



Reporting Period: 2 – 9 December 2020

Central America

Hurricanes Eta and Iota

Humanitarian Situation Report No.5



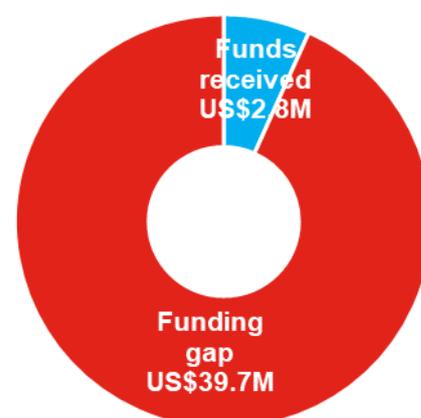
Highlights

- Five weeks after Eta hit Central America, millions of people continue fighting its devastating consequences. Most of them were hit also by Hurricane Iota. Unprecedented flooding and landslides have left over 9 million people affected, including 3.5 million children, in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Thousands more were also impacted in other parts of Central America and Colombia.
- Many families have lost everything they owned and are in urgent need of support. Against this backdrop, the risk of a surge in population movements, including internal displacement and cross-border migration, is latent. There are reports of a migrants' group ('caravan') forming from El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras, including families with children, traveling towards the north of Central America.
- Despite access constraints and logistical challenges, UNICEF Country Offices (COs) continue increasing their field presence and scaling up response, through existing and new partnerships.
- In **Honduras**, over 29,000 children have been reached with protection services in shelters and communities, and 123 children suspected to have been separated from their caregivers, have been identified and received support. UNICEF-supported in-kind social transfers have benefited 1,672 families. At least 4,600 people in shelters are being reached through key WASH services supported by UNICEF. Through the UNICEF-led water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Cluster, partners have delivered over 610,000 litres of water and 22,000 hygiene kits.
- In **Guatemala**, over 5,000 children have been reached in Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango departments with nutrition services, including screening and treatment of acute malnutrition cases. UNICEF will start rehabilitation works in 81 schools, and is preparing to distribute additional 3,000 hygiene kits for affected families. Around 6,000 children have been reached with protection activities in shelters, supported by UNICEF.
- In **Nicaragua**, UNICEF supported training of 50 staff on management and referral of malnutrition cases, and teams are being deployed to conduct visits to families in the most affected communities, for malnutrition screening and treatment. UNICEF delivered 50 kits in shelters, to benefit 2,000 children with psychosocial support and violence prevention activities. Over 100,000 people have been reached through key lifesaving messages in affected communities.
- In **Belize**, UNICEF distributed emergency hygiene/nutrition kits to over 354 families in the worst affected areas, 50 children received immunization services and 35 pregnant women received antenatal care, and 1,920 school back packs were donated as part of the back-to-school campaign, and over 3,000 people have been engaged in risk communication activities.
- In **Costa Rica**, UNICEF's procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) items and hygiene kits for frontline workers and most affected families, is ongoing; targeting over 2,000 children.
- UNICEF continues advocating for flexible funding to boost the response across all sectors, in the most affected countries. By the time of this report, UNICEF has received US\$2.8 million from public partners against the US\$42.6 million appeal, leaving a funding gap of US\$39.7 million (93 per cent of the appeal).

Situation in Numbers



UNICEF estimated funding requirement* US\$ 42.6 million



* Preliminary targets and funding requirements, to be updated as damage and needs assessments are conducted in countries affected by Iota, and more information is available regarding the situation and needs of children and families.

*Funds received' includes only new funds received for the Eta/Iota response, as of 8 December 2020.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

To continue addressing the humanitarian needs of children and families affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Belize, UNICEF is appealing for US\$42.6 million for the next six months.ⁱ During the reporting period, UNICEF received a new contribution from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for lifesaving WASH and child protection support in Honduras. With this generous contribution, the total of funds received reaches US\$2.8 million, the funding gap stands at US\$39.7 million (93 per cent).

At country, regional and HQ levels, UNICEF continues engaging with public and private donors for additional funding to help scale up response efforts in the field. Given the extensive damages in water systems and infrastructure, and the heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission in both shelters and affected communities, ensuring adequate funding levels for the WASH sector (72 per cent of the total appeal), is critical. Furthermore, UNICEF continues advocating for flexible funding to boost essential sectors like nutrition, health, education, child protection, gender and social protection, which still remain underfunded.

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The passage of major Hurricanes Eta and Iota caused unprecedented flooding and landslides, leaving over 9 million people affected, including 3.5 million children, in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (see table). Thousands more were also impacted in parts of Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico and Panama.ⁱⁱ Over 166,000 people have been displaced to shelters where they are at heightened risk of COVID-19 and other diseases due to overcrowding, lack of safe water and sanitation services, and inadequate preventive practices. Moreover, women and children are exposed to concerning protection risks, as evidenced by recent reports of gender-based and other forms of violence in shelters.ⁱⁱⁱ With many communities still under water, evacuated families will not be able to return home in the near future.

