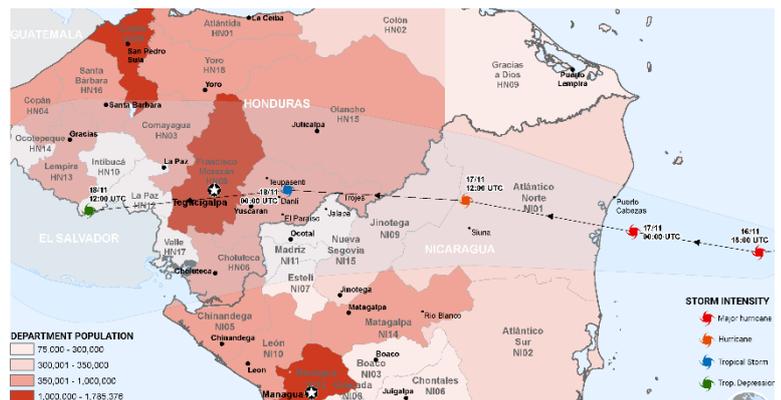


This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 15 to 20 November 2020. The next report will be issued on or around 25 November.

### KEY POINTS

- Despite quickly degrading from a Category 4 storm to remnants in about a 24-hour span on 17 November, Iota's rains and high winds affected communities in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, many of which already had pressing humanitarian needs from Eta, further aggravating needs in shelter, food security, WASH, health and protection.
- Governments and humanitarian partners on the ground continue to overcome access challenges to undertake more thorough assessments and reach isolated communities with critical needs.
- Humanitarian organizations at the regional and national level are scaling up resource mobilization efforts to support commensurately scaled up response efforts, including a US\$69.2 million Flash Appeal to support immediate assistance to 450,000 people in Honduras out of the estimated 2.3 million with humanitarian needs.

**Hurricane Iota – Forecast Track and Municipal Populations in Nicaragua and Honduras**



Source: OCHA/Map Action (Link: <https://bit.ly/2HlwkgT>)  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

**5.2M**

People affected directly or indirectly by Eta and Iota across nine Latin American and Caribbean countries

**578K**

People directly and indirectly affected by Iota in Honduras

Source: COPECO

**96K**

People across Honduras evacuated over Iota

Source: CONRED

**935K**

People directly affected by Eta and Iota in Guatemala

Source: CONRED

**649K**

People potentially affected by agriculture losses in Guatemala

Source: UN in Guatemala

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Iota made landfall over northern Nicaragua early on 17 November as a Category 4 storm, reaching sufficient intensity to qualify as the strongest Atlantic hurricane in 2020, the busiest season ever recorded and the only season ever to see two major hurricanes in November. Although Iota quickly degraded into a remnant low pressure area on 18 November, the driving rains and high winds during its short crossing from Nicaragua into Honduras and parts of Guatemala affected many of the same areas in these countries that are still struggling with Eta's crushing impact and effects on shelter, food security, WASH, health and protection. Between Eta, Iota and their interactions with other weather systems, areas in nine countries in the region (Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia) suffered humanitarian impacts that have potentially directly or indirectly affected as many as 5.2 million people.

In Nicaragua, Iota's rains reached as far as the western Pacific shores, causing flooding and saturating soil in the North, Central Pacific and Caribbean regions. Official sources site 40,000 people in need of food, 4,000 destroyed homes and 18 deaths. More than 50,700 people across 1,195 active shelters require food and medical and psychosocial attention. Notable impacts include contaminated water storage systems, roofing damage, extensive power failures and cuts to telecommunications and access from the Puerto Cabezas municipality, now cut off from Managua and Waspmam due to flooded roads. Puerto Cabezas' isolation is especially concerning, as it is the point of entry for supplies to the area. Moreover, Iota all but destroyed the seaport and two local markets. Additionally, the Ministry of Health reports damages to 16 of 81 health facilities, while the Ministry of Education reports damage to 76 schools in the Prinzapolka, Puerto Cabezas and Waspmam municipalities.

