

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 25 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 03/2004 is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Colombia: Walter Cotte, National Director of Operations and Relief, Colombian Red Cross, Bogotá; email: dosn_crc@andinet.com, phone: 571-437-6300, fax: 571-437-6301
- In Colombia: Geert Haghebaert, Colombia Federation Representative, Bogotá; email: ifrc01@ifrc.org, phone: 517-437-6347
- In Panama: Nelson Castaño, Head of Pan American Disaster Response Unit, e-mail: ifrcpa07@ifrc.org, phone: 507-316-1001, fax: 507-316-1082
- In Geneva: Olaug Bergseth, Federation Regional Officer, America Department, e-mail: olaug.bergseth@ifrc.org, phone: 41-22-730-4535, fax: 41-22-733-0395

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

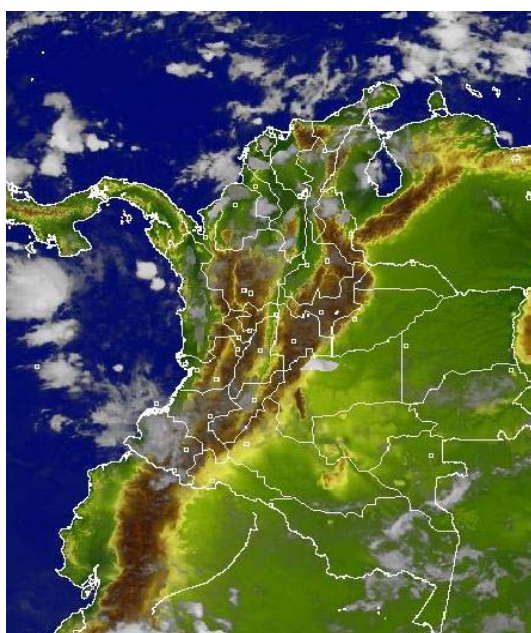
The Situation

The heavy rains in Colombia have worsened, having now affected more than 60,000 people. Approximately 60 percent of these people have received assistance thus far. The government's Institute of Water, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) has forecasted a particularly heavy rainy seasons that is expected to last until the end of December 2004. The water level in some communities has already reached 1.40 meters. The heavy rains have affected mainly people living near rivers and communities that do not have an adequate water and sanitation infrastructure. The most affected departments are: Cordoba, Bolivar, Atlantico, Antioquia, Magdalena, Bogota, Tolima and Norte of Santander. The rains are now also advancing into the Andean departments of Cauca and Nadiño. The capital city of Bogotá has also been affected by the heavy rains; three mudslides and two floods have been reported in the districts of San Isidro, Santo Domingo, Altaloma, Santa Bibiana and Bolivar.

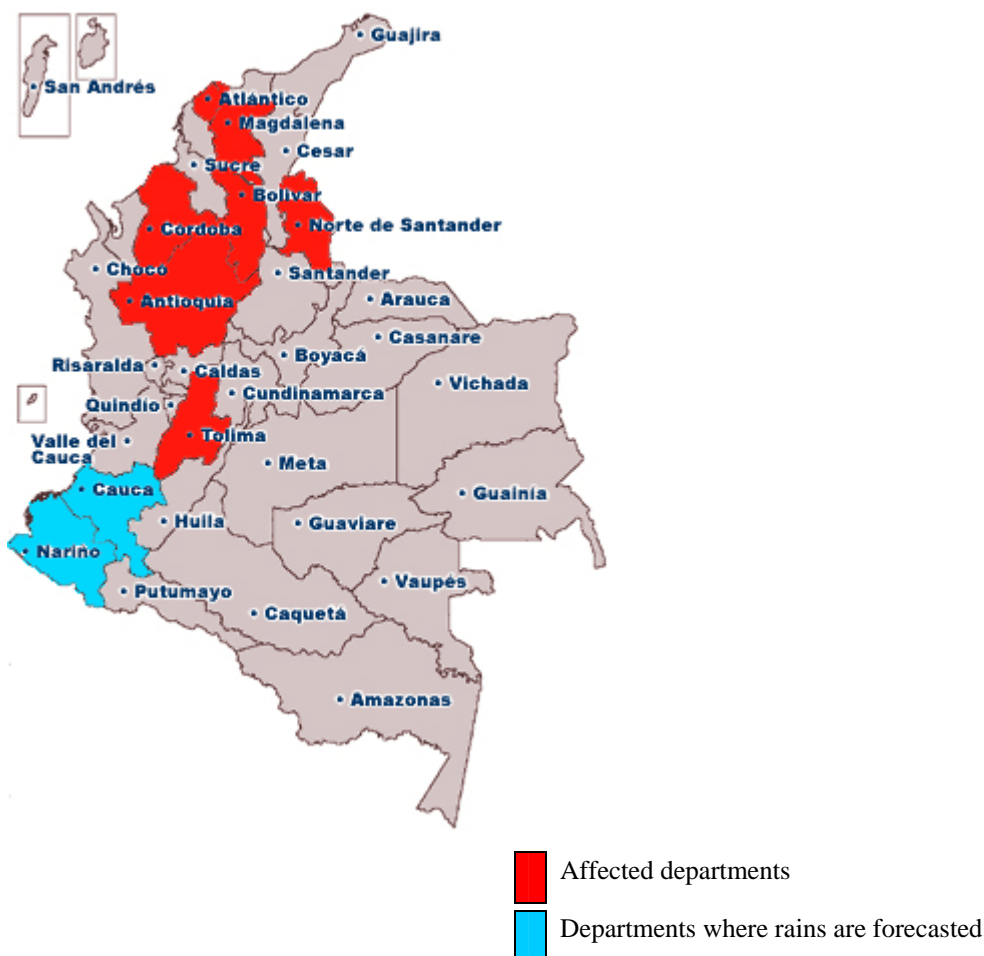
Number of affected people in Colombia, updated 19 October, 2004:

