



UNICEF/Honduras/2020

Reporting Period: 21 November – 1 December 2020

Central America

Hurricanes Eta and Iota

Humanitarian Situation Report No.4



Highlights

- Hurricanes Eta and Iota had struck Central America. Authorities continue assessing the damages and gathering information on the affected communities. Over 6.8 million people have been affected by Eta and Iota in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, among them approximately 2.6 million are children.
- In **Honduras**, a total of 4,600 people in shelters in the most affected cities in the north are being reached through key WASH services. Through the WASH Cluster, affected populations have already received 610,000 litres of water and 22,225 hygiene kits. UNICEF has provided immediate protection services to 113 children and adolescents suspected to have been separated from their caregivers in the aftermath of both tropical storms.
- In **Guatemala**, UNICEF continued to support, through the nutrition brigades, critical live-saving nutrition interventions in several of the most affected departments (Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango), including: timely identification and treatment of children under five years of age diagnosed with acute malnutrition; the provision of multiple micronutrients powder to children under five years of age; and the provision of breastfeeding and maternal nutrition counselling to pregnant and lactating women.
- In **Nicaragua**, UNICEF has initiated a mapping of child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) available services in the affected areas, as well as the construction of referral mechanisms in coordination with the authorities and civil society organizations. A total of 50 kits for psychosocial support and child-friendly spaces will be delivered soon, benefitting 2,000 children. Moreover, 90 water tanks of 5,000 liters, 3,000 plastic recipients with taps and covers for water conservation at home and 1,000 family hygiene kits were delivered to affected communities of Jinotega.
- In **Panama**, UNICEF delivered 13 tons of supplies, including 5,940 thermal blankets, tarps, tanks of 10,000 litres of water each, tents, mosquito nets, and ribbons for nutritional diagnosis.
- In **Belize**, UNICEF is currently distributing over 1,700 supplemented food packages to approximately 500 affected families, including 1,050 children, along with risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities.
- UNICEF is requesting US\$42.6 million for the next six months, to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs of children and families affected by Hurricane Eta in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. This funding requirement is provisional and subject to change. UNICEF is assessing the impacts of Hurricane Iota which will likely increase the humanitarian needs.

Situation in Numbers

6.8 million

People affected by Eta and Iota



2.6 million

Children affected by Eta and Iota



3.4 million

People in need (due to Eta)

1.3 million

Children in need (due to Eta)



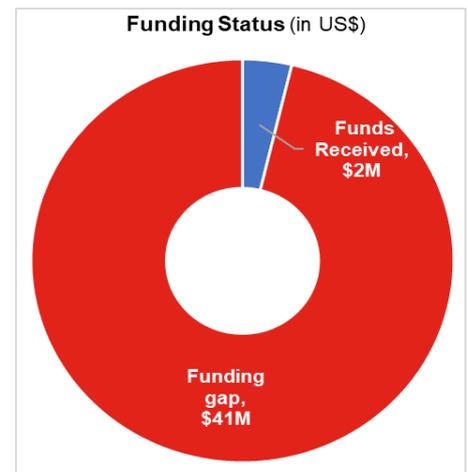
646,943

People to be reached*

327,605

Children to be reached*

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.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

Under the regional humanitarian appeal,¹ UNICEF is urgently requesting US\$42.6 million for the next six months, to address the immediate humanitarian needs of children and families affected by Hurricane Eta in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. This funding requirement is provisional and subject to change as needs assessments are finalized. Currently, UNICEF is evaluating the impact of Hurricane Iota, which will compound the humanitarian needs in the region.

UNICEF has received two contributions from USAID: a first rapid contribution of US\$100,000, and an additional US\$1.5 million that have been donated to strengthen UNICEF response on the ground. In addition, UNICEF Country Offices (COs) have repurposed existing funds in consultation with donors, in order to kick start the response. During the first days after the onset of the emergency, UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) transferred US\$530,000 from Global Thematic Funds to support the initial response at country level and UNICEF HQ released US\$1.1 million from the Emergency Programme Fund (EPF), which is an internal loan to rapidly scale up the emergency response.

