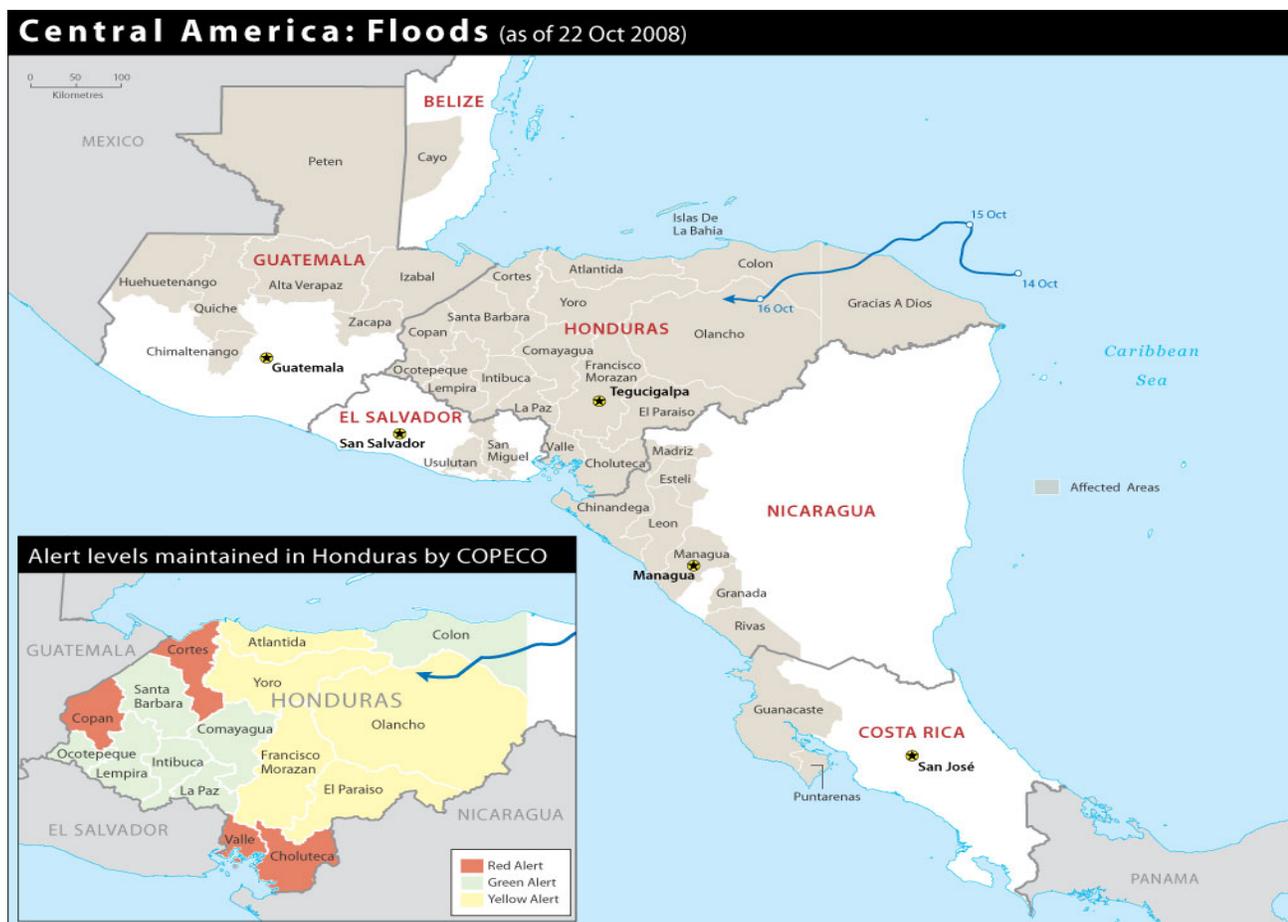


**Situation Report 4 – Honduras and Central America Floods
27 October 2008**

This situation report is based on information received from, the UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) in the affected countries, the Regional Office in Panama, the UNDAC Team in Honduras and the National Hurricane Centre.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **In Honduras, some 270,000 persons are affected by floods and landslides. A Flash Appeal is being prepared.**
- **In Guatemala, the number of affected persons has increased. The Government declared the state of calamity in another 7 municipalities in the departments of El Peten and Quiche.**
- **Water flooding from Guatemala is affecting Belize.**



