

# HUMANITARIAN CRISIS OF LA GUAJIRA

After of debates, reports, and meetings about the humanitarian crisis in La Guajira, children continue to die in the region. In 2015, 37 children died, and 48 died in 2014. Studies indicate that the causes of this problem are complex and multifaceted:

**Extreme drought:** Governor Oneida Pinto points out that in the Upper Guajira region, 3,122 jagüeyes (waterholes) are completely dry due to the lack of rainfall in the area over the past three years. Environmental organization Censat Agua Viva denounces that multinational coal companies have hoarded water. For example, they point out that Cerrejón uses 17 million liters of water per day, extracted from the Ranchería River to irrigate the roads used by trucks, in order to reduce dust. **State abandonment:** A report by the Ombudsman's Office recognizes that "La Guajira has been the subject of constant and historical abandonment by the State, including the Ombudsman's Office itself." A Wayuu leader states that in the Upper Guajira region, there are communities where people only know the name of President Gustavo Rojas Pinilla, who governed until 1957. "They have not seen any actions from the presidents who have passed since then, as they only know about the mills and jagüeyes built during Rojas' government." **Growing corruption:** Between 1995 and 2015, La Guajira received 4.8 billion pesos in royalties from coal and oil, but today the Governor's Office is preparing a request to enter the bankruptcy law (Ley 550) because the debts they found amount to approximately 360 billion pesos, which they cannot pay with the 2016 budget of 400 billion pesos.

## QUESTIONS

1. How many children died in La Guajira in 2015?

- A) 20
- B) 37
- C) 48

2. What is one of the main causes of the humanitarian crisis in La Guajira, according to Governor Oneida Pinto?

- A) State abandonment
- B) Growing corruption
- C) Extreme drought

3. How many liters of water does the Cerrejón company use daily?

- A) 1 million
- B) 5 million
- C) 17 million

4. How many pesos did La Guajira receive in coal and oil royalties between 1995 and 2015?

- A) 1.8 trillion
- B) 4.8 trillion
- C) 6 trillion

5. Why is the La Guajira Governor's Office preparing a request to enter bankruptcy law (Ley 550)?

- A) Due to lack of investment in education
- B) Due to corruption and accumulated debt