At country and regional level, UNICEF continues advocating and engaging with public and private donors to ensure that adequate funding is available to provide timely relief to the most vulnerable children, families and communities affected by Eta and Iota. The needs for water, sanitation and hygiene supplies and services are particularly acute. An appeal document with additional details has been produced and will be updated as more information is available on the impact of Iota in the region.²

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

After one month from the Hurricane Eta landfall and two weeks from Iota passage, authorities continue assessing the damages and gathering information on the affected communities. As of 30 November, the number of people affected by Eta and Iota in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama was 6.8 million people, among them approximately 2.6 million are children (see table below).

According to reports by governmental entities, at least 180 people have died in Honduras,³ Guatemala⁴, Costa Rica⁵ and Panama⁶ during floods and landslides caused by Eta and Iota, and some 174,763 people are hosted in shelters, of whom 67,476 are children. With high numbers of people in shelters, risks and needs are more acute, particularly due to the COVID-19 infection and protection risks, especially for girls.

Based on estimations by UNICEF and other partners, among those affected by Eta, at least 3.4 million people need urgent support, including 1.3 million children in the most affected communities in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. From this total, UNICEF plans to reach over 646,000 people, including 327,000 children, with lifesaving and gender-sensitive supplies and services – including for COVID-19 prevention, in shelters and communities, in the most vulnerable areas. These estimations are expected to increase considering that Iota has affected not only many of the communities already impacted by Eta, but many additional ones. UNICEF and partners continue gathering information on the actual impact of Iota and will update this analysis in the coming days.

Population affected by the impacts of Hurricanes/Storms Eta and Iota in Central America (as of 1 December)							
Impact	Belize	Costa Rica	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua	Panama	TOTAL
No. of people affected*	60,000	325,000	2,414,045	4,044,596	NA	5,000	6,848,641
No. of children affected**	21,120	87,100	917,337	1,536,946	NA	2,200	2,564,704
No. of deaths*		2	60	98	NA	20	180
No. of missing persons*		-	100	11	NA	11	123
No. of people in shelters*	158***	88***	31,053	94,067	47,297***	2,508***	174,763
No. of children in shelters**	45	24	11,800	35,745	18,919	1,063	67,476

*According to official sources by the time of drafting this report, see information below for details.

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

***Total number of people in shelters in Nicaragua since the beginning of the emergency. The current number is to be confirmed as families have started to return home.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF COs across the sub-region are monitoring the situation, in coordination with authorities and partners. Governments are leading evacuations, rescue operations and response to localized emergencies, through national disaster response agencies. Given the current COVID-19 context and the latent risks in shelters and vulnerable communities, across its response actions, UNICEF will ensure the implementation of biosafety protocols and the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) for affected people and frontline workers.

In **Belize**, the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) has been active in putting in place preparedness measures, based on those measures implemented earlier this year during other tropical storm threats. The United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) has been activated and meeting regularly. UNICEF plays a key role in the UNETT as it leads the 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. On 25 November, UNICEF received a

¹ UNICEF, Latin America and the Caribbean Region Appeal – Humanitarian Action for Children 2020', December 2019, <<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/lac#download>>.

² 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>>.

³ COPECO, 'Huracán Iota – Informe No. 54, 29/11/2020 04:00', 29 November 2020.

⁴ CONRED, 'Informe de situación No. 90, 01/12/2020, 08:00', 1 December 2020.

⁵ National Emergency Commission (CNE). November 8, 2020.

⁶ Centro de Operaciones Nacional (CON). 12 November.

direct formal request from NEMO for humanitarian aid to the most affected communities, for which UNICEF has organized an integrated response plan with partners such as USAID, the US Embassy, and the Belize Red Cross.

In **Costa Rica**, the UNCT and the UNETE are monitoring the situation and organizing its response in close coordination and communication with national authorities. On 11 November the Resident Coordinator received a formal request for humanitarian support for all UN agencies from the National Emergency Commission. Based on the request, UNICEF is developing an interagency response plan.

In **Guatemala**, the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) leads the government sector in the response to Eta / Iota. The Humanitarian Country Team is active, each partner is delivering supplies, providing technical assistance to government institutions and monitoring the situation. UNICEF continues to coordinate the thematic groups on WASH, Nutrition and the Child Protection areas of responsibility. The Education cluster is expected to be activated soon. UNICEF participates in the UNETE team.

