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CENTRAL AMERICA: Tropical Storm Eta
Situation Report No. 2
As of 5:00pm EST 9 November 2020

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 6 to 9 November 2020. The next report will be issued on or around 12 November.

KEY POINTS

- The already grave consequences of the convergence of Eta’s impact, COVID-19 and pre-existing vulnerabilities could be exacerbated by growing protection risks, worsening food insecurity and the threat of vector-borne disease in Eta’s aftermath.

- A total of 153.3 thousand hectares of damaged or lost crops in Honduras will devastate rural livelihoods, while forecast rains in Guatemala may bring irreparable damages to staple crops, threatening a rapid deterioration of the food security situation and a spike in malnutrition among vulnerable children in both countries.

- More than 37 thousand Hondurans in shelters are faced with urgent humanitarian needs and growing health risks, as shelters lack sufficient PPE as well as water and sanitation services to prevent COVID-19 in the 248 shelters activated across the country.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Eta is currently north-west of Cuba where it is still causing rains en route to the United States’ southern coastlines. Cuba does not report any major impacts. With Eta set to run its course, governments and humanitarian partners are now devoting the full range of their resources and capacities to responding to the needs of millions of people across Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador contending with the convergence of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Eta’s impact and pre-existing vulnerabilities. Teams on the ground are already relaying information indicating critical needs in Shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health, Food Security and Protection despite facing access and logistics challenges over blocked roads and cut off communities.

Shelter needs, in particular, are creating a host of concerns in these countries. In Nicaragua, people are still unable to return to their homes given the severe damage or loss to their homes. Health partners in Honduras and Guatemala are expressing concern over COVID-19 mitigation and prevention capacities and the need for hygiene kits and personal protective equipment, as well as limited WASH access and services. There is also concern over underreporting amid growing populations of people in shelters.

2.5M+
People affected in Central America
Source: COPECO

1.8M
People affected in Honduras
Source: COPECO

311.3K
People affected in Guatemala
Source: CONRED

37.6K
People sheltered in Honduras
Source: CONRED

9.8K
People sheltered in Guatemala
Source: CONRED

Source: National governments and/or civil protection systems. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Given the scale of the damages and the impact that have affected some 1.8 million people, Honduras is seeing a heightened level of humanitarian activity from the Government and from partners. Some 745 communities across 155 municipalities in Honduras report varying degrees of damage. Communications are cut off to more than 95,000 people in 68 communities in the western Honduran department of Copán alone. Additionally, several local humanitarian response organizations, volunteers and community leaders are themselves among the affected, greatly limiting operational capacities in some flood-affected areas.

Response priorities in Honduras are focusing on operations along vulnerable Atlantic coast communities, including mapping shelter conditions and ongoing joint evaluations to support Government response. More than 50,000 first response system members and volunteers are participating response in Honduras. A UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team (UNDAC) will deploy to Honduras in the coming days to help Government and communities’ needs assessment and response coordination efforts.

Guatemala also continues to deal with the fallout from Eta in 18 of its 22 departments, mostly concentrated in Izabal (80,800 affected people), Alta Verapaz (78,000 affected people), Huehuetenango (25,200 affected people), Chiquimula (19,240 affected people), Quiché (14,100 affected people) and Petén (10,300 affected people). Humanitarian teams in Guatemala continue to support evaluations of health centres and delivering food supplies to cut off communities. There is particular concern over extensive damages to agriculture, livestock and rural livelihoods, which stand to worsen existing food insecurity. Partners in Guatemala are identifying response capacities and priorities to support the Government’s identified needs to then carry out multi-sector evaluations.

Nicaragua, who first bore the brunt of Eta’s impact while it was still a Category 4 storm, issued a preliminary report indicating 1,890 destroyed homes, 8,000 damaged homes, 16 damaged health centres and various damaged roads and bridges. Eta saw more than 47,000 seek shelter at 325 centres. Authorities estimate material damages to be about US$172 million, while immediate restoration costs are at about US$36.4 million. The Government report indicates they are prioritizing care for families in shelter, food insecure families, repairs for homes, educational centres and health centres.