SITUATION

1. Tropical Depression No. 16 made landfall in northern Honduras on 16 October and has been slowly crossing over Central America causing heavy rains from northern Costa Rica to south-eastern Mexico. The system affected the countries of Costa Rica, Belize, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala with heavy rains which led to flooding and mudslides.

HONDURAS

2. Due to a series of meteorological events in the past days (Tropical Depression 16, low depression and swell), the Government of Honduras declared a state of emergency on 19 October. These events caused rains of diverse intensity in the whole country but mainly in the central and western area. A great number of landslides were registered in the western and central part of the country. The Government has formally requested humanitarian assistance. The Red Alert remains in place in the municipalities of Corquín and Cucuyagua in Copan Department; Belén Gualcho in Ocotepeque; Pimienta, Villanueva, Potrerillos, San Manuel, Choloma y Puerto Cortes at Cortes Department; Tela at Atlantida Department; and El Progreso, Santa Rita and El Negrito at Yoro Department. A Yellow Alert is in place in the central district of Francisco Morazán. A Green Alert remains in place in the rest of the territory. Some areas are accessible only by boats. There is no rain announced in the next day, however a cold front is currently moving across the region.

3. According to the Permanent Commission for Contingencies (COPECO) latest information, 33 deaths were reported and some 270,500 persons have been affected. Approximately 42,234 persons were evacuated of which 38,600 are in shelters. More than 467 houses were destroyed and 10,000 are flooded or damaged. Some 100,000 hectares of crops have been lost. Approximately 50% of the roads are damaged or destroyed. Some 114 out of 298 municipalities are affected or 40% of the municipalities. Public health is an area of concerns even though no outbreaks have been reported. The main health concerns are gastrointestinal diseases and acute respiratory infections. Primary needs include portable latrines, water purification and household hygiene kits. PAHO/WHO reports that 14 potable water systems are damaged. There are currently no severe food security issues, but the next production will be affected. The government is implementing measure to prevent speculation of the food prices. Damage in the transport infrastructure will impact negatively on the commercialization of the coffee production.

4. The COPECO is coordinating relief activities. The President of Nicaragua has assigned regions to the various ministries to strengthen coordination between COPECO, departmental and local authorities.

5. The UNETE was activated on 18 October, activating sectoral groups (or clusters). Inter agency Assessments are on-going in the South, North and West with the participation of the UN system, COPECO and Caritas notably. The result of the assessments will be available early this week. Various Sectoral working groups are working using the cluster approach principles: Health (Lead: PAHO/WHO); Water & Sanitation (lead: UNICEF); Education (Lead: UNICEF); Food Security & Nutrition (Lead: FAO), Shelters and Protection (lead: IOM; Early Recovery (Lead: UNDP); Logistics & Communications (Lead: WFP). The sector working groups are finalizing a CERF application and a Flash Appeal.

6. Requirements, as identified by COPECO, include:

- Portable latrines;
- Ambulances and 4X4 vehicles for the regions (these can be loaned);
- Potable Water plants;
- Massive medical attention in gastrointestinal diseases, IRAs;
- Specialists in dermatology;
- Energy plants;
- Geophysicists for slides evaluation;
- Communication node for cellular phones in bordering communities with El Salvador;
- Kerosene Stoves;
- Aerial recognition flights;
- And Food and hygiene kits, blankets and mattresses.

The main sectors to be prioritized are:

- water and sanitation
 - public health
 - shelters
-

- agriculture and food security
- infrastructure.

