Overview
Putumayo is a Colombian department/state located on the southwest of the country between the Caquetá and Putumayo rivers, bordered to the north with the departments of Cauca and Caquetá, to the south by the Republic of Ecuador, the Amazon and east to the west with Nariño. Heavy rains and landslides have occurred in the last weeks causing the emergency.

Total Population: 329,000.
Infant mortality rate x 1000: 23 Vs. 18 National rate.
Mortality Rate – 5 years old x 1000: 29 Vs. 22 National rate.
Putumayo has close to 39 rivers plus small fluvial sources. Communities are far apart one from each other. Some of them from 10 to 11 hours of distance by small skiffs or canoes.
High rate of Malaria Vivax cases compared to the rest of the country. 885.5 cases x 100,000 Vs. National 175,8 x 1000,000
Coverage of sewer system 48%. Aqueduct 44%. Electric Power 67%. Telephony 16%.
Educational non-attendance rate 19% Vs. 15% National
The major economic activities are agriculture, livestock and mining.
Oil fields in the municipality of Orito have been discovered and are considered among the largest in the world.

A UNICEF mission is in the zone, since Sunday July 29th until Wednesday August 1st to assess the situation.

Highlights
On July 20th, the Government of Putumayo declared the public calamity in Putumayo.

More than 15,000 families affected by the overflow of 5 rivers.

At least 1,000 families have not received assistance due to the risk of accidents by landmines contamination.

10.7% of children presented risk of acute malnutrition, in the last months, and the situation may get worse with the presence of infectious diseases due to the emergency.

Local authorities have indicated that the magnitude of the emergency exceeds their responsiveness.

UNGRD (National Unity for the Disasters Risk Management or Unidad Nacional para la Gestion del Riesgo de Desastres) has been mobilized to the area to support the response.

United Nations agencies and international organizations are assessing needs.

Heavy rains in the department of Putumayo caused the overflow of the rivers Putumayo, Guamuez, Orito and Guineo, affecting nearly 15,000 families in 10 of the 13 municipalities. Additionally, there were landslides in the Pasto-Mocoa by heavy rains and road closures Pitalito - Mocoa for community demonstrations.

In accordance with data from May to July, 2012, from 619 children between 0 and 5 years old at indigenous and rural areas, 10.7% are on risk of acute malnutrition. Facts that increase considerably in times of emergency.

The security situation in the area is complex. In accordance to local authorities there are several areas with restricted access due to a high level of landmine contamination and threats of illegal armed groups.

Some water sources could be contaminated by crude oil spill on the Guaumez River.

UNICEF is conducting an assessment on needs for affectation in livelihood, water infrastructure and basic sanitation in the affected educational institutions and community areas in the rural area of Puerto Asis.

**Needs and Response**

**NUTRITION**

Needs:

The food safety situation for the rural communities is unknown.

There is price increase and scarcity in products as rice, plantains, yucca and meat in some of the affected urban areas.

In accordance with information collected in some indigenous rural communities affected, between May and July 2012:

- Of a total of 619 children under 5 years, 3% have acute malnutrition and of this percentage, 1.3% had severe acute malnutrition,
- 10.7% of children presented risk of acute malnutrition and the situation may get worse with the presence of infectious diseases.
- 21% of the families of children under 5 years have water consumption without any treatment; therefore 16.4% of children under 5 years are experiencing diarrhoea.

Last week, 57.5% presented fever or coughing. These situations could be associated to unsafe water consumption or inadequate sanitation and hygiene practices.

**Response:**

UNICEF colleagues are at the present moment, doing a field visit to do a rapid assessment to evaluate rapid response to basic needs.

UNGRD (National Unity for the Disasters Risk Management) with the support of other governmental entities distributed 4,877 packages of humanitarian help during last week.

**SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS**

In accordance with preliminary information there is need of hygiene kits, mats and diapers.

**Response:**

Shelters have been fitted out by local authorities. In accordance with the Secretary of Education of Puerto Asis, four educational institutions have been adapted as shelters for 718 families.

**Gaps in the Response:**

There are no contingency plans for emergency response.

Evaluation of Damages and Needs is in process.
EDUCATION
Needs:
In Puerto Asís 47 educational institutions including 10 boarding schools were damaged in their infrastructure including, computing rooms, didactic material, restaurants, files, furniture, hygiene kits, mattresses, blankets and electric power plants. Around 1,716 students are affected. Development of programs and protection measures for the prevention of recruitment of children and adolescents enrolled in schools. Development of a psychosocial assistance program for children and adolescents enrolled in educational establishments affected by the emergency. The local education authorities have manifested that the magnitude of the emergency exceeds their response capacity. Agencies of the United Nations and international organizations that are present in the affected zones are evaluating the educational needs.

Gaps in the response
There are no school contingency plans to adequately respond to the emergency. There are no technical tools and methodologies for teachers working in emergencies. There are no school kits for children living in the areas most affected by the emergency, and supplies for adequate temporary classrooms. There is a strong need to develop a psychosocial assistance program for children and adolescents.

WATER and SANITATION
Needs:
There are not enough drinking water sources. In accordance with preliminary information there is need of water purification kits and to strengthen shelters sanitary conditions. There must be an evaluation of septic wells and cisterns to avoid contamination. Difficulty in the solid waste management in communities, situation that generates proliferation of insects, pollution and damage to the health of the residents, particularly in children.

Response:
UNGRD has mobilized through an agreement with the Colombian Red Cross, two water treatment plants each one with 25,000 litters Capacity.

PROTECTION
Needs:
In accordance with UNHCR some communities are limited for access and are imminent need of humanitarian assistance. There are reports of landmine and explosive remnants of war contamination in the rural areas and rivers in the department. Among the most affected municipalities are Puerto Asís, Orito, Puerto Guzmán, San Miguel and Valle del Guamuéz. Mine Risk Education activities are urgently needed to increase the capacity of the civilian population to cope with risks and prevent accidents.

Response:
The Presidential Programme on Integrated Mine Action, PAICMA, is coordinating response through the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare and its mobile units and through the Aula Movil of the SENA. Reinforced prevention activities to manage the risk of APL-ERW accidents at the community level are urgently needed.

HEALTH
Needs:
WHO/PAHO have informed that sprouts of Acute Respiratory Infection, Acute Diarrheal Disease and Vector Transmitted Disease are starting. 8 Health Posts are reported with damaged infrastructure and three of them are reported with damaged water supply systems.

Response:
UNGRD has mobilized mobile health units for prevention activities. Health brigades have been already put in place in the adapted shelters. Gaps in the Response: There’s need to review the coverage of these activities in disperse rural areas. There’s not enough personnel to develop all response activities.

Psychosocial support for children and families in the affected communities.
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Next SitRep:
- Monday 6.08.2012

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