

HURRICANE ETA & IOTA

Situation Report No. 8

November 24 – 10am

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Honduras** reports more than 175,000 people in shelters. Several communities remain inaccessible, 87 highways across the country report damage, while, San Pedro Sula airport remains closed and 4 customs offices across the country remain closed. Regarding the health sector more 352 health facilities have reported damage, including 118 health facilities reported inoperative and 500,000 people are reported with limited or non-access to health services. Furthermore, an assessment of 12 hospitals in 7 departments concluded that several hospitals report limited access to ambulances, lack of health personnel and access to drinking water – these hospitals have an average of over 80% of medical supplies available.
- **Guatemala** reports more than 32,000 people in 334 shelters. 121 health facilities have reported damage: 33 in Alta Verapaz (including 1 hospital destroyed), 13 in Izabal, 26 in Quiche and 49 in Huehuetenango. No major health facility has reported damages.
- **Colombia**: Providencia reports 1 health facility completely damaged and non-operative. Medical teams were deployed, and a field emergency hospital has been installed including outpatient services, emergency rooms with isolation capacity, and clinical lab.



PAHO personnel and health authorities in Cortes assessed vulnerability of the affected areas. Source: PAHO Honduras - Twitter account



Destroyed Amapa bridge in Rio Lindo, Honduras. Source: Honduras Red Cross – Twitter account

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

2 hurricanes
Impacted the Central America region in November: Eta and Iota

Affected

>8M_{1,2,3,4,5,6}



Deaths

189_{1,2,3,4,5}



Damaged

555_{1,2,5}



Missing

112_{1,2,5}



Evacuated

>653K_{1,2,3,4,5,6}



Sources

1. CONRED report November 24 - Guatemala
2. PAHO PWR Sitrep November 22 - Honduras
3. [Govt of Panama report November 16](#)
4. [Govt of El Salvador November 19](#)
5. PAHO PWR Sitrep November 23 - Colombia
6. PAHO PWR Sitrep November 19 - Costa Rica

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.

Two weeks later, Hurricane Iota – category 4 — brought further devastation to Central America, which was already facing the severe effects of hurricane Eta: several health facilities damaged, shelters with minimum COVID19 preventive measures, saturated soils and dams at 100% of their capacity. Additionally, the heavy rains produced by Iota, impacted Colombia (San Andres and Providencia) and Venezuela.

HEALTH SITUATION

• Honduras:

- As of November 22, 352 health facilities have reported damage and many more are expected as the damage assessment continues, of which:
 - 118 health facilities are reported inoperative
 - 18 reported total losses.
- Cortes department and San Pedro Sula has estimated around 500,000 people have limited or non-access to health services.
- Yoro department: 18 health facilities have reported damage.
- As of November 17, National health authorities, using PAHO's ERES tool (Rapid Assessment of Health Facilities) in 12 health facilities in 7 departments, concluded:
 - **Ambulances:** There is a limited availability of ambulances, of which, 5 hospitals report not having an ambulance and 4 hospitals reported having only 1 available. This is a critical issue and must be addressed to ensure compliance with the Referral and Response System and access to integrated and comprehensive health services.
 - **Medicine supplies:** are above 80% in all hospitals. Under-resourced hospitals are undertaking strategies to supplement the stock of medicines.
 - **Health personnel:** Not all hospitals have enough health staff to cover critical areas under normal conditions, generating problems to adequately meet the care needs of affected population.
 - **Access to water:** 67% of the hospitals (8/12) reported some damage to water supply, of which, 2 reported not having access to water. This situation represents a high risk for the implementation of infection and prevention control measures in health facilities.
- **Shelters:**
 - 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.
 - 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 18, 121 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.
 - Quiché: 26 health facilities report infrastructure damage (including 1 maternal and childcare center).
 - Huehuetenango: 49 health facilities report infrastructure damage (preliminary reports).

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.

Hurricane Iota made landfall on November 16 as a category 4, with sustained winds near 155 mph (250 km/h), along the north eastern coast of Nicaragua near the town of Haulover. Iota weakened by November 17 to a Tropical Storm as it was moving into Honduras, and finally become a Tropical depression which dissipated over El Salvador.