7. The international community has offered assistance to Honduras and find attached below a table detailing a list of contribution. WHO is reprogramming regular funds in order to mobilize medical teams and to purchase emergency and general medicines. PAHO/WHO has also mobilized regional experts in water and sanitation, disaster management and the SUMA deployment. Three teams have been sent to the field to carry out an inter-agency assessment in the most affected areas in the North, West and South parts of the country.

8. WFP has distributed 58 MT of food to more than 5,500 families. WFP, in coordination with COPECO, CODEM (Municipality Emergency Committee) and other partners, continues to monitor the situation and carry out assessments to provide assistance to the affected population. WFP has organized missions to the affected areas and needs an additional 2,500 MT of food through the regional PRRO. WFP is also contributing up to USD 142,000 in cash assistance. UNICEF distributed pre-positioned supplies through COPECO and is planning the rehabilitation of the affected water systems and school infrastructure. UNICEF also plans to preposition family hygiene kits, emergency health, education, and cooking kits, as well as blankets and has allocated a USD 120,000 in immediate cash assistance. Mercy Corp is distributing food, blankets and NFIs to families. IOM is dispatching an expert in shelter; MSF is sending a health experts team, while BCPR is deploying an early recovery advisor. FAO, WFP, UNICEF and UNDP are also sending technical personnel, while UNDP has provided USD 150,000 in cash contribution.

9. USAID/OFDA provided USD 50,000 to COPECO and CARE through USAID/Honduras for the procurement of emergency relief supplies. COPECO also utilized USD 25,000 of previously stockpiled relief supplies, provided by USAID/OFDA and USAID/Honduras, to respond to immediate needs. In addition, a disaster specialist was deployed to Honduras to further assess the effects of the floods. Spain, through PAHO, has released USD 30,000 for immediate disaster relief and through AECI has allocated EURO 100,000 for the purchase of relief items in cooperation with COPECO. Argentina has offered technical support; ECHO is assessing the damage, while France will contribute through ECHO. The IDB is making available USD 200,000 for humanitarian assistance. Other donors, such as El Salvador, Mexico, Sweden, Canada, ADRAS, World Bank, Germany, OAS, JICA and Taiwan are considering assistance, pending feedback on damage assessments.

10. The UNDAC team being deployed by OCHA is focusing on information management with the support of RedHum in ROLAC, and on rapid needs assessments. OCHA allocated USD 60,000 in emergency cash grants, in addition to other support on resource mobilization. IFRC is assisting 2,000 families with hygiene kits, kitchen sets and food and is deploying experts in disaster management, communication and shelter.

COSTA RICA

11. Since 13 October, precipitation levels were the highest in 40 years and reached up to 2,100 mm, causing rivers to overflow and landslides. On 18 October, the Government declared a state of emergency after state agencies reported many areas had been affected by heavy rain and floods. The provinces of Guanacaste in the northern Pacific and Puntarenas in the central Pacific are the most affected. According to the latest information, 7 deaths were reported; some 470 communities were affected; 92,000 people are affected and 65 shelters were opened housing 3,096 persons. More than 18,500 persons have been directly affected. Some 1,400 houses and 171 roads were flooded or covered by mudslides. All main roads located in the northern and southern regions of the country are blocked due to landslides. Some 89 communities are experiencing electricity cuts. OCHA allocated an emergency cash grant of USD 30,000 to respond to the most immediate needs of the affected population, while PAHO is distributing emergency health kits. The Costa Rican Red Cross (CRC) is updating the information obtained from the affected regions. Some communities remain isolated. The CRC volunteers are conducting damage and needs assessments in the communities and are distributing relief items to the emergency shelters and to families that have not left their homes. Coordination meetings are held among regional supervisors to define all relief actions.

