



# Belize CO

## Humanitarian Situation Report # 3

unicef 

### PRELIMINARY SITUATION IN NUMBERS

**16 August 2016**

**Estimated data** (*Figures reported by  
National Emergency Management Organization*)

**10,000**

# of people affected

**4 out of a total of 6**

# of districts mostly affected

**8,000**

# people received assistance

**0**

# children in shelters

## Highlights

- UNICEF delivers 430 family hygiene kits and \$35,000USD to the Government of Belize for humanitarian assistance
- All shelters were closed on Friday, 12 August 2016 so there are no remaining people in shelters but many families are placed in temporary homes, rent free, for 2-3 months.
- UNICEF Belize along with PAHO/WHO continues to strengthen the WASH coordination mechanisms and is in close communication with the government and other partners to identify potential areas of support.
- UNICEF produced, with the technical support of PAHO and the approval of the Ministry of Health, a list of SMS messages that are being broadcasted by SMART mobile phone company
- In Belize Rural North, the area of the country hardest hit by Hurricane Earl, flood relief continues. The Relief Supplies Management Committee is mobilizing outreach to people in affected communities with food, water and cleaning supplies.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Relief effort in response to the effects of the Hurricane 'Earl' that ripped through Belize on 4 August; providing assistance to nearly 8,000 people, as reported by the National Relief Supplies Committee/Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation (MHDSTPA). The Relief Supplies Management Committee (RSMC) continues to mobilize, reaching out to people in the affected communities with food, water, tarp/plastic sheeting, cleaning supplies, mattress etc. The Belize Red Cross is supporting NEMO with field operations. According to the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) pledges and donations are being given.

The Government of Belize has received a donation of \$100,000USD from the Republic of China (Taiwan), in the wake of Hurricane Earl. Earlier this week, Belize Telemedia Limited donated \$50,000USD to the Belize Red Cross and Hand in Hand Ministry, respectively. The IDB and the European Union have also contributed to the relief efforts, including kits to the affected populations. UNICEF has also contributed to the relief efforts by providing 430 hygiene kits and \$35,000USD to the Government of Belize for clean-up activities, supporting also the protection against water and vector borne diseases.

The restoration of utilities is almost completed in the main lifeline sectors and humanitarian assessments and relief assistance continues. Housing material relief operations for preliminary roll out is being planned for 18 August 2016 and is meant to serve as self-help assistance only. Lists of potential beneficiaries are being validated by technical staff from building sections of the housing ministry, Central Building Authority (CBA) and City Council to prioritize the roll out. Engineers support is required and volunteers are asked to contact NEMO

People in Belize City who have been affected are being asked to call for the City Council's assessment team to visit or call the Department of Human Services. The damage and loss information must be submitted to the NEMO office in the districts for verification. Details such as size of zinc, type of roof material, size of doors, and windows are asked to be given.

Some roads and bridges in the Cayo District remain impassable due to a presence of heavy equipment and big trucks. Funds for clean-up activities and house repairs remain to be the priority needs for municipalities in the most affected districts.

## Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The UN coordination continues to function well under the leadership of UNICEF and with the support from OCHA Regional office. The UNRC requested an ECG and U\$49,000 was granted for clean-up efforts in the municipalities.

UNDP is also requesting funds for clean-up activities and UNICEF continues to advocate with the US Fund and other donors for support in emergency funding. As part of the OCHA grant that UNDP has received, family/hygiene kits are being purchased and UNDP has enlisted UNICEF's assistance in using the LTA with the supplier to purchase items for an additional 75 hygiene kits. These kits will be distributed between Belize City and Belmopan.

This has been the first emergency event where UNICEF has acted as lead coordinating agency for the UN system. The experience has been valuable and a lessons learned exercise will be conducted to capture and reinforce best practices. e. The UN sitrep #3 is the last SitRep for UNETT, however, OCHA regional is open to provide support in further coordination and information management if there is an expressed need.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### WASH

UNICEF Belize along with PAHO continues to strengthen the inter-sectoral WASH coordination mechanisms to ensure that all WASH related support is targeted and well-coordinated. The CO will coordinate with PAHO/WHO to look at existing plans in programme as it relates to Zika. Implementation of municipal risk response plans will be ongoing as preventative measures for the Zika Virus. The funds (US\$ 35,000) contributed to the Government of Belize, will be used for clean-up activities in the municipalities, aiming also to reduce the threat of Zika and Dengue. Hygiene and Family kits also contained materials and information on the proper methods for handwashing, sanitation and hygiene.

## Communication for Development (C4D) Strategy

On Monday, 15 August 2016, the UNICEF representative (UNETT Chair), and the Disaster Focal Point Consultant for PAHO/WHO participated in a popular morning talk show to discuss the UN's humanitarian response in the WASH and health sectors, which are significant parts of overall the emergency response.

Under an informal agreement with a major telecommunication company, SMART, UNICEF produced, with the technical support of PAHO and the approval of the Ministry of Health, a list of SMS messages that are being broadcasted by the mobile phone company. The CO was able to disseminate key messages on sanitation and hygiene through SMS that reached approximately 120,000 people.

Communication messages centered on sanitation, hygiene, vector control and prevention of Zika Virus were reviewed by the C4D specialists in the RO and by PAHO/WHO. UNICEF will continue to work on communication strategy by printing posters and flyers and other animated infographics in the prevention on Zika Virus.

## Resource mobilization and funding gaps

For the most part, UNICEF has been using its own regular resources to provide immediate assistance to the Government of Belize. UNICEF Belize has also approached the donor community in the country to explore availability of additional financial resources to cover the remaining gaps.

Thanks to the immediate financial assistance of US\$ 20,000 UNICEF was able to procure family/hygiene kits that were further transferred to the Government of Belize and Civil Society Organization (CSO) for subsequent distribution. A funding gap of \$30,000USD remains.

Activity	Budget (in USD)
Awareness raising in WASH (including ZIKA and other vector/waterborne diseases)	5,000
Support for cleaning up efforts in Belize City and Cayo districts, as per government request	25,000
Hygiene Kits	20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,000</b>

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## Annex A



UNICEF delivers 430 family/hygiene kits to the Government of Belize and CSO



Local Supplier delivering family/hygiene kits to the distribution point for the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation