

Almost 500 homes and 4,100 people evacuated due to heavy rains

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Four hundred and twelve homes have been destroyed by floods and heavy rain, most of them in the Chepo area, east of Panama City.

A total of 4,100 people have been evacuated from 962 houses have been evacuated after heavy rains caused floods and landslides in various parts of the country, says the National Civil Protection System (Sinaproc).

Of the homes destroyed, 390 were in the area of Chepo, 19 in the Kuna Yala and three in Portobelo (Colon).

Flooding continues in the community of El Llano (Chepo) and areas close to the Gatun and Diablo rivers, and a bridge overpass off the Inter-Americanna, just outside of Panama City is in danger of collapsing.

Shelters have been established in schools and classes have been suspended in many areas.

The University of Panama also canceled classes on Thursday December 9.

President Martinelli is expected to call a State of National Emergency during the Friday Dec. 10th cabinet meeting.