NICARAGUA



12. The Government has declared a green alert for the whole territory, except for San Juan de Limay (yellow) and the municipalities of León, Quezalguaque, Telica, Larreynaga, El Sauce, Achuapa, Santa Rosa del Peñón, El Jicaral, Nagarote, La Paz Centro, Chinandega, El Viejo, Puerto Morazán, Somotillo, Santo Tomás del Norte, Cinco Pinos, San Pedro del Norte, San Francisco del Norte, Villanueva, El Realejo, Corinto, Chichigalpa and Posoltega (red alert). Nine deaths have been now reported. On 18 October, preliminary reports indicated that at least 11,433 people have been affected in 8 departments (Chinandega, Madriz, Esteli, Leon, Managua, Granada, Rivas among others); more than 17 emergency shelters are now open, housing around 1,800 people while the rest are staying with family and friends. Some 16 houses were totally destroyed and 1,331 are damaged. Food for those in shelter is a priority. The emergency centre (SINAPRED) is coordinating all emergency activities, assisting in shelters and updating information. The Government has not requested additional resources from the UN to respond to the emergency. Some NGOs are visiting the shelters to evaluate the facilities and living conditions. The Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) is participating in coordination meetings and deployed staff to the affected areas to provide support and start assessment activities. The UNETT is continuing to closely monitor the situation. UNDP has allocated USD 5,000 and UNICEF has delivered items amounting to USD 3,000.

EL SALVADOR

13. Since 16 October, El Salvador is under Yellow Alert due to a risk of flooding and landslide caused by persistent heavy rains as a consequence of the remnants of Tropical Depression 16. The coastal areas in the departments of Usulután and San Miguel have been the hardest hit by flooding, where nearly 600 affected families fled their homes. Significant maize and bean crop losses have been reported in low lying coastal regions. Due to soil saturation, the possibility of additional landslides and overflowing rivers is high. Several creeks near the capital city of San Salvador have started to overflow causing floods in some communities. Several hydroelectric dams report high levels forcing to release the water, which, in turn, has caused streets to flood in several communities. WFP was requested to provide food assistance to a total of 577 flood affected families in the municipalities of Puerto el Triunfo and San Dionisio, in the department of Usulután, and in the municipality of Chirilagua in the department of San Miguel. WFP, in coordination with the Civil Protection and National Secretary of the Family (SNF), distributed a total of 8 MT of food to the affected families.

GUATEMALA

14. Heavy rains continue in Guatemala and the Government declared a state of calamity in 7 additional municipalities (in El Peten and Quiché) in addition to the previous 20 municipalities in Peten, Izabal, Alta Verapaz and Quiché, along rivers and lowlands of the country. The Yellow alert is maintained at the national level. The floods claimed the lives of 4 persons. The CONRED is reporting that some 45,500 persons were affected, of which 12,800 were evacuated. Of these, some 6,800 are in shelters. Some communities have been isolated; more than 5,000 houses and 114 roads were destroyed or damaged. The most affected department is El Peten, however Alta verapaz is reporting the highest number of affected persons (13,400), followed by Izabal (some 13,000 affected). Some 300 families are sheltered in Mexico and 133 communities have not yet been reached. Some 5,000 crops have been lost. The CONRED is mobilizing its immediate response teams in the various affected municipalities and is coordinating the response. UNETT is consulting with the Government on UN possible assistance. The President Alvaro Colom has assigned 20 millions Quetzals for the mayors and governors of the affected areas. WFP has distributed 68.7 MT of food to 18,000 persons affected for 10 days.

BELIZE

15. The remnants of Tropical Depression 16 caused widespread rainfall across Belize resulting in floods in communities along the Mopan, Macal and Belize Rivers. All other river levels in the country have increased. To date 24 communities have been significantly impacted, affecting around 38,000 people, many of whom are cut off from road transportation due to disruptions to the road networks. Around 400 people have been evacuated to shelters however many more are staying with relatives. Flooded rivers coming across the border from Guatemala add to the impact. Waters in the Southern districts (Stann Creek and Toledo) are receding very slowly, however waters in central/western and Northern Belize (Cayo, Belize, Orange Walk, Corozal) are expected to continue to rise. The Meteorological Department estimates that it may take up to 3 months for the water to recede in some areas.