In **Honduras**, response efforts are coordinated by the National Contingency Coordination Agency (COPECO). The WASH Cluster and Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) are active under UNICEF leadership. UNICEF participates in the Health and Shelter Clusters, and is supporting efforts for mapping shelter's needs, in collaboration with the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON). The HCT has issued a Flash Appeal for the Eta response. In addition, clusters have prepared project concept notes for CERF allocations. UNICEF, as WASH leader, presented a final sectoral proposal for WASH immediate support.

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. Last week, UNICEF team visited the most affected municipalities and communities of the RACCN holding coordination and operational meetings with public institutions and key humanitarian actors, starting the setting-up and implementation of immediate response actions, prioritising WASH and Child Protection activities.

The government of **Panama** activated the National Task Force to lead the response. The UNCT has activated the UNETE team to monitor the impact of the emergency in close communication and coordination with national authorities. The UN is providing support, primarily with NFIs and technical assistance, as requested by the national government. UNICEF takes part in the coordinated response led by OCHA and OCR through UNETE in Panama.

Summary Analysis of Regional Response

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

UNICEF, as the co-lead of the **Regional WASH LAC Sector Group**, has published two bulletins with latest data and information related to the hurricanes Eta and Iota, and is collecting assessment data to map their impact and related WASH needs across the affected countries. Through the Regional WASH LAC Group, UNICEF has led a meeting with all partners from the affected countries where situations, including bottlenecks and needs, were discussed per country and where products and services provided by the region to the COs were presented for others to use. An exchange of good practices also took place. Assessment forms, supply plans, sector plans were presented. The regional WASH team has also mobilised WASH human resources support, including Information Management and Assessment Specialists (two WASH experts for Guatemala, two for Nicaragua, and one for Honduras have been confirmed so far); follow up is ongoing for additional WASH support needs.

UNICEF and the **Regional Education Working Group (REWG)** are collecting information to determine the impact of Hurricanes Eta and Iota on the education systems (damaged schools, schools used as shelters, number of children who lost their homes and therefore lost material and/or devices for access to distance education during the pandemic), and to map the education response actions implemented by the different members of REWG. Also, this exercise will help to identify the collaboration with other sectors, such as child protection on psychosocial support, and WASH in school interventions. The regional partners are working on key messages to make visible the importance of educational continuity and the need to recover the schools that are functioning as shelters as soon as possible so as not to put the next school year at risk.

The **Regional Health** team has supported COs to assess the need for health interventions in the response plans, and costing and estimating medical supply needs for people in need in the affected countries, in close coordination with HQ.

The **Regional Nutrition** team identified that one of the main barriers to the nutrition response in affected countries is the confusion that is often made between Food Security and Nutrition, leading to the understanding that food security interventions are enough to address nutrition needs. This can result in having nutrition issues go unnoticed and unattended and can limit the participation of nutrition activities in appeals. Urgent advocacy on the need to have Nutrition as a separate sector is needed.

The **Regional sub-group on Child Protection in Emergencies**, co-lead by UNICEF and World Vision (WV), provides technical support to national groups on violence against children (VAC), GBV and psychosocial support in shelters and communities. The **Regional Child Protection** team has provided tools for needs assessment, checklists on protection issues that should be considered in shelters, guides for the inclusion of a child protection approach in shelters, and supports the preparation of supply plans.

The **Social Protection** team has provided guidance on the assessment of social protection readiness, toolbox for cash transfer in emergencies and lessons learned from recent cash transfer programmes experiences in Guatemala and El Salvador, among other resources. A mechanism for supporting the design of cash-based interventions has been established.

The **C4D LACRO** team led the collection Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) resources for Emergencies, with the collaboration of COs and the Risk Emergency Disaster Working Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC). In collaboration with EMOPS, the team carried out the regional webinar on Accountability to Affected Populations "AAP towards 2021" with the participation of 60 colleagues from different programmatic areas of the region, with the aim of guiding effective people-centred responses and contributing to incorporate the affected populations' vision and concerns in the response to

hurricanes. Additionally, the RCCE Emergency page was updated and promoted with new resources, case studies and initiatives to help the response to hurricane emergencies.

The Regional **Gender** team continues supporting COs, guided by the Gender Equality Core Commitments for Children (CCCs). Gender and GBV assessment tools and technical assistance have been provided to include Gender and GBV interventions in response plans.

