

Weekly Note On Emergencies

Latin America & The Caribbean

This note is compiled for The Risk Emergency Disaster Working Group for Latin America and the Caribbean by the OCHA Regional Office through disaster monitoring and input from our Regional Humanitarian partners. This note does not intend to be an analytical tool, but a summary paper of key facts and actions reported by sources. Activities carried in affected countries are not limited to the ones reported here. Please check with sources for further information. For input, feedback and suggestions send us an email to ocha-rolac@un.org

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- **HURRICANE PALOMA:** Hurricane Paloma dissipated on November 9, inland over East Central Cuba.
- **CAYMAN ISLANDS:** An estimated 90 per cent of properties have suffered mild to severe damage on both Sister Islands (Cayman Brac and Little Cayman).
- **HONDURAS:** Only 10% of the USD 17 million requested in the Flash Appeal have been received so far.
- **COLOMBIA:** Colombian Institute of Geology and Mining (INGEOMINAS) emitted last Friday an Orange Alert due to an increase seismic activity in the Nevado Del Huila volcano

HURRICANE SEASON

HURRICANE PALOMA: After pounding the Cayman Islands, where it reached the hurricane category 4, Paloma dissipated on November 9, inland over East Central Cuba.

Source: National Hurricane Center



Hurricane Paloma caused severe damage to structures in the Cayman Islands. Source: Caycompass (Shuma Robbins).

CAYMAN ISLANDS: Local authorities, lead by the Ministry of District Administration, Planning, Agriculture and Housing (DAPAH), have managed to control the situation and established a command centre at the Gerrard Smith International Airport. Impact in the Cayman Islands was mainly on Cayman Brac (population of 1500) and Little Cayman

(population of 200). An estimated 90 per cent of properties have suffered mild to severe damage on both Sister Islands, including schools. The British Red Cross released an initial £15,000 (approximately USD 23,500) to help provide affected people with food and shelter.

Source: Caycompass, IFRC

CUBA: According to a preliminary report from the Municipal Council of Defense more than 4,000 houses were affected and 262,712 people were evacuated. No injuries or death have been reported.

Source: Granma

HAITI: Haitian Civil Protection reported 89 victims and more than 150 wounded due to the collapse of the church school *La Promesse* on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince on November 7. Search and rescue operations are on-going conducted by Haitian, French and American rescue teams.

Source: Haitian Civil Protection

FLOODS



A man carrying his personal belongings as he crosses a flooded avenue in Honduras. Source: *Peopledaily.com*

HONDURAS: Since October 13, some 320,00 people have been affected due to heavy rains caused by Tropical Depression 15, a cold front and Hurricane Paloma. The UNDAC team departed on Friday 7th. The Humanitarian Country Team will seek to ensure a smooth transition to rehabilitation. Nonetheless, current humanitarian needs have so far received less than 10% of the requirements (USD 17 million Flash Appeal).

Source: *UN HONDURAS*

GUATEMALA: There is still limited information on the situation in Guatemala despite a few assessment missions; almost a month after the country was struck by tropical depression 15. Water levels are still high and it will take around two or three weeks to return to normal levels. CONRED and UN agencies delegates carried out a joint field trip to the province of Petén in order to evaluate the situation and gather information regarding health issues, agriculture damages, food security, basic infrastructure and livelihoods of the affected population in this area. In the meantime, the UN is releasing USD 1,5 million from the Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF).

Source: *UN GUATEMALA, CONRED*

SEISMIC ACTIVITY

COLOMBIA: Colombian Institute of Geology and Mining (INGEOMINAS) emitted last Friday an Orange Alert due to an increase seismic activity in the Nevado Del Huila volcano, which reported 3,226 seismic tremors. On November 9, the Machin volcano increased its seismic activity, reporting 400 low intensity tremors.

Source: *INGEOMINAS*

VOLCANIC ACTIVITY

ECUADOR: The Reventador Volcano increased its activity expelling lava with low emissions of ash. There is no significant ash falls in the towns nearby. On November 9, the airport in Quito was closed as a precaution.

Source: *UN ECUADOR*