16. No related death or severe ill health have been recorded, although some cases of diarrhea and cold or flu outbreaks are being reported. The Ministry of Health has medical officers in communities distributing water purification tablets and ORS. The efforts of assistance are concentrated in the Cayo and Belize Districts. NEMO is assisting well over 200 people in shelters in the Cayo, Orange Walk and the Belize River Valley. District Emergency Committees in Orange Walk and Coroozal remain on high alert. The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) at the local level remains activated.

17. The affected livelihoods are based largely on subsistence farming, trading, transportation, cottage industries and casual employment in the agriculture and tourism sectors. Many of the people affected may require food-related assistance for some time after the water recedes. Significant losses were initially reported in the infrastructure, agriculture, petroleum and education sectors. Significant economic losses from the agriculture and petroleum industries, coupled with unprecedented food insecurity concerns resulting from losses of subsistence agriculture and disruptions in livelihoods are also predicted. As of 20 October, the total direct losses have been estimated to Belizean Dollars 19.1 Million (Infrastructure: \$3.2 Million Dollars; Agriculture \$7.2 Million Dollars and Petroleum \$8.7 Million Dollars). UNICEF stands ready to assist should a request be made.

18. Detailed damage assessments are on-going, focusing especially on Cayo, Stann Creek and Toledo Districts. Meanwhile, initial damage assessments will be carried out for Orange Walk and Belize Districts. Detailed damage assessments for the entire country should be expected within the next 7 days. The UN has created a consolidated list of supplies and materials available immediately, and has made it available to the Government, together with offers of technical assistance, vehicles and equipment for assessment purposes. The UNCT is further analyzing the initial damage and needs assessments to ascertain the extent of additional assistance needed. PAHO is working closely with the Ministry of Health to address medical needs in the communities. The Government has not ruled out the possibility of a need to request food aid, but has as yet not released figures as to the extent of this possible aid.

19. The Red Cross is distributing basic supplies including food, emergency hygiene and cleaning articles, impregnated mosquito nets and household articles, supplied by the IFRC, including to around 300 families in the Calla Creek area of the Cayo district, in close coordination with NEMO. The Government has released a list of priority assistance needs (below). The Government emphasized that cash aid is preferred over in-kind donations due to logistical challenges and in particular the disruptions in the road and transportation network. An OCHA emergency cash grant request is being prepared. WHO/PAHO is supporting the Ministry of Health in a needs assessment mission.

Needs	Estimates of Quantity Required	# People Affected (approx.)	# Persons in Shelter	# Homes/Building affected	Remarks
		38, 000	400 (Cayo - 100), Belize, Orange Walk, Corozal)	1000 (approx.)	Shelters being confirmed
Food	2 to 4 wks				
Water	2 to 4 wks				
Baby Food	2 to 4 wks (7,000 children approx.)				
Blankets	20,000				
Sleeping Equipment					
Mosquito					



Nets					
Chlorine Tablets	TBC by MOH				
Water Purification Equipment	6				
Water Storage Containers	5000 (5 gals.)				
ULV Spraying Machine	TBC by MOH				
Medical Kit	700 - 800 families				Oral Rehydration Salt, Antipyretics, tetanus toxoide, anti- malaria drugs and blood testing supplies
Kitchen and Eating utensils	3,000 families				
Cleaning and Sanitary supplies	3,000 families				Mops, Brooms, buckets, Clorox, Soap and Garbage Bags
Power Washers	200 (avg. 5 per affected Village)				
Agriculture products	TBC as requested				
School Supplies	2,000 sets				
Rain Gear including Rubber Boots	4 - 5000 sets				Assorted sizes

REGIONAL RESPONSE

20. Some CHF 271,000 (USD 247,715 or EUR 172,611) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Societies of Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua in delivering immediate assistance to 1,500 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged. The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for Central America and Mexico are communicating with and providing support to the National Societies. An alert for a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member has been issued for immediate deployment to the National Society in most need of support. Three PADRU disaster management delegates have been deployed to Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua to coordinate initial relief actions with the National Societies.