The **Regional Communication** team is providing support to COs to produce press releases, human interest stories and multimedia materials from countries most affected in order to generate public awareness and media attention on this crisis. On 19 November, a [press release](#) on the funding needs for UNICEF's response was issued by LACRO, in coordination with affected COs, and shared globally throughout all digital channels and key media outlets. International media (such as [EFE](#), [Le Monde](#), [DW](#), [France24](#)) pitched stories and interviews with UNICEF specialists were coordinated for [CNN](#) and [VOA](#). A [human interest story](#) on the triple impact of Eta, Iota, and COVID-19 on Guatemala's most vulnerable families was released and shared globally. On social media, regional channels have actively shared the situation facing children and families, as well as UNICEF's response on the ground. [Twitter Moments](#) have been created to compile all COs efforts for the emergency response. New high-quality photos and videos from Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, and other affected countries have been updated, collected, and shared with media, partners, donors, and NatComs in support of fundraising efforts via [weshare](#).

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As assessments move forward and authorities and partners have been able to reach some of the most affected communities, the number of people affected by the passage of Eta and Iota exceeded four million, including approximately 1.5 million children.⁷ At least 94,067 people remained in 994 shelters, among them around 35,000 children. Damages in infrastructure due to Iota included more than 3,688 homes affected, 27 bridges destroyed, 25 bridges damaged, and 746 roads affected. The United Nations, in coordination with the humanitarian network, led a multisectoral needs assessment to better understand the impact of Eta and Iota in the country. Results show that the proportion of households with girls and boys represents 85 per cent of the total affected household; and one every three households with children is headed by women. During the emergency, households with children headed by women, as compared to those headed by men or without children: i) had a greater perception of being in unhygienic conditions; ii) reduced more often the number of meals per day on average, as well as the size of their food portions; iii) spent more days without eating; iv) had to abandon their homes after the flood; and v) had more problems of insecurity in their neighbourhoods.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. According to a report of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), covering from 11 to 15 November, 38 per cent of the health facilities in the department of Cortés (the centre of both storms) are not providing medical care due to damages to infrastructure or lack of personnel, who have been victims of the hurricanes. The Government, with the support of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and supported by various agencies, including UNICEF, is carrying out a damage and loss assessment (DALA) in health facilities to determine the impact of the two hurricanes. In parallel, COVID-19 and dengue continue to affect the country, and availability of PPE is of paramount importance. UNICEF has prioritized providing support to authorities in ensuring completion of the vaccination schedule of all children in the affected areas, including an Emergency Response Plan to support the restoration of the cold chain network of the Ministry of Health.

Nutrition. According to the multisectoral needs rapid assessment carried out in coordination between the National Contingency Coordination Agency (COPECO) and the humanitarian network, 535,964 households in six departments of the country are in critical condition (the two variables used being vulnerabilities and livelihood opportunities of households). To support the nutritional wellbeing of children, UNICEF is currently purchasing a multiple micronutrient powder, which would prevent the nutritional deterioration of 40,000 children in the affected area. A [UN joint statement](#) on the need and importance to support infant and young child feeding in the current emergency and avoid donations and distribution of infant formula and milk powder was issued.

WASH. A total of 4,600 people in shelters in the most affected cities in the north are being reached through key WASH services. UNICEF is planning to reach 71,731 people more in the most affected municipalities of Honduras. Through the WASH Cluster, affected populations have already received 610,000 litres of water and 22,225 hygiene kits. As information on damages and costs comes through, the major gap identified continues to be adequate funding for major water systems repairs. For instance, the cities of El Progreso in Yoro and La Lima, Villanueva and Choloma y Cortes, require at least USD 729,000 for structural systems repairs to restore WASH services.

Education. According to the Ministry of Education (MoE), with information updated to November 25th, 585 schools have reported damages in infrastructure. The MoE has prepared a

response plan, focusing in three areas: psychosocial support, biosecurity / WASH services, and pedagogical support. Psychosocial activities are coordinated with the Psychosocial Support workgroup and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster; WASH activities are coordinated with the Biosecurity workgroup, and pedagogical services with the donors roundtable.