The broad reach and range of Eta’s rains also caused significant impacts in Panama, Costa Rica, Belize and southeastern Mexico, which also saw the combined effects of a passing cold front. Panama, who reports 3,330 affected people, are still dealing with search and rescue operations and damage to infrastructure in the west, prompting the Government to allocate US$100 million to cover needs related to Eta. Costa Rica reports 325,000 people affected either directly or indirectly and still maintain several alerts, mostly along its Pacific coasts. Belize reports major flooding conditions in the Cayo, Belize, Stann Creek and Toledo districts that are still limiting full damage assessments; preliminary estimates cite 50,000-60,000 people affected along riverside communities. Mexican authorities report that Eta’s interaction with a cold front in southern Mexico affected the states of Chiapas, Tabasco and Veracruz, estimating that there are more than 177,600 people in need of assistance across those states, as well as 58,800 damaged homes.

**HUMANITARIAN FINANCING**

Humanitarian organizations continue to identify and re-allocate existing funds to back response activities. Honduras’ Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has pre-positioned and/or already executed some US$2.6 million to respond in Health, Food and Nutrition Security, Protection, WASH, Shelter and Coordination/Information Management.
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched an Emergency Appeal for Central America in the amount of $21.9 million to provide multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to 75,000 people in Honduras (50,000), Nicaragua (15,000) and Guatemala (10,000) through their respective National Societies.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Honduras

OCHA’s 345W tracking matrix for response activities in Honduras currently features 180 activities from 19 organizations in 15 departments. Reporting partners are prioritizing WASH, Shelter and Food Security response activities. For more information, please visit the Honduras 345W at: https://bit.ly/366xBAs

Guatemala

OCHA’s 345W tracking matrix for response activities in Honduras currently features 29 activities from 6 organizations in 4 departments. Reporting partners are similarly prioritizing WASH activities, as well as focusing on Food and Nutritional Security. For more information, please visit the Guatemala 345W at: https://bit.ly/3k5I4RM

El Salvador

OCHA’s 345W tracking matrix for response activities in El Salvador currently features 84 activities from 19 organizations in 10 departments. Reporting partners are mainly working in WASH, Health and Food and Nutritional Security. For more information, please visit the El Salvador 345W at: https://bit.ly/2IawFmi

Shelter

Needs:

Honduras

• There are more than 37,000 people with urgent needs in 348 shelters across the country, 80 per cent of which are in the department of Cortés. The Villanueva municipality alone has more than 10,000 people in 42 shelters.
• Preliminary reports indicate that many shelters do not have the capacity to cover basic needs of the affected population, including access to safe drinking water, light, sanitary services and effective waste management, among others.
• Mapping of shelters and their specific needs, especially in priority communities, to identify demographics, health status, protection risk and infrastructure conditions in the context of COVID-19.
• COVID-19 diagnostic tests for shelters and training programs to promote health and disease prevention.
• Strengthen coordination national and local improve information and needs management in shelters.

Guatemala

• The Health cluster indicates that COVID-19 is their main concern in shelters given the lack of capacity in implementing physical distancing and COVID-19 prevention measures.
• PPE, hygiene kits, clothing, medicine, safe water, supplies for solid waste collection, fuel and bedding.
• There is an urgent need for hygiene kits and PPE; clothing, underwear and footwear; medicine for respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases; safe water for drinking and sanitation; supplies for solid waste collection as well as cots, waterproof mattresses and fuel.
- Mental health and psychosocial support.
- Vehicular support to transport shelter registry staff.

**El Salvador**
- Shelter for families affected by housing damage.
- Personal and family hygiene kits, clothing, sanitation supplies, mats, bedding, sanitizing gel, showers, portable toilets.

**Response:**

**Regional**
- IFRC is assisting in the repair of homes to support safe, sustainable and secure settlement conditions for 1,200 families, delivering 12,000 psychosocial support (PSS) kits for children and adults in shelters, and procuring and distributing 15,000 kitchen sets (1 per family), 30,000 tarpaulins (2 per family) and 3,000 shelter toolkits (1 per family).

**Nicaragua**
- Plan International Nicaragua, in coordination with the Government, has delivered 455 food, water and hygiene kits to 455 families in 3 temporary shelters in Puerto Cabezas and Prinzapolka.
- According to SINAPRED, the Nicaraguan Government sent 88 tons of food to the Northern Caribbean region and deployed response teams to reestablish power lines and communications, repair infrastructure and provide assistance in health.

