

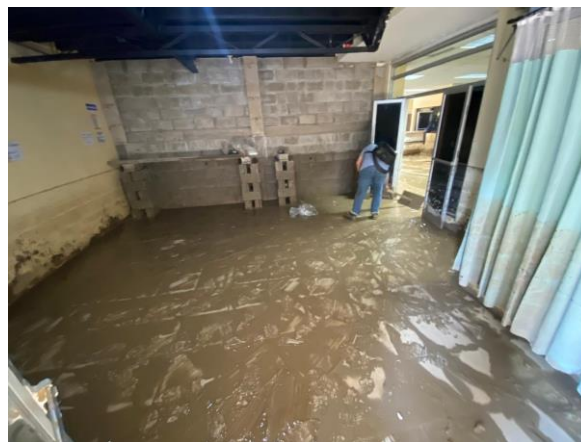
# HURRICANE ETA

Situation Report No. 5

November 11 – 5pm

## HIGHLIGHTS

- *Honduras* reports 58 deaths, 8 people missing and 44,684 people in shelters. Preliminary reports in Cortes and San Pedro Sula, indicate 27 inoperative primary care health facilities out of 71 facilities. Furthermore, San Antonio municipality (Cortes) has reported major worsening in their access to WASH services – inadequate level of WASH services has increased from 0% to 71.7% according to indicators. Additionally, San Pedro Sula, Yoro and Atlantida report difficulties accessing drinking water.
- *Guatemala* reports 45 deaths, 96 people missing and 15,929 people in 122 shelters (additional 56 non-official shelters have been reported). More than 52 health facilities have reported damage, of which 6 health facilities are flooded and 2 were destroyed. Additionally, 3 health facilities in the Departments of Alta Verapaz and Quiche have reported damage to the cold chain equipment.
- *Belize* continues monitoring the health situation - particularly those related to water, food, vector borne diseases and COVID-19
- *Costa Rica* reports 2 deaths, 718 people in 21 shelters.
- *Panama* reports 17 deaths, 24 people missing and 3,351 people in 31 shelters.
- *El Salvador* reports 1 death and 2,264 people in 56 shelters.



**Figure 1:** Hospital flooded in La Lima, Cortes, Honduras



**Figure 2:** Honduras – Source: PAHO

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Affected

# **>5M**<sub>1,2,3,4,5</sub>



Deaths

# **123**<sub>1,2,4,5</sub>



Damaged

# **105**<sub>1,6</sub>



Missing

# **128**<sub>1,4</sub>



Evacuated

# **>263K**<sub>1,2,3,4,5</sub>



### Sources

1. PAHO PWR Sitrep November 10 (Guatemala, Honduras)
2. PAHO PWR Costa Rica Flash update – November 11
3. NEMO Belize Report November 11
4. [Govt of Panama report November 10](#)
5. [Govt of El Salvador November 11](#)
6. [SINAPRED – Preliminary reports November 10](#)

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of November 6, hurricane Eta – a category 4 hurricane – has taken a toll on at least 7 countries in Central America and has left widespread destruction in the region. Hurricane Eta has generated multiple landslides and floods, resulting in the obstruction and damage of roads; collapsed electric power, communication and water systems; leaving as a result, multiple communities completely isolated and inaccessible including multiple health facilities severely affected.

## CONTEXT

As of November 3, hurricane Eta made landfall along Nicaragua's Caribbean coast (26km south of Bilwi) as a Category 4 - 5 with maximum sustained winds near 140mph (220 km/h) and continued moving around 6mph (9kmh/h) for the next several hours. Eta weakened to a tropical depression by November 4 at 6:00pm.

