



FEDERACIÓN
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Programa Colombia

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Situation Report (SitRep) 31 March 2014

LWF Colombia ([Federación Luterana Mundial](#)) is implementing an emergency response targeting 22 communities in the municipalities of Lloró and Atrato in the department of Chocó with 543 beneficiary households (500 afrocolombian and 43 indigenous communities) affected by the November 2013 floods. The project consists of food security (restoration of family cultivations), psychosocial support and emergency preparedness and is implemented between January and December 2014.

Situation overview

Heavy rains between 18 and 22 of November, 2013 affected the population in several municipalities of Chocó. Among the most affected were Afro Colombian and indigenous communities in the municipalities of Lloró and Atrato where floods destroyed cultivations and houses. During the months of December and January the water levels came down to normal, revealing the damages to the family cultivations. The affected families inform that no further aid from the government had been received since the first kits designed for 10 days delivered by the Departmental unit for DRR right after the floods. The social fabric in the communities started to crack down while scarce resources to access alternative means of food were being used. The targeted region is unattended by governmental social infrastructure (schooling, health care) making the communities more vulnerable. Structural vulnerabilities both in the social system as within the environment put the population at risk of further emergencies.

*The most pressing **needs continue to be food and restoration of cultivations, followed with psychosocial support, and shelter (reparation of damaged houses), health, WASH, education and protection.** Communities are heavily affected by **malaria**, as the situation has proliferated after the floods (40 cases detected without access to treatment). The health situation related to the proliferation of malaria has been communicated to WHO/PAHO and UNHCHR with the aim of making the situation visible and getting the attention of the authorities.*

The workload of women continues to be heavy as cooking facilities were destroyed, and the loss of cultivations and lack of food has created tensions in the families. Children lack opportunities for education and recreation activities. Water

for drinking and use of households are mainly taken from the rivers, as communities lack rainwater catchment systems. Only some families are consuming treated water (cooked).

Lack of access to sufficient and diversified food will continue to affect the population in the coming months as means to have access to additional food are being consumed and before the short term and medicine to provide early treatment in confirmed cases.

By 31 of March the project staff has worked together with the communities in defining the level of damages and needs (188 households lost 4 or more crops, 175 hh lost three crops, 122 hh lost 2 crops and 68 hh lost 1 crop). The farming calendar was constructed together with the target population, taking into account local traditions and weather forecasts and access to local seeds. So far the farming has been started with corn and rice, taken into consideration the farming calendar. By the end of March 100 households had received 13 kg of rice seeds and 168 households 15 kg of corn seeds. With the support and attention received from LWF in the framework of psychosocial support, the communities are more united and motivated to work together to overcome the crises.

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