Child Protection. UNICEF has provided immediate protection services to 113 children and adolescents suspected to have been separated from their caregivers and emergency mental health and psychosocial support services for 29,012 girls and boys in shelters and communities in the aftermath of both tropical storms. In addition, UNICEF supported six girls survivors of sexual abuse through close coordination with the national agency for the protection of children (DINAF) and municipal offices for children. UNICEF and partners have reached 1,764 children and their caregivers with activities on self-care and prevention of violence and gender-based violence (GBV) in shelters.

Social Protection. At national level, UNICEF is advocating for a more child sensitive social protection cash transfer system. As a result of this advocacy, the *Bono Especial* social protection measure, designed to respond to Eta-Iota, includes the variable “households with children below 5 years of age” in the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index that the Government is using for targeting purpose in the most affected locations. UNICEF supported INFORM risk index has been used as a base for cross-triangulation information to correct inconsistencies raised from the information that COPECO is gathering in order to complete the territorial targeting exercise of the *Bono Especial*. The *Bono Especial* is going to reach 150,000 households during December.

At local level, UNICEF has continued supporting affected households with in-kind transfers⁸ through municipal governments reaching 2,566 people (611 additional families in total in the most affected territories, since the last SitRep).

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

[Press release] [Red Cross-UNICEF](#) alliance providing emergency mental health and psychosocial support to children.

[Social media] [UNICEF and Canada](#) donate hygiene products and PPE to affected communities.

[Media] [U-Reporters](#) and young volunteers helping to assist vulnerable populations.

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

⁷ COPECO, ‘Infografía No. 50, 15/11/20 19:00h’, 15 November 2020,

⁸ Including mainly food and, in some cases, non-food items, such as masks or mats.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

After almost a month since the landfall of Eta, Nicaragua estimates over 3 million people affected, as well as significant infrastructure damages in 56 municipalities, including approximately 43,000 damaged / destroyed homes. The Government response continues to focus on restoring basic service access for water, power and telecommunications. According to Government communications, Eta and Iota caused damage worth US\$617 million and economic losses of \$121 million. Officials say that Eta and Iota are going to cost Nicaragua about 6 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).⁹ In Bilwi, 1,751 wells have been damaged and there are 3,152 flooded and contaminated latrines. In communities like Wawabar and Haulover, where families are already returning to their houses, the WASH infrastructure is almost fully destroyed. As a result, water is not suitable for human consumption. In addition, also the communities of the coastal municipalities in the Llano Sur area have reported serious damage to WASH infrastructure. Child protection concerns remain, including violence against children, GBV and family separation.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. According to the electronic newspaper 19 Digital, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has provided 6,867 medical services in shelters and health units through 239 medical brigades, comprising of 936 health workers. These brigades have carried out 38,578 house-to-house visits, providing care and sharing preventive information. MoH has delivered 9,104 litres of chlorine throughout the country, to ensure the quality of water for human consumption. Furthermore, MoH is administering prophylactic treatment against leptospirosis in 301 communities, protecting more than 55,000 people. In addition, 527 tests have been taken in suspected cases of malaria and 300 cases have been recorded in shelters in Bilwi, where UNICEF is delivering mosquito nets as a preventive measure. MoH has dewormed 232 children between the ages of 4 and 12 in shelters. In Bilwi coastal neighbourhoods and indigenous communities, which were severely affected by the hurricanes, masks are not used, shelters are overcrowded and people have not access to water for hand washing. Thus, urgent needs are: kits for oral rehydration units, nebulizers, kangaroo mother blouses. UNICEF is preparing a supply plan to support MoH response, as needed.

Nutrition. CO has a dedicated capacity in Nutrition to support field actions of the sector. Nutrition supplies, including, weights and height meters are urgent needs. The families, which are gradually leaving shelters to rebuild their homes, do not have access to safe drinking water, and are collecting rainwater with plastic bags. Resorting to these coping mechanisms could have a negative impact on the nutritional status, overall wellbeing, and survival of children and their families. Cases of diarrhea in children have been already reported.

