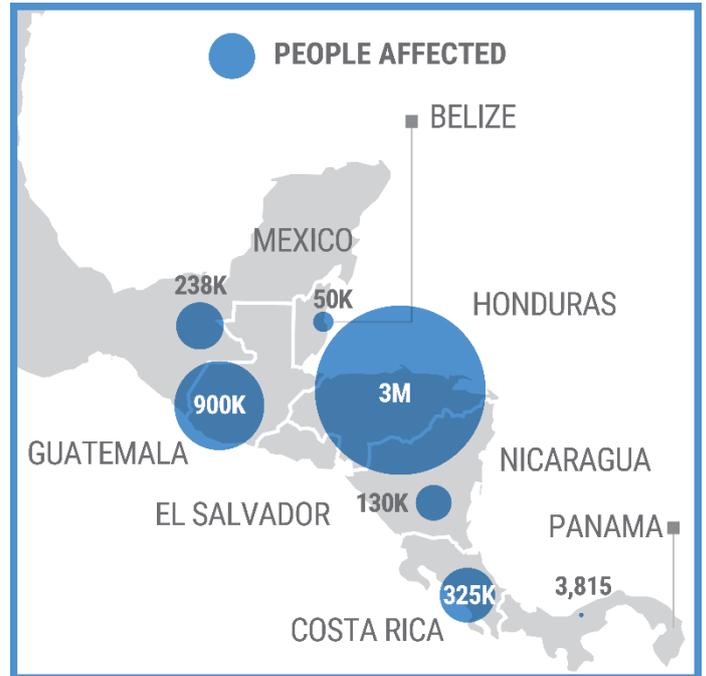


This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 10 to 15 November 2020. The next report will be issued on or around 18 November.

### KEY POINTS

- Millions of people in Central America still reeling from Eta's impact are facing the threat of a second major hurricane in as many weeks with the imminent arrival of Iota, set to strike potentially a Category 5 storm by 16 November in the evening along virtually the same path as Eta.
- Iota comes as national authorities and humanitarian organizations continue to reach previously isolated communities, especially in Honduras and Guatemala, to respond and gain information on their needs. This gradual restoration of access is revealing the sobering magnitude of Eta's impact and the catastrophic effects that Iota may bring on these communities.
- While humanitarian organizations continue to carry out priority response efforts in affected communities, reports from the field indicate dire shelter conditions amid overcrowding, incidents of violence, gender-based violence and family separation, limited access to safe water, food and protection and inadequate COVID-19 prevention measures, conditions that Iota is likely to further strain with pre-emptive evacuations and the high likelihood of longer term stays in the wake of a storm of Iota's projected intensity.



Source: National governments and/or civil protection systems. These numbers are for orientation and are not conclusive. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

### 4.9M

People affected across Central America and Mexico

### 3M

People affected in Honduras

Source: COPECO

### 900K

People affected in Guatemala

Source: CONRED

### 55.3K

People sheltered in Honduras

Source: COPECO

### 17.6K

People sheltered in Guatemala

Source: CONRED

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Millions suffering from Eta's consequences are now on the brink of facing a second major storm in as many weeks, with Hurricane Iota bearing down on Central America's Caribbean coasts on a path virtually identical to that of Eta and setting up a potentially catastrophic scenario upon its projected landfall as a Category 5 storm. Iota, the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season's 30<sup>th</sup> named storm, is currently a Category 4 hurricane featuring maximum sustained winds of 245 km/h and is forecast to bring rainfall of up to 400mm in Honduras, northern Nicaragua, Guatemala and southern Belize. These conditions will bring significant, life-threatening flash flooding and river flooding, along with landslides in higher elevation areas, risks that are compounded by high soil saturations from Eta.

The prospect of a second major hurricane is particularly daunting in Honduras and Guatemala, where authorities and humanitarian organizations are still carrying out ongoing assessments that are revealing the magnitude of Eta's impact on millions of people ahead of Iota's imminent arrival. Governments, NGOs and UN teams continue to overcome critical access constraints and reach affected communities and gather more comprehensive information on their needs.

The gradual gains in access have also increased rolling counts on people affected, deaths and people in shelters. Honduras' COPECO civil protection agency now reports 3 million people affected, 1 million more than figures reported as recently as the previous week. In Guatemala, the 900,500 people directly affected by Eta are nearly triple the figures reported during the same time. Moreover, Honduras reported on 12 November that there are nearly 103,000 people still cut off in Eta's wake. Several towns in northern Guatemala, mostly indigenous, remain isolated due to flooding and landslides, with reports of whole towns being completely buried.

Following Honduras' call for international humanitarian assistance, a UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team (UNDAC) deployed to Honduras to help Government and communities' needs assessment and response coordination efforts; the UNDAC team is already in San Pedro Sula in the hard-hit department of Cortés. Guatemala similarly issued a call for assistance from international organizations and bilateral support on 11 November.

While humanitarian partners continue to provide immediate response focused on guaranteeing access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food security, health and protection, there is particular concern over reports from shelters in Honduras and Guatemala, where there are tens of thousands of people facing dire conditions without the benefit of adequate space, COVID-19 prevention measures or equipment, access to WASH services or food security or protection. Official data already shows that reported COVID-19 cases across Honduras have risen by 2,100 from 6 to 13 November, with more expected in coming days, while shelters in the capital of Tegucigalpa have a 33 per cent positive testing rate, per the Ministry of Health. Field reports from ongoing inter-sectoral evaluations in Guatemala, where there are 17,500 reported in official shelters, confirm high rates of positive COVID-19 tests as well.

There are also field reports from various areas in Honduras citing criminal presence and control, violence, gender-based violence (GBV) and family separation, where there are more than 44,000 people reported in shelters. Additionally, Honduran authorities, who are still dealing with Eta's impact to at least 745 communities across 155 of 298 municipalities, ordered evacuations of at-risk areas ahead of Iota, increasing shelter numbers beyond their already concerning levels.