Honduras' Permanent Commission for Contingencies (COPECO) civil protection authority reports that Iota affected more than half a million people across the country, raised the November storms death toll by 14 and have increased the sheltered population to nearly 75,000 people. Many areas in the highly flood-prone Cortés department in the north-west suffered renewed flooding, prompting further evacuations and search and rescue operations, adding to the already high number of people requiring humanitarian assistance from humanitarian organizations already responding to Eta's various effects. Communities in the north-east departments of Colón and Gracias a Dios also suffered varying degrees of damage. With Iota travelling further south than Eta, southern and central departments such as Francisco Morazán took on rains that present serious landslide risks amid more mountainous terrain, as well.

Guatemala's National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) reports that Iota has raised the number of people directly affected by the November storms to more than 935,000 people, raising the overall death toll to 55 people and raising the sheltered population to more than 24,000 in official shelters and nearly 180,000 in unofficial shelters. Iota affected nearly all departments in Guatemala, with the northern and eastern departments previously affected by Eta accounting for the most impact, notably Alta Verapaz and Izabal. Generally speaking, Guatemala did not suffer as much widespread impact as Honduras, but affected areas are presenting equally serious and critical needs.

El Salvador was again largely spared by Iota, taking on high winds and minor landslides that again prompted preventive evacuations and subsequent humanitarian response from networks such as the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), who delivered supplies and resources to shelters. While El Salvador may not be dealing with nearly the same scale of impact as Honduras or Guatemala, they are nevertheless contending with overcrowded shelters stemming from the cumulative effects of tropical storms Amanda and Cristobal in late May, the recent Nejapa landslide, Eta and now Iota, with reported difficulties in determining how many of the 880 people in shelters each hazard accounts for.

Prior to slamming Central American shores, Iota and related rains notably caused distressing consequences in northern Colombia, particularly in the islands of San Andrés and Providencia in the Caribbean Sea, bringing the number of countries in the region affected by the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season to nine. Such impacts are rare in Colombia, the lone South American country among the affected. Providencia reports Iota damaged 100 per cent of its infrastructure, destroyed 80 per cent of all homes on the island and affected 6,300 people who are still without any electricity. San Andrés reports at least 700 affected families in official and makeshift shelters. Damage evaluations show impact to 80 per cent of electricity infrastructure.

South-eastern Mexico also took on Iota's rains, with Civil Protection reporting a cumulative death toll of 30 people and nearly 297,000 people affected across Chiapas, Tabasco and Veracruz. Material damages include nearly 59,000 affected homes and affected roads cutting off 135 communities.

## HUMANITARIAN FINANCING

### Regional - Appeals

Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
UNICEF	42,600,000.00	UNICEF is urgently appealing for US\$42.6 million for the next six months, to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs of children and families affected by Eta in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.
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.

WFP reports that have immediate funding needs of US\$13.2 million following initial assessments of Eta's damage in the region, a number they expect to increase in coming weeks.