WASH. UNICEF is planning to provide filters and hygiene kits to families who are gradually returning to their communities. In Waspan, the pumping of water from wells depends on electricity, which is lacking at the moment, and in the Whonta the community well has been destroyed. In Sisin, all the 386 houses, each one with its own well access and latrine, were affected by the flooding of the river. At least eight wells with greater water production capacity, which are used as communal wells, were also affected. In Wiwili de Jinotega, 2,225 people from the La Joba, El Maleconcito and San Jose de Kilambe communities have been left without access to drinking water, the landslide buried the water storage system and the flooding of the river washed away the entire pipeline system. Similarly, 898 people do not have access to latrines, since most of them are flooded or destroyed. UNICEF is preparing a supply plan to support the Government's WASH response, as needed. UNICEF has mobilized its response teams and carried out assessments and field visits in the most affected areas (Northern Atlantic coast and Northern region), as a first rapid response, UNICEF has started the delivery of life saving supplies to RASNIC (WASH coordination network): 90 water tanks (5,000 litres), 3,000 water containers (used for safe water stocking and hand washing) and 1,000 family

hygiene kits are being distributed and installed in some of the most affected areas. In addition, UNICEF is mapping the availability of WASH products for supply planning. At the local level UNICEF started partnership with Caritas, *Accion Medica Cristiana*, and Plan International to cover the most remote areas with WASH response intervention. Other partnerships are in the pipeline with Save the Children and World Vision, including an important WASH component for some of the most affected municipalities. Finally, coordination has been established with the national and regional WASH authorities to facilitate response actions on the ground.

Education. A total of 3,240 schools were closed due to the hurricanes. However, education activities have resumed nationwide, with the exception of those schools that have been damaged or destroyed by Eta and Iota. Officially, 47 schools were seriously damaged in the worst impacted municipalities of the North Caribbean Region. According to unofficial sources the school year has been declared concluded in those communities where it is not possible to reopen education infrastructure. Most shelters in Bilwi and Waspam are hosted in schools. Nearly 96 schools were used as shelters during the pick of the emergency nationwide. Even though shelters are expected to be closed in the next two weeks, the impact of the hurricanes and the misuse of schools as shelters have left them in bad conditions, especially WASH infrastructure. UNICEF is starting new partnerships with local actors, to ensure provision of temporary learning spaces and school reinforcement programmes in preparation of the new academic year. UNICEF is purchasing tents for temporary learning spaces and recreational and education kits, to be distributed as soon as possible.

Child Protection. UNICEF has initiated a mapping of child protection and GBV available services in the affected areas, as well as the construction of referral mechanisms in coordination with the authorities and civil society organizations. UNICEF visited all temporary shelters in Bilwi, hosting 1,721 families, and met with the psychosocial commission in charge. Of great concern are the reported cases of GBV, including sexual violence. In shelters, living conditions are not adequate, there is no running water, no energy, no privacy. In addition, family separation in shelters, due to the return of families to their communities, has been increasing. Agreements are being made with partners to: implement child-friendly spaces in shelters and communities to provide psychosocial support; strength child protection and GBV referral services; and develop prevention interventions to avoid the risk of sexual violence, exploitation, and child labour in shelters and communities. A total of 50 kits for psychosocial support and child-friendly spaces will be delivered as soon as possible, benefitting 2,000 children.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability.

⁹ OCHA, LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN Weekly Situation Update (23-29 November 2020).

UNICEF Nicaragua C4D plan supports WASH, health and child protection actions through the development of materials and activities. The material will take into consideration the culture of indigenous communities of the North Caribbean Coast, as well as adapt to the communication channels used in the most remote areas, where there is limited access to electricity or traditional media UNICEF continues the dissemination of messages through social media: to date, more 100,000 people have been reached. Messages aim to: improve hygiene and hand washing habits to prevent the transmission of COVID-19; improve water use and storage; support best parenting practices and disseminate information on prevention of violence and promotion of self-care. Together with the Regional Government, UNICEF supported the design of a leadership training plan for community and religious leaders.