Guatemala is bracing for Iota after 10 of 22 departments declared a state of calamity over Eta. Northern Nicaragua is home to vulnerable indigenous communities still reeling from Eta's impact, while southern Belize continues to deal with receding flood waters that have affected 50,000 to 60,000 people. Hazardous weather related to Eta and now Iota has already affected some 224,000 people in five northern Colombian departments. El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama have already issued alerts across all provinces. While Mexico is not directly on Iota's projected path, the south-eastern states of Chiapas, Tabasco and Veracruz took on significant rains between Eta and a cold front that affected at least 238,500 people.

Iota formed after Tropical Storm Theta formed over the north Atlantic as the 29<sup>th</sup> named storm, pushing the 2020 season past an unprecedented milestone to become the most active hurricane season in recorded history.

## HUMANITARIAN FINANCING

### Regional

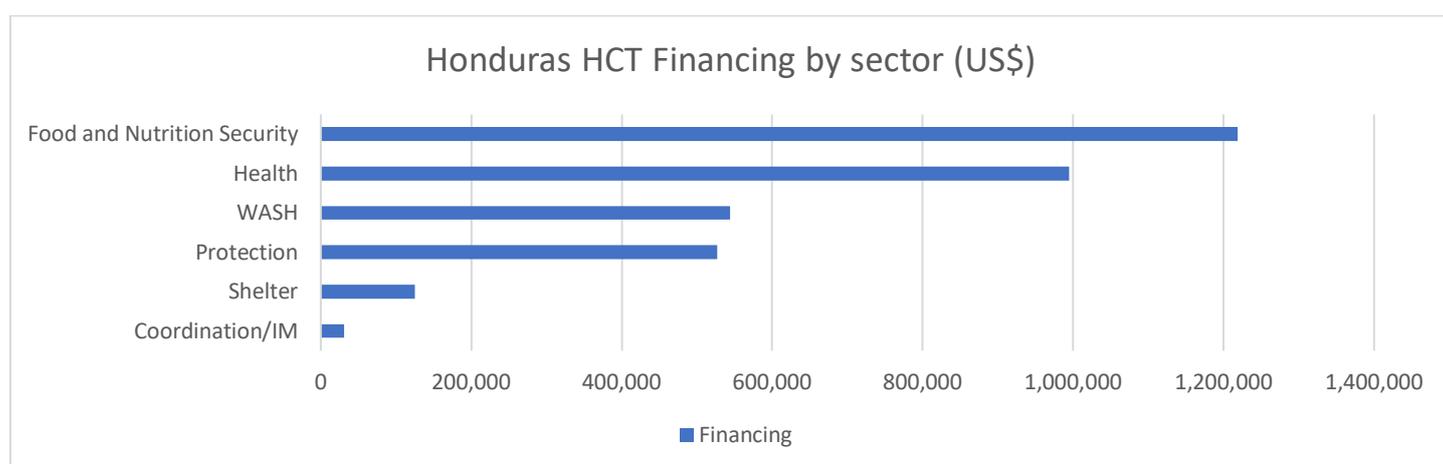
Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	21,882,540.00	Emergency Appeal for Central America for multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance for 75,000 people in Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala.
European Union	1,833,725.95	Initial mobilizations to address urgent WASH, health and protection needs in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua
Switzerland	547,385.00	Pledge for IFRC appeal.
Republic of Korea	700,000.00	Humanitarian assistance for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank (WB) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) have committed to support in a coordinated way the Central American countries especially affected by the passage of Hurricane Eta. This commitment will materialize in a short-, medium- and long-term action plan to finance humanitarian aid and reconstruction tasks in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

## Honduras

Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
Government of Honduras	2,000,000.00	Initial emergency financing.
Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)	500,000.00	Non-reimbursable financial aid to support humanitarian actions.
Taiwan	200,000.00	Financial support.
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	120,000.00	Humanitarian assistance for hygiene kits, kitchen supplies and blankets

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\$3.4 million to respond in Health, Food and Nutrition Security, Protection, WASH, Shelter and Coordination/Information Management.



## Guatemala

Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
Taiwan	200,000.00	Financial support.
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	120,000.00	Humanitarian assistance for food aid, water and hygiene kits.

## Nicaragua

Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
Switzerland	218,954.00	Support for the Nicaraguan Red Cross
Taiwan	200,000.00	Financial support.
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	120,000.00	Humanitarian assistance for food aid, water and hygiene kits.

## Mexico

Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
Spain	300,000.00	Financial support.
Walmart Mexico and Central America	152,000.00	Support for communities affected by Eta.
Germany	59,181.00	Support for supply purchases to assist affected people.

## Belize

Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
Government of Belize	4,969,766.00	Initial emergency financing.

Taiwan	100,000.00	Financial support.
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### Costa Rica

Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	378,911.32	Allocation from Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support 7,500 people in the provinces of Guanacaste, Puntarenas and San José.