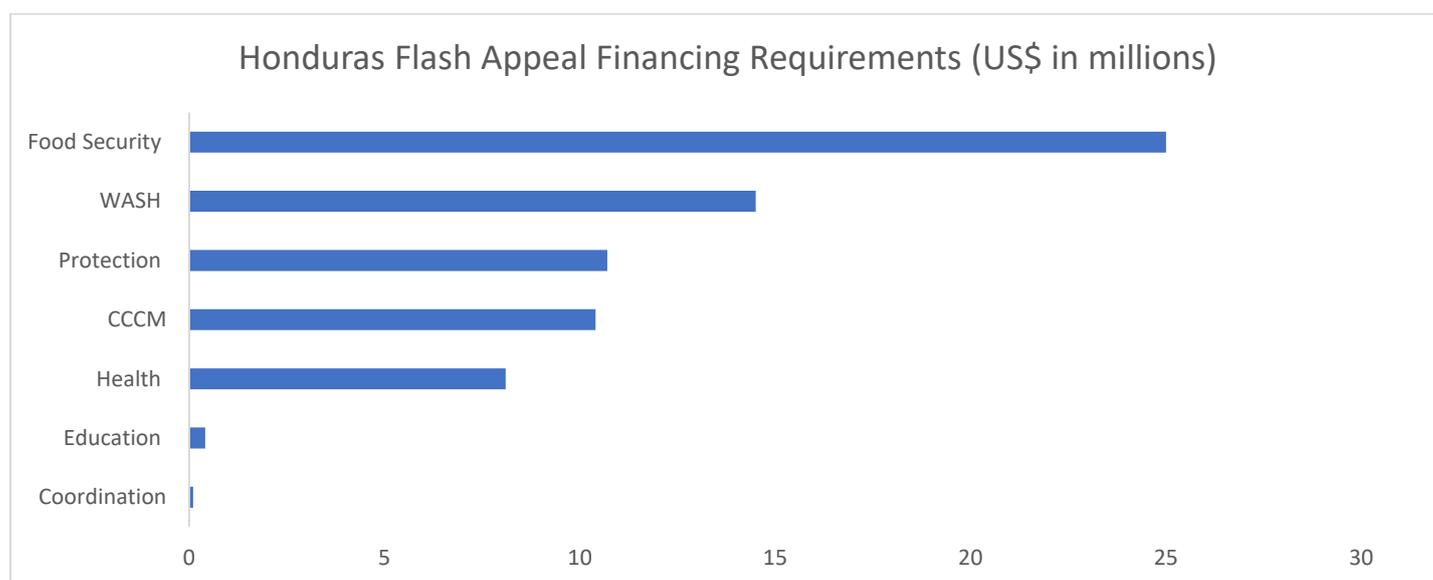
## Regional - Contributions

Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
<b>Direct Relief</b>	10,000,000.00	Seven emergency shipments delivered to partners on the ground in Nicaragua and Honduras, with 62 pallets containing medicines, supplies and PPE.
<b>European Union</b>	1,833,725.95	Initial mobilizations to address urgent WASH, health and protection needs in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua
<b>Government of the United Kingdom</b>	1,325,000.00	Contribution to the IFRC Emergency Appeal which will provide support for shelter, livelihoods, healthcare, clean water, sanitation and hygiene products.
<b>Republic of Korea</b>	700,000.00	Humanitarian assistance for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.
<b>Switzerland</b>	547,385.00	Pledge for IFRC appeal.

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) is preparing a Central American Program for Resilient Reconstruction for US\$2.5 billion for countries who request support for financing disaster resilience and climate change projects

## Honduras – Appeals

On 19 November, 33 humanitarian organizations, including UN agencies, funds and programmes as well as the Honduran Red Cross and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), launched a Flash Appeal for US\$69.2 million to provide immediate, live-saving assistance to 450,000 of the 2.3 million people in need following the devastation wrought by Tropical Storm Eta in Honduras.



## Honduras – Contributions

Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	8,500,000.00	Emergency shelter, food, hygiene supplies, critical relief items and protection.
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.

## Guatemala - Contributions

Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	7,000,000.00	Emergency shelter, food, hygiene supplies, critical relief items and protection.
European Union	350,000.00	Support to affected people
Taiwan	200,000.00	Financial support.

## Nicaragua - Contributions

Organization/Country	Amount (US\$)	Action
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	1,500,000.00	Emergency shelter, food, hygiene supplies, critical relief items and protection.
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.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### Honduras

OCHA's 345W tracking matrix for response activities in Honduras currently features 378 activities from 23 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>

# 26.6K

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 71 activities from 8 organizations in 2 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/3k5I4RM>

# 222K

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 211 activities from 24 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>

# 211

Activities reported by partners in El Salvador

## Shelter

### Needs:

#### Nicaragua

- More than 50,700 people across 1,195 active shelters require food and medical and psychosocial attention.