As part of the devastating consequences of Eta and Iota in already vulnerable communities, the risk of a surge in internal displacement and cross border migration is latent. According to recent local and media reports, a migrants' group ('caravan') is forming with people from El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras, including families with children, traveling towards the north of Central America. Among them would be families that have lost everything due to the Hurricanes.

The effects of the storms on families' wellbeing are concerning. FEWS NET estimates that due to the impacts on household food and income sources, coupled with previous food insecurity drivers, over 3.5 million people are currently facing food insecurity crisis (IPC Phase 3) and in need of urgent food assistance.^{iv} The population in need is located in parts of rural northeast Nicaragua, the Caribbean basin of Honduras, northern and eastern Guatemala, and western and eastern El Salvador, in addition to the Central American Dry Corridor.

Population affected by the impacts of Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Central America (as of 8 December)						
Impact	Belize	Costa Rica	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua	TOTAL
No. of people affected*	60,000	325,000	2,421,338	4,663,244	1,800,000	9,269,582
No. of children affected**	21,120	87,100	920,108	1,772,033	720,000	3,520,361
No. of deaths*	1	2	60	99	21	183
No. of missing persons*	-	-	100	11	-	111
No. of people in shelters*	288	88	12,610	93,293	59,964	166,243
No. of children in shelters**	101	24	4,792	35,451	23,986	64,354

*According to official sources by the time of drafting this report.^v The number of people in shelters fluctuates daily as some families start returning home.

**Estimated by UNICEF, according to population distribution in country.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF is prioritising its action in the four most affected countries in Central America: Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Belize, aiming at reaching over 646,000 people, including more than 327,000 children. UNICEF planned coverage may expand upon finalization of needs assessments on the Iota's impact in the region and inter-agency planning documents. UNICEF response strategy is adapted to the needs in country and focuses in ensuring that children and families in shelters and affected communities have access to basic services including protection, nutrition, WASH services, health, education and early childhood development (ECD), and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV).

With large population groups living in shelters, the risk of COVID-19 spread is significant. Ensuring availability of safe water and adequate sanitation, risk communication and minimum health services, personal protective equipment (PPE) items, implementation of biosafety protocols and other measures, will be crucial to prevent the spread of the virus and are essential components of UNICEF's response.

UNICEF will work in collaboration and coordination with governments and with its existing partners, and, where needed, will develop new partnerships, to delivering urgent support for children, women and families. UNICEF will support local and national governments, which capacities have been surpassed, in restoring and ensuring the continuity of services in the affected regions.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

According to official figures,^{vi} the number of people affected by the passage of Eta and Iota has exceeded 4.6 million, including over 1.7 million children. At least 93,000 people remain in 945 shelters, among them around 36,000 children. Damages in infrastructure due to Iota included more than 88,803 homes affected, 7,454 homes damaged or destroyed, 62 bridges destroyed, 72 bridges damaged, and 927 roads affected. Regarding school's infrastructure, 534 schools have endured damages and 620 are being used as shelters, affecting at least 100,000 students that are expected to return to school next year. At least 79 communities remain isolated affecting around 369,000 people. Preliminary results of a national survey (with 30 key respondents), indicate that 33 per cent of water systems in the assessed locations are out of service and 50 per cent are partially functioning, 53 per cent do not have functioning treatment facilities, 31 per cent are out of chlorination means, 83 per cent report damages and 52 need equipment and materials support.^{vii} According to the Department of Education (SEDUC), 534 schools have been affected and 620 are being used as shelters, COPECO reports 70 schools destroyed. PAHO reports that due to Eta and Iota storms, 27 health facilities have collapsed, 120 are out of service and 99 report affected health personnel. Moreover, physical access to health facilities remains challenging, only 30 per cent of the roads in the affected departments are undamaged.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. UNICEF has prioritized support to authorities to ensure compliance of the vaccination schedule for all children in the affected areas, and the reestablishment of the cold chain network of the ministry of health (MoH). Through this support, UNICEF aims at benefiting approximately 114,000 children under 5. Depending on the availability of funding, these actions will start in late December 2020 or early January 2021.

Nutrition. UNICEF is procuring 32,000 sachets of multiple micronutrient powders, which are estimated to arrive in the country by air in the first half of January 2021. To ensure timely delivery of the micronutrients, an agreement is being prepared for cooperation between local authorities, MoH and UNICEF.

WASH. A total of 4,600 people in shelters are being reached through key WASH services supported by UNICEF, including improved access to safe water, and provision of hygiene supplies and services. Over 17,500 more people in shelters and communities where families have begun to return, are starting to receive WASH humanitarian assistance through UNICEF support. Under UNICEF leadership, the WASH Cluster has mapped subnational focal points for response and coordination. With the Regional WASH LAC, a [website](#) was developed to support coordination and information sharing. The Cluster has agreed on common indicators to monitor the delivery of access to water and critical hygiene inputs and services. WASH stakeholders have delivered 610,000 litres of water and 22,000 hygiene kits. The Cluster is revising target population and funding needs, as assessments yield more information.