### Panama

Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	164,167.57	Allocation from Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support 3,000 people in the provinces of Chiriquí and Veraguas

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### Honduras

OCHA's 345W tracking matrix for response activities in Honduras currently features 289 activities from 22 organizations in 16 departments. Reporting partners continue to prioritize WASH, Protection and Food Security response activities. For more information, please visit the Honduras 345W at: <https://bit.ly/366xBAs>

# 19.7K

Hygiene, health and food kits delivered as reported by partners in Honduras

### Guatemala

OCHA's 345W tracking matrix for response activities in Honduras currently features 35 activities from 7 organizations in 4 departments. Reporting partners are similarly prioritizing WASH activities, as well as focusing on Health and Food and Nutritional Security. For more information, please visit the Guatemala 345W at: <https://bit.ly/3k5l4RM>

# 135K

Litres of water delivered as reported by partners in Guatemala

### El Salvador

OCHA's 345W tracking matrix for response activities in El Salvador currently features 117 activities from 23 organizations in 10 departments. Reporting partners are mainly working in Health, WASH and Food and Nutritional Security. For more information, please visit the El Salvador 345W at: <https://bit.ly/2lawFmi>

# 117

Activities reported by partners in El Salvador



Shelter

**Needs:****Honduras**

- Due to the possible impact of Hurricane Iota, evacuations to shelters increased in three municipalities in the Sula Valley. At least 45,000 people remain in shelters, a figure that will increase in the coming days due to preventive evacuations.
- Surveys of specific shelter needs and georeferenced shelter mapping is ongoing. Required information includes shelter profile, disaggregated data by sex and age groups, information on protection, health, infrastructure conditions and spacing changes required for COVID-19.
- Preliminary reports indicate that some shelters do not have potable water, electricity, non-food items (NFI), personal protective equipment (PPE), appliances (such as washing machines and coffee makers), food kits, sanitary services or waste storage, among others.
- A high presence of pregnant women, lactating women and babies has been observed who have specific needs that must be addressed. Primary health care and provision of medicines and psycho-emotional support is required.

**45K**

People in shelters in Honduras, with evacuations for Iota still ongoing

**Guatemala**

- There is overcrowding in 19 of 63 shelters set up for the population affected by Eta in three departments. As of 13 November, there are 17,624 people in official shelters and 86,243 in unofficial ones.
- The Secretariat of Social Works of the First Lady (SOSEP) is requesting support for shelter management.
- According to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), there are already 18 positive cases in a shelter in the department of Alta Verapaz.
- PPE is required for people in shelters and for shelter managers.
- Cleaning equipment and supplies are needed.

**Response:****Nicaragua**

- Save the Children is delivering food, COVID-19 prevention kits, blankets, plastic for shelters, as well as personal hygiene kits, in Alto Wanki indigenous communities. The organization is also providing food, safe drinking water, blankets, PPE and cleaning supplies to prevent disease outbreaks, as well as delivering recreational materials for children in shelters.
- IOM, in coordination with local NGOs and civil society organizations, is assisting with the delivery of food kits and hygiene items in affected areas.
- UNICEF is providing 600 kits for psychosocial support in shelters and have reached over 34,00 people with prevention messages.

**Honduras**

- IFRC requested an emergency shelter specialist to support the Honduran Red Cross.
- Per the 345W system, seven organizations from the Shelter sector have assisted some 5,100 people, of which 1,572 are women, 929 girls and 893 boys. Most interventions occurred in San Pedro Sula, followed by Santa Bárbara, the Central District as well as the municipalities of Santa Rosa de Aguán and Tocoa in Colón.
- The Shelter sector delivered about 3,000 kits, 5,178 liters of water and more than 76,600 hygiene and biosecurity items in 9 departments, with more than 15 sector specialists supporting response efforts.
- Shelter partners provided COPECO with technical assistance for the installation of 150 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) donated by the sector to the departments of Cortés and Francisco Morazán.
- In coordination with the Association of Municipalities of Honduras, sector partners provided technical support for the design of a data collection tool to identify the multisectoral needs of the population in shelters.
- Sector focal points provided technical support to the Shelter Working Group of COPECO's Emergency Operations Center.
- IOM delivered more than 39,000 PPE items, as well as hygiene kits, blankets, clothes and water bags.
- IOM staff and interviewers will be trained on the application of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in temporary shelters to produce timely information to inform the decision-making of COPECO and the Shelter sector.

- UNHCR and partners continue to distribute PPE and hygiene kits in shelters located in four municipalities in Cortés. A total of 226 hygiene kits and PPE were delivered to two shelters in Chamelecón, San Pedro Sula. In addition, information sessions were delivered on the prevention of SGBV and communicable diseases as well as the establishment of child-friendly spaces. UNHCR and partners assisted 374 people in three shelters.
- UNICEF reports over 9,000 children are benefiting from improved conditions in shelters, including provision of mental health support and basic items.

### Guatemala

- Save the Children has delivered 1,100 personal hygiene kits, 40 shelter cooking kits, 40 shelter cleaning kits, 5,000 masks and 500 bottles of hand sanitizer to children and their families in shelters.
- The Shelter cluster approved the DTM tool as a sectoral assessment tool for damages across shelters in the department of Izabal. In Puerto Barrios, IOM Guatemala is training staff from SOSEP on the implementation of the Integrated Shelter Registration System to collect accurate information on shelters in Izabal.
- UNHCR is supporting the installation of four Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) to store humanitarian aid in Puerto Barrios, Izabal.

### Mexico

- UNHCR teams are coordinating with local authorities to provide affected communities in the states of Chiapas and Tabasco with 3,300 mattresses (3,000 for Chilon and Salto de Agua in Chiapas and 300 to Jonuta in Tabasco).
- UNHCR has delivered hygiene kits for migrants and PPE for shelter managers in shelters along the southern border.
- The Ministry of National Defense and the Naval Secretariat delivered food items, mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits, water, diapers, sanitary towels and baby bathtubs, among other items, to the municipalities of Cardenas, Centro, Comalcalco, Cunduacan, Jalapa, Jalpa de Jimenez, Macuspana, Nacajuca, Jonuta, Centla and Teapa.
- More than 1,000 National Guard troops are supporting the transfer of affected people to 404 shelters to provide them with access to food and security. Some 47,000 people in Tabasco and Chiapas have received support.
- IOM is distributing humanitarian aid to seven shelters in the south while evaluating the extent to which shelters in Chiapas have been affected.
- According to IOM, the Tzome Ixuk shelter in Las Margaritas, Chiapas suffered damage to the roofs of its offices and dormitories, while the Bethania Santa Martha Shelter, located in Salto del Agua, Chiapas, requested support with bottled water for the migrant population. IOM will provide support to both shelters based on their identified needs.
- IOM has provided shelters on the southern border with hygiene and cleaning supplies, hygiene kits for migrants and PPE for shelter managers to help mitigate the COVID-19 risk.