**Honduras**
- The Shelter Sector has delivered more than 500 kits and over 63,300 hygiene and biosecurity items in the departments of Cortés, Colón, Intibucá and Francisco Morazán. Sector partners have provided technical assistance to COPECO for the installation of 150 Refugee Housing Units donated in Cortés and Francisco Morazán.
- UNICEF is providing mental health and psychosocial support services in the most affected communities, reaching approximately 2,000 people in temporary shelters. In addition, they are making US$16,000 available to support the immediate installation of three emergency temporary shelters in the Puerto Cortés for 400 children and families.
- Plan International Honduras is responding in Santa Barbara, Intibucá and Choluteca by redirecting COVID-19 supplies.
- MSF is support to more than 1,000 people in Choloma through the donation of medicines and PPE, as well as the provision of medical and psychosocial services to people in shelters.
- The Honduran Red Cross, with the support of more than 250 people from protection sector organizations, provided immediate humanitarian assistance and emergency psychosocial support in shelters.

**Guatemala**
- The Shelter cluster is active and reports that volunteers are gathering disaggregated data on people in shelters on real time.
- UNICEF is procuring hygiene kits and PPE items for schools that may be used as shelters to ensure compliance with sanitary protocols.
- Plan International Guatemala is delivering food rations, hygiene kits for families with children under 5 as well as feminine hygiene kits and shelter kits, including mattresses, blankets, sheets and pillows, to shelters in Carchá and Polochic.

**El Salvador**
- UNICEF and its implementing partner, PROVIDA, have distributed communication materials in shelters to promote good hygiene practices and COVID-19 prevention, nutrition, violence prevention and psychosocial support.
- IOM, with support from USAID, delivered 800 food kits and 8,000 700ml bottles of water to the Ministry of the Interior.
- UNFPA delivered 142 mats, women’s underwear and bath towels to shelters in Atabo.
- Plan International El Salvador, in coordination with the CCCM cluster, has provided shelter kits with blankets, pillows, mats, sanitary towels, bath soap, dishes, glasses, cutlery and toilet paper.
Gaps & Constraints:

**Honduras**
- Shelters are not prepared to effectively respond to humanitarian needs given that WASH services are limited, especially in schools being used as shelters, and protection risks to internally displace people have been reported due to the presence of gang members.
- There is limited response capacity compared to the number of shelter sites that have been activated in some municipalities.
- Underreporting in the number of existing shelters as the population’s shelter needs have increased.
- Due to roads and bridges damaged, floods and landslides, affected people have not been able to move to shelters outside of their communities, so the number of people on the move to shelters in the municipal capitals and to other nearby communities has increased, according to CONRED.
- Insufficient PPR to cover needs in shelters, increasing the risk of shelters becoming COVID-19 hotspots.

**El Salvador**
- Strengthen management mechanisms and internal organization of temporary shelters.
- Lack of population data for affected communities limits the ability to identify people who have yet to be mobilized to authorized shelters and the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, elderly people, people with disabilities, LGBTI population.
- Follow-up on health protocols to reduce the probability of COVID-19 infections in shelters.

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**Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)**

**Response:**

**Regional**
- The regional CCCM sector is active and is coordinating the CCCM response at the regional and national level, with CCCM groups active in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, with the group in El Salvador already active since the response to Tropical Storms Amanda and Cristobal began in May-June 2020. These national CCCM sectors are working on gathering information on shelters.
- IFRC will support CCCM mechanisms in line with the role potentially requested by governments through respective Red Cross National Societies in Central America.

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**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

**Needs:**

**Nicaragua**
- Waste management, cleaning and purification of water sources.
- Sanitation system assessment, especially in areas still experiencing limited access.
- Debris removal and waste management assistance to prevent vector-borne diseases prone to breaking out in areas after waters have receded.

