



cesvi

Colombia Emergency Response

SitRep. #2

Reporting period: 18 August – 10 September 2026

Country of reference: Colombia

2026

CONTENTS

1. KEY FIGURES	3
2. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT	3
3. CESVI RESPONSE STRATEGY AND SCALE UP	4
4. CESVI RESPONSE CAPACITY	6
5. CALLS FOR ACTION	7
6. NOTES	9

1. KEY FIGURESⁱ

The following figures represent developments recorded following the 10 August 2026 earthquake, and are updated as of 9 September 2026:



331

Fatalities



4,505

People injured



466,709

People affected



101,416

Uninhabitable homes

2. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Colombia continues to face a **large-scale humanitarian emergency** following the **7.4 magnitude earthquake** that struck San José del Palmar, Chocó, on 10 August. As of 9 September, at least 466,709 people had been recorded as affected across **15 departments and 496 municipalities**. The earthquake has also caused widespread disruption to essential infrastructure, affecting **400 health facilities** and **141 water supply systems**, alongside thousands of educational and community facilities.ⁱⁱ

The impact is particularly severe in **Chocó** and **Valle del Cauca**. In Chocó, the earthquake is compounding pre-existing vulnerabilities linked to **armed conflict, displacement, geographic isolation and limited access to basic services**. Humanitarian access remains especially difficult in rural areas, including Litoral del San Juan and San José del Palmar.

Affected communities face **significant and overlapping humanitarian needs**, from access to food, safe water and adequate shelter to protection and psychosocial support. **Mental health and psychosocial impacts have emerged as one of the major consequences of the disaster**, with anxiety, acute stress, hypervigilance, insomnia and persistent fear of further aftershocks continuing three weeks on.ⁱⁱⁱ CESVI's field consultations also point to other emerging protection risks: in Buenaventura, informants reported looting of damaged or abandoned homes and individuals posing as humanitarian staff to gain access to houses.^{iv}

Further, consultations conducted by CESVI with the Buenaventura Mayor's Office and *Secretaría de la Mujer*, together with women community leaders from the San Francisco neighbourhood, highlighted the disproportionate impact of the earthquake on **women heads of household, caregivers and small entrepreneurs**, whose livelihoods and care responsibilities are closely interlinked.

These findings form part of CESVI's **expanded Rapid Needs Assessment**, building on the initial assessment presented in [SitRep#1](#), covering the period 10 - 17 August. Between 12 and 27 August, CESVI carried out **776 household surveys** and **35 key informant interviews** with community leaders and referents across Buenaventura (Valle del Cauca), Quibdó, and other municipalities of Chocó. A rapid WASH assessment of 5 collective shelters in Quibdó was also conducted on 24 August. The findings confirm persistent, and in some cases worsening, needs across housing, livelihoods, protection and psychosocial wellbeing, as outlined below.



- 96%** Households reporting **housing damage**, of which **55%** severe, **36%** moderate and **8%** light.
- 39%** Households reporting their home as completely **uninhabitable**.
- 31%** Households in Buenaventura reporting an **increased burden of care responsibilities** since the earthquake.
- 55%** Households reporting **loss of furniture or household items**; 28% lost tools or work equipment and 26% food stocks.
- 83%** Households reporting that the earthquake impacted their **capacity to generate income**; in **78%** of households, at least one member has stopped working.
- 51%** Households identifying **cash or transfers** as the most useful form of assistance to meet their needs.
- 43%** Households identifying **materials for repairing** their damaged homes as a priority need.



- 4** Collective shelters, out of 5 total assessed, where **drinking water is not treated** before consumption and **sanitary facilities are not separated by sex**; solid waste is managed informally in most shelters.

3. CESVI RESPONSE STRATEGY AND SCALE UP

In scaling up its response across Chocó and Buenaventura, CESVI is building on its established operational presence in Colombia and on the evidence gathered through its recent assessments and community consultations. Reflecting CESVI's **humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach**, the response combines urgent relief with early recovery, addressing immediate needs while supporting households to restore their livelihoods.

The response brings together **multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA)**, **Protection and psychosocial support (PSS)** and **WASH**, alongside **livelihoods and economic recovery**. Crucially, planned livelihoods support is being tailored to the specific circumstances of women heads of household, caregivers and small entrepreneurs. The focus is on **reactivating households' pre-existing productive activities**, while taking into account caregiving responsibilities that may constrain the ability to resume livelihoods. Rather than applying a uniform approach to economic recovery, interventions are tailored to the capacities, priorities and constraints of affected households. **Protection monitoring** and **AAP and PSEA safeguards** are integrated throughout the response to address the significant protection risks identified at community level.

