



## **EPM, the Valdivia City Hall, the DAPARD and the UNGRD are working so almost 1,500 Puerto Valdivia evacuated families can return to their homes**

- **EPM and the Valdivia City Hall gathered efforts through an Inter-Administrative Agreement to assist the return process**
- **Community leaders made a social and technical profiling of 21 areas of Puerto Valdivia located outside of the 8,100 mts<sup>3</sup>/second flooded area**
- **Although Puerto Valdivia is still a red flag zone, the progress of the project technical conditions and the reduction of the flooded area create favorable conditions so the families outside the flooded area can return to their homes**

After a collaborative session where the community leaders of Puerto Valdivia, the councilmen and the members of the Municipal Administration of Valdivia received information about the comprehensive strategy to return the families to their homes, the City Hall of this Antioquia town issued the proper official order, considering the new scenario of the 8,100 mts<sup>3</sup>/second flooded area reduction and the technical progress of the Ituango Hydroelectric Project. Around 1,500 families are expected to return home in October.

EPM and the Valdivia City Hall were able to confirm this thanks to the opportunities that the Inter-Administrative Agreement, signed last August by both parties, brings to the table. This agreement joins technical, operative, logistical, administrative and financial efforts to return Puerto Valdivia families to their homes and to keep assisting families that are still evacuated.

Return activities started by making the social and technical profiling of 21 areas of Puerto Valdivia. A team formed by EPM, Integral S.A., Municipal Administration members, community leaders and the Valdivia Fire Department, with the DAPARD (Departamento Administrativo del Sistema para la Prevención, Atención y Recuperación de Desastres [Administrative Department of the System for Disaster Prevention, Management and Recovery]), visited all homes, one by one, to assess their location according to the new 8,100 mts<sup>3</sup>/second flooded area, and to identify the families and public services of each property, among other things. A total of 2,070 visits took place.



## **Community Support**

EPM highlights the support of the community leaders who, with their population knowledge, made this profiling possible.

The Inter-Administrative Agreement includes psychological support to the families that return to their homes. General outcomes of the evacuated areas community profiling will help identify the families that will return to their homes or those that will not.

The Inter-Administrative Agreement enabled to hire community members affected by the sudden flood, to develop logistics and support activities.

EPM refurbished educational institutions, clean streets and facades, checked power wiring to prepare the homes in order to guarantee basic services before the families return to their homes.

## **Return Technical Conditions**

To define the return, some aspects such as the milestones reached by the Ituango Hydroelectric Project were taken into account. Those aspects were introduced by EPM and certified by Ingetec–Sedic Consortium Controller. The implementation of the Technical Monitoring Center (CMT) was also considered.

On July 2018, the UNGRD (Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres de la Gobernación de Antioquía [National Unity for Disaster Risk Management of the Antioquia Government]) told Valdivia Municipal Administration, together with the CMGRD (Consejo Municipal de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres [Municipal Council of Disaster Risk Management]), that according to the modeling made by EPM, with the IDEAM (Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales [Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies]) support, all necessary actions must take place so all communities located by the Cauca river, outside the 8,100 mts<sup>3</sup>/s flooded area, can return to their homes due to a decreased level of risk.



## Community Support, a Sustained Effort

Since the contingency started, EPM has been present through the agreement with the UNGRD (Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres de la Gobernación de Antioquía [National Unity for Disaster Risk Management of the Antioquia Government]) and the Valdivia Municipal Administration. The company teamed up with these institutions to help 2,638 families, (equivalent to 7,622 people), who were assisted in six temporary shelters (they are empty at this time) and three spontaneous shelters with currently 226 families.

Financial Support to October 1, 2018:

- 2,270 families received at least financial support once
- 1,908 families received financial support twice
- 1,783 families received financial support three times
- 760 families received financial support four times
- 177 families received financial support five times

6,898 payments total.

Financial Support is provided to those families registered at the RUD (Registro Único de Damnificado [Sole Registry for Victims]) and is duly certified by the Municipal Administration, as long as the families keep their “evacuated” status. Financial support will stop once they return to their homes.

---

### Information for journalists

**EPM Group Corporate Communications Management**  
Vice Presidency of Communication and Corporate Relations

Juan José García Villegas | (574) 380 65 62 | 310 823 89 42 |  
[juan.garcia.villegas@epm.com.co](mailto:juan.garcia.villegas@epm.com.co)

José Ignacio Murillo Arango | (574) 380 44 04 | 300 619 62 85 |  
[jose.murillo@epm.com.co](mailto:jose.murillo@epm.com.co)