#### Honduras

- With Iota prompting more the evacuation of more than 96,800 people, the sheltered population between Eta and Iota has grown to about 75,000 people, creating a further need for georeferenced shelter mapping to determine specific needs according to disaggregated data.
- Per preliminary information from IOM through Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) surveys in shelters, shelters face challenges in implementing COVID-19 prevention measures and lack information on living conditions, especially in San Pedro Sula's Districts 1-7.
- Shelters continue to lack access to water and sanitation, waste storage, power, non-food items (NFI), personal protective equipment, food kits.

#### Guatemala

- CONRED reports more than 24,000 people in official shelters and nearly 180,000 people in unofficial shelters between both Eta and Iota, whose varying degrees of damage to more than 60,000 homes may create long-term shelter stays for thousands.
- Eighty of the 112 official shelters in Alta Verapaz, Izabal and Quiché report substandard sanitation conditions and cases of respiratory infections, foodborne diseases, skin infections and COVID-19, driving a need for medicine, medical supplies, PPE and basic hygiene, sanitation and cleaning supplies.
- First responders and health personnel also require PPE as well as supplies for water quality monitoring to ensuring WASH conditions in shelters.
- Improved space management conditions, infection prevention and control and surveillance of vector- and water-borne disease.
- Guarantee referral and counter-referral mechanisms to deal with sexual violence and gender-based violence (GBV).

### Response:

#### Nicaragua

- Regional and municipal officials are supporting the safe return of families to their homes, prompting the number of people in shelters to decrease.
- Organizations such as Save the Children, Plan International, IOM, UNICEF and WFP are supporting Government deliveries of essential NFIs and food to those still in shelter.

#### Honduras

- Per the 345W tracking matrix, Shelter coordination and management partners are active in 10 departments, with most actions taking place in Santa Bárbara, Cortés and Francisco Morazán. Sector partners continue to deliver various kits, WASH supplies and PPE, while also supporting COPECO with technical assistance.
- IOM published its first [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\) report](#) on the urgent needs in 31 shelters in San Pedro Sula.
- Newly reported assistance deliveries include IOM providing shelters in Cortés and Santa Barbara with PPE, hygiene kits, bedding and food for shelters, TECHO establishing a shelter for 140 people in the badly affected La Lima municipality in Cortés and providing food and hygiene kits, World Vision and ADRA procuring blankets, hygiene items and kitchen sets and UNHCR providing NFI kits, PPE, WASH kits and food kits.
- Newly reported response support activities include Global Communities providing infection prevention and control training, risk communications and hygiene activities in 59 shelters in Cortés, UNHCR and IOM training volunteers responding to 350 people in a shelter in the Potrerillos municipality in Cortés on shelter and protection issues, in addition to partners' ongoing support to COPECO Shelter working group.

# 75K

People in shelters in Honduras between Eta and Iota

## Guatemala

- Per the 345W tracking matrix, Shelter partners are most active in Alta Verapaz and Izabal.
- IOM is active in Izabal training Government staff on the integrated shelter Integrated Shelter Registration System to collect accurate information on shelters in Izabal, where the DTM will also be used to assess shelters for damages.
- IOM initiated a needs assessment in shelters in two municipalities using the DTM that will communities with indigenous populations.
- UN teams have made deliveries of hygiene kits and birth support kits for shelters and/or affecting communities, with support from the recently activated UNFPA/PAHO/UNICEF-led reproductive health sub-group, who are also carrying out a sexual and reproductive health (SRH) analysis in shelters.
- Plan International has responded to need in 55 shelters in Alta Verapaz, including the delivery of hygiene supplies, cooking kits and food.

### Gaps & Constraints:

## Honduras

- There are reports of criminal control of certain municipalities and shelters in San Pedro Sula that is leading to violence, GBV and family separation, as well as limiting humanitarian access.
- Lack of information on basic needs in shelters and underreporting continue to limit information for decision-making and hamper local-central coordination.
- COVID-19 prevention measures, both in official shelters and makeshift shelters, are being ignored, creating further need for scaled up shelter management capacities in COVID-19 prevention promotion in addition to general health promotion.
- Better supply tracking and monitoring for Shelter partner and HCT donations.