Education. The first Education Cluster meeting has been convened by SEDUC and UNICEF. SEDUC will present its 2021 plan and support needs for the phase of levelling (December – January) and for schools reopening in February 2021, this will inform the prioritization of actions.

Child Protection. During the reporting period, UNICEF coordinated with the national child protection agency the

provision of immediate protection services to an additional 10 children and adolescents suspected to have been separated from their caregivers, a total of 123 cases have been identified and supported since the onset of the response. UNICEF continues to provide emergency mental health and psychosocial support services for girls and boys in shelters and communities 29,012 have been reached with these services. UNICEF, in coordination with the members of the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR), developed a toolkit for the establishment of safe spaces in shelters and communities, which is being rolled-out by the 14 members in their areas of interventions.

Social Protection. At local level, UNICEF continues supporting municipal governments to expand in-kind social transfers for households affected by Eta and Iota. A total of 1,672 households have received this assistance, consisting mainly of food kits (436 households more since the last SitRep). At national level, the Government has designed an emergency cash transfer programme ('Bono Especial'), targeting 150,000 families, starting in December. This programme prioritizes families with children under 5, as a result of UNICEF advocacy.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

[Press release] [Mark Connolly, UNICEF Representative in Honduras, visits the department of Santa Bárbara to evaluate the impact of tropical storms Eta and Iota](#)

[Social media] [UNICEF continues to work in the communities most affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota together with municipal partners and young communicators](#)

[Media] [Volunteers providing support and protection to children in shelters](#)

For more information: www.unicef.org/honduras/

 [@unicefhonduras](#)
 [@unicefhonduras](#)
 [@unicefhonduras](#)
 [unicefhonduras](#)

Guatemala

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments the rains persist, the water level in the municipalities of Chisec, San Pedro Carchá, Morales and Puerto Barrios are still high in the most affected communities. The Government of Guatemala maintains a state of calamity in seven departments: Izabal, Petén, Alta Verapaz, El Quiché, Chiquimula, Zacapa and Huehuetenango. As of 8 December, authorities report that over 2,4 million people have been affected by events related to Eta / Iota (approximately 920,000 children), around 12,000 people are still in official shelters in seven departments, mainly in Alta Verapaz and Izabal, and about 297,000 people have sought refuge with close family members or friends. A total of 60 people have been reported dead and 100 missing. The government, with the support of the private sector and international cooperation, continues to mobilize supplies to the most affected areas. According to a recent survey by the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), conducted in 156 official and non-official shelters hosting 13,083 people, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items are among the most demanded by

people in shelters. Around 33 per cent of the surveyed sites do not have access to safe drinking water, 44 per cent lack access to water for personal hygiene, and only 29 per cent of shelters have sex-segregated showers.^{viii}

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. The MoH continues to provide care in the most affected areas. UNICEF monitors the continuity of services, especially those related to maternal and child health (immunizations, pregnancy and delivery care). UNICEF will support the MoH in the preparation of a supply plan on health items (mainly PPE) required for the response.

Nutrition. Under UNICEF leadership, the nutrition Cluster continued to support coordination of actions among nutrition stakeholders and information exchange. In addition, UNICEF continued to support life-saving interventions, reaching 5,353 children in two of the affected departments (Alta Verapaz: 1,625 children, Huehuetenango: 3,728 children). Services provided through the brigades include identification and treatment of children under five with acute malnutrition, the implementation of micronutrient supplementation programmes for children and the provision of breastfeeding and maternal nutrition counselling for pregnant and lactating women.

WASH. During the next week, UNICEF will provide 3,000 additional hygiene kits to families who are gradually returning to their communities, in partnership with the Red Cross. UNICEF has carried out assessments and field visits in the most affected areas (Izabal and Alta Verapaz). Other WASH actors have carried out assessments that are being processed by UNICEF LACRO and Guatemala CO. In addition, UNICEF is mapping the WASH market for availability of products, for supply and response planning. UNICEF has started a partnership with Helvetas for WASH response in the most remote areas. Coordination with regional and municipal WASH authorities has been established to facilitate response actions on the ground. A supply procurement plan was drawn up to serve the affected communities, with additional staff deployed to the field.

Education. Given the extensive damages in schools, the ministry of education (MoE) has requested support from the Education Cluster partners. UNICEF, in collaboration with local governments, will repair 81 schools in Alta Verapaz and 17 in Izabal departments, including the procurement of materials: zinc sheets, toilets, sinks. The MoE has also requested support with provision of educational materials, psychosocial support and mechanisms for distribution of school meals. UNICEF will support the MoE to cover these gaps.

