



Colombia CO Mocoa Avalanche Humanitarian Situation Report #5



Highlights

- *Re-opening of schools initiates a return to normalcy in Mocoa.*
- *Intense work readies educational sector for the return of 12,500 students.*
- *Water filters, rehabilitation of water points and hygiene strategy to prioritize schools first.*
- *Psychosocial activities ease the fear and trauma of children deeply affected by the disaster.*

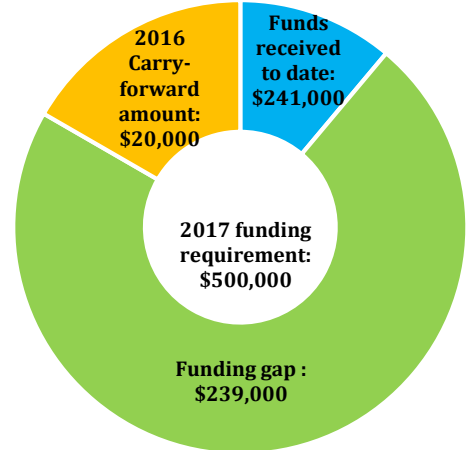
1,298 persons residing in **7** official shelters, many others in **15** spontaneous settlements around Mocoa (United Command Post Mocoa, 18.04.2017)

316 persons dead, of which:
107 were children

332 persons injured
116 persons missing

	UNICEF		Sector/Cluster	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)
WASH Indicator	1,000	0	3,000	n/a
Education Indicator	3,000	0	12,300	n/a
Health Indicator	n/a	n/a		
Nutrition Indicator	n/a	n/a		
Child Protection Indicator	2,000	0	6,000	n/a
HIV/AIDS Indicator	n/a	n/a		

2017 funds available



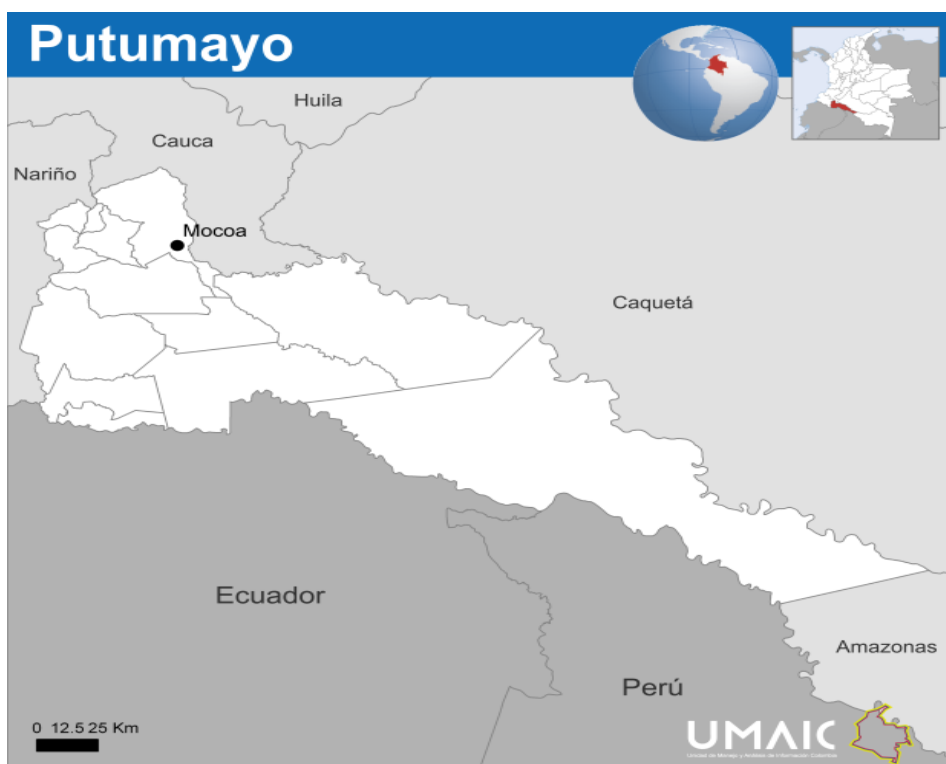
*Funds available includes:
\$191,000 - individual private donors
\$ 50,000 - USAID

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Two and a half weeks after the massive avalanche of 1 April 2017, Mocoa shows some signs of a gradual return to functioning urban life. The acute phase of the emergency has finished, according to the announcement of President Santos, but the intensive task remains of rebuilding the capital with an early recovery and resilience focus. Dredging and street clearing continues. The decision to re-open schools, following a two-week closure

due to damages and mourning, has begun to restore a sense of normalcy to thousands of families directly affected by the catastrophe. Seeing children safely back in schools serves to imbue parents, teachers, communities and the children themselves with a renewed sense of confidence in the normal routines of life. Thousands of persons remain in shelters—both the seven official structures and the 15 informal settlements that sprang up after the disaster. (Note: the numbers of shelters diminish each week, as the population gradually move out.) Food distribution has been maintained in the official shelters.