### Belize

- IOM has provided 200 food packs, water and chlorine-based cleaning supplies to support migrant families in shelters in the west and south of Belize.

### Gaps & Constraints:

#### Guatemala

- Lack of disaggregated data on the sheltered population.
- In some communities, the authorities have opened shelters, but access is impossible due to poor road conditions.
- In the Municipality of Morales, an area even more severely affected than Puerto Barrios, no expedited return is expected as the damage to homes is quite severe. Main needs identified are PPE for sheltered people, water for consumption and personal hygiene use, as well as food and psychosocial care.

#### Honduras

- Precise information on basic needs in shelters is lacking, limiting coordination between local and central authorities for better management of information and needs.
- There is underreporting of the number of existing shelters as shelter needs have increased; therefore, it is difficult to establish the actual number of sites and population sheltered. As a result, there are concerns about response capacity given the growing number of shelters.

- Makeshift shelters, such as those set up at schools, often lack basic medical and sanitary conditions. Overcrowded shelters limit people's ability to implement personal protection measures to avoid COVID-19 infection.
- Preliminary information indicates that required sanitary protocols for COVID-19 are not being observed. Therefore, it is necessary to build capacity for shelter management in the context of COVID-19 and to develop training plans for the promotion of health and disease prevention.
- Better monitoring and tracking of supplies and donations by the Shelter Sector and organizations of the Humanitarian Network is needed.
- Access to flooded areas is limited due to insecurity, lack of transportation and communication due to the collapse of bridges and main roads.
- Access to supplies from local providers in the affected municipalities is very limited, delaying delivery times of humanitarian aid due to the need to coordinate the procurement of these supplies from the capital of Tegucigalpa.

## Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

### Gaps and constraints:

#### Regional

- The identification of needs in shelters and spontaneous collective shelter sites continues to be one of the biggest information gaps in the response. Access to data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and, where relevant, ethnic identity is key to effective planning.
- Overcrowded conditions in shelters and the lack of resources and targeted assistance greatly increases protection risks, including increased risk of sexual violence against women and girls. These conditions also increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission and diminish women's equal access to food, decision-making in the management of shelters, and men's co-responsibility in the care of girls, boys, people with disabilities and the elderly.
- The strengthening of coordination and management structures in shelters is essential to ensure that displaced people have access to the assistance and protection they need.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

### Needs:

#### Nicaragua

- According to preliminary assessments from the Nicaraguan Red Cross, there are 84,000 families with no access to water, 18,000 contaminated wells and 4,000 latrines damaged in Puerto Cabezas, Waspan and Prinzapolka.

#### Honduras

- Eta affected the provision of safe water for consumption, hygiene and sanitation in shelters and affected households, making safe water access a critical priority in and out of shelters, especially to prevent further spread of COVID-19.
- Preliminary assessments conducted in 23 shelters across 6 municipalities housing 585 people (299 children) show that 61 per cent of people in shelters have access to less than 7 liters of water per day, below minimum standards, while only 36 per cent of women have access to gender-segregated bathrooms and just 6 per cent of sanitary facilities for women and girls are lit and equipped with locks or safety devices. About 60 percent of those in shelters need hygiene supplies and 45 per cent of women and adolescents require menstrual hygiene supplies.
- As of 11 November, authorities reported that in three severely affected municipalities (Chinda, El Negrito and San Antonio Cortes), with a combined population of more than 77,000 people, the level of intermediate access to water service has dropped from 83 to 60 per cent due to damages suffered by water supply systems.
- The WASH Sector reports that some affected communities have been without access to water for two weeks due to access restrictions and the collapse of water supply systems.

#### Guatemala

- Equipment and supplies to disinfect wells and rehabilitate small waters systems at the community level.

- Evaluation of water distribution networks and coordinated response actions for the rehabilitation of water supply systems.
- Educational materials on WASH for shelters.
- Strengthen information campaigns so that the affected population has access to reliable information.
- Access to safe WASH services in shelters and communities affected by flooding which has contaminated wells and damaged water supply systems.

### Belize

- The Government and the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) identify immediate need for food, water and shelter, and are asking for 1,000 food packages, 1,000 gallons of water and 100 mattresses.
- Authorities report water contamination due to overflowing water sources, posing a major threat to public health. Belize Water Services are urging the public to store water and that water in flooded areas must be treated before drinking.

### Response:

#### Nicaragua

- UNICEF, in partnership with World Vision Nicaragua, delivered supplies worth US\$100,000 to the National Disaster Prevention System (SINAPRED) for water, sanitation and hygiene, which will benefit 15,000 families.
- World Vision has distributed 1,500 hygiene kits.

#### Honduras

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) delivered 500 hygiene kits for refugees to three schools in San Pedro Sula and are set to deliver an additional 1,000 kits.
- The WASH sector has reached around 21,900 people (3,381 are girls, 3,252 boys and 2,682 women), delivering around 42,150 items that include hygiene kits, personal hygiene items, blankets and mats in 10 departments of the country, in addition to the delivery of 2,200 units of anti-bacterial gel to some 10,900 people.
- Sector partners are monitoring the safe provision of WASH services and coordinating the implementation of specific damage assessments in communities and temporary shelters.
- Sector partners are also improving access to water, upgrading existing toilets and latrines or installing portable latrines, and promoting hygiene and community participation for nationwide social and behavioural change.

