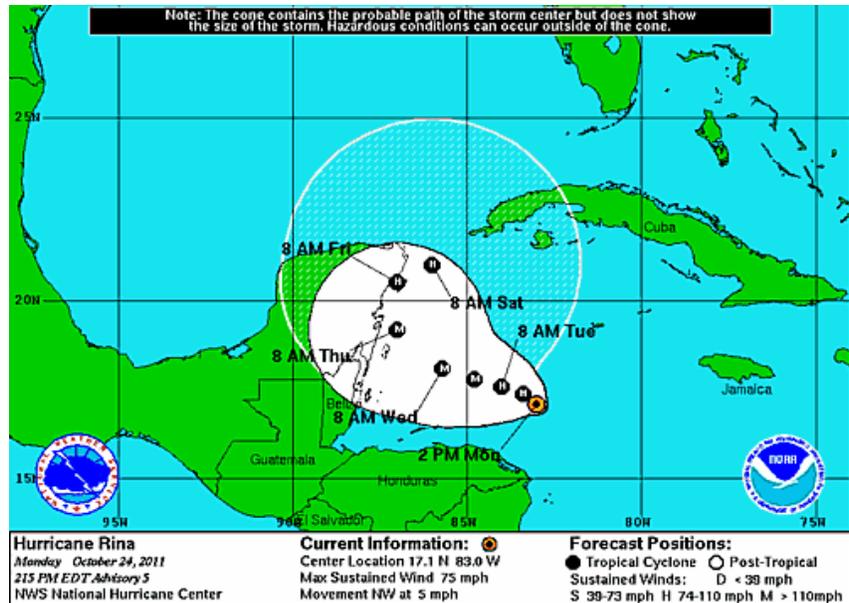


Monday, October 24, 2011 – 6pm

PAHO/WHO EOC SITUATION REPORT #4

Summary

Although rains from Tropical Storm 12E have decreased, Hurricane Rina is threatening the region as it heads towards the Yucatán Peninsula. It is expected to strengthen before it reaches Belize and Mexico by Thursday, October 27 (please see the forecast in the attached map).



El Salvador

The Government of El Salvador has reported a total of 55,976 people displaced in 638 shelters nationwide. Armed Forces Logistics is coordinating the distribution of aid to the affected population. Assessments are underway by the government to evaluate whether the evacuees can return to their homes. Some communities have been cleared to return home while others living close to slopes have been advised not to return to their homes for another 4 days to allow water to evaporate.

Assessment missions in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster reported that lack of drinking water and contaminated wells continue to be a problem. 130 latrines must be provided to shelters to improve their sanitary conditions. On the other hand, healthcare workers that have been working in shelters with little rest are fatigued. A rotation system for healthcare staff is

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being implemented but more healthcare professionals are needed for full coverage. Hospital management is a potential problem, especially for the 159 healthcare facilities that are affected.

The Ministry of Health, with the support of PAHO/WHO, is developing an operational plan to rehabilitate the health sector.

Guatemala

Rains and floods in Guatemala have affected 550,762 people and left 82,913 homeless; 21,451 of which are displaced to 172 shelters. The Ministry of Health has reported increases in acute respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, and skin diseases through their surveillance system.

Regarding the situation of the health sector:

- There are limited stocks of medicines and health care supplies available including lack of access to vehicles and fuels, which is limiting the quick mobilization of emergency personnel.
- Some health centers do not have methods for external communication, which needs to be addressed.
- Hygiene conditions in shelters are very poor and many have sustained infrastructural damage.
- There is limited access to basic services such as water, sanitation, food, and psychosocial support.

Nicaragua

9 rain related deaths were reported in Nicaragua along with 28,091 affected and 10,278 evacuated people to 104 shelters throughout the country. After assessments, the Taiwanese Government donated USD\$300,000 to the Nicaraguan Government for relief efforts. The Government of Nicaragua has requested international assistance as of October 21.

Honduras

There were 18 deaths and 59,663 affected people due to rains and floods in Honduras. 6,782 people are currently in shelters, mostly located in Choluteca and Valle. Hurricane Rina may bring more rains as it passes towards Mexico.