## Guatemala

- Lack of disaggregated data on the sheltered population.
- Access to affected communities and their sheltered population has not yet been fully restored.

## Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

### Response:

## Honduras

- IOM allocated US\$200,000 to provide NFI support to shelters and will deploy a team of three specialists to provide psychosocial support as well as a technical expert in CCCM.

## Guatemala

- IOM has disbursed \$80,000 to advance operations in NFI and DTM and continues to coordinate sector-based meetings.

### Gaps and constraints:

## Regional

- Lack of comprehensive information on needs in shelters and makeshift reception centres, as well as disaggregated data by sex, age, disability and other relevant characteristics.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

### Needs:

#### Nicaragua

- Hurricane Iota's damage left 53,000 people without access to drinking water and contaminated wells, affecting water storage and distribution.

#### Honduras

- Iota further affected safe water supply for consumption and WASH needs in affected households and shelters, making access to water to mitigate COVID-19 spread an even greater need.
- Ongoing challenges in restoring adequate WASH services and conditions due to infrastructure damage continue to increase the likelihood of water-borne diseases and compromised health services, damage that includes contaminated wells, broken pipes and collapsed sewage systems that may lead to chemical contamination.
- The WASH Sector reports that some affected communities have been without access to water for weeks due to access restrictions and the collapse of water supply systems.

#### Guatemala

- Risk communications messaging on flooding, waste management, vector-borne diseases and correct water usage.
- Access to safe water for consumption and preventive hygiene measures.
- Hygiene kits, anti-bacterial soap and gel, chlorine and PPE, as well as cleaning supplies.
- Rehabilitation of community water systems, evaluation of water distribution networks, and equipment and supplies for cleaning wells.
- Educational materials on WASH for shelters.

#### Belize

- Water quality assessments for safe consumption and preventive actions, especially for people returning to their homes and those in temporary shelters to prevent post-flooding epidemics.

### Response:

#### Nicaragua

- Municipal authorities and infrastructure officials are working to restore basic water services.
- UN AFPs have procured 6,000 family hygiene kits, including feminine hygiene kits, as well as cleaning kits for health and maternity units and water for 30 shelters. COVID-19 prevention and mosquito breeding site elimination communications materials are being circulated in the indigenous Miskito language as well.
- UNICEF, with support from USAID, is providing emergency WASH services to some 13,500 people in affected areas in the RACCN, Jinotega and Nuevo Segovia departments.

#### Honduras

- WASH partners have provided 40,000 litres of water so far and distributed more than 19,300 kits for hygiene and health.
- Sector partners are also monitoring safe WASH service provision and supporting restoration of basic services to improve water access, rehabilitate damaged infrastructure and promote hygiene practices at the community level.

#### Guatemala

- WASH partners are carrying out damage evaluations in the Huehuetenango department and deployed teams and WASH supplies to shelters in Izabal and Alta Verapaz.
- Sector partners are supporting CONRED with personal hygiene kits and support Ministry of Health teams in evaluating needs in Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Petén, Huehuetenango and Quiché.

**Gaps and constraints:****Honduras**

- Families remain fearful of COVID-19 risks in shelters, further underscoring the 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**

- More field evaluations to accurately determine gaps.

 **Food Security**
**Needs:****Nicaragua**

- Official sources cite 40,000 people in need of food in Iota's wake.

**Honduras**

- While information from Iota's impact on food security is still required, its compounding impact on Eta-affected areas and direct impact on newly affected areas are going to significantly decrease food access and formal and informal labour supply and prompt negative coping strategies.
- 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.
- Food Security partners indicated a need for scaled up resources to meet food consumption, nutrition, water and productive asset restoration needs.