## HEALTH SITUATION

- Honduras
  - As of November 11, preliminary reports in Cortes and San Pedro Sula, indicate 27 out of 71 primary care health facilities are inoperative
  - Several health facilities report infrastructure damage due to rain (leaking and roof damage), trouble accessing drinking water, adequate sanitation, among other issues.
  - 10 health facilities in Cortes report a total loss of cold chain equipment and vaccines.
  - National authorities have reported a lack of health personnel due to accessibility and being directly impacted by the storm.
  - **WASH:** San Antonio municipality, in Cortes department, prior to the impact of hurricane Eta (estimates):
    - 32.6% of the population had a high level of WASH services – which has since decreased to 6.5%.
    - 62.5% of the population has an intermediate level of services – which has since decreased to 19.6%.
    - The indicator of the inadequate level of WASH service in the municipality was 0% - it is currently 71.7%.
  - San Pedro Sula, Yoro and Atlantida also report difficulties accessing to drinking water.
  - **Shelters:** Honduras reports more than 44,684 people in shelters.
    - Waterborne diseases such as hepatitis are reported in one of the shelters in the urban area.
    - Lack of necessary infrastructure, WASH condition, PPE, cleaning and disinfection supplies remain – for both health personnel and volunteers in health facilities and shelters.
- Guatemala
  - As of November 10, more than 52 health facilities have reported damage, of which, 6 health facilities are flooded and 2 were destroyed.
  - 3 health facilities in the Departments of Alta Verapaz and Quiche have reported damage to the cold chain equipment.
  - The Ministry of Health has mobilized a field emergency hospital donated by the United States Government which was placed next to the regional hospital of the Department of Alta Verapaz. The field hospital will enable the Ministry of Health to expand the care capacity for patients with COVID19, given that the current critical care capacity is extremely limited due to the emergency.
  - **Shelters:** more than 15,929 people remain in 122 official shelters (more than 56 non-official shelters have been reported).
    - None of the shelters has optimal conditions for: space management, infection prevention and control measures, and basic hygiene standards necessary for the prevention and control of COVID19.
    - Unconfirmed number COVID19 cases are reported in the population sheltered in the Department of Alta Verapaz
- Belize:
  - Monitoring of the health situation is still ongoing -particularly those related to water, food, vector borne diseases and COVID-19.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

The affected countries present a multi-hazard scenario, where in addition to the impacts of the hurricane, the countries have been facing an ongoing COVID19 pandemic which have been saturating their already vulnerable health services for months. The situation is worsened by pre-existing epidemiological situation (Dengue, Malaria, Leptospirosis) in some countries. Furthermore, there are existing risks related to COVID19 shelter management due to the insufficient access to PPE and the difficulties implementing COVID19 preventive measures.

## NEEDS

- An initial damage assessment is being carried out in coordination with the health authorities to identify priority needs in the affected countries.
- Support delivering health care attention to the affected population and reinforce public health measures.
- *Latest!* Guatemala:
  - Damage assessment (DANA) continuous as more than 40% of health personnel are inactive due to COVID-19 precautions. Additional health personnel might be required to respond in the affected areas.
  - Equipment and supplies for monitoring water quality, as well a urgent interventions to reduce the risks associated with water use, sanitation and hygiene in health facilities and shelters.
- Honduras: Hurricane preparedness kit - to ensure sheltered population have medical assistance, medicines and supplies for the management of diseases or acute respiratory infections, as well as biosecurity materials to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

## PRIORITY CONCERNS

- Lack of access to the affected areas due to road collapse or flooding as a result of heavy rains.
- Difficulty accessing the affected areas for local disaster management authorities and humanitarian agencies resulting in a slow and delayed damage and needs assessment.
- Logistical difficulties due to distances, dispersion of the population, access to isolated areas, autonomous communities, and indigenous areas.
- Difficulties to maintain social distance and COVID19 public health preventive measures in emergency shelters in Honduras and Guatemala.

## RESPONSE ACTIONS

### Ministry of Health

- Activation of emergency plans for health services located in risk areas and affected by hurricane Eta.
- Damage assessment teams are mobilized to the affected areas in order to collect information and assess the impact in health facilities. Additionally, teams are mobilized to reinforce cleaning, disinfection and habilitation of affected facilities.

### PAHO/WHO

- Activation of regional EMT secretariat to seek offers of assistance from international NGOs.
- Mobilization of emergency supplies and medicines to most affected countries from the Panama humanitarian hub and strategic health partners.
- Support in the rapid evaluation of health establishments relying on PAHO - Rapid Assessment of Health Facilities (*ERES*) tool.
- *Latest!* Honduras:
  - Mobilization of public health and disaster management experts to strengthen and provide support to Honduras office, as well as, EMT expert to coordinate mobilization.
  - A batch of 40,000 antigen tests and 300,000 PCR tests have been acquired and donated to the Ministry of Health for the early detection of COVID-19 cases in shelters.
  - Biosecurity and hygiene supplies were purchased and donated to shelters in the most affected areas, including: 50,000 surgical masks, 40,000 medical gloves, 1,500 gallons of liquid soap, 1,500 gallons of alcohol-based gel, among other

supplies.

- *Latest!* Guatemala:
    - PAHO/WHO supported the deployment of 18 medical teams (doctors, nurses, psychologists, nutritionists, environmental sanitation technicians) to provide support in shelters in the Departments of Alta Verapaz, Quiche, and Izabal.
    - PAHO/WHO sent 17 clinical modules with equipment, 36 first aid kits, 1000 PPE kits to the Departments of Alta Verapaz, Quiche and Izabal.
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