21. The OCHA Regional Office in Panama is closely monitoring the situation and is in close contact with the RCs and UNTTs of the affected countries in the region. More information can be found on Reliefweb at www.reliefweb.int and REDHUM at www.redhum.org. Humanitarian organizations and donors are encouraged to report all contributions (cash and in-kind) to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service at fts@reliefweb.int or through the on-line contribution form at www.reliefweb.int/fts, where a list of already made contributions is available.



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Annex I: Table of Assistance – Honduras

Organization	Needs assessment	Intervention Area	Own Resources \$	Material Resources (stocks)	Response	
					Planned	Sectors
Ayuda en Accion	yes (24/10)	YORO (Victoria, Sulaco) PARAISO (Liure) COMAYAGUA (Libertad)	9,000	n/a	yes	Watsan, Shelters, Health, Psychosocial Support
Paz y Tercer Munao	yes (24/10)	CHOLUTECA (Namayesgue y Marcovia)	n/a	n/a	yes	Watsan, Agriculture Shelters
MSF (Spain)	yes (25 /10)	CORTES (Potrerillos, Pimienta) YORO (Progreso)	n/a	In Panama for 2000 people for 2 weeks	no	Health
MSF (Switzerland)	Planned	OLANCHO, GRACIAS A DIOS	10,000	Health kits		Health, Nutrition, Watsan
Oxfam International	yes	COPAN (Corquin, Florida, San Nicolas) OCOTOPEQUE (Belen Gualcho) LEMPIRA (Lepaera)	n/a	At HQ and in the region	yes	Watsan, Food Aid
Solidaridad Internacional	yes	LEMPIRA (Gracias, Belen, S. Marcos, S.Manuel, S.Sebastian) ATLANTIDA (Ceiba, Balfate, Santa Fe)	n/a	n/a	no	



OIKOS	yes (25/10)	CHOLUTECA (Marcovia), VALLE (Alianza) YORO (Progreso, Victoria, El Negrito)	n/a	n/a	yes	Watsan, Agriculture
FAO	yes	ATLANTIDA (Esparta, Arizona, Lamacica), COLON, YORO (Negrito lado sur y lado norte) PARAISO (San Lucas)	100,000 (not confirmed)	n/a		Agriculture, Livelihood
IFRC	available	COPAN CHOLUTECA VALLE PARAISO OCOTEPEQUE	120,000	PADRU (NFIs for 5,000 persons)	yes	Relief, Food Aid, Watsan
TROCAIRE	yes (24 octubre- viernes)	YORO (Progreso, Negrito) COLON (Tocoa, Trujillo, Irióna) CORTES (Potrerillos) COPAN LEMPIRA OLANCHO (biosfera Rio Platano)	10,000	n/a	yes	Shelters
CHRISTIAN AID	Yes available	CORTES (Potrerillos, Pimienta)	88,000 (maximum)	n/a	yes	Health, Agriculture
WHO	yes (24/10)	COPAN, CORTES, CHOLUTECA, YORO, GRACIAS A DIOS, OLANCHO	10,000	Protection team	yes	Health, Watsan, Shelters
UNDP	yes (25/10)	a nivel Nacional con COPECO	165,000 (COPECO)	n/a	yes	Rehabilitation
Dutch Red Cross	available EDAN Red Cross	YORO CORTES (Choloma, La lima, Potrerillos, San Manuel) COMAYAGUA	5,000 euros for the Red Cross	n/a	yes	Watsan, Agriculture, Shelters
GOAL	yes (24/10)	YORO (Progreso, Comapa, El Negrito, Morazan, Victoria)	75,000	11 MT of food with WFP	yes	Agriculture, Watsan, Health
Telecom San Frontieres	yes (25/10)	UNDAC support	n/a		yes	Telecom



ACPP	yes	SANTA BARBARA (S.Marcos, Quimistan, S.Luis) CHOLUTECA (Triunfo la Cruz) COMAYAGUA (Taulabe) ATLANTIDA (Tornabe)	n/a	n/a	NO	
Handicap International	yes (25/10)	SANTA BARBARA Tegucigalpa	n/a	n/a		
JICA		San Pedro Sula		Shelter and water items amounting USD 130,000		