Child Protection. Under the coordination of the Social Welfare Secretariat (SBS), central authority of child protection in Guatemala, UNICEF and partners - as Word Vision, IsraAid, Plan International and Refugio de la Niñez, are providing psychosocial support to 4,424 children, and their families, in 66 shelter in Alta Verapaz department (San Pedro Carcha, San Juan Chamelco, San Cristobal and Coban municipalities). UNICEF has supported training of staff on the "Return to the Happiness" methodology. In Izabal department, with UNICEF support, the SBS provided psychosocial services to 2,000 children in shelters. In Alta Verapaz and Izabal, UNICEF and partners disseminate messages on violence prevention.

Social Protection. The government announced the establishment of a Specific Reconstruction Cabinet that will define and coordinate the response to loss of homes, livelihoods, and infrastructure damage. The creation of a social protection programme for households with slight and moderate damages in their housing is expected. Technical assistance has been required from UNICEF to support Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), in partnership with the World Bank. Nonetheless, the government is still discussing the interinstitutional mechanisms of coordination.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. An AAP work plan is being built with community media from Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz departments, which will allow the voice of the affected people to be collected through the radios, connecting them with decision makers. The community video guide on water and environmental sanitation in emergency situations is being distributed through health authorities in the six affected departments (adapted from a PAHO / WHO document). The broadcasting of radio messages on community radio stations in Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango continues. Educational material was developed for dissemination in shelters, on prevention of violence and psychosocial care.

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

[Blog] ["It was like a movie. Nobody could believe what was happening"](#)

[Blog] ["Fue como una película. Nadie podía creer lo que estaba pasando"](#)

For more information: www.unicef.org/guatemala/

 [@unicefguatemala](#)

 [@unicefguatemala](#)

 [unicefguatemala](#)

 [UNICEF Guatemala](#)

Nicaragua

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The passage of Eta and Iota has left approximately 1.8 million people affected in Nicaragua.^{ix} According to national authorities, some 370,000 families were affected by flooding and landslides which led to the evacuation of over 160,000 people and forced 59,964 people into shelters. Three million people were exposed to the combined impact of these two storms. Official reports as of 26 November, indicate that at least 41,836 houses were damaged, 21 per cent of them were totally destroyed. The North Caribbean Region concentrates 91 per cent of the damages. The damages in housing amounts up to US\$134 million. The report indicates also that at least 355 school were damaged, 55 per cent are schools in the North Caribbean. The total loss in the education sector amounts to approximately US\$59 million. Between damaged, the health sector lost some US\$17 million, including infrastructure and medical supplies. A needs assessment conducted by UNICEF partners revealed an increase in respiratory and diarrheal diseases in some of the affected communities. Insufficient PPE among health workers in health facilities and shelters was observed. The main hospital in Biliwi has been severely damaged, emergency services are referred to nearby health centres. PAHO officials indicated that the health emergency caused by hurricanes Eta and Iota, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, "has a direct impact" on the health of the affected population. The possibility of an increase in the transmission of the coronavirus in shelters "is an extremely important issue".^x

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. The MoH has provided preventive treatment against leptospirosis to 270,000 people in the North Caribbean.

UNICEF, through MoH, has provided PPE for 1,000 health workers. Additional PPE items have been procured with ECHO

funds, to reach 1,000 health workers. In addition, UNICEF is procuring supplies for the prevention and care of cases of diarrhoea and pneumonia. Communication messages have been prepared for the prevention of vector-borne diseases and prevention for COVID-19. These messages will be broadcast by community radio stations in coordination with partners from Caritas Jinotega and AMC on the Caribbean Coast, in local indigenous languages, aiming at reaching 15,000 people.

The main challenge in the health sector response is the lack of financial resources for the response in this sector. According to the actual environmental conditions, Nicaragua could be facing an important public health emergency.

Nutrition. UNICEF has supported the MoH, updating and refreshing knowledge for 50 nutrition workers on management and referral of malnutrition cases in affected communities. In addition, with UNICEF support, nutrition teams are being deployed to conduct visits to families in the most affected communities in “Triangulo Minero” and Bilwi, to ensure closer follow-up of children diagnosed with acute malnutrition.

Actions to promote breastfeeding and feeding of young children have been reinforced, through local health systems (SILAIS). Jointly with MoH, UNICEF has prepared a nutritional care plan for promotion, prevention, diagnosis, treatment / referral of severe case of malnutrition, including identification of needs for micronutrients, deworming and oral rehydration salts (ORS), to be implemented through the SILAIS in Jinotega, Bilwi and Las Minas.

WASH. UNICEF is working on strengthening coordination activities, with government and sector partners. UNICEF is mapping presence and response activities already ongoing in the field, to help maximize the impact and avoiding duplications, prioritizing the most affected municipalities in the Northern Caribbean Region (RACCN) and the Central-Northern departments. While assessment in the field are still ongoing in some of the affected municipalities, several response proposals including WASH actions, have been developed with key partners, implementation will start in the coming days. Through these agreements, UNICEF aims at reaching over 120,000 people in the coming months with critical supplies and services. These include: cleaning and disinfection of wells, provision of key WASH supplies (water filters, water disinfection products, hygiene kits, etc.) and implementation of hygiene promotion / behaviour change activities for prevention of water-borne diseases and COVID-19. UNICEF is carrying out a field mission in the RACCN; aiming at reinforcing partnership and coordination with the regional government.