#### Belize

- UNICEF and partners response activities are focusing on risk communication messaging on WASH, social support for children, as well as nutrition counselling for pregnant and lactating mothers and caregivers of young children. Additional response activities will include the delivery of approximately 350 hygiene and nutrition packages, as requested by NEMO, through the Belize Red Cross with funding support from the United States via the US Embassy and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).
- UNICEF's partnership with the Belize Red Cross also includes the provision of child-friendly spaces and the capacity building of shelter managers, with the direct collaboration of the City Emergency Management Organization (CEMO) in Belize City. Relief kits, including hygiene and nutrition supplies, have already been distributed to the Government and are available at both the national and subnational level.
- UNDP is working with the Government contribute one quarter of its initial request for 200 cleaning and sanitation supplies.
- IOM, in partnership with USAID, donated relief supplies for 100 affected families, including migrant families in western Belize as part of the Integrated Response on Migration (IRM) from Central America project. The relief supplies consist of food packets, potable water and cleaning supplies.

#### Mexico

- In Tabasco, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), through the National Water Commission (Conagua), carried out seven water pumping and distribution operations of pumping and distribution across various municipalities, benefiting 69,100 people.

### Gaps and constraints:

## Honduras

- The initial response phase of providing hygiene kits for immediate needs must transition to a comprehensive response that includes restoring access to primary healthcare services.
- Sector partners report that some affected families prefer not to use shelters due to the risk of COVID-19 infection, underscoring the need for continuous provision of WASH and PPE supplies in shelters.
- Some communities remain isolated or under risk of landslides due to soil saturation, making timely humanitarian response difficult.

## Guatemala

- It is necessary to provide masks and supplies to prevent COVID-19 infection, as the population has limited economic resources to purchase them.

## Food Security

### Needs:

#### Regional

- Based on an initial assessment, the World Food Programme (WFP) indicates they require US\$13.2 million in immediate funding to support the most vulnerable populations, with that figure expected to increase over the next few weeks as the extent of Eta's impact becomes clearer.

**\$13.2M**

Immediate funding  
required by WFP

## Honduras

- Based on preliminary assessments, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock reports damages and/or losses of around 220,000 hectares of basic grain crops, bananas, sugar cane, citrus, cacao and rambutan, among others, and dozens of municipalities reporting damage to their coffee harvest. The departments of Cortés, Atlántida and Colón report the greatest losses in the sector.
- While assessments are still ongoing, the impact on both subsistence farmers and small and medium-sized producers will likely be significant. The agricultural production systems in seven departments in the south and west of the country (Choluteca, Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso, Santa Bárbara, Lempira, Copán and Ocotepeque) were substantially affected.
- Support to displaced people, either in shelters or temporarily staying with family, through cash or in-kind support, including a multi-sectoral humanitarian transfer, and providing them with help to return to their homes.

## Guatemala

- An Oxfam rapid assessment in the departments of Petén, Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, Quiché and Chiquimula found widespread damage to crops, mainly corn, with an average of 74.5 per cent of the cultivated area damaged; beans with 75.1 per cent of the cultivated area damaged, cardamom with a reported 83.4 per cent and coffee with 64.6 per cent of the cultivated area damaged.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food indicates that the livestock sector has been affected in 22 municipalities, with reported losses of pigs (1,565 deaths), horses (324 deaths) and birds (35,960 deaths), which have affected 3,935 families. The crop damage report estimates that 10 departments have been affected (Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Jutiapa, Quiché, Chiquimula, Zacapa, Santa Rosa, Huehuetenango and El Progreso), with a total of 84,000 families affected and 53,000 hectares of crops damaged or lost.
- Crop loss and livelihood assessments to design an action plan for recovery and alternative livelihoods.

## El Salvador

- Preliminary reports indicate that heavy rains from Eta significantly affected vegetable and fruit crops, with losses estimated to be up to US\$6 million. The Vegetables and Fruits Federation has reported that those rains affected about 60 per cent of the harvest expected for this quarter and caused significant damage to agricultural infrastructure. The most affected areas are Zapotitlán, La Libertad, Metapán, Santa Ana and the upper zone of Chalatenango.
- The Salvadoran Chamber of Small and Medium Agricultural Producers is warning that Eta's rains may have damaged 5,943,500 kg of beans valued at \$2.08 million.

**Response:****Regional**

- The Government of El Salvador sent 30,000 food packages to both Guatemala and Honduras.
- Oxfam, in collaboration with 11 local partner organizations, has begun distributing food and hygiene kits to those affected by Eta, with the aim of reaching around 100,000 people in Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala with desperately needed food assistance and hygiene support.

**Nicaragua**

- A second humanitarian aid shipment jointly organized by WFP and SINAPRED for a total of 120 MT food items (90 metric tons of beans and 30 metric tons of oil) is on its way to Bilwi and the so-called Mining Triangle.
- World Vision distributed 1,500 food kits.
- Walmart Nicaragua donated 60,000 kilograms of food, necessities and hygiene kits to assist affected families in the municipality of Prinzapolka, Bilwi (Puerto Cabezas). The Nicaraguan Red Cross prepared a total of 1,500 food packages representing two weeks of supply and 1,500 hygiene kits.

**Honduras**

- Eight organizations have registered activities in the 345W system, reaching about 58,200 people (14,600 men, 16,300 women, 10,400 girls and 9,400 boys). A total of 46 per cent of the people reached are in Cortés, followed by Choluteca with 38 per cent.
- In the areas near San Pedro Sula and Villanueva, Food Security partners have delivered 10,000 daily food rations over two weeks. The sector has also distributed more than 7,000 packages and some 6,400 food kits. At least 32 people are providing technical assistance in the distribution of food, both inside and outside shelters.

