

HURRICANE ETA & IOTA

Situation Report No. 9

December 2– 6pm

HIGHLIGHTS

- Honduras:** 414 health facilities have reported damage, of which, 120 health facilities are reported inoperative, 27 health facilities are collapsed and 12 report damage to cold chain equipment. Additionally, 99 health facilities report health personnel directly affected, complicating the continuity of health services. Approximately 2 million people have limited or no access to health services due to damage to the health services network, of which at least 500,000 have health needs. Furthermore, around 94,000 people remain in shelters, decreasing 81,000 since last week.
- Guatemala:** 206 health facilities have reported damage, including: 79 in Alta Verapaz, 13 in Izabal, 36 in Quiché, 65 in Huehuetenango and 13 in Peten. No major health facility has reported damages. Furthermore, around 30,000 people remain in 317 shelters, decreasing 2,000 since last week. It is estimated the health sector requires at least USD\$ 2 million to restore the operational functions of its service network in the five most affected departments (Alta Verapaz, Quiché, Petén, Izabal and Huehuetenango).
- Colombia:** Providencia reports 1 health facility completely damaged and non-operative. Medical teams were deployed, mental health first aid has been provided and a field emergency hospital has been installed including outpatient services, emergency rooms with isolation capacity, and clinical lab. Furthermore, around 800 people remain in shelters.

Figure 1: La Lima, one of the most affected municipalities in Honduras
Source: PAHO Honduras



Figure 2: Inoperative health facility in Yoro, Honduras.
Source: PAHO Honduras

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

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

Affected

>9M_{1,2,3,4,5,6}



Deaths
205_{1,2,3,4,5}



Damaged
716_{1,2,5}



Missing
113_{1,2,5}



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



Sources

1. CONRED report December 2 - Guatemala
2. PAHO PWR Update December 1 - Honduras
3. [Govt of Panama report November 16](#)
4. [Govt of El Salvador December 2](#)
5. PAHO PWR Sitrep December 1 – 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.

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.

HEALTH SITUATION

• Honduras:

- As of December 1, 414 health facilities, including 10 hospitals, have reported damage and many more are expected as the damage assessment continues, of which:
 - 120 health facilities are reported inoperative: the majority in Cortes (36) and Yoro (25).
 - 27 are collapsed: the majority in Cortes (13) and Gracias a Dios (6).
 - 12 report damage to cold chain equipment.
 - 99 health facilities report health personnel directly affected.
- Approximately 2 million people have limited or no access to health services due to damage to the health services network, of which at least 500,000 have health needs.
- As of November 17, National health authorities are 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 — 5 hospitals report not having an ambulance and 4 hospitals reported having only 1 available. Affecting access to integrated and comprehensive health services.
 - Medicine supplies: are above 80% in all hospitals.
 - Health personnel: shortage of health personnel to cover critical areas under normal conditions.
 - 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.

• Guatemala

- As of November 24, 206 health facilities have reported damage, of which:
 - Alta Verapaz: 78 health facilities reported with infrastructure damage and 1 health facility is reported destroyed.
 - Izabal: 13 health facilities reported with infrastructure damage.
 - Quiche: 36 health facilities report infrastructure damage (including 1 maternal and childcare center).
 - Huehuetenango: 65 health facilities report infrastructure damage.
 - Peten: 13 health facilities reported with infrastructure damage.
- 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.
 - 12,900 people in shelters in Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Quiche and Peten have received medical attention. Additionally, 48 COVID19 cases have been reported in shelters, including 1 case in a first responder.

- Shelters in Alta Verapaz, Izabal and Quiche have coordinated with the health authorities the transfer of existing and future COVID19 cases to nearby health facilities and isolation centers.

- **Colombia:**

- Providencia: 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.
 - Health facilities report low supply of medicines for chronic diseases.

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

- Support delivering health care attention to the affected population and reinforce public health measures.
- Guatemala:
 - Equipment and supplies for monitoring water quality, as well as 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.
 - Ensure sanitary conditions and medical supplies for sheltered population.
 - Deployment of public health experts with self-sustained capacity, in the areas of mental health, environmental sanitation and WASH, and information management.
- 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

- Logistical difficulties due to distances, dispersion of the population, inaccessible communities as a result of road collapse are complicating the distribution of humanitarian assistance and medical supplies.
- Risks related to COVID19 shelter management, result from: insufficient PPE, difficulties implementing COVID19 preventive public health measures and overcrowding.
- Vulnerability of the health services network, mainly hospitals, with a deteriorated infrastructure, reduced human resources, and saturated care rooms.

RESPONSE ACTIONS

Ministry of Health

- Honduras:
 - Mobilization of humanitarian assistance by air, to communities inaccessible by land, in the departments of Yoro, Cortés and Santa Bárbara.
 - Disaster management agency, COPECO, continues carrying out damage assessment and distributing humanitarian assistance to the affected population.
- Colombia:
 - Medical brigades are providing health care to sheltered population, as well as, mental health interventions.

- National authorities have deployed more than 927,000 tons of humanitarian assistance as well as 3 water treatment plants, 33 water tanks, 3 bladder plants, more than 396 thousand liter of water and have managed 64 tons of waste.

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 shipment of critical supplies:
 - Delivered: 2 PAHO COVID-19 5x30 kits (PPES), 300 dignity kits, hurricane kits (meds and renewables Est. \$3MM), WASH supplies, 100 mosquito nets
 - In process (3/5 shipments have been delivered, 2 still in the works): 5,000-liter bladder tank, Hach kits, WASH supplies, incubator, portable turbidimeters, chlorine meters, Ph testers, 100 mosquito nets and 5,280 soap bars.
- 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; and, supported health authorities in Huehuetenango with 3 tents for the installation of clinical units.
 - 6 health damage and needs assessment teams to the departments of Peten, Quiche, Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Zacapa.
 - 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 shipment of critical supplies:
 - Departing: 100 emergency backpacks and 400 dignity kits.
- Nicaragua:
 - PAHO shipment of critical supplies:
 - Delivered: 2 PAHO COVID-19 5x30 kits (PPE), 5,280 soap bars and 138 emergency backpacks.
- Colombia:
 - 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.
 - Strengthen environmental health with the mobilization of a WASH engineer and WASH supplies.
 - PAHO expert reviewing the construction process of the new hospital according to the standards of hospitals exposed to hurricanes.
 - ⇨ Support in vector management operations, and donation of tests for leptospirosis and dengue.
 - 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 Colombian Navy (Type 2 ship) were both deployed to Providencia. Doctors without borders (EMT type 1 mobile) Air patrol (EMT type 1 mobile) were also deployed to Colombia.
 - PAHO shipment of critical supplies:
 - Arrived in country, pending customs clearance: 4 PPE kits and 2 bladders through PHE Regional (PAHO's Strategic Hub in Panama), 1 trauma kit, 50 emergency backpacks.
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