Education. UNICEF is working with NGOs, planning the implementation of safe and friendly temporary learning spaces

as well as actions to ensure school continuum, such as teachers training on psychosocial attention, COVID-19 protocols and other education in emergency related topics; and the provision of school materials. An agreement with Plan Internacional is now in place, for the provision of education support in 30 schools in Puerto Cabezas and Waspam municipalities, targeting 8,000 children and adolescents. A C4D strategy is under way, to promote school enrolment for the upcoming 2021 school year.

Child Protection. The child protection sector is implementing the following processes: 1- Mapping of psychosocial and legal services for child protection and GBV response along with the global movement of children; 2- Gender Rapid assessment in the most affected territories; 3- Analysis and data collection on the situation of children related to especial protection and alternative care; 4- Review of the road map for child protection and GBV response, both at community, and institutional level.

A total of 2,000 children and adolescents will benefit from 50 kits for psychosocial support and violence prevention activities, delivered by UNICEF in shelters. Child-friendly and safe spaces will be installed in the following weeks, with Plan Internacional, Save The Children, and World Vision. A C4D strategy for violence prevention, special sexual violence is being prepared.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. UNICEF is coordinating with partners and counterparts the production of educational materials and disseminates messages based on evidence and the view of the most affected population. Messages are disseminated through existing community platforms (local elders council structures, religious leaders, cultural leaders in selected municipalities) and media channels in prioritized communities. Over 100,000 people have been reached through these efforts. False rumors and concerns in the community are quickly addressed using various tools developed by UNICEF, in conjunction with implementing partners (rumor tracking forms, WhatsApp digital platforms, Facebook, Twitter, traditional media).

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

[Social Media] [María Lily Rodríguez, UNICEF Child Protection Specialist, was on the ground to learn about the main needs of boys and girls](#)

[Social Media] [UNICEF is on the ground to meet the main needs of families](#)

[Video] [UNICEF visits families affected by Hurricane Iota in the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua](#)

[Video] [UNICEF visits families affected by the landslide of a hill](#)

For more information: www.unicef.org/nicaragua/

 [@UNICEFNicaragua](#)

 [@UNICEFNicaragua](#)

 [unicefnicaragua](#)

 UNICEF Nicaragua

Belize

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis released on 23 November 2020 by the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) indicates that flooding caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Belize, impacted 60,000 persons, directly affecting 5,000 – 10,000, including approximately 3,500 children, who are in critical need of support. Agriculture was one of the hardest hit sectors with some 700 farmers and 10,000 acres of crops destroyed, valued at over US\$4.9 million (\$10million BZD). Damages to property, livestock, roads and bridges amounted to US\$39.7 million (\$80million BZD). Extensive flooding, with unprecedented water levels in decades, especially in central, west, north and parts of the south, affected particularly the banana fields compounded by water contamination and the possible threat of disease outbreak. Urgent needs include food and home supplies, seeds for farmers, shelter, rehabilitation of roads and bridges, and water treatment.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. UNICEF, the Maternal Child Health Unit and the Health Education and Community Participation Bureau (HECOPAB), of the MoH continued the delivery of health services to the

worst affected districts of Cayo, Belize and Stann Creek. Iota also affected northern Corozal and Orange Walk districts, where flooding has hindered access to health care services. In

response, UNICEF has supported the coordination of community health workers (CHWs) and health facilities to provide services such as first aid, health screening, health education, health promotion, community organization services and mobile clinics. A total of 50 children received immunization services and 35 pregnant women received antenatal care services from Chunox Polyclinic. In the San Ignacio area, CHWs reached 75 families with the mentioned services.

Nutrition. Loss of livelihoods, growing unemployment and destruction to crops continue to threaten food security and heighten the risk of malnutrition (wasting and obesity) especially amongst children. UNICEF in response has distributed over 1,700 supplemented food packages (Incaparina) in food hampers, to approximately 500 affected families, including 1,050 children, along with RCCE and information on healthy eating ([Supplemented food recipes](#), [RCCE COVID-19](#), [Nutrition information](#)). These food packages were distributed in the most vulnerable communities of Bullet Tree, Santa Familia, Billy White and Calla Breek in the Cayo District and in communities in the Stann Creek District.

WASH. UNICEF distributed emergency hygiene/nutrition kits to over 354 families in the worst affected areas in Cayo District, including 769 children. Communication materials on WASH and nutrition were included in the kits. This was based on a collaborative data collection exercise between the Belize Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross, US Embassy, National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and UNICEF ([Photos from the field and data collection](#)).

