

**UNICEF Situation Report  
Honduras  
October 20th, 2007**

**Major Developments**

<i>Figures as of 20 Oct 2008</i>	
Dead	10
People Affected	126,892
People Disappeared	5
People in shelters	10,981
People located for prevention in shelters	7,852
People in homes of relatives	5,909
Shelters identified	-
Shelters functioning	-
Public buildings damaged	-
Homes damaged	2,229
Homes destroyed	25
Health centres damaged	-
Hospitals destroyed	-
Schools damaged	-
Schools destroyed	-
Roads damaged	21
Bridges and fords damaged	4
Bridges and fords destroyed	6
Damaged churches	2
Water supply systems damaged	1

*Source: Permanent Commission for Emergencies (COPECO).*

To date, 126,892 people have been affected by the floods caused by the Tropical Depression Number 16 during the last weekend, among them nearly 63,000 children. Today the Government has declared a national emergency which has severely affected 16 of 18 Departments, 48 municipalities and 312 communities.

According to COPECO the situation is expected to worsen in the next 24 hours, as heavy rainfall is expected for that period. The municipalities of Pimienta, Potrerillos, Villanueva, San Manuel, in the Department of Cortés; Tela in the Department of Atlántida; El Progreso, Santa Rita and El Negrito, in the Department of Yoro; and the Departments of Comayagua, Choluteca and Valle are most severely affected.

Severe landslides have affected communities located in the Western and Southern Regions of the Country. Landslides in the capital city caused the death of six (6) people among them three (3) children and the displacement of nearly 500 inhabitants. The floods in the Southern side of the country have isolated poor rural communities and the rivers in the Valley of Sula in the Northern Region are could overflow, increasing the number of affected people.

## Needs Assessment

Water supply and sanitation facilities are urgently required to ensure displaced people and affected communities access these basic needs. An increase in acute respiratory, dermatologic and enteric diseases is reported by COPECO due to the lack of adequate sanitary conditions caused by the floods.

The school system has been affected in the flooded areas and children could not attend schools, as schools are used as temporary shelters. High nutritional vulnerability is expected to increase in the medium term due to food scarcity and the crops have been severely damaged by the floods.

The rains are expected to bring copious during the next 24 hours with high precipitations which would most probably produce new floods and displacement of populations.

In view of the present shortage and the expected situation in the near future, the President formally requested support from the international community to respond to the needs generated by the emergency, according to the emergency decree number PCM – 029 – 2008 issued on Oct 20<sup>th</sup>.

The National Commission for Contingencies COPECO formally requested support from the International Cooperation, including the provision of hygiene and cooking kits, blankets, water and sanitation facilities, medicines, communication equipment and logistical support.

By request of the Honduran Government the United Nations System called a meeting with the International Cooperation, including donors, NGO, bilateral cooperation agencies and multilateral financial institutions, to properly harmonize and coordinate the immediate response.

## UNICEF Response

UNICEF Honduras provided and prepositions the following emergency supplies, before the start of the rainy season, which were distributed by COPECO in their different regional offices around the country to ensure a timely local response in affected regions:

Items	Pre- positioned 2008
Blankets	5659
Hygiene Kits	3338
Cooking Kits	1200
Water reservoirs Rotoplast of 1,100 Liters	60
Portable latrines	170

Bladders of 5,000 Liters	10
Chlorine test kits	10
Pumps	34
Tents for temporary shelters	17
Oral rehydration salts (sachets)	100,000
Kits for oral rehydration community centers	207
Basic health emergency Kits	3
Educational and recreational Kits	200

Close cooperation is held with COPECO and mass media for the training of journalists (400), to ensure proper communication in emergencies.

As a response to this request, UNICEF plans the following actions (based on a target population of 50,000 people):

- **Water Sanitation and Hygiene:** Rehabilitation of water systems; purchase and preposition Family Hygiene Kits.
- **Health and Nutrition:** Purchase and preposition Emergency Health Kits and Family Cooking Kits and Blankets.
- **Education:** Rehabilitation of affected infrastructure (directly and indirectly, as schools are used as shelters). Purchase and preposition education kits.
- **Social Mobilization:** Training materials and workshops for emergency preparedness, for schools and journalists.
- **Logistical support:** For transport, mage assessment and monitoring.

The overall estimated cost for the above said activities is \$ 1,200,000.

### Inter-Agency Collaboration and Key Partnerships

UNICEF closely coordinates response activities with the other sister agencies of the UN System. The monitoring of the events and the coordination is implemented through the UNETE.

### Supply and Logistics

To date, supplies have been provided directly to COPECO, who has taken responsibility for their distribution, in coordination with Municipal Governments. COPECO has storage facilities in different regions of Honduras, which are utilized for prepositioning and distribution of supplies. UNICEF continues the procurement process of some of the items referred above.

## **Funding**

As an initial response, UNICEF foresees the utilization of US\$ 50,000 of Regular Resources for the immediate response. A Flash Appeal is expected to be released during the next days, on the basis of an Needs Assessment, which has to be carried out with the participation of the UN agencies, the Honduran Government and other local actors including international cooperating agencies and NGOs.

## **Staffing**

No specific arrangements for additional staff have been required.

## **Security**

No specific incidents regarding UN staff have been reported. At present, normal security conditions prevail.