**Guatemala**

- WFP is managing an emergency fund that will cover approximately 30 to 60 days of response and will mobilize field technicians to conduct a food security assessment in affected areas.
- FAO conducted an analysis of the impact of Eta which found that while the food supply should remain sufficient, there will likely be an increase in food insecurity as well as chronic malnutrition among children. There have been extensive crop losses, especially in the north, which will affect some 50,000 families that depend on agriculture for their livelihood and food security, while in the eastern part of the country agricultural infrastructure has been significantly affected.
- Oxfam has reached 10,799 people in the municipalities of Morales and Los Amates in Izabal, Purulhá in Baja Verapaz, San Pedro Carcha, Chisec, San Cristóbal and Verapaz in Alta Verapaz with kitchen kits, personal protection items, mattresses, food rations and hygiene kits.
- The Foundation for Ecodevelopment and Conservation (FUNDAECO), through the "Girls and Women Protected" programme, is providing health services and other benefits to communities around the Sierra Caral, just along the border with Honduras. They have conducted an impact and damage assessment in communities with operational presence.
- With the support of the donations from the Government of El Salvador, the Government has completed the distribution of 30,000 rations to affected families in the departments of Izabal, Petén, Huehuetenango, Zacapa, Alta Verapaz, Quezaltenango and Quiché.
- Over 600 pounds of food will be delivered via air to the Yalicoc village in Chisec, Alta Verapaz.

**Belize**

- UNDP is working with the Government of Belize to contribute approximately one quarter of its initial request for 250 food packets to respond to affected families.
- WFP pre-positioned food kits within the region and is available to provide any additional technical assistance needed in emergency telecommunications and assessments and support to affected populations through social protection and cash transfers.

**Mexico**

- UNHCR provides food assistance to 700 families through food rations (400 in Chiapas and 300 in Tabasco).

## Gaps & Constraints:

### Honduras

- Communities located in the departments of Colón, Yoro, Atlántida and Olancho do not have passable roads, even with off-road vehicles. Families need food, given the widespread damage to, or loss of, crops.
- Crop loss assessments are required, as are seed and fertilizer supplies and emergency tools to restore food security and production capacity to mitigate losses to second harvest crops, commonly known as *postrera*.
- Some shelters do not have minimum infrastructure for food processing. Shelters in priority municipalities need canned food rations or hot food, as well as water.
- Household recovery activities are preventing the return to normal economic activities, thus limiting access to livelihoods, goods and basic services.
- Reactivating agricultural and subsistence farming systems will require a response plan.

### Guatemala

- There are still isolated communities that have not received any humanitarian assistance.
- A still undetermined number of families who have lost everything will stay longer in the shelters.
- There are limited staff for shelter management.
- Municipal resources are limited and cannot cover all those affected.

## Nutrition

### Needs:

#### Regional

- Support from the entire humanitarian partner community is needed to prevent the distribution of maternal milk substitutes, including infant formulas and powdered milk, to protect breastfeeding and the health and nutritional status of breastfed and non-breastfed children.
- Safe spaces and corresponding staff to attend to differentiated actions related to nutrition in shelters, regulating donations, provide counseling on breastfeeding and infant feeding, pregnant and lactating women, as well as people with chronic diseases.
- Adequate food for young children and people with chronic illnesses, utensils for adequate and hygienic cooking, especially for young children.
- Distribution of micronutrients to children under five and pregnant and lactating women to prevent nutritional deterioration, particularly micronutrient deficiency.
- Training for leaders, parents and caregivers in using mid-arm circumference tape for children under five years for early identification of acute malnutrition and referral for treatment.

## Gaps & Constraints:

#### Regional

- Distribution of powdered milk and infant formula have been reported in shelters, placing children at greater risk of illness, malnutrition, and even death, as they may be prepared using contaminated water and/or inadequate hygiene practices. Also, these products can be distributed to breastfeeding mothers and interrupt breastfeeding. For these reasons, there is a risk of deterioration in the nutritional status of both breastfed and non-breastfed children.
- The foods distributed in the shelters are generally rich in fat and starch, but do not contain sufficient micronutrients (vitamins and minerals). Children under 5, as well as pregnant and lactating women, are groups that, because of their age and condition, have high micronutrient requirements and therefore, face a significant risk of developing micronutrient deficiencies. People in shelter and affected families do not have kitchens, stoves or utensils to prepare nutritious food. In this context, it is difficult to ensure adequate nutrition for children and people with chronic diseases who receive adequate care and a proper diet.
- The loss of crops in affected regions, as well as losses of animals such as chickens, pigs and cattle, will negatively affect the population's nutritional status. In addition, the lack of safe water for human consumption and personal hygiene could result in diarrheal diseases and deterioration of nutritional status.

## Health

### Needs:

#### Honduras

- While accurate information on specific health needs is still lacking, as many areas remain inaccessible due to blocked roads and damaged infrastructure, damage to health centers are likely to limit access to vital services, including maternal, neonatal and child health care.
- Work is underway on various damage and needs assessments. Main needs include potable water and adequate sanitation in hospitals and health facilities damaged by the rains.
- In Cortés, the hardest-hit department, most health facilities have been closed. Overall, at least 16 hospitals sustained moderate to minor infrastructure damage, with flooded rooms and collapsed walls at some facilities. At least 10 hospitals in the Cortés health region suffered a total loss of their cold chain equipment and vaccines.
- According to the Ministry of Health, a significant number of health care workers and their families have been affected by the rains and are staying in shelters. With approximately 30 per cent of health care personnel affected by Eta, the provision of health services has shrunk in affected areas. The Ministry of Health estimates damage to health infrastructure, including damage to the cold chain, to be around US\$7 million.
- The Cortés Health Surveillance Unit reports that the 218 shelters set up in 11 municipalities have an estimated population of 38,725 people (8,019 families). The most commonly reported issues include dermatological and respiratory-related illnesses and diarrhea.
- People in shelters require medical assistance, medicines and supplies for acute respiratory diseases and infections, as well as biosecurity materials to prevent further COVID-19 spread.
- The number of rapid COVID-19 tests for people in shelters is insufficient.
- Per a survey from the Fundación Llaves NGO, 25 per cent of people living with HIV surveyed lost their homes, 50 per cent experienced material losses and more than 30 per cent suffered retroviral drug losses.