Department	Municipality	Urban area	Rural area	Families affected	Persons affected	Houses affected	Other damages
Cordoba	Montería	✓	✓	2,016	12,228	300	1,000 hectares of crops and hundreds of cattle lost, schools and roads affected
	La Apartada		✓	30	212	4	
	Ayapel	✓		102	787		
	Ciénaga de Oro	✓	✓	333	1,708		
	Cerete	✓	✓	416	2,328		
	San Pelayo	✓	✓	791	4,247	43	
	Momil		✓	365	2,203	36	
	Planeta Rica		✓	250	1,741	34	
	Purísima	✓	✓	850	4,431		
	Moñitos	✓		781	4,387	30	
	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		
Montelibano	✓	✓	156	866	10		
Puerto Libertador		✓	48	341	5	Outbreak of malaria	
Antioquia	La Estrella	✓		250	1,494	30	Three bridges destroyed
Atlántico	Barranquilla	✓		100	673	50	
Bolívar	Cartagena	✓		1,331	9,131	200	
	Clemencia	✓	✓	70	451	70	
Magdalena	Zona Bananera		✓	159	664		
Norte of Santander	Ocaña	✓		70	325		
	Teorama		✓	20	129		
Tolima	Purificación		✓	44	148		One school damaged
TOTAL				10,198	60,441	812	

Map showing areas where IDEAM expects an increase in precipitation in the coming days:



Map showing affected departments in Colombia:



The Colombian government is allocating COP 2,500,000,000 (CHF 1,166,521 or USD 975,077) for the recovery phase of the emergency. These funds will be used to dredge the River Sinu, provide logistical support to the emergency prevention and care committees, and provide affected persons with humanitarian aid.

The private sector and local populations have also mobilized humanitarian aid through community organizations and the national government:

Donor	Donation
Arturo Calle Textiles	COP 50,000,000
Arquidiosecis Food Bank	6 tonnes of food
Alqueria	2 tonnes of milk
Nestle	1.2 tonnes of food
Colgate Palmolive	106 boxes of hygiene products
Espumas Plasticas	100 mattresses
Supermarket Carulla	1,000 food packages
Supermarket Olimpica	350 food packages
Procter & Gamble	Hygiene products
Bavaria	200 boxes of water and 60 boxes of juice
Ganadero Bank	COP 15'000,000

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since last report, the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) has been working on providing visibility to the Red Cross relief efforts. The CRCS is working closely with the network RCN and the Colombian Connection, and both organizations have put a banner in their web pages that links to the CRCS web page. The CRCS web page includes instructions for making donations.

On 20 October, two Red Cross trucks were sent to Monteria with 20 tonnes of relief goods to be distributed in the three temporary shelters that the CRCS manages. The CRCS is providing breakfast to more than 250 children in Monteria, and is also providing psychosocial support in the shelter. In this same municipality, the CRCS is coordinating with the Ministry of Social Services on the development of joint health campaigns to address the outbreaks of diseases that have started to affect the population.

The CRCS has also mobilized non-food humanitarian aid to the department of Choco and is providing logistical support to the Choco Red Cross branch. The Choco department was one of the most affected areas during the first rainy season of the year and specific funding for this region was obtained by the Colombian Citizens organization.

To date, the aid mobilized by the CRCS is equivalent to COP 122,000,000 (approximately CHF 58,000 or USD 48,000). The majority of this funding has come from the CRCS's own resources and from donations made by private donors such as Alpina, Nestle, the National Federation of Coffee and civil society. Many of the donations to CRCS have been channelled through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The CRCS is also awaiting confirmation of a donation from the Microsoft office in Colombia, which will be used to support 180 affected families from Cordoba.

As the situation continues to worsen and overwhelm local capacities, the National Society and the National Disaster Preparedness and Response System (SNAPD) are 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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