

Hundreds still missing after mudslides wash through city in Colombia

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A man washes a shirt in muddy water in Mocoa, Colombia, April 2, 2017. A grim search for the missing resumed at dawn in southern Colombia after surging rivers sent an avalanche of floodwaters, mud and debris through a city, killing at least 270 people and leaving many more injured and homeless. Photo by: AP Photo/Fernando Vergara

On Saturday night, rushing rivers sent floodwaters, mud and trees through the city of Mocoa, Colombia. More than 270 people were killed after rain slammed the South American country. Another 200 people, including many children, were injured. By Monday morning, hundreds were still missing.

Heavy overnight rainfall caused several rivers to overflow their banks. Many did not have enough time to climb on top of their roofs, or run to higher ground.

Streets were covered in thick sand, mud and tree limbs. There was little drinking water and no power. On Sunday, people searched through piles of rocks, trees and wooden planks. Meanwhile, search and rescue teams looked for those who were still trapped in their houses.

Survivors Search For Missing Relatives

"A lot of the attention is going to the survivors, those who are alive but lost their homes," a reporter said. "They are in need of clean water and food."

All over the city, people dug through the ruins as they looked for missing relatives and any remaining possessions.

Dozens of people were at the door of a hospital. They hoped to find family members there. The hospital had a list of everyone who was injured or had died.

Others knocked on the doors of neighbors. They were looking for information about their relatives.

Officials Hope To Get Power And Water To The Town

"People went to their houses and found nothing but the floor," said Gilma Diaz, a 42-year-old woman from a nearby town. She was searching for a cousin who was missing.

Colombia's president, Juan Manuel Santos, flew to Mocoa on Saturday to oversee rescue efforts. "All of our hearts are with the victims," he said.

On Sunday he returned to Mocoa with other government officials. They said their goals are to open the roads, get the power back on and bring fresh water to people there.

Herman Granados, a doctor in Mocoa, said the hospital did not have enough supplies to treat all the patients who were injured.

More Rain Than Usual In Colombia Recently

Some of the hospital workers came to help even though their own relatives were still missing.

Colombia and nearby countries have gotten more rain than usual. Colombia has had other deadly landslides recently.

In October, a landslide in the north of the country killed 10 people. A month later, another landslide killed 9 people.



Quiz

- 1 Which two of the following are MAIN ideas of the article?
1. *Heavy rainfall caused flooding in Colombia that killed more than 270 people.*
 2. *Streets in Mocoa were covered in sand and mud from flooding.*
 3. *Efforts are being made in Mocoa to locate and treat those missing and injured.*
 4. *Colombia's president visited the city to oversee rescue efforts.*
- (A) 1 and 3
- (B) 1 and 4
- (C) 2 and 3
- (D) 2 and 4
- 2 According to the article, what is the MAIN goal of government officials?
- (A) searching for people who have gone missing in the city
- (B) repairing the damage that was done to homes in the city
- (C) sending more supplies to treat people injured in the city
- (D) restoring basic functions like water and power to the city
- 3 Which sentence from the article suggests that the flooding destroyed some homes?
- (A) On Saturday night, rushing rivers sent floodwaters, mud and trees through the city of Mocoa, Colombia.
- (B) Meanwhile, search and rescue teams looked for those who were still trapped in their houses.
- (C) "People went to their houses and found nothing but the floor," said Gilma Diaz, a 42-year-old woman from a nearby town.
- (D) Herman Granados, a doctor in Mocoa, said the hospital did not have enough supplies to treat all the patients who were injured.
- 4 Which sentence from the article BEST supports the idea that Colombia has been having serious problems with flooding recently?
- (A) Heavy overnight rainfall caused several rivers to overflow their banks.
- (B) The hospital had a list of everyone who was injured or had died.
- (C) Colombia and nearby countries have gotten more rain than usual.
- (D) In October, a landslide in the north of the country killed 10 people.