**Honduras**
- Determine the scope of Eta's damages to water and sanitation services in affected communities, especially in the Sula valley area.
- Ensure adequate access to water and sanitation in shelters, health centres and affected communities.
- UNICEF reports that more 1.5 million children are exposed to the damages caused by the flooding, which may bring about water-borne diseases that often pose a high threat to vulnerable children.
- Access to high-quality WASH services has fallen from 32.6 per cent of the population to 6.5 per cent after Eta. Intermediate-quality WASH service access has fallen from 62.5 per cent to 19.6 per cent, while inadequate access to WASH services is now at 71.7 per cent.
Guatemala

- Provide safe water and distribution points in flood-affected areas due to contaminated wells, as well as in shelters and communities with damaged water supply systems. This includes well disinfection and rehabilitation.
- Hygiene kits, including mosquito nets, for flood-affected areas, including people in shelters, self-sheltered people and cut off communities.
- Promotion of water rationing for consumption and sanitation use.
- Evaluation of water distribution networks.

El Salvador

- Hygiene products and PPE to prevent COVID-19 in shelters, as well as differentiated hygiene products for boys, girls, women and the elderly in shelters.
- Water storage facility installation in shelters and cut off communities, as well as safe water for people in shelters and response personnel and volunteers.

Response:

Regional

- The regional WASH sector is adapting COVID-19 WASH response plan for Eta response and are creating the relevant WASH assessment forms for WASH in schools, communities, shelters and health facilities.
- Regional WASH partners have created 2 consolidation tools and dashboards for Nicaragua and El Salvador and a template for mapping of human resource capacities and stocks.
- IFRC is procuring and distributing 15,000 family cleaning kits (1 per family) and 30,000 family hygiene kits for two months, as well as 30,000 home water storage container buckets, 2 for each targeted family.

Nicaragua

- UNICEF is purchasing 6,000 family hygiene kits, including feminine hygiene kits that include water storage buckets and 90 cleaning kits for health units and maternity homes. UNICEF is also purchasing water tanks for 30 shelters and PPE items and 1,000 community health workers and is completing designs for 120 handwashing stations at health units and maternity homes.

Honduras

- The WASH sector has delivered some 41,400 items including hygiene kits and personal hygiene items to 10 departments across the country.
- WASH partners are monitoring safe WASH service provision and coordinating damage evaluations in affected communities and temporary shelters.
- WASH partners will distribute 40,000 litres of safe water and provide WASH education in the department of Colón, deliver 5-gallon water storage units to some 6,000 people in the department of Cortés, and install hand washing stations at shelters in Atlántida, Cortés and Francisco Morazán.
- UNFPA is acquiring thousands of dignity kits with information on how to receive assistance and hygiene supplies to distribute to affected women and girls.

El Salvador

- UNICEF has distributed 200 family hygiene kits and 200 hygiene kits for children at the Civil Protection Emergency Operations centre for delivery to shelters.
- UNICEF installed a 2,500-litre water tank at a shelter in Nejapa, which recently saw a massive landslide prior to Eta that destroyed 50 homes and killed 9 people.
- UNICEF is working with implementing partners PROVIDA, ACUA and CORDES to pre-position WASH supplies for families and children in shelters and affected communities and are procuring additional hygiene items, disinfectants, soap and PPE for Shelter.
- IOM delivered 600 men’s hygiene kits and 1,400 women’s hygiene kits, as well as 400 bags of detergent and assorted cleaning supplies.

Belize

- UNICEF is supporting emergency WASH response activities following a request from NEMO for water and food supplies. Partners, including the Belize Red Cross, are procuring these supplies. UNICEF reports they have already
distributed hygiene kits to the Government, including WASH kits, that can be diverted to flood-affected areas or areas taking in displaced people.

Food Security

Needs:

Honduras
- Per a quick WFP survey, Eta has severely affected livelihoods and blocked access to food and water for consumption, forcing many families to implement negative coping strategies after losing all but everything.
- The Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat (SAG) reports damages to, or losses of, some 153,390 hectares of basic grains, banana and sugar cane and other crops.
- Initial Government evaluations indicate that families who have lost their homes, families with flood-affected homes and families in shelter will require food supplies including rice, sugar, bean, flour, coffee and other foodstuffs for about 25,000 food rations.

Guatemala
- Several municipalities in Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, Izabal, Jalapa and Quiché reported damages to basic grains, coffee, bananas and vegetables. Should forecast rains continue much longer, bean harvests may suffer irreparable damages, especially in eastern Guatemala.
- Delivery of food rations to cut off communities and to families in shelter and those who have self-sheltered.