- No major hospital has reported damages. 182 health services at all levels of care have been identified at risk of flooding.
- **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.
 - 6,754 people in shelters in Alta Verapaz, Izabal and Quiche have received medical attention, of which: 15% present cases of acute respiratory infections, 10% of foodborne diseases, 11% of mycosis, 3% of skin infections, 3% of hypertension and 2% of diabetes. 16 COVID19 cases have been reported in shelters, including 1 case in a first responder.
- **Colombia:**
 - Providencia: as of November 18, the local hospital in Providencia has been reported as completely damaged and inoperative.
 - An emergency field hospital has been installed, including outpatient services, emergency areas with isolation capability and clinical labs.
 - 7 injured people have been evacuated to San Andres.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The affected countries present a multi-hazard scenario, where in addition to the impacts of both hurricanes Eta and Iota, 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:
 - 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.
 - Deployment of public health experts with self-sustained capacity:
 - Mental health professionals to provide psychosocial care to affected people, as well as health personnel.
 - Environmental sanitation inspectors to continue monitoring the communities' WASH conditions.
 - Digitizers to streamline the process of notification and completion of the information collected.
- 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

- Difficulty accessing the affected areas, due to road collapse or flooding as a result of heavy rains, 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:
 - 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 damage assessment continues.
- Honduras:
 - In the department of Olancho, clearing of debris continues, as well as vector control operations (fumigation) for dengue-transmitting mosquito.
 - Disaster management Agency COPECO has deployed water trucks to affected areas without access to drinking water.
- 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).
- Colombia:
 - National authorities have declared disaster situation and have mobilized 86 tons of humanitarian assistance, including: hygiene kits, tents, biosecurity kits, bottled water, among others.
 - Search and rescue teams, WASH experts, damage assessment teams and first responders have been deployed to the affected areas.
 - **Latest!** National authorities have deployed 2 water truck with 22,000 liters each to Providencia, additionally, two motor pumps and a desalination plant are being installed. Furthermore, they are preparing to deploy a water treatment plant, seven water pumps, twelve electric generators and three tanks of 500 liters each.

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.
- Activation of emergency plans and support for the Ministry of Health, in addition to COVID19 response operations.
- 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 deployment:
 - Kit CICOM with IT and communication supplies and equipment has been sent by PAHO to Honduras to support the Ministry of Health effort to coordinate the EMT response.
 - EMT team “Samaritan’s purse”, type 1 Fixed, deployed to San Pedro Sula, Cortes.

- EMT team “Humanity first”, type 1 mobile, deployed to San Pedro Sula, Cortes.
 - EMT team “Heart to heart international”, type 1 mobile, deployed to San Pedro Sula, Cortes.
 - PAHO resource mobilization:
 - Delivered: 2 PAHO COVID-19 5x30 kits (PPES), 138 emergency backpacks, soap bars and mosquito nets
 - 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, hand sanitizer, hygiene supplies and oral rehydration salts
 - Guatemala:
 - 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.
 - Sent 17 clinical modules with equipment, 36 first aid kits, 1000 PPE kits to the Departments of Alta Verapaz, Quiche and Izabal.
 - Supported the mobilization of 6 health damage and needs assessment teams to the departments of Peten, Quiche, Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Zacapa.
 - Supported the health authorities of Huehuetenango with 3 tents for the installation of clinical units.
 - In collaboration with UNICEF, PAHO/WHO mobilized 8 inter programmatic teams (coordination, information management, operation, etc.) with PPE supplies and basic medical equipment.
 - EMT deployment:
 - In coordination with the Ministry of Health, deployed 10 EMT type 1 mobile to provide urgent outpatient care in shelter in Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Quiche and Quetzaltenango and 1 EMT type SARI to Alta Verapaz.
 - PAHO resource mobilization:
 - Departing: 100 emergency backpacks and 400 dignity kits.
 - Nicaragua:
 - PAHO resource mobilization:
 - Delivered: 2 PAHO COVID-19 5x30 kits (PPE), 5,280 soap bars and 138 emergency backpacks.
 - Colombia:
 - *Latest!* Deployment of PAHO personnel to Providencia, including an EMT expert and an epidemiologist.
 - Support to the Ministry of Health with 10 kits of medical-surgical supplies.
 - Develop prevention and control measures for vector-borne diseases, with the support of malaria and vector control experts.
 - Donation of 176 body bags in support of the Providencia response.
 - *Latest!* Support the national EOC with the acquisition of 1 communication kit and activation EMT CICOM cell.
 - EMT deployment:
 - Colombian Red Cross EMT (type 1 mobile) and Cfgfgolombian Navy (Type 2 ship) were both deployed to Providencia.
 - PAHO Resource mobilization:
 - In transit: 4 PPE kits and 2 bladders through PHE Regional (PAHO's Strategic Hub in Panama).
 - Pipeline: 1 trauma kit.
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