**Guatemala**

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food's initial report on damage to thousands of livestock in 11 departments and 53,000 hectares of lost or damaged crops stands to directly or indirectly affect nearly 649,000 people across the country.
- Sheltered families, people in unofficial shelters or people who sheltered in place in affected communities require food supplies and kitchen kits to prepare food.
- Cut off communities that have not yet been able to receive humanitarian assistance need food.
- An indeterminate number of families will likely stay in shelters for extended time and will require scaled up food assistance.

**Response:****Nicaragua**

- Government material support includes a delivery via the SINAPRED civil protection system of food supplies to distribute to families in affected municipalities in the so-called Mining Triangle area in the north-east.
- UN AFPs in country pre-positioned 275 metric tons of food supplies in Bilwi and Siuna, with some 152 already distributed to reach 78,500 people in affected areas as of 11 November.
- WFP is providing SINAPRED with national and local support with food plans, distribution planning and routing and logistics for evacuations and food transport.
- RACCN departmental authorities are receiving agricultural evaluation support for affected communities in Prinzapolka, Puerto Cabezas and Waspmam.

**Honduras**

- Food Security sector partners are reporting 97 activities across 15 of 18 departments, with 10 sector partners reporting. Sector partners are most active in Santa Bárbara, Cortés, Atlántida and Colón.

**649K**

People potentially directly or indirectly affected by crop and livestock losses in Guatemala

- Sector partners have redirected available resources to immediately assist some 12,000 families with food rations over an average of 18 days.
- Sector partners continue carrying out damage assessments, with a special focus on maize and bean crops, given their role in subsistence agriculture and thus livelihoods.

### Guatemala

- Food Security partners report activities in Alta Verapaz and Izabal, so far delivering 3,700 lbs of food, 880 food rations and 300 cash transfers. Humanitarian partners such as Catholic Relief Services and Save the Children have also recently provided food assistance to vulnerable communities following Iota.
- Iota's impact on food security has yet to be quantified, but Eta impact analyses from FAO indicate increased food insecurity and chronic malnutrition are likely.

### Gaps & Constraints:

#### Honduras

- Continuing access constraints are leaving families without food.
- Further crop loss assessment to restore production capacities and mitigate losses to critical subsistence crops.
- 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.

#### Guatemala

- The number of affected people and people in need of food support continues to rise.
- Municipal resources are limited and cannot cover all those affected.

## Nutrition

### Needs:

#### Regional

- Crop and livestock loss in affected regions will contribute to deteriorating nutritional statuses.
- Ongoing access limitations to safe water for consumption and hygiene could result in diarrheal diseases and further nutritional deterioration.
- Prevent distribution of maternal milk substitutes, including infant formulas and powdered milk, to ensure proper nutrition of breastfed and non-breastfed children. There are already reports of such substitutes in various shelters, placing children at high risk of further deterioration in their nutritional status and potentially interrupting breastfeeding.
- Adequate space and staff in shelters to respond to differentiated nutrition needs, regulate donations and provide nutritional counselling for pregnant and lactating women.
- Micronutrients to children under five and pregnant and lactating women to prevent nutritional deterioration, as foods often distributed in shelters are rich in fat and starch. Children under 5, pregnant and lactating women have high micronutrient requirements.
- Kitchens, stoves and utensils to prepare nutritious food.
- Training on identifying acute malnutrition in children and treatment referral for leaders, parents and caregivers.

## Health

### Needs:

#### Honduras

- According to information from the Ministry of Health (SESAL) and Health sector partners, about 2.5 million people currently have limited or no access to health services due to damages to health service network infrastructure caused by Eta.
- SESAL indicates 55 affected health centres, with 37 in Cortés alone, leaving 250,000 people in with limited or no access to health services.

# 2.5M

People in Honduras have limited or no access to health services

- Ten facilities report losses to the cold chain, equipment, supplies and vaccines, while 29 report damaged roofing, flooring or walls.
- Iota is expected to further strain healthcare provision services dealing with Eta affecting some 30 per cent of healthcare professionals.
- Since Iota, all health facilities in the La Lima, Potrerillos and San Pedro municipalities in Cortés report interruptions to water supplies.
- The growing sheltered population requires medical assistance, medicines and supplies for acute respiratory disease and infection and PPE, cleaning and disinfectant supplies and scaled up testing for COVID-19 mitigation.