A back to school and hygiene campaign included the distribution of 1,920 school back packs to nine child friendly municipalities and their surrounding rural communities. Through this effort, 960 hygiene reusable pads were distributed to 960 girls and information books on MHM were distributed to 1,920 boys.

Education. In collaboration with the ministry of human development, UNICEF will be distributing 200 ECD play kits for families with children under 8 years, in the worst affected communities of Gales Point and Seine Beight in the Stann Creek District. This will impact 603 children. With the physical closure of schools since March 2020, children under 8 years, and in primary school face limited engagement in meaningful play and communication since caregivers are severely affected with loss of income both from the pandemic and the floods.

Child Protection. A total of 40 recreation kits have been procured to be used in Child Friendly Spaces (CFS). Trainings are scheduled for volunteers from across the country to manage the implementation of the CFSS, with simultaneous

For more information: www.unicef.org/belize/

 [@UNICEFBelize](#)

 [@unicefbelize](#)

 [UNICEF Belize](#)

distribution of the kits in flood affected communities. The GBV mapping is almost complete, key stakeholders including emergency response coordinators, chairpersons and community health workers in these communities have been engaged around information sharing and qualitative data collection. Initial indications highlight the lack of key resources and services including psychosocial and legal, especially in small communities, and as well as inadequate or non-existent safety options for women and children that experience GBV in times of emergencies.

Social Protection. The Belize Red Cross, with support of the International Federation of the Red Cross, is developing a cash feasibility study and market assessment for the provision of cash to 500 families affected by the floods. UNICEF has initiated conversations to consider the potential to expand its current partnership with the Belize Red Cross to support the provision of cash to affected children and families.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. UNICEF continues to provide technical guidance to the MoH for the implementation of a national Risk Communication and Community Engagement strategy with focus on key interventions, messages, channels, audiences, community involvement and monitoring to achieve behavioral change for the prevention of COVID-19. With the Eta and Iota emergency, targeted community engagement has focused on providing information on public health response to hygiene promotion, especially hand washing, use of masks, social distancing, respiratory hygiene, disinfecting surfaces and objects, appropriate use of PPEs and nutrition in emergencies, in English, Spanish and local languages. Approximately 3,045 people have been reached with messages printed and included in the ongoing distribution of supplies in outreach activities, Facebook, and community-led initiatives of CHW and volunteers.

Human Interest Stories and External Media. During the reporting period, UNICEF Communication team, in collaboration with programme colleagues and partners including the National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC) and the US Embassy, conducted field missions in the distribution of critical lifesaving interventions to most affected communities across the country, with considerable media coverage, including social media coverage by leading national media outlets. [Coverage on News 5 Live](#); [Coverage on LoveFm News](#); [Coverage on LoveFm News2](#); [US Embassy Coverage](#); [Coverage by Belize Red Cross \(Instagram\)](#)

Costa Rica

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Costa Rica declared a national state of emergency for 18 municipalities, to facilitate response, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in response to hurricanes Eta and Iota. The hurricanes generated localized flooding, landslides and critical damage to homes, roads, bridges, and water infrastructure in at least 496 communities, mainly in the south, central, and northern Pacific areas. As of 24 November, authorities estimated that 325,000 people had been affected, of whom approximately 87,100 are children and adolescents. Two people have died, 133 people had to be rescued, 247 people have been relocated, and 185 adults and 84 children have received outpatient treatment. The National Emergency Commission (CNE) reported that, within 2,165 emergency reports, 2,056 people received humanitarian assistance through the 83 temporary shelters; currently, the majority of these shelters have already been deactivated, leaving less than 100 people in shelter.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH. UNICEF started operations to support the hardest hit communities of the Southern and Northern Pacific regions, providing PPE items and hygiene kits for the most affected

families; supplies will be accompanied by RCCE and child violence prevention materials. UNICEF aims to reach over 2,000 children.

Child Protection. In coordination with the National Emergency Commission and the Local Child Protection Subsystems, Starting in February 2021, UNICEF will train 150 staff members of the local emergency committees from highly affected communities and COVID-19 Civic Attention Centers, on

protection of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA), GBV and referral and reporting of child abuse in shelters.

For more information: www.unicef.org/costarica/

 [@UNICEFCostaRica](https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFCostaRica)

 [@UNICEFCostaRica](https://twitter.com/UNICEFCostaRica)

 [unicefcostarica](https://www.youtube.com/unicefcostarica)

 [UNICEF Costa Rica](https://www.unicef.org/costarica)

Summary Analysis of Regional Response

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) provides technical support to COs' teams, and monitors closely the situation in communication with COs and partners. 'Virtual teams' have been activated in LACRO to provide remote on-hands support to COs and staff from the regional team has been deployed in mission to support key sectors. Sectoral coordination mechanisms have been also activated at regional level.

