



Honduras

San Salvador, 14 November 2017

SITUATION

On 23 October 2017, the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) declared a green alert in five of the country's departments: Cortés, Yoro, Atlántida, Islas de La Bahía and Colón; the alert was declared in response to the arrival of the first cold front of the season, which brought heavy rains and prompted COPECO to raise the alert level for the departments of Islas de la Bahía, Cortés, Atlántida and Colón at 5:00 pm on 24 October. That same day, the government declared a state of emergency due to the presence of the weather system in the departments of Cortés, Atlántida, Yoro, Colón, Islas de la Bahía and Gracias a Dios. The weather system brought heavy rainfall, which caused rivers and gorges to flood. As of 29 October 2017, a red alert was in effect for the departments Gracias a Dios, Yoro, Islas de la Bahía, Cortés, Atlántida and Colón, while a yellow alert was in place for departments Olancho, Santa Bárbara and Francisco Morazán and a green alert for the departments of Copán, Comayagua, La Paz, Valle, Choluteca, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Intibucá and El Paraíso.

According to official data provided by COPECO, the flooding has had the following impact on Honduras

- 10,564 affected households
- 50,770 affected persons
- 4876 evacuated households (24,691 persons)
- 25 persons rescued
- 1799 households in temporary shelters (9351 persons)
- 5012 damaged houses
- 13 totally destroyed houses.

Additionally, Tropical Depression Selma formed in the Pacific at the same time as a tropical disturbance in the Atlantic according to COPECO's National Centre of Atmospheric, Oceanographic and Seismic Studies, producing moderate to strong rains, especially in the country's south central and western parts.

NEEDS

Due to the impact on grey water and faecal matter disposal systems, families are at high risk of contamination, which would cause the propagation of waterborne diseases, the proliferation of vectors, Acute respiratory infections (ARIs)

The floods have affected the crops, forcing many of the affected families to change their diets and implement survival strategies; for example, affected farmers have begun selling their agricultural products at a very low cost, which will affect their income generation.

Lastly, due to deterioration of residual water and excreta management systems, families are at risk to water and vector-borne diseases and other dangers to their health.

Water distribution systems in many areas are affected and water is not safe for drinking; thus, there is a need to provide support to places where distribution systems are insufficient and water treatment actions at the household level.

The affected families are in urgent need of food, shelter, psychosocial support, water and sanitation support and livelihood restoration.

STAKEHOLDERS

The key stakeholders leading assessments, rapid responses and monitoring the situation are the National Disaster Risk Management System, such as the Permanent Commission of Contingencies (COPECO), the Fire Department, Armed Forces and the Municipal Emergency Committees, Ministries of Health, Education and Security; United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for

the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). The Honduran Red Cross is working in coordination with COPECO to benefit the affected population providing psychosocial support to 700 people in the collective centres, Provision of pre-hospital health care to 4,000 people in the collective centres and the development of an emergency plan of action to respond to the emergency. COPECO have delivered 7716 food kits as well as 1141 NFI, 101 hygiene kits, 855 mattresses, 373 roof sheets. UNICEF coordinates Honduras' Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Board; it has been monitoring the evolution of the event. The Advocacy Board for Disaster Risk Management has issued instructions for the sectorial boards to join the relief work planned by COPECO's National Disaster Management System. UNOCHA-Honduras has published different news bulletins on its official networks and pages. The country's Humanitarian Network has joined the National Emergency Operations Centre to coordinate actions related to its members.

ACT Alliance

Given the level of damage so far, the ACT Forum in Honduras through its local member Mennonite Committee for Social Action (CASM) for its Spanish acronym is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide Food, non-Food Items and WASH. Following the issuance of the Alert, an RRF will be submitted based on needs assessments. It is important to mention that CASM coordinates the Humanitarian Network in the northern zone of Honduras and closely coordinating actions with the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org) and Senior Finance Officer, Lorenzo Correa (Lorenzo.Correa@actalliance.org)

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