# 30%

Of health workers in Honduras affected by Eta

#### Guatemala

- Out of 43 official shelters in Alta Verapaz, 38 have enough water, 20 with chlorinated water, 36 with adequate waste disposal, 12 with adequate garbage disposal. Twelve shelters are overcrowded.
- Health Area Directorates (DAS) and health services need to carry out damage and needs assessments in the most affected departments.
- Human resources are required to support response actions, given that more than 40 per cent of DAS personnel in affected departments are inactive due to age or health status due to COVID-19.
- Transportation and logistics to support surveillance and medical care in official shelters.
- Psychosocial care in shelters and mental health response are also required.
- Biosecurity and physical distancing measures in official shelters are substandard.
- PPE, biosecurity supplies, sanitary supplies for personal hygiene, mattresses, clothing and medicine for sheltered families. First responders also require PPE.
- There are hundreds of animal carcasses, mostly cattle, decomposing in the communities which need to be disposed of adequately.
- Health care to screen and treat respiratory, skin and diarrheal diseases.

#### Belize

- Government-identified supply needs include PPE, specifically 5,000 N95 masks, 1,000 face shields, 5,000 nonwoven disposable medical gowns, 2,000 plastic aprons and 50 clinical thermometers. Required medicines include 60,000 ibuprofen tablets (200 or 400mg), 60,000 dispersible zinc tablets (as Zn SO<sub>4</sub>.H<sub>2</sub>O, 20mg) and 90,000 vitamin D 600 IU tablets (15 mcg).

### Response:

#### Honduras

- PAHO/WHO delivered 40,000 COVID-19 antigen tests, alongside medical and biosecurity supplies, to shelters throughout the country, especially in the north and in La Moskitia region.
- The Health sector is donating 340,000 COVID-19 diagnostic supplies 46,000 PPE items for shelters
- Sector partners are conducting a rapid assessment to help strengthen epidemiological surveillance in coordination with the Government.
- An emergency field hospital staffed by 25 specialists in disaster assistance and medical support, together with relief supplies, has been airlifted to Honduras.
- A team of specialists has been deployed to provide technical assistance to health authorities in Cortés with the application of damage and needs assessment tools for health facilities and to deliver biosafety equipment. Likewise, a specialist deployed to Gracias a Dios to support response to COVID-19, dengue and malaria.
- In collaboration with national authorities and partners, Project HOPE's emergency response team is delivering 200,000 surgical and KN95 masks for health care workers and vulnerable populations in shelters. Regional clinicians will be deployed for surge capacity staffing and support for local health systems. Recovery phase training of frontline health workers is focusing on mental health resilience and COVID-19 treatment.

### Guatemala

- The Guatemalan Red Cross is carrying out Health and WASH assessments in temporary shelters set up in Cojaj Village in San Pedro Carchá, Alta Verapaz.
- UNICEF is providing logistical support to teams deployed to monitor the situation of health services, and water treatment plants are available in affected municipalities.
- Cuban medical brigades are providing care to affected people in shelters and hospitals across different departments.

### Nicaragua:

- UNICEF is procuring 6,000 family hygiene kits and cleaning supplies for health facilities.

### Belize:

- PAHO/WHO is providing PPE, water purification tablets and cleaning supplies as needed, and support for vector control and risk communication on water and foodborne diseases.

### Gaps & Constraints:

#### Honduras

- There is underreporting at the municipal level due to lack of organization, land access and lack of coordination with other organizations.
- Health information is a key aspect for decision making and should be disaggregated by age, gender, ethnicity and cultural aspects, among others.
- Some areas remain inaccessible, including Yoro, Tela, La Ceiba, Tocoa, Puerto Lempira and Roatán. The current state of roads and damage to airstrips are limiting the delivery and supply of medical equipment and medicine.
- Scarcity of human resources in badly hit areas. Ministry of Health staff have also been affected.
- There is need for multidisciplinary support staff to cover activities in shelters, mainly health promoters and doctors.
- There is lack of PPE, cleaning and disinfection supplies, both for health workers and in shelters.
- Health response must also include mental health, maternal and neonatal care and nutrition, among others.
- The ongoing lack of public health measures will lead to an increase in endemic diseases, water-borne diseases and vector-borne diseases.

**Needs:****Honduras**

- Information disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability and other characteristics that allow the identification of vulnerable groups with special protection needs.
- A UNHCR field visit to shelters identified several protection risks, including reported disappearance of children, indicating an urgent need to strengthen missing persons searching processes.
- Per the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family (DINAF), at least 106 children separated from their parents have been identified and are now receiving protection services.
- Some 545 families, including 660 children and adolescents, have been identified living on the street without shelter in the municipality of La Lima with urgent shelter and protection needs.
- Communication protocols with shelters to identify and notify DINAF of cases of children separated from their families.
- Differentiated care and risk mitigation measures for children, adolescents and women in shelters, following reports of violence against children and GBV.
- Capacity building for shelter managers to identify and respond to situations of violence against children and GBV and protocols for managing GBV reports.
- Technical guidance on the application of protection principles for shelter organizations, including supervision by qualified staff, key messages on violence against children and the prevention of GBV, as well as information on referrals to protection services.
- Continued provision of services for GBV survivors in temporary shelters and in affected communities.
- Constant monitoring and identification of protection needs in shelters and affected communities to increase psychosocial support and mental health care response capacities in communities and shelters.
- Key messages through local media on the importance of biosecurity measures and GBV and sexual violence prevention and other protection mechanisms.

