

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

COLOMBIA: HEAVY RAINS 20 October 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin 02/2004 is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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The Situation

Heavy rains during the first ten days of October have affected over 55,000 people in vulnerable communities in the north of Colombia, particularly the department of Cordoba, where a state of emergency was declared by the Colombian government on Thursday 14 October. A total of 7,890 families have been affected in Cordoba alone. Some 250 houses have been destroyed, and over 1,000 hectares of banana, papaya and cereal crops as well as a large number of cattle have been lost. Three local schools were converted into temporary shelters, causing the interruption of classes. The situation has also been compounded by the fact that many of these families are internally displaced because of the ongoing internal conflict in Colombia. Local disaster response capacities in Cordoba are not sufficient to meet the needs of the affected population.

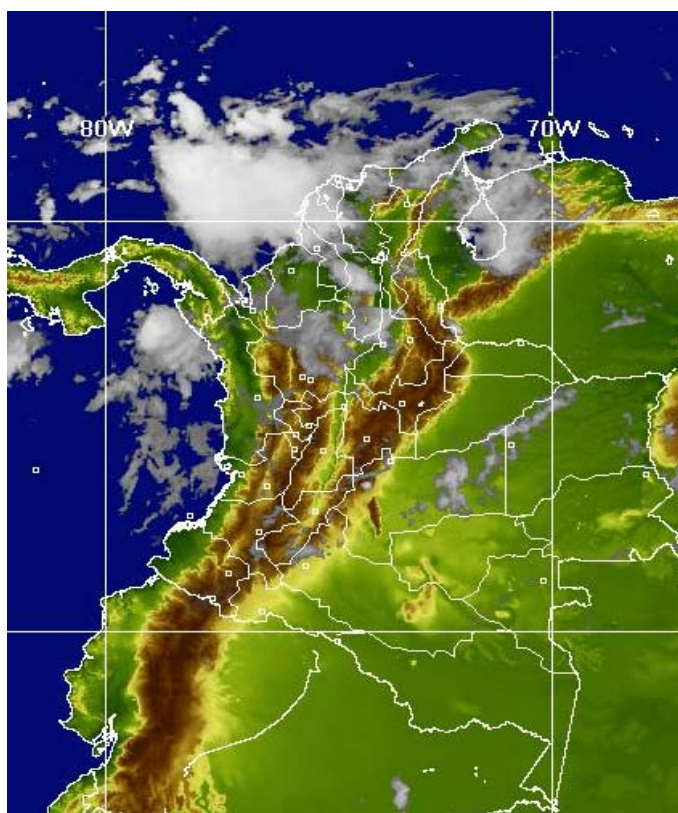
The Colombian Government is mobilizing humanitarian aid through its National Disaster Preparedness and Response System (SNPAD), the Solidarity Network and the Social Protection Ministry. Almost 45 tonnes of aid, donated by government institutions, the private sector and civil society have already been distributed among the affected population. Supplies included food and non-food items such as hygiene parcels, kitchen sets, clothes and medicines to support public health campaigns and prevent the spread of water-borne diseases.

Last week, local authorities, civil organizations and the Catholic Church organized a local television campaign to appeal to potential national and international donors.

Number of affected people in Colombia, updated 13 October, 2004:

Department	Municipality	Urban area	Rural area	Families affected	Persons affected
Cordoba	Montería	✓	✓	2,016	12,228
	Ayapel	✓		72	506
	Ciénaga de Oro	✓	✓	333	1,708
	Cerete	✓	✓	416	2,328
	San Pelayo	✓	✓	791	4,247
	Momil		✓	365	2,203
	Planeta Rica		✓	250	1,741
	Purísima	✓	✓	850	4,431
	Moñitos	✓		781	4,387
	Lorica	✓	✓	555	3,163
	San A. de Sotavento	✓	✓	686	3,511
	Tierralta		✓	225	1,640
	Los Cordobas	✓	✓	300	2,052
	San Carlos		✓	250	1,581
Bolivar	Cartagena	✓		1,331	9,131
Magdalena	Zona Bananera		✓	159	664
Norte of Santander	Ocaña	✓		70	325
TOTAL				9,450	55,846

Map showing areas of precipitations:



Map showing the most affected departments in Colombia:



Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS), working in coordination with SNPAD and other national disaster relief organizations, has participated in the immediate emergency operation in response to the heavy rains. Activities carried out include damage and needs assessments, search and rescue, delivery of first aid, evacuations of affected families to temporary shelters and distribution of bed sheets, hygiene parcels and kitchen sets.