### Guatemala

- More than 70 health facilities report damage, with 32 in Alta Verapaz, 26 in Quiché and 13 in Izabal, with health systems losses estimated at US\$642,000 in these three departments.
- More than 40 per cent of health personnel in affected areas are inactive due to COVID-19 precautions, creating a need for scaling up personnel.
- The Ministry of Health remains concerned with COVID-19 in shelters and the lack of PPE, hygiene and cleaning supplies required for mitigation.
- Damaged health infrastructure will require immediate rehabilitation to guarantee continuing service, especially for at risk populations requiring attention in maternal and newborn health, SRH, childcare and elderly care.

### Response:

#### Regional

- PAHO/WHO has activated the regional Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Secretariat to seek offers of assistance from international NGOs.

#### Honduras

- Health sector partners are working across eight departments, chiefly in Francisco Morazán and Cortés.
- Sector partners have provided deliveries of COVID-19 testing and diagnostic supplies to vulnerable communities and shelters, as well as PPE items and medical supplies.
- Sector partners are conducting a rapid assessment to help strengthen epidemiological surveillance in coordination with the Government.
- Specialists deployed to Cortés continue to support departmental health authorities with damage and needs assessments.

#### Guatemala

- PAHO/WHO supporting health needs assessments in Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Petén, Quiché and Zacapa.
- PAHO/WHO are delivering PPE and hygiene supplies to shelters, including surgical masks, medical gloves, liquid soap, sanitation supplies, COVID-19 kits for ICU patients in hospitals, water tanks, mosquito nets and dignity kits.
- PAHO/WHO are supporting the deployment of 18 medical teams to support shelters and set up 17 clinical modules with equipment, first aid kits and PPE kits for shelters in Alta Verapaz, Quiché and Izabal.
- The mental health sub-group coordinated a training for health personnel, Government institution and other partners in applying psychological first aid in emergencies.

#### Nicaragua:

- UN AFPs in country have donated three tents and medical equipment to the Ministry of Health and are in the process of acquiring emergency backpacks with medical equipment and supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) for emergency response brigades in affected municipalities.

**Gaps & Constraints:****Honduras**

- Infrastructural damage, access constraints including flooded roads and damaged airstrips, and scarcity of human resources in badly hit areas are limiting continuing health services amid increased risk of water- and vector-borne diseases and COVID-19.
- Continued lack of organization and of disaggregated information.

**Guatemala**

- Damage to roads and airstrips are impeding humanitarian access and supply delivery of medicines and equipment.

 **Protection****Needs:****Honduras**

- Disaggregated information by sex, age, ethnicity, disabilities and other characteristics
- The number of people in shelters and displaced people due to Iota will likely heighten existing protection risks.
- There are reports of criminal organizations controlling affected areas, giving way to significant protection risks. Reports from shelters, in particular, cite lack of adequate lighting, separate spaces for women and girls and increased violence, GBV and children separated from families.
- Differentiated care is required for risk mitigation measures for children, adolescents and women in shelters.
- Shelter personnel require capacity building to identify and respond to cases of violence and apply protection principles, as well as technical support key messages and referrals to protection services.
- The storm's impact on household food security and livelihoods increase the risk of negative coping mechanisms with inherent protection risks, such as transactional sex, forced prostitution and trafficking.
- Continued provision of services for GBV survivors and monitoring for psychosocial support and mental healthcare needs.

**Guatemala**

- Guarantee referral mechanisms for GBV cases in shelters, in coordination with Health sector partners.
- Guarantee immediate interventions for at risk groups, including those in need of maternal and newborn care and SRH services, young girls and adolescents and people over 65 years of age.
- Protection kits and support for hygiene, clothing, bed and separate space needs for family groups and women's groups.

**Response:****Regional**

- DTM teams are collecting critical information on the population displacement caused by Eta and Iota.