**Guatemala**

- UNHCR reports an additional six Protection Transfer Arrangement cases have been affected in Eta's aftermath.
- Hygiene kits, clothing, underwear, mattresses, divisions by family/women's groups, first aid kits and protection kits are required to meet the needs of women and girls in affected communities.
- Safe spaces for children and their families in shelters.

**Response:****Regional**

- DTM teams will collect critical information on the population displacement caused by Eta.

**Honduras**

- Six Protection sector organizations are reporting activities, including the delivery of 52,400 biosecurity items and personal hygiene supplies in Cortés, Atlántida, Santa Bárbara and Francisco Morazán, benefiting more than 5,900 people.
- Sector partners assisted the Honduran Red Cross in providing immediate humanitarian assistance and emergency psychological support in shelters.
- Sector partners delivered information material on COVID-19 and mechanisms for protecting against GBV and violence against children in 39 municipalities and shelters.
- Sector partners supported DINAF in identifying separated children and in providing protection services through the monitoring of shelters in Cortés, Yoro, Atlántida and Colón.
- UNICEF received funding for the installation of three shelters in Puerto Cortés, managed by the municipality, and will provide technical assistance, training for volunteers and shelter managers, psychosocial support, equipment, PPE and educational materials.
- Save the Children is providing direct support to women and their families in emergency areas and shelters, delivering psychosocial support and emergency kits.

**Belize**

- UNFPA will provide dignity kits based on needs arising from assessments.

## Mexico

- UNHCR teams are coordinating with local authorities in Chiapas and Tabasco, states that host large numbers of asylum seekers and refugees, to provide affected communities with 3,300 sleeping mats and food assistance for 800 families.

## Gaps & Constraints:

### Honduras

- Floods and landslides have mobilized and displaced families following damage to houses and crops, loss of livestock, loss of property and loss of livelihoods.
- Families are returning to their areas to recover their belongings accompanied by children and adolescents in high-risk areas or are leaving them in shelters, in the care of other children or in the care of third parties.
- Ongoing access constraints to flooded areas due to lack of transportation, power cuts, collapse of bridges and main roads.
- Several organizations, volunteers and community leaders providing humanitarian responses have also been affected by Eta, with personnel evacuated and reporting significant material damage, reducing response capacities in critically affected areas.
- Gaps have been identified in access to child protection and GBV prevention services, particularly in at-risk areas.

## 🚚 Logistics

### Response:

#### Regional

- Various partners have worked to acquire goods and logistics services through the Regional Humanitarian Assistance Logistics Center (Humanitarian Hub), including 852 tons of rice, 270 tons of beans in stock, 337 tons of rice and 87 tons of beans, acquired for Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

**63.5T**

Of humanitarian aid sent by the Government of Colombia to Honduras and Guatemala

#### Honduras

- The Government of Colombia sent 11.5 tons of aid to Honduras, along with doctors, nurses, pre-hospital assistants, a psychologist and a search and rescue team. Colombia also deployed a mobile medical unit with a capacity for 100 primary care patients, a small procedure room, a special cabin for suspected COVID-19 cases and a mobile command post, with autonomous water, electricity and communications services.
- The United Kingdom is deploying the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship *Argus* to help the US military's relief operations in Honduras, providing logistical support for accessing and delivering supplies to affected people.
- Sector partners provided immediate response, including the transport of people and resources in affected areas and the installation of power generators in Gracias a Dios.
- A cargo flight with more than 6,000 lbs. of food to be delivered to the Atlantic coast has been delayed by weather conditions and runway availability.
- Two teams specialized in rapid water rescue, made up of more than 30 specialists and 5 boats, have been deployed to support response efforts in the Sula Valley.

#### Guatemala

- The Government of Colombia donated 52 tons of humanitarian aid that will be distributed to the most affected areas, and has sent three rescue boats, a helicopter and an all-terrain vehicle to support search and rescue efforts. In addition, a plane is being sent to Panama to support the country in humanitarian cargo transportation.

#### Mexico

- The Army and Air Force deployed some 3,700 personnel and 205 military vehicles to support ground operations as well as seven Air Force heavy transport aircraft to move various materials and supplies. These actions have benefited more than 101,000 people.
- Military authorities, in coordination with Civil Protection in Chiapas and Tabasco, have set up 27 shelters, housing 871 people, and evacuated more than 10,000 people. In addition, they have carried out the distribution of 36,000 food rations, delivered 250,000 liters of bottled drinking water, 100,200 mattresses, 25,100 personal hygiene kits and medical services for 2,500 people.

#### Constraints:

#### Honduras

- Logistical challenges due to damaged transport infrastructure has created challenges in reaching the most isolated and neglected populations, especially indigenous and Afro-descendant populations.

### Early Recovery

#### Response:

#### Mexico

- The Government will make an initial US\$9.8 million investment to purchase dredging equipment to be operated by Naval personnel, as well as implement a dam control plan and urban development plan to manage safe water, drainage, paving and housing.
- The Communications and Transport Secretariat (SCT) deployed personnel to rehabilitate damaged roads in affected states.
- Power supply authorities are also restoring services and supporting rescue operations with vehicles, cranes and boats.

## GENERAL COORDINATION

OCHA has is leading 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 response priorities, resources, logistics, information, response considerations under existing emergency declarations and general coordination. OCHA is also working to mobilize teams to affected countries, gathering information on deployments, resources and tracking support requests.

UNDAC deployed a team of specialists to Honduras to support national and local coordination, Emergency Operations Centre operations in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa, assessments and analysis and information management.

**ReliefWeb: Hurricane Eta disaster portal** - <https://bit.ly/2JrjQ7G>      **Key links for Eta response** - <https://bit.ly/38iLpul>

#### 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. Iota, the 30<sup>th</sup> named storm of the busiest Atlantic hurricane season in recorded history, is set to make landfall on 16 November in the evening as a Category 5 storm, posing a potentially catastrophic threat to millions still reeling from Eta's impact.

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