On Tuesday 12 October, the CRCS mobilized non-food items from its Medellín warehouse. On Wednesday 13 October a Red Cross truck was sent from Barranquilla to the most affected municipality of, Montería, Córdoba to support the distribution of relief aid. A telecommunications technician from the CRCS headquarters has travelled to the disaster area to deliver radio equipment and provide logistical support to volunteers. To date, the aid mobilized by the CRCS is equivalent to COP 50,000,000 (approximately CHF 25,000 or USD 20,000).

The CRCS is currently offering psychological support to people staying in the temporary shelters and is also in charge of providing breakfast to more than 250 children of Montería.

The CRCS will be focusing its efforts in the most affected department of Córdoba. The National Society is currently preparing a plan of action for the distribution of aid and activities coordinated with the SNPAD:

Department	Municipality	Humanitarian aid to be delivered
	Montería	4,000 food packages, 2,000 kitchen kits, 6,000 mattresses, 6,000 tents, 6,000 bed sheets, 6,000 blankets, 8,000 tableware kits and 8,000 hygiene kits.
	Ayapel	160 food packages, 80 kitchen kits, 240 mattresses, 240 tents, 240 bed sheets, 240 blankets, 320 tableware kits and 320 hygiene kits.
	Ciénaga de Oro	500 food packages, 250 kitchen kits, 750 mattresses, 750 tents, 750 bed sheets, 750 blankets, 100

Cordoba		tableware kits and 100 hygiene kits.
	Cerete	600 food packages, 300 kitchen kits, 900 mattresses, 900 tents, 900 bed sheets, 900 blankets, 1,200 tableware kits and 1,200 hygiene kits.
	San Pelayo	1,000 food packages, 500 kitchen kits, 1,500 mattresses, 1,500 tents, 1,500 bed sheets, 1,500 blankets, 2,000 tableware kits and 2,000 hygiene kits.
	Momil	300 food packages, 150 kitchen kits, 450 mattresses, 450 tents, 450 bed sheets, 450 blankets, 600 tableware kits and 600 hygiene kits.
	Planeta Rica	300 food packages, 150 kitchen kits, 450 mattresses, 450 tents, 450 bed sheets, 450 blankets, 600 tableware kits and 600 hygiene kits.
	Purisima	700 food packages, 350 kitchen kits, 1,050 mattresses, 1,050 tents, 1,050 bed sheets, 1,050 blankets, 1,400 tableware kits and 1,400 hygiene kits.
	Moñitos	700 food packages, 350 kitchen kits, 1,050 mattresses, 1,050 tents, 1,050 bed sheets, 1,050 blankets, 1,400 tableware kits and 1,400 hygiene kits.
	Lorica	400 food packages, 200 kitchen kits, 600 mattresses, 600 tents, 600 bed sheets, 600 blankets, 800 tableware kits and 800 hygiene kits.
	San A. de Sotavento	700 food packages, 350 kitchen kits, 1,050 mattresses, 1,050 tents, 1,050 bed sheets, 1,050 blankets, 1,400 tableware kits and 1,400 hygiene kits.
	Los Cordobas	320 food packages, 160 kitchen kits, 480 mattresses, 480 tents, 480 bed sheets, 480 blankets, 640 tableware kits and 640 hygiene kits.
	San Carlos	320 food packages, 160 kitchen kits, 480 mattresses, 480 tents, 480 bed sheets, 480 blankets, 640 tableware kits and 640 hygiene kits.

The previous information bulletin reported that the CRCS and the SNPAD were appealing to national organizations for humanitarian aid contributions. As the situation has worsened and exceeded local capacities, the National Society and the SNPAD are now appealing to international donors for funding for this operation.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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