Estimated Affected Population <i>(Estimates calculated based on initial census figures from National Dept of Statistics, projected to 2017)</i>			
Start of humanitarian response: 01 April 2017			
	Total	Male	Female
Total population of Mocoa - 2017	43,000	21,500	21,500
Total Affected Population	20,000	10,000	10,000
Children Affected (Under 18)	15,000	7,500	7,500
Children Under Five	4,000	2,000	2,000
Pregnant women	n/a	n/a	n/a



Map of the affected areas (Mocoa, Putumayo)

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

Under the overall leadership of the UNGRD, the local authorities have gradually relocated the population that sought refuge in shelters to their homes and communities. Authorities have provided rent subsidies to the homeless as an incentive, and hundreds have left the shelters as a result. The Government has indicated its intention to create a mega-shelter (El Pepino) to house approximately 1,400 persons, mainly for those with no

possibility of returning to their homes. The Ministry of Education ensured that the four schools initially used as shelters have by now been returned to their proper educational purposes. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has met with the inter-sectoral working group in Mocoa, representing each of the clusters.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION:

The UNGRD continues to direct the response, with regular sectoral inputs from each humanitarian cluster at the Local Unified Command Post. National and international cooperation organisations have provided action plans for each of the priority affected sectors: WASH, health, food security and nutrition, education in emergencies, protection, shelter and early recovery. The initial matrix of needs and available assistance, developed quickly by the working group in the first week of the emergency and discussed with the Ministry, has been updated twice. UNICEF has renewed its presence in Mocoa and its leadership in the WASH and Education in Emergencies clusters and continues to follow closely the technical decisions of the Protection Thematic Group through its two NGO partners.

PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE:

WASH, Education in Emergencies and Protection remain the key sectors for UNICEF. Together with partners in the WASH cluster, UNICEF has assisted with the installation of tanks and rehabilitation of water points in schools. Various WASH partners have received water purification packets, donated by Procter and Gamble, for distribution to families lacking access to safe drinking water. UNICEF is planning a programme of information and instruction on the use of the water purification packets. Water filters purchased by UNICEF are destined for distribution to affected families and to the recently re-opened schools. UNICEF has placed the hygiene kits at the disposition of the Vice Ministry of Water Resources, for appropriate allocation and use. In the meantime, UNICEF is developing a hygiene promotion strategy in close coordination with the Ministry.

The three goals of the education cluster during the acute phase of the emergency, as agreed with the Ministry, were to reactivate educational services, strengthen the information system, and ensure psychosocial support in schools. The decision by the Ministry to re-open schools after Easter sparked an intense week of work by UNICEF and cluster partners to provide motivation and psychosocial support to teachers and school administrators in order to encourage/persuade them to support the return to school. Many teachers and educational staff members had suffered intense personal losses, which vitiated their willingness to return to work. Various days of cleaning and equipping were necessary to prepare the schools damaged by the avalanche or by their occupation and use as shelters. Two days of workshops with teachers and educational officials provided psycho-emotional support and guidance on planning the initial lesson plans for the first two weeks following the return to school. The week of preparation culminated in a symbolic act of re-initiation with teachers, staff and schoolchildren. Educational authorities issued guidance on flexibility during the return to school, urging a relaxation of the regulations on hours, conditions and rules (e.g., uniforms, school kit and curricula).

Within the Protection Group, UNICEF and partners continued to urge authorities to pay close attention to some of the sensitive issues that often arise during disasters and “unstable environments,” such as a violence, abuse, and sexual exploitation. Certain vital protection needs for children remain a priority, especially in the informal settlements, including psychosocial support during mourning, sexual and reproductive health, prevention of adolescent pregnancies, support to unaccompanied minors, etc. UNICEF stands ready to initiate wider psychosocial support activities outside the schools, should the authorities deem it useful.

SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS:

UNICEF's rapid procurement of supplies in the first week of the emergency has resulted in a fortunate pre-positioning of goods for use by the local authorities. The first 150 hygiene kits arrived on Sunday 16 April and the remainder (1,850) plus family kits will be arriving on the weekend of 21-23 April. The school kits, ECD kits, pedagogical-ludic kits and psychosocial support kits will be arriving in the next 2-3 weeks. Distribution will be carried out in accordance with the instructions of the local authorities.

MEDIA AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Since the first day of the disaster, UNICEF has issued eight press releases to mass media partners on UNICEF's work in the emergencies in general and on specific actions undertaken in Mocoa. This has generated over 31 million views and served to publicize the situation of children and adolescents along with a few key messages highlighting their rights and needs. Five situation reports have been circulated to partners and the public, including this one.

SECURITY:

The rainy season has only just initiated in the south of the country and there is precipitation on a nightly basis. Concern persists over the possibility of subsequent mudslides in and around Mocoa. Putumayo has always been characterized by some degree of insecurity, with a constant presence of non-state armed groups and a history of acts of sabotage.

FUNDING:

Funding

Funding Requirements (as defined in UNICEF-Colombia's Humanitarian Appeal for a period of 6 months)				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds available*	Funding gap	
			\$	%
WASH	150,000	100,000	50,000	33
Education	150,000	100,000	50,000	33
Health				
Nutrition				
Child Protection	50,000	21,000	29,000	58
Gender Based Violence	50,000	10,000	40,000	80
HIV/AIDS				
Programme Support	50,000	20,000	30,000	60
Cluster Coordination	50,000	10,000	40,000	80
Total	500,000	261,000	239,000	48%

* Funds available' includes funding received against current appeal as well as carry-forward from the previous year.

Next SitRep: as appropriate

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contact for
further
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