The current scale-up builds on CESVI's rapid response immediately after the August 10 earthquake. An experienced emergency team, with the coordination and support of the HQ Emergency Unit, was immediately mobilised to some of the **most affected and underserved areas of Chocó and Buenaventura**. Within the first **48–72 hours**, CESVI launched a **Rapid Needs Assessment** across Quibdó, San José del Palmar, Sipí and Litoral del San Juan in Chocó, and Buenaventura in Valle del Cauca.^v The findings guided CESVI's initial **geographic and sectoral priorities**. Further assessments continue to inform the response as needs evolve.

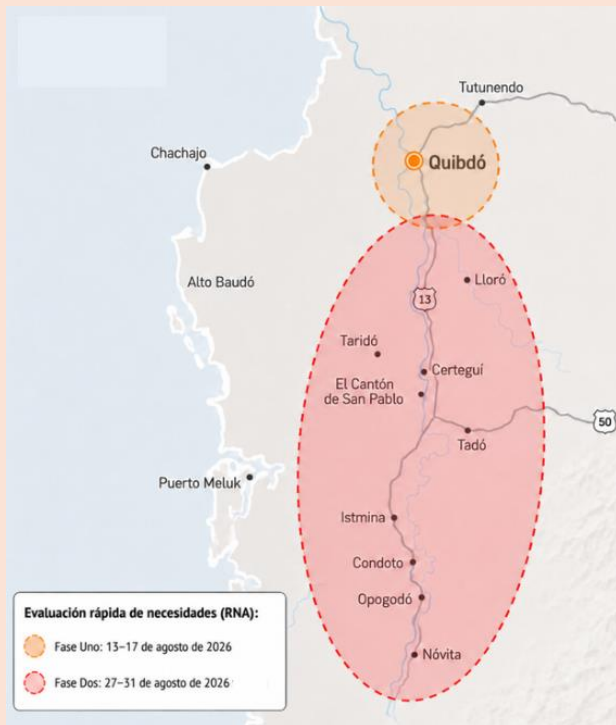
Since August 19, CESVI has been providing direct assistance in Buenaventura, including **in-kind food assistance and hygiene kits** to earthquake-affected families staying in temporary shelters. This initial assistance now forms part of a broader response structured in two complementary phases, **linking immediate relief with early recovery** to decrease dependence on humanitarian aid overtime. The table below outlines the activities planned under each phase of the response.

Immediate Response (weeks 1-8)	
 MPCA	To enable affected households to meet immediate basic needs while maintaining flexibility and supporting local markets where functional: • Multipurpose cash transfers to cover basic needs, including food, hygiene, shelter and NFIs. • Targeted cash transfers for repairs to homes that can be made habitable. • In-kind assistance in communities where markets are not functioning.
 Protection & PSS	To address the protection and psychosocial needs of children, adults and families affected by the earthquake: • Mobile teams and Child Friendly Spaces in formal and informal temporary shelters. • Psychological support for communities affected by the earthquake.
 WASH	To restore access to safe water and essential WASH services for earthquake-affected households and communities: • Safe water access at household level, including the rehabilitation of rainwater harvesting systems. • Rehabilitation of community WASH infrastructure.
Early Recovery (weeks 8-24)	
 Livelihoods & Economic Recovery	To support affected households in reactivating income-generating activities, with assistance tailored to existing livelihoods and household circumstances: • Support for the early recovery of income-generating activities. • Business training, seed capital and continued business support.

Initial funding has enabled CESVI to begin addressing the most urgent needs of earthquake-affected households. However, as significant needs persist and evolve, CESVI is seeking to mobilise **€8 million in additional funding** from institutional and private donors to progressively scale up the response and reach the affected communities with critical assistance and early recovery support. Timely and flexible donor support is critical for CESVI to extend its reach, meet immediate needs, and support affected households on the path towards recovery.

4. CESVI RESPONSE CAPACITY

CESVI's response capacity builds on its established presence, operational access and sectoral expertise in Colombia. The maps below illustrate the current reach across the **priority response areas** of Chocó and Valle del Cauca.



CHOCÓ | QUIBDÓ

290 HOUSEHOLDS targeted for support



Permanent CESVI **office and team** in Quibdó, providing a base for overland outreach to remote communities across Chocó.



Overland access from Quibdó to Cértégui, Tadó, Istmina and Condoto.



VALLE DEL CAUCA | BUENAVENTURA

140 HOUSEHOLDS targeted for support



Presence in Buenaventura provides a base for **maritime outreach** towards remote communities in Litoral del San Juan.