El Salvador
- Assistance for families in affected areas, both for families in shelter and families staying with relatives.

Response:

Regional
- IFRC will procure and distribute 15,000 food kits to Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador during the initial response phase, considering the impacts to markets and market access. Each kit will last for one month.

Honduras
- The Food and Nutritional Security sector has delivered more than 10,700 food rations and kits to affected areas, with at least 12 people providing technical support to distribute food to affected families both in and out of shelters.
- Sector partners are preparing to distribute more than 150,000 rations to shelters and affected areas.
- Sector partners are also conducting market and production chain analyses and will support rapid multisector needs analysis with technical assistance and personnel, as well as support Government authorities with joint needs analyses.

El Salvador
- FAO is planning short term early recovery support for affected families in rural areas where they are already implementing projects, support that includes supplies for family farming and supplies for implementing sustainable agricultural practices for 20,000 farmers in Dry Corridor communities.
- WFP has US$250,000 available for immediate emergency needs and is mobilizing resources to respond to people affected by Eta with regular food assistance.

Gaps & Constraints:
Honduras
- Further evaluations are still required to properly ascertain the scope of Eta-related losses to the second sowing season, commonly referred to as *postrera*.
- Shelters will require canned goods and water in priority municipalities, as current needs have overrun Government capacities.

Guatemala
- Ministry of Agriculture personnel have not yet reached all areas to conduct evaluations, given the flooding damages to roads and access.

El Salvador
- Maintain feeding continuity for people in shelters.

Nutrition

Needs:

Guatemala
- Affected departments include Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango, where there are longstanding concerns of acute malnutrition and vulnerability among children; as of 24 October, official data from the Ministry of Health indicates 2,400 cases of acute undernutrition in children under 5 in Huehuetenango, 2,100 in Alta Verapaz, 809 in Izabal and 630 in Quiché.
- Identifying and assessing the nutritional status of people in shelters.
- Support for food security in shelters and supervising of food donations.

El Salvador
- Food assistance to the affected population in shelters and for families who have sought refuge with close relatives.
- Vulnerability to food insecurity due to landslides and/or soil saturation in some areas that have affected crops. Farmers in the Bajo Lempa have requested support from the authorities in order to help mitigate the loss of crops.

Response:

Guatemala
- The Nutrition cluster identified promoting and protecting lactation as priority actions, with nutritional brigades in affected areas working on public messaging.
- Nutritional brigades are supporting food security response in shelters where possible, in coordination with the Ministry of Health.

Gaps & Constraints:

Guatemala
- Nutrition partners suspended active missions for identifying acute malnutrition due to Eta’s inclement weather and subsequent access difficulties.

Health

Needs:

Nicaragua
- The severely injured or those with medical conditions require pre-hospital emergency care and adequate medical transport to intact or ad-hoc health centres.
- Efficient referral between collective centres and health centres and hospitals for cases that require advanced care.
- Strengthened epidemiological surveillance, in particular for COVID-19, communicable diseases including vector- and water-borne diseases and measles.
- Personal protection equipment (PPE) for respondents and the general population.

**Honduras**
- Maintain health service infrastructure and operational continuity and rehabilitate health service infrastructure where required.
- Maintain supply chain continuity and ensure supplies and medications for health response in first- and second-level health centres, including triage centres, medical brigades and rapid response teams.
- Distribute PPE and health security supplies to health centres and shelters.
- Account for affected healthcare staff to accurately gauge Eta’s impact on health service continuity at first-level health centres.

**Guatemala**
- Eta affected more than 36 health centres, causing infrastructural damage of varying degrees that will require damage evaluations and needs assessments.
- While the departments affected by Eta all have community transmission of SARS-CoV2, the general trend in COVID-19 cases is about the same in the affected departments, following a downward trend after peaking in August 2020. About 30 per cent of dedicated COVID-19 hospital beds are occupied in the affected departments.
- Response efforts require additional personnel, given that more than 40 per cent of public healthcare staff in affected departments are inactive due to age or COVID-19 related health conditions.
- Transport and logistics are needed to provide medical supplies and attention to shelters.

