alert to provide support both with damage evaluations and needs analyses as well as with humanitarian assistance to affected persons.

OCHA for its part coordinates with UNS Agencies, international NGOs and SNPAD, in order to seek joint initiatives.

Water and basic sanitation and hygiene: the provision of safe water, improvements to septic tanks. With CERF funding and agency funds, UNICEF, OXFAM, CRC, DPAD and OCHA, together with CASH commission members, community leaders and CLOPAD, have attended 23,819 people (9,524 minors) from 4,441 families in urban and rural areas in Sucre and San Benito Abad municipalities (La Mojana region) and Riosucio in Chocó department.

Shelters: Temporary shelters with safe water. With CERF funding and agency funding, UNICEF, IOM, CISP, DPAD and local administrations built temporary shelters for affected families from recurring flooding in La Mojana region and Córdoba department. There were also materials distributed and technical assistance provided for shelter construction and water tanks with filters and disinfection systems.

IOM reported that in Florencia, Caquetá, shelters for IDPs are the same as those used for natural disaster situations. In support provided to Florencia municipality, IOM provided technical assistance to update contingency plans for IDP emergencies.

Protection for School Children: Basic Sanitation and Shelters. With CERF funding and funding from UNICEF, IOM, CISP, DPAD and CLOPAD, materials and technical assistance were provided to build shelters with safe water at rural school sites. These shelters are specially constructed with resistant wood that can be used as alternative classrooms during flooding.

Food Security: distribution of emergency food rations, seeds and tools with technical assistance. In the late 2007 emergency in La Mojana region and Córdoba department, WFP and Action Against Hunger,

with CERF, their own, and ECHO funding, in coordination with SNPAD, attended the most vulnerable population with basic foodstuffs and with a food security program including seeds and workshops on alternative production methods.

FAO, as part of its OSRO emergency program (Office for Special Relief Operations) is preparing two projects for the re-establishment of productive systems in the La Mojana region in Bolívar department.

Health: PAHO-WHO has maintained communication with the Emergency and Disasters Group of the Ministry of Social Protection and several local health authorities where it is present, with no particular support requests attended thus far in the area of natural disasters.