

# HURRICANE EARL

Situation Report No. 3 August 11, 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS

- No deaths or major injuries related to the passage of Hurricane Earl have been reported in the country
- 119 people remain in shelters and others without electricity continue to take shelter with relatives
- Water levels have started to recede in flooded rivers in the Cayo District; however, flooding remains a concern in flood prone areas, particularly in the Belize River Valley
- The Belize City water supply has been restored and water is being supplied in trucks to communities with interrupted public water supply
- The Belize Electricity Company reports that 99% of power has been restored; the 1% without power (700 people) are primarily in Belize City and affected rural areas in the Belize District



Courtesy of PAHO/WHO Belize

10,000

Persons Affected<sup>1</sup>

3

PAHO experts  
deployed

119

Persons in Shelters<sup>2</sup>

10

Health Facilities  
Assessed<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> PWR-Belize Situation Report #3, from August 10, 2016

<sup>2</sup> The National Emergency Management Operations (NEMO), Situation Report #5, Belize from August 10, 2016

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Hurricane Earl struck the country of Belize early morning on Thursday, August 4, 2016 as a category 1 hurricane. The most affected districts were Belize City, Belize Rural, Orange Walk, Cay, and the Stann Creek districts. No fatalities or injuries occurred, but approximately 2,000 families (10,000 people) have been affected in six districts, and an estimated 119 people remain in shelters. Food supplies and humanitarian relief items continue to be mobilized to the affected communities through the Supplies Management Committee (RSMC); housing relief operations will begin today.

Minimal damages were reported to health facilities. However, given the concern for flooding in the weeks to come, water- and vector-borne diseases in flooded areas is a concern, as well as ensuring safe drinking water. The Government of Belize continues to

assess and restore critical lifeline facilities, agriculture, transportation, utilities, communication, and infrastructure.

Currently, an estimated 1,580 families (8,000 people) have been assisted by the Government of Belize, as reported by the National Relief Supplies Committee/Ministry of Human Development.

## HEALTH FACILITIES

PAHO/WHO staff conducted coordination meetings with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Director of Health Services (DHS), Deputy DHS, Health Disaster Coordinator, and other senior health officials to review priority health needs and prioritize facilities to be assessed. Furthermore, the CEO requested PAHO/WHO's support to review the MoH's EOC and support its strengthening during its operations.

The PAHO/WHO team has performed field visits and completed the assessment of 10 health facilities; 4 in Belize City (the national public referral hospital- KMH and 3 polyclinics- Matron Roberts, Cleopatra White, and Port Loyola), 2 in the Cayes (San Pedro Polyclinic and Caye Caulker Clinic), and 4 in the Cayo District (Western Regional Hospital, the Vaccine Storage facility in Belmopan City, San Ignacio Community Hospital, and Benque Viejo del Carmen Polyclinic). These facilities have been assessed to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement and recommendations will be made for the SMART Hospital Initiative.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Water systems have been restored in Belize City as well as electricity, except for some rural areas in the Belize district. Residual chlorine tests in the public water supply show levels above the minimum recommended value. Furthermore, flooding remains a concern in many areas in the Cayo District and the Belize River Valley as rivers and dams remain at high levels. Houses, utilities, and agriculture sustained damages. A tidal surge (4-6 ft.) affected mostly the Northern part of Belize City, Vista del Mar, Ladyville, and Los Lagos.

The PAHO/WHO team is also visiting the Santa Familia village in the Cayo District to inspect the water system due to interruption of water supply due to flooding.

## NEEDS

- Public awareness messages
- Vector control equipment and supplies

- Insect repellent and bed nets
- Water quality testing kits and reagents to intensify water quality monitoring in affected areas
- Replacement of damaged IT equipment for the National Health Information System

## RESPONSE ACTIONS:

### GOVERNMENT

- Rapid humanitarian relief assessments are in final stages
- Advising residents to treat drinking water which may have been contaminated due to flooding
- Advising motorists to exercise caution as several roads and bridges have been seriously damaged

### PAHO/WHO

- Performed field visits and health facility assessments of 10 health facilities
- Three deployed experts are conducting evaluations of health facilities, water systems, and providing health coordination to Belize-MoH
- Supporting immediate needs identified with Belize-MoH
  - Mental health video messages to be aired by TV, beginning today
  - 5 chlorine testing kits delivered to Belize-MoH water quality lab
  - 300 bed nets, 1,000 units of insect repellent, and 10 chlorine testing kits are being ordered from Panama and are expected in country within 3 days
  - Water quality testing reagents are being procured in-country
- Recommends a water storage (for at least three days) integrated in the water supply systems of the San Pedro and Caye Caulker clinics

### Partner Coordination

- PAHO/WHO is developing public health messages in coordination with UNICEF
- UNICEF, BATSUB (British Army Training and Support Unit Belize), and BDF (Belize Defense Force) are assisting people in shelters
- The Belize Red Cross, USAID, and faith-based organizations are supporting NEMO in food/water relief operations
- PAHO/WHO convened a meeting with UNICEF, Red Cross, and MoH-Belize which resulted in the coordination of response activities to address health and WASH needs
- The Embassy of Mexico has expressed interest in supporting the health sector response
- The PAHO/WHO team has been coordinating and collaborating with UNDMT in monitoring the situation and preparing the joint UN situation reports

## Map of Hospitals in Belize



### HOSPITALS IN BELIZE

1. Northern Regional Hospital (Orange Walk)
2. Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (Belize City)
3. Belize Medical Associates (Belize City)
4. National Health Services (Belize City)
5. Belize Healthcare Partners Limited (Belize City)
6. Lopez Pharmacy & Medical Clinic (Belmopán)
7. St Luke’s Medical Center (Belmopán)
8. Western Regional Hospital (Belmopán)
9. The Hope Clinic (Dangriga)
10. San Ignacio Hospital (San Ignacio)
11. La Loma Luz Seventh Day Adventist Hospital (San Ignacio)

**Sources:** National Emergency Management Operations (NEMO), Belize; Ministry of Health Belize; PWR- Belize (RRT); Belize Electricity Limited (BEL); UNETT

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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