

TROPICAL STROM LISA

Situation Report No. 1

31 OCTOBER 2022, 1700 CT

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 31st October, 2022, at 10:30 am, the National Meteorological Service of Belize and the National Emergency Management Operation (NEMO) issued Advisory No. 1 notifying the location of Tropical Storm Lisa at latitude 15.5N, longitude, 77.3W, or about 735 miles East by South of Belize City, moving to west at 12 mph with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph and a minimum central pressure of 1,000 mb.
- At 1:00 pm CT, the Prime Minister of Belize, in his capacity as the Chairman of the NEMO declared a hurricane watch (RED – 1) for the entire coast of Belize from the north of Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, northward to south of Chetumal, Mexico, indicating that the tropical cyclone is likely to make landfall within 36-48 hours.
- At 2:00 pm EDT, the National Hurricane Center at Miami, Florida, USA issued Intermediate Advisory Number 5, indicating location of Tropical Storm Lisa at 15.5N 78.4W, with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph or 75 km/h. Slow strengthening is forecasted and TS Lisa is expected to become a hurricane in northwestern Caribbean with landfall in Belize late 2nd November 2022 or early in the morning 3rd November 2022.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- At 1:00 pm today, 31st October, 2022, hurricane watch (RED – 1) has been declared for Belize.
- This warning implies that the public must put their family emergency plans into effect and be prepared to seek safe shelter, if necessary.
- NEMO advised that 3-5 feet waves were expected to affect the coastal ecosystem of Belize, with increased flooding in coastal areas. Winds of 74-95 mph are expected upon landfall on Wednesday night or early Thursday morning.
- Public and private essential agencies, utility companies and non-essential agencies have been advised to immediately implement plans of action, including closure of schools, securing of workstations, the release of workers and the securing of ports of entry.

NEEDS

- Preliminary needs are yet to be determined; however, it is anticipated that there may be need for shelters, non-perishable food, WASH supplies, including feminine hygiene kits, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for frontline responders and shelter managers.
- The need for medical supplies and strengthening of the surveillance system to monitor water, food and vector borne diseases are anticipated.
- Daily syndromic and event-based surveillance need to be established at shelters, hospitals, Isolation and quarantine facilities for COVID-19.
- Patients with medical conditions requiring critical care may require ambulance services or special assistance for evacuation and those from the islands may need to be evacuated early before landfall of the hurricane.
- Dissemination of key messages to sensitize the public on prevention of water-, vector-, and food-borne diseases, and prevention. No international assistance is requested.

RESPONSE ACTIONS

GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) has activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that will be located at the National Vaccine Building in Belmopan, within the compound of the Western Regional Hospital.
- The MOHW has ensured that its generators are fully functional in the event that it loses electricity from the national grid.
- Sleeping quarters with cots have been allocated for Government of Belize (GoB) personnel who will be stationed at the MOHW EOC to respond to the emergency.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Affected

0



Deaths

0



Damaged

0



Missing

0

Evacuated

0

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

- NEMO, under the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management, and the National Meteorological Service, held a Press Conference to notify the general public and the media of the developing weather pattern related to Tropical Storm Lisa.

PAHO/WHO

- Coordinated with the Ministry of Health and Wellness on hurricane preparedness and response.
- Led the UN Country Team preparedness and response as Chair of the UNETT
- Participated in CDEMA meeting updating on the Tropical Storm Lisa and potential impact on Jamaica, Cayman Islands and Belize.
- PAHO/WHO has alerted all staff to take precautionary measures to protect their lives and properties.
- An Incident and Crisis Management Team has been established in the country office. The PAHO's Disaster Response Team includes 5 staff supporting the preparedness and response.

UN

- A UN coordination meeting was held on 31st October 2022, with the participation of Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, IOM and WFP.

OTHER PARTNERS:

- The Belize Water Services notified the public to treat or boil the water before drinking or consuming it if suspected to be contaminated,