

HURRICANE ETA & IOTA

Situation Report No. 6

November 16– 7pm

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Honduras** reports 74 deaths, 8 people missing and 55,435 people in shelters. 37 out of 71 health facilities in Cortes have reported damage, of which: more than 27 health facilities are inoperative, 10 health facilities report total loss of cold chain equipment and vaccines and several report lack of access to drinking water and electricity, and lack of health personnel. Furthermore, most dams throughout the country are at 100% capacity, while rains continue in different regions of the country.
- **Guatemala** reports 53 deaths, 96 people missing and 18,055 people in 149 shelters. 72 health facilities have reported damage: 33 in Alta Verapaz (including 1 hospital destroyed), 13 in Izabal and 26 in Quiche. Furthermore, 80 of 112 official shelters in Alta Verapaz, Izabal and Quiche have been assessed and several report poor sanitary conditions as well as cases of acute respiratory infections, foodborne diseases, skin infections and chronic diseases (see chart page 3).
- **Belize** reports 2 health facilities closed due to lack of access as a result of flooding, and 1 health facility operating in emergency mode (no outpatient services available).
- **Costa Rica** reports 2 deaths and 327 people in 30 shelters. Around 60,000 people remain without access to drinking water and the government is mobilizing water trucks to the affected population.
- **Panama** reports 19 deaths, 12 people missing and 2,424 people in 32 shelters.
- **El Salvador** reports 2 deaths and 399 people in 13 shelters. National red alert declared for hurricane Iota.
- **Colombia** reports several damages in San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina as a result of hurricane Iota. Damage assessment is still ongoing.
- **Hurricane Iota:** As of November 16, 7pm Hurricane Iota, a category 5, is moving toward the west near 9 mph (15 km/h) with maximum sustained winds are near 160 mph (260 km/h). Little change in strength is expected until landfall, but rapid weakening is forecast after Iota moves inland.
 - Hurricane Iota is expected to produce heavy rainfall which will lead to life-threatening flash flooding and river flooding across portions of Central America.
 - Rainfall accumulations expected through Thursday:
 - Honduras, northern Nicaragua, southeast Guatemala and southern Belize:** 10 to 20 inches (250 to 500 mm). Isolated maximum totals of 30 inches (750 mm) will be possible, especially from northeast Nicaragua into northern Honduras.
 - El Salvador and Panama:** 6 to 10 inches (150 to 250 mm), with isolated maximum totals of 15 inches (380 mm).



Source: NOAA – NHC
November 16 7pm

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Affected

>6.5M_{1,2,3,4,5}



Deaths

150_{1,2,3,4,5}



Damaged

125_{1,6}



Missing

116_{1,2,4}



Evacuated

>441K_{1,2,3,4,5}



Sources

1. PAHO PWR Sitrep November 13-Guatemala
2. PAHO PWR Sitrep November 15 - Honduras
3. NEMO Belize Report November 11
4. [Govt of Panama report November 16](#)
5. [Govt of El Salvador November 16](#)
6. [SINAPRED – Preliminary reports November 10](#)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

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 14, Cortes department and San Pedro Sula has estimated around 250,000 people have limited or non-access to health services.
- In Cortes department, 37 out of 71 health facilities have reported damage, of which:
 - More than 27 health facilities are inoperative (including the total of 5 health facilities in la Lima which are completely flooded – loss of equipment & medicines).
 - 10 health facilities report total loss of cold chain equipment and vaccines.
 - 29 health facilities report several infrastructure damages (water filtration, subsidence of floors, among others).
 - In addition, several report lack of access to drinking water and electricity.
- Cortes authorities have reported a lack of health personnel due to accessibility and being directly impacted by the storm.
- **WASH:** Cortes has reported interruption of drinking water service in several health facilities:
 - 100% of health facilities in La Lima, Portrerillos and San Pedro municipalities have water services interrupted
 - 86% of health facilities in Puerto Cortes municipality report interruptions.
 - 69% of health facilities in Choloma municipality report interruptions.
- **Shelters:** As of November 16, 55,435 people sheltered across the country
 - Cortes department: 38,725 people are in 218 shelters, of which:
 - 2,500 people have received health care attention by the Ministry of Health mainly due to dermatological respiratory and waterborne diseases.
 - Suspected cases of sexual abuse have been reported in shelters in the northern part of Honduras.
 - **Detail by municipality:**
 - La Lima: reports the most of flooded houses
 - 1,644 people are in 7-10 shelters.
 - Shelters have reported fumigation and basic sanitation activities, as well as, COVID19 testing.
 - Limited health care personnel: only 7 doctors are providing medical care.
 - Choloma: 4,385 people in 35-40 shelters.
 - Health promotion, prevention activities (including fumigation and basic sanitation) and COVID19 testing are being carried out.
 - Medical brigades have been set to provide health care in the shelters.
 - Limited access to water and sanitary services
 - Limited health care personnel: 11 doctors, 4 nurses and 4 health promoters.
 - 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 13, 72 health facilities have reported damage, of which:
 - Alta Verapaz: 32 health facilities reported with infrastructure damage (including 1 maternal and childcare center) and 1 health facility is reported destroyed.
 - Izabal: 13 health facilities reported with infrastructure damage.
 - Quiche: 26 health facilities report infrastructure damage (including 1 maternal and childcare center).
- **Shelters**: more than 18,000 people remain in 149 official shelters.
 - 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.
 - 80 out of 112 official shelters in Alta Verapaz, Izabal and Quiche have been assessed and several report poor sanitary conditions, as well as, cases of acute respiratory infections, foodborne diseases, skin infections, chronic diseases and some COVID19 cases.