**El Salvador**
- Health evaluation of people in shelters.

**Response:**

**Regional**
- IFRC is conducting evaluation, analysis and monitoring damages and needs, including mental health, and will work with health authorities to identify needs, number, type and location of damaged health facilities and gaps in services in targeted communities. IFRC is also seeking to procure and distribute PPE for 15,000 families.

**Nicaragua**
- UNFPA is providing PPE, including 26,000 disposable surgical gowns, disposable caps and masks and 1,370 face shields for frontline health workers in affected areas.
- UNFPA is seeking to support joint needs assessments for sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and Gender-based violence (GBV).

**Honduras**
- The Health sector is donating 340,000 COVID-19 detection supplies and distributing 46,000 PPE items for shelters.
- Sector partners are also conducting a rapid evaluation to strengthen epidemiological surveillance with rapid response teams, in coordination with the Government.
- PAHO/WHO indicate they have already deployed a mission to Cortés and are accompanying health authorities in verifying health and COVID-19 conditions in shelter.
- UNFPA deployed an SRH in emergencies specialist and is supporting needs assessments and response planning for lifesaving SRH services in affected areas.
- UNFPA is supporting preparations for Health and Protection sector needs assessments with national and regional technical assistance and training and have allocated data collection resources.

**Guatemala**
The Health sector has been active since March due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Health has kept the Health Emergency Operations Centre active during this time for situation analyses and response actions, which so far include acquiring tents, surgical equipment PPE and other supplies for Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, Izabal and Petén.

**El Salvador**

- IOM is providing shelters with disinfectant supplies, while the FUSAL NGO is delivering PPE to sheltered families in the Berlin and Ataco Municipalities.
- UNFPA has delivered 142 biosafety kits with masks for adults and children, sanitizing gel, sprays and bleach.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

**Honduras**

- Response is unfolding in a highly complex multi-threat environment between the COVID-19 pandemic and its high case and case-fatality rates, persistent dengue cases and Eta’s impacts.
- Access to critically affected areas such as Cortés, La Lima, San Pedro Sula, Yoro, Tela, La Ceiba, Tocoa, Puerto Lempira and Roatán remains a hurdle.
- Populations living areas affected by Eta are relaxing personal COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures.
- Uncertainty over financing resources to cover response to Eta’s potential impact.

**El Salvador**

- Information on health conditions in shelters.

**Protection**

**Needs:**

**Honduras**

- The flooding and landslides have displaced families and caused damages to homes and crops, loss of livestock and loss of livelihoods.
- Strengthen Protection capacities at temporary shelters, especially at local schools and community centres that require more material support with blankets and bedding, water and non-perishable food, as well as PPE.
- Strengthen capacities of personnel overseeing shelters for identifying and responding to situations of violence against children and GBV.
- Establish protocols for reporting GBV incidents in shelters.
- Disaggregated information on vulnerable populations, including by sex, age, ethnicity, disability and other characteristics that could allow for more targeted identification of special protection needs.

**El Salvador**

- Psychosocial support for people in shelters.

**Response:**

**Nicaragua**

- UNFPA is providing 2,000 dignity kits with personal and family hygiene items, information on COVID-19, SRH and GBV, masks and sanitizing supplies to women of childbearing age and pregnant women.

**Honduras**

- The Protection sector is delivering nearly 48,500 PPE items to the Central District and San Pedro Sula.
- Protection partners report they are re-allocating more than $300,000 to provide humanitarian support to affected communities across 82 municipalities, in addition providing mental health services in 15 shelters and affected communities in central, western and northern Honduras.
UNFPA is deploying a GBV coordinator during the week, while also supporting needs assessments and response planning for lifesaving GBV services and prevention. UNFPA also mainstreamed GBV-related questions in needs assessments to ensure access to information on GBV risks and trained 30 personnel in psychological first aid for GV survivors and GBV-safe and confidential referrals.

UNFPA will lead the development of GBV prevention operational guidelines and response in shelters.

UNFPA, through the GBV subsector, will coordinate the update of GBV referral pathways.

UNFPA is procuring dignity kits to promote the safety and dignity of affected women and adolescent girls and reach them with lifesaving information on GBV risks and access to available services.