The Regional WASH LAC Group is supporting with evaluation, mapping of response and advocacy at regional level. Two websites were created for Guatemala and Honduras WASH clusters. A regional WASH Sector meeting was convened with all WASH partners from affected countries, with an overview of the situation and needs as well as the response strategies. Additionally, the WASH LAC Group provides guidance to WASH cluster/sector coordinators and IMs, including on milestones and support to ensure effective coordination on the ground. The benchmarks and associated resources provided to guide coordination action on the ground includes: WASH assessments (per location type), contributions to market and multi-sectoral assessments, response monitoring, activity prioritization criteria, standardization of the response, technical and financial strategy for the sector, inter-sectoral coordination and capacity mapping of the sector and partnerships. The WASH LAC Group is coordinating with the Regional Cash Working Group to ensure market assessments include WASH to support sector partners in responding with market-based programming in WASH.

The Education team with support of the Regional Education Working Group (REWG), is mapping the education response activities of all partners. This work with REWG also aims to gather precise and disaggregated data on schools affected, including the potential activation and support of national education coordination mechanisms. This work also includes ensuring harmonized advocacy messages towards safe reopening of schools where possible and avoiding schools being used as shelters, among others.

The Nutrition team continues advocating for positioning Nutrition as a key priority sector in the emergency. The current prioritization of sectors, with Nutrition under the Food Security Cluster, is hampering the sector's visibility and resource mobilization efforts. The LACRO team continues to support COs in updating their response plans according to the needs identified.

The Health Team supports COs on the response plan and adaptation of the interventions according to the evolving needs, particularly on continuity of basic health services for children and pregnant women as well for the prevention of COVID-19 in shelters and for front-line health workers. UNICEF is actively involved in the coordination mechanisms with the regional health clusters that provide an overview of the current situation and the health needs and actors on the ground to avoid duplication of efforts.

The C4D team is supporting the COs by finding experts on RCCE/AAP to be deployed on the ground, providing technical assistance, and amplifying the visibility of the activities performed in the countries. The team collects and promotes the exchange of RCCE resources such as guidance, multimedia materials, good practices, and references on protection, violence, migration, and nutrition in emergency contexts. These resources are distributed through an internal website, a weekly newsletter reaching UNICEF COs, HQ, EMOPS, and external networks such as the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN).

The CP team, with the Regional CP subgroup, support response activities of all partners. This work also includes ensuring harmonized advocacy messages towards child protection as a lifesaving interventions. Technical support to COs continues to ensure the implementation of the responses in CP, GBV and PSEA, in addition to support in the preparation of proposals to donors. Recognizing the gender impacts and specifically the rising of GBV during this crisis, the Regional Gender Team, guided by the Gender Equality CCCs, continues providing technical assistance to COs to design and implement Gender and GBV interventions.

A UNICEF LACRO Communications Specialist was deployed to Guatemala in support of emergency response. A [first-person blog](#) on the impact of the hurricanes and the situation of a family in a shelter was published on 3 December and shared globally, along with a new set of high-quality photos and videos. On 8 December, a [human-interest story \(HIS\)](#) was published on global channels and broadly amplified. Additionally, new multimedia assets were made available on [weshare](#) in support of fundraising efforts, with a special focus on field materials, including drone resources, to show the emergency's impact. As part of the HAC launch, UNICEF's response in Central America, as well as the needs of children and their families, were highlighted in a [regional press release](#) supporting the humanitarian appeal, along with a [photo essay](#) and a [HIS](#) from Nicaragua on displaced children in shelters. LACRO Comms team coordinated an interview on Café CNN (CNN in Spanish) with UNICEF Emergency Regional Advisor Michele Messina on 8 December. On social media, regional channels actively shared the situation children and families are facing, as well as UNICEF's response on the ground. First person eyewitness accounts telling the stories of affected children and families through photos and videos were featured on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

In **Honduras**, government response efforts are coordinated by the National Contingency Coordination Agency (COPECO) part of the National Risk Management System (SINAGER). The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) issued a Flash Appeal in response to the impact of Eta,^{xi} which will be revised in the coming days in view of the deteriorating situation after Iota's passage. Sectoral groups/Clusters had been activated locally for the COVID-19 response and remain active in the current emergency. UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster and Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR), and participates in the Health, Shelter, and Food Security and Nutrition Clusters. The Resident Coordinator and OCHA are leading consultations for the formal activation of Clusters, according to global procedures.

In **Guatemala**, the National Coordinating Office for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) leads the governmental preparedness and response efforts, with Emergency Operations Centers (COEs) and local authorities, at local level. The HCT is active with participation of national authorities. Five clusters have been activated by the Resident Coordinator: WASH, Health, Food Security, Shelter and Protection. UNICEF is coordinating and co-leading WASH, Education and Nutrition Clusters, and the Child Protection AoR. UNICEF coordinates with more than 20 humanitarian organizations that support the response in the department of Alta Verapaz, holding weekly coordination meetings and information exchange facilitated by the UNDAC team. Likewise, the UNDAC team in Izabal brings together actions implemented by local partners, NGOs of the HCT, in connection with the department and municipal COEs.