ALTA VERAPAZ				IZABAL				QUICHE			
Total shelters		100		Total shelters		Not reported		Total shelters		Not reported	
Official reported shelters		43		Official reported shelters		52		Official reported shelters		17	
Assessed shelters		43		Assessed shelters		24		Assessed shelters		13	
Infrastructural conditions in assessed shelters (total: 43)	Enough water	38	88%	Infrastructural conditions in assessed shelters (total: 24)	Enough water	24	100%	Infrastructural conditions in assessed shelters (total: 13)	Enough water	9	69%
	Chlorinated water	20	47%		Chlorinated water	4	17%		Chlorinated water	6	46%
	Safe food handling	38	88%		Safe food handling	24	100%		Safe food handling	8	62%
	Proper disposal of excreta	36	84%		Proper disposal of excreta	22	92%		Proper disposal of excreta	8	62%
	Proper waste disposal	12	28%		Proper waste disposal	7	29%		Proper waste disposal	NR	
	Overcrowding	12	28%		Overcrowding	7	29%		Overcrowding	0	0%
Total people in assessed		2,499		Total people in assessed		2,232		Total people in assessed shelters		899	
Pregnant women		NR		Pregnant women		387		Pregnant women		297	
People with some disability		NR		People with some disability		46		People with some disability		4	
People that received some medical attention in assessed shelters		2,157		People that received some medical attention in assessed shelters		1,417		People that received some medical attention in assessed shelters		300	
Medical conditions in assessed shelters (total: 2157 people)	Acute respiratory infections	333	15%	Medical conditions in assessed shelters (total: 1417 people)	Acute respiratory infections	124	9%	Medical conditions in assessed shelters (total: 300 people)	Acute respiratory infections	72	24%
	Foodborne diseases	154	7%		Foodborne diseases	62	4%		Foodborne diseases	44	3%
	Skin infections	64	3%		Skin infections	95	7%		Skin infections	9	1%
	Hypertension	47	2%		Hypertension	34	2%		Hypertension	4	0%
	Diabetes	14	1%		Diabetes	35	2%		Diabetes	NR	
	Malnutrition	NR			Malnutrition	1	0%		Malnutrition	NR	
COVID 19 cases reported in shelters		15		COVID 19 cases reported in shelters		0		COVID 19 cases reported in shelters		1*	
NR: Not reported								*1 COVID19 case have been reported in a first responder			

Source: Prepared by EOC based on Guatemala report

- **Belize:**

- As of November 6, most of health facilities are reported open and operational, except for the clinics in Santa Elena Town (Cayo district) and Santa Teresa (Toledo district) which are currently closed due to lack of access as a result of flooding.
- Western Regional Hospital is currently operating on emergency mode so that all outpatient services for now are currently cancelled until further notice.

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.
- 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.
 - PPE for first responders and health personnel, as well as masks for the sheltered population.
 - *Latest!* Deploy self-sustaining human resources to complement the health DANA, WASH operations, as well as, provide medical care for the population.
- 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.
- Honduras: *Latest!*
 - There is difficulty mobilizing and supplying medicines and medical supplies to the most affected areas, resulting from damage to road infrastructure and airstrips.
 - There is a high risk the situation could worsen because dams throughout the country are at 100% of their capacity and heavy rains continue in different regions of the country – and hurricane Iota has not yet fully impacted.
 - Safe water supply and sanitation problems in areas affected by tropical depression Eta.

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.
- Honduras:
 - In the department of Olancho, clearing of debris continues, as well as vector control operations (fumigation) for dengue-transmitting mosquito.

- Guatemala:
 - As of November 12, CONRED has mobilized 671 tons of humanitarian assistance (cleaning kits, water purifier, blankets, MRE-Meals ready to eat, among others).

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.
 - 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.
 - EMT team “Samaritan’s purse” has arrived to Cortes department.
 - *Latest!* PAHO resource mobilization:
 - Delivered: 2 PAHO COVID-19 5x30 kits (PPES) and 300 dignity kits.
 - Departing: 5,000-liter bladder tank, Hach kits, WASH supplies, incubator, portable turbidimeters, chlorine meters, Ph testers, 100 mosquito nets and 5,280 soap bars.
 - Pipeline: Hurricane kit with medicines and renewables.
 - 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.
 - *Latest!* PAHO/WHO supported the mobilization of 6 health damage and needs assessment teams to the departments of Peten, Quiche, Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Zacapa.
 - *Latest!* PAHO resource mobilization:
 - Departing: 100 emergency backpacks and 400 dignity kits.
 - *Latest!* Nicaragua:
 - Delivered: 2 PAHO COVID-19 5x30 kits (PPE), 5,280 soap bars and 138 emergency backpacks.
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