IN DETAILS:

- **Strengthened geographic reach and access:** CESVI's **established operational experience in the region** enabled the rapid mobilisation of the earthquake response. Within just a few weeks, CESVI has established a **permanent office and team in Quibdó**, strengthening its capacity in Chocó and enabling overland access to **Cértegui, Tadó, Istmina and Condoto**. In parallel, its presence in **Buenaventura** provides a **strategic access point to communities in Litoral del San Juan** through maritime connections, allowing CESVI to extend its response beyond major urban centres towards **remote and underserved communities**. Further, recent assessments in Buenaventura identified two functioning collective shelters that provide CESVI with **established entry points for reaching displaced households**.
- **Established sectoral expertise in Protection:** CESVI has been present in Colombia since 2001, and, **since 2019**, CESVI has implemented **Protection programmes** supporting vulnerable and conflict-affected populations, providing a **strong technical foundation** for the integration of Protection and psychosocial support within the earthquake response.
- **Flexible and context-adapted assistance:** CESVI's response is designed to adapt assistance to **market functionality, accessibility and local conditions**, combining multipurpose cash transfers with in-kind support where markets are not functioning. Planned cash assistance can be delivered through established payment mechanisms including **Efecty and SupeGiros**, enabling CESVI to use market-based assistance where feasible while retaining the flexibility to respond in areas where access or market constraints require alternative modalities.
- **Humanitarian coordination and institutional partnerships:** CESVI continues to coordinate with **local and national authorities, community structures, Alliance 2015 partners and other humanitarian actors**, including Italian NGOs, to facilitate access, promote complementarity and avoid duplication. In Buenaventura, coordination has included the **Mayor's Office** and **Secretaría de la Mujer**, with dedicated institutional meetings to support response planning and identify priority population groups. In Chocó, CESVI coordinates with institutional actors including the **Defensa Civil Colombiana** and the **Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF)**.

6. CALLS FOR ACTION

Three weeks after the earthquake, significant needs persist, particularly in remote and underserved communities where the disaster is compounding existing vulnerabilities linked to conflict, displacement and limited access to basic services. Timely and flexible support is critical to extend assistance beyond major urban centres, address immediate humanitarian needs and prevent affected households from falling further into vulnerability. CESVI calls on all stakeholders to support a **targeted, flexible and scalable response**.

■ Donors should:

- Ensure **sustained and flexible humanitarian funding** as needs continue to evolve, with particular attention to remote communities that risk remaining critically underserved.
- Support interventions that **connect immediate assistance with early recovery**, helping affected households progressively restore their pre-existing livelihoods.
- Sustain investment in **Protection and psychosocial support**, particularly where earthquake-related distress compounds pre-existing vulnerabilities linked to conflict and displacement.

■ Private sector actors should:

- Mobilise **financial resources, technical expertise and market opportunities** to complement humanitarian assistance in restoring livelihoods and reconnecting affected entrepreneurs with markets, supporting sustainable economic recovery for affected households.

■ National and local authorities should:

- Facilitate **safe, rapid, and unhindered humanitarian access** to affected communities.
- Support the **restoration of essential services, transport and connectivity**, while strengthening information-sharing with humanitarian actors to facilitate assistance.

■ The international community should:

- Maintain strong **coordination and complementarity**, ensuring that assistance reaches areas and populations where gaps persist.
- **Sustain international attention to the emergency** as it moves beyond the initial response phase, ensuring that remaining humanitarian needs are not overshadowed as recovery efforts begin.

6. NOTES

ⁱ These figures were found on <https://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/colombia-flash-update-012-actualizacion-afectaciones-por-terremoto-en-colombia-09-de-septiembre-de-2026>

ⁱⁱ <https://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/colombia-flash-update-012-actualizacion-afectaciones-por-terremoto-en-colombia-09-de-septiembre-de-2026>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/colombia-tres-semanas-despues-del-terremoto-en-colombia-persisten-necesidades-urgentes-en-comunidades-de-choco-y-buenaventura>

^{iv} CESVI RNA conducted in Buenaventura, August 2026.

^v For further information on CESVI's initial emergency mobilisation, Rapid Needs Assessment findings and initial response strategy, see *CESVI Colombia Earthquake Emergency – Situation Report #1, 10–17 August 2026*, available here: https://cesvi.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026.08.17_CESVI_SitRep1_Colombia.pdf?_gl=1*rduzms*_up*MQ..*_ga*MTY5MDkzNTY1MC4xNzg4MzU5MDQz*_ga_BC2WH7M4X0*czE3ODgzNTkwNDMkbzEkZzAkdDE3ODgzNTkwNDMkajYwJGwwJGgw



[SitRep #1](#)
[Colombia Emergency](#)
[Response](#)
[10 – 17 August 2026](#)



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