In **Nicaragua**, the governmental response is coordinated by the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention of Disasters (SINAPRED). The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the United Nations Emergency Team (UNETE) are monitoring the situation and coordinating support with local and national authorities. UNCT partners, in consultation with national authorities, are currently working on the preparation of a Flash Appeal to help the resource mobilisation efforts in response to the most urgent needs in the country. UNICEF and other UN partners have prepared proposals for CERF allocations.

In **Belize**, the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) continues to respond to the heightened emergency. The United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) has been activated and meeting regularly. UNICEF plays a key role in the UNETT leading WASH, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection clusters. Along with the UNETT, there is close monitoring and organization of the response in coordination and communication with national authorities. During the reporting period, efforts in the field showed a successful integrated response to humanitarian needs with partners such as USAID, the US Embassy, International Federation of Red Cross, Belize Red Cross, NEMO and UNICEF.

In **Costa Rica**, the UNCT and UNETE work in close coordination and communication with national authorities. UNICEF strengthens institutional and multisectoral coordination strategies between the central government and local governments, building on the work with platforms of local protection systems and child-friendly districts, which have been supported by UNICEF for the past 10 years. UNICEF carries out its activities within the framework of the coordination of the UN System.

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office: www.unicef.org/lac

UNICEF LAC Facebook: www.facebook.com/uniceflac

UNICEF LAC Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal 2020: <https://www.unicef.org/media/76481/file/2020-HAC-LACRO-revised-2.20.pdf>

UNICEF Eta / Iota Urgent Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/reports/urgent-appeal-for-children-and-families-affected-hurricanes-by-eta-and-iota>

Who to contact for
further information:

Jean Gough
Regional Director
Latin America and the Caribbean
Email: jgough@unicef.org

Michele Messina
Regional Emergency Advisor a.i.
Latin America and the Caribbean
Email: mmessina@unicef.org

Laurent Duvillier
Regional Chief of Communication
Latin America and the Caribbean
Email: lduvillier@unicef.org

Annex A

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (US\$)	Humanitarian resources received (US\$)**	Funding gap	
			US\$	%
Nutrition	2,711,209		2,711,209	100
Health	1,388,523		1,388,523	100
WASH	30,854,673	1,812,979	29,041,694	94.1
Education / ECD	2,296,800		2,296,800	100
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	3,572,200	1,037,021	2,535,179	71
Social protection and cash transfers	1,263,000		1,263,000	100
Regional office technical capacity	500,000		500,000	100
TOTAL	42,586,405	2,850,000	39,736,405	93.3

* As defined in Appeal of 18 November 2020 for a period of six months.

** Includes only new funds received for the Eta/Iota response, as of 8 December 2020.

ⁱ UNICEF, 'Urgent appeal for children and families affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Central America', 18 November 2020, <<https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/reports/urgent-appeal-for-children-and-families-affected-hurricanes-by-eta-and-iota>>

ⁱⁱ OCHA, 'LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN - Monthly Situation Snapshot', 7 December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/latin-america-caribbean-monthly-situation-snapshot-7-december-2020>>.

ⁱⁱⁱ UNICEF, Eta/Iota sitreps, <<https://www.unicef.org/documents/central-america-humanitarian-situation-report-hurricanes-eta-and-iota-1-december-2020>>.

^{iv} FEWS NET, 'Central America Food Security Alert', 1 December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/guatemala/central-america-food-security-alert-december-1-2020>>.

^v Sources: Belize (NEMO -Iota preliminary assessment, 23 Nov.); Costa Rica (National Emergency Commission -CNE, 16 Nov.); Guatemala (CONRED, 8 Nov.); Honduras (SCGG & COPECO, 3 Dec.); Nicaragua (OCHA Tropical Storm Eta & Hurricane Iota: Humanitarian Snapshot, 4 Dec., Government of Nicaragua).

^{vi} SCGG & COPECO, 'Reporte de incidencias de TT ETA y IOTA', 3 December 2020.

^{vii} Encuesta SEDECOAS-FHIS, <<https://bit.ly/3gsPu0Y>>.

^{viii} IOM, 'DTM – Reporte situacional de sitios colectivos temporales en Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Chiquimula y Zacapa', 7 December 2020, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/DTM_GT_Tormenta_R1_ReporteSituacional.pdf>.

^{ix} OCHA, 'Tropical Storm Eta & Hurricane Iota: Humanitarian Snapshot', 4 December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2020-12-04%20Snapshot%20%28ENG%29.pdf>>.

^x Confidencial, 'Hurricanes Expose the North Caribbean of Nicaragua to Covid-19', 4 December 2020, <<https://confidencial.com.ni/hurricanes-expose-the-north-caribbean-of-nicaragua-to-covid-19/>>

^{xi} Honduras Humanitarian Country Team, OCHA, 'FLASH APPEAL HONDURAS - TROPICAL STORM ETA', November 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-flash-appeal-tropical-storm-eta-november-2020>>.