**Honduras**

- Ten Protection sector partners report 67 activities, mostly in Cortés and Francisco Morazán, working primarily with scaled up NFI deliveries, deployments and technical assistance.
- The Honduran Red Cross is supporting ongoing efforts to evacuate families to shelters and foster homes, pre-positioning family kits across Cortés to deliver to shelters.
- The Honduran Red Cross is also sharing key evacuation and preventive messages, while updating a list of safe accommodation spaces.
- Sector partners continue to monitor and identify protection risks in affected communities and shelters, support protection risk mitigation actions as a cross-sectoral priority, mainstream the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and strengthen access to services and protection alternatives in shelters and affected communities.

**Gaps & Constraints:****Honduras**

- Families are returning to recover belongings in high-risk areas.
- 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.

**🚚 Logistics****Response:****Honduras**

- The Honduran Red Cross pre-positioned rescue boats to assist search and rescue operations ahead of Iota's impact.
- Congress approved a new legislation easing regulations on importing humanitarian aid shipments during emergencies. The Honduran Customs Administration, Sanitary Regulatory Agency and the National Service of Agrofood Health and Safety (SENASA) are now authorized to exempt fees for payment, transfer service and import storage.
- The Logistics Working Group is activating and set to meet on 23 November, with support from the Regional Working Group which will activate and meet on 27 November.

**Guatemala**

- UNCHR set up four refugee housing units (RHUs) to store humanitarian aid in Puerto Barrios, Izabal. The RHUs are part of a donation from earlier to the Social Works Office of the First Lady (SOSEP).

**Constraints:****Honduras**

- The San Pedro Sula airport is not expected to be operational before 15 December.
- The Corinto and El Florido border crossing points with Guatemala are closed due to flooding.
- Logistical challenges due to damaged transport infrastructure continues to limit access in reaching isolated populations.

**📞 Emergency Telecommunications****Needs:****Nicaragua**

- Iota left considerable damage to telecommunications infrastructure, especially to the Puerto Cabezas municipality, a key centre in RACCN for regional operations.

**Response:****Nicaragua**

- Government officials working to restore basic services are also focusing on recovering telecommunications.
- WFP deployed an emergency telecommunications and logistics team to the Waspam municipality to support local emergency committees.

**Honduras**

- Based on assessments, Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) identified the need for more permanent internet connectivity and recommend negotiating with mobile operators to provide free credit to affected people and/or access to free WiFi in shelters through LTE technology.

- TSF carried out communications needs assessments in San Pedro Sula evacuation centers and provided training to the Honduran Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the use of satellite communication lines provided to support Red Cross restoring of family links, field assessments and relief operations.
- TSF is helping people in shelters by installing Wi-Fi access points for contacting family members and accessing the most up to date official information on developments.

## Early Recovery

### Needs:

#### Guatemala

- As families leave shelters and head back home there, will be a growing need for supplies and tools to clean and repair damaged homes.

### Response:

#### Belize

- The Belize Red Cross is carrying out a Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) programme with multi-purpose cash assistance. Some 2,500 people in 500 families will receive a card valued at \$285.00 to support immediate recovery needs.

## 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 - [bit.ly/2JrjQ7G](https://bit.ly/2JrjQ7G)**      **Key links for Eta/Iota response - [bit.ly/38iLpul](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, made landfall as a Category 4 storm on 16 November in the evening, quickly cutting a path nearly identical to Eta across Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras while weakening to remnants of a tropical depression and causing even more flooding in communities still reeling from Eta before clearing on 18 November.

### For further information, please contact:

**Barbara Batista**, Regional Disaster Response Advisor, OCHA ROLAC, [batistab@un.org](mailto:batistab@un.org)  
**Véronique Durroux**, Head of Information and Advocacy Unit, OCHA ROLAC, [durroux@un.org](mailto:durroux@un.org)

For more information, please visit [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)  
 If you wish to subscribe to OCHA's Hurricane Eta products, please visit <https://bit.ly/34QWBMB>