NRC delivered 500 hygiene kits to three San Pedro Sula shelters.

El Salvador

UNFPA provided 142 dignity kits and mats for women and girls in shelters.

OXFAM is providing psychosocial support at 14 shelters.

UNHCR, together with the SPASS faith-based NGO and the COMCAVIS LGBTI+ NGO, are setting up emergency phone lines for GBV, forced displacement, human rights violations and complaints.

Belize

UNFPA is procuring dignity kits and is on standby to support inter-agency coordination as indicated per ongoing Government needs assessments.

Gaps & Constraints:

Honduras

According to community monitoring, there are reports of organized criminal groups extorting people travelling in rescue vehicles including boats and trucks, creating further access obstacles for critically affected areas.

El Salvador

There is not enough information on possible protection risks in shelters set up for Eta.

Early Recovery

Needs:

Nicaragua

While the full extent of Eta’s impact on small businesses and local agricultural, fishing and tourism industries is still unknown, information from damage reports and regional economic conditions suggest they will be significant. Families will likely face basic subsistence resource challenges that could lead to negative coping strategies, including selling work tools or reducing diets.

IFRC reports that sheltered families are gradually returning to their homes and are engaged in clean-up and repair work that will require material and labor support.

Honduras

Support for relocated people, either in shelters or at family homes, through multi-sectoral cash transfer programming and support their return to homes, many of which were likely destroyed during the storm.

Response:

Regional

IFRC will activate and deploy Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) and livelihoods rapid response personnel to support the initial emergency response stage.
Logistics

Response:

Regional

- Logistics partners in Honduras indicate that they are procuring goods and logistics services from the Humanitarian Hub in Panama from a stock that includes 852 tons of rice, 270 tons of bean and 87 tons of bean acquired to support Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.
- IFRC’s logistics unit in the Humanitarian Hub in Panama has also been activated and is ready to dispatch help throughout the region. Emergency teams are being pre-positioned with supplies for response, including gas and non-food items.

Honduras

- The Logistics sector is supporting immediate response with transporting personnel and supplies to affected areas and installing generators in the Gracias a Dios department.
- Logistics partners coordinated a flight with more than 6,000 lbs of food to Atlantic coast once rains abated and runway conditions allowed.
- Logistics partners deployed 2 specialized fast water rescue teams of more than 30 specialists and 5 boats to support response in the Sula valley.

Guatemala

- Oxfam reports they have delivered 10 tons of humanitarian relief goods including hygiene kits, kitchen kits for shelters and debris removal equipment to Alta Verapaz for immediate distribution.
- Oxfam is managing aerial transport from Chiquimula to the Morales municipality runway in Izabal to transport emergency food rations. Once in Morales, the rations are being transported by helicopter to cut off communities.

El Salvador

- WFP is supporting processing for shelter food requests, setting up portable warehouses for storage, inspecting local warehouses in western El Salvador for use if necessary, and supporting food supply and storage for Government personnel who are deploying to support Honduras and Guatemala.

Constraints:

Honduras

- Access to flooded areas is currently not possible due to lack of transport, collapsed bridges, blocked roads and cuts to power supply.

El Salvador

- Poor road conditions are limiting access to some shelters.

GENERAL COORDINATION

OCHA has led meetings of the Regional Group on Risks, Emergencies and Disasters for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) to gather information from regional sector leads and partners on pre-positioned supplies, resources, logistics, information, response considerations under existing emergency declarations and status of requests for international assistance and general coordination. OCHA is also working to mobilize teams to affected countries, gathering information on deployments, resources and tracking support requests.
Background on the crisis
Hurricane Eta began affecting north-eastern Nicaragua and northern Honduras in the early morning of 3 November following rapid intensification from tropical storm to Category 4 hurricane on 2 November and moving over northern Nicaragua and parts of Honduras and Guatemala while decreasing to a tropical storm and then tropical depression. Eta’s rains caused significant flooding in parts Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, as well as parts of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama and Belize. The impacts of Eta’s persistent rains have prompted immediate action from national and regional disaster response offices and humanitarian counterparts to respond to the needs of potentially millions of vulnerable people. With Eta’s formation, the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season joins the 2005 season as the busiest ever recorded with 28 storms each.