[Human Interest Stories and External Media.](#)

[Adolescents and young people tell UNICEF how they are facing the emergency caused by #Huracánlota](#)

[The UNICEF team is on the ground and visited Wawa Bar, one of the communities on the Caribbean Coast most affected by t #Huracánlota, the 475 families who live there lost everything](#)

[Video: Haulover families lost all their belongings within hours, the hurricane devastated their homes, schools and churches.](#)

[Yuri Forbes, a resident of Haulover, a community through which the eye of #Huracánlota entered, explains that the island split in two, changing the entire structure of the community.](#)

[UNICEF is on the ground and working quickly to distribute hygiene kits and water, sanitation and hygiene supplies.](#)

[In Bilwi, children, adolescents and their families were shocked by the fury of the #Huracánlota, which has left them without a home, food, schools and access to water.](#)

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



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

During the reporting period, the rains have decreased in the country. The impact of Iota has been dramatic since the very same communities had already been hit by Eta. The Government of Guatemala maintains red alert in 10 departments of the country: Izabal, Peten, Alta Verapaz, El Quiche, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Santa Rosa, Jutiapa, Zacapa and Huehuetenango. Eta and Iota have affected more than 2.4 million people, of whom more than 900,000 are children. Official sources report 31,053 people hosted in the 323 active shelters. Damages to infrastructure are significant, with 478 roads affected, 44 bridges destroyed, 340 schools damaged and 4,257 houses severely damaged. Sixty 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, nearly 1,000 tons of supplies have been distributed via air and land.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. The MoH teams have carried out evaluations of damages in five departments: Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Huehuetenango, Peten and Quiche. A total of 163 health services were evaluated, of which 153 are damaged and 10 are destroyed. Care provision continues in 111 of these affected health centres. The main challenges identified are the exhaustion of health personnel and limited access to communities, many of them have not been reached at all.

Nutrition. The nutrition cluster, led by UNICEF, continued to identify gaps in terms of nutrition and food security at both shelter and community levels. Preliminary results from a survey carried out with key informants within the government-led shelters indicate that markets are still not well stocked with nutritious foods because of flood-related access constraints. In addition, 43 per cent of the informants indicate that the communities do not have food reserves, with 59 percent reporting undernourished children in shelters and at community level. During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to support, through the nutrition brigades, critical live-saving nutrition interventions in several of the most affected departments (Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango), including timely identification and treatment of children under five years of age diagnosed with acute malnutrition; the provision of multiple micronutrient powder to children under five years of age; and the provision of breastfeeding and maternal nutrition counselling to pregnant and lactating women. In addition, UNICEF continued to carry out resource mobilization actions to ensure provision of nutrition services to those departments where they are currently not provided (e.g. Izabal).

WASH. UNICEF, as the leader of the WASH sector, has begun the process of acquiring equipment and supplies that will be used to clean flooded wells and affected water systems. The material will also support provision of sanitation services to the affected areas. Starting from 25 November, the 1,900 personal hygiene kits that UNICEF delivered to CONRED are being distributed to the departments of Petén, Alta Verapaz, Peten and El Quiche.

A field visit is being carried out to the departments of Izabal and Alta Verapaz in conjunction with the European Union / ECHO and the Spanish Red Cross with the objective of understanding the most affected communities and starting the implementation of activities at the local level.

Child Protection. UNICEF and the organizations that participate in psychosocial attention for children during emergencies group, agreed over methodology, territory and material to be used during child protection interventions.

The NGOs are implementing methodology strengthening resilience of children in shelters and communities. The NGOs are already in the field and ready to expand their reach, with UNICEF support. Three NGOs are hiring social workers and psychologists to improve and expand their intervention, with UNICEF support. UNICEF is continuing coordination with the Government child protection offices, at central and municipal level, to support them in their interventions in shelters. UNICEF sent toys and recreational material to be used in shelters and continued to spread messages to prevent violence against children through social media and communities' radios. UNICEF continued working to cover Izabal, an area that is less attended by relief efforts. UNICEF and its partners are preparing a mobile psychosocial team to ensure to cover the different territories affected in Izabal.

Education. UNICEF, as leader of the Education Cluster, has started the process to acquire supplies to repair schools that were damaged by Eta. School repair works will include replacing the zinc sheets of roofs in classrooms in schools. UNICEF will focus on repairing 81 schools located in Alta Verapaz and will purchase 1,720 zinc sheets. MoE will meet with all Alta Verapaz mayors so they can work together with members of the School Management Committees to repair school bathrooms in this 81 schools in Alta Verapaz. Data provided by the MoE report 488 schools with damage in infrastructure, of which several are flooded and thus, not available for use. Official records register 164 schools currently used as shelters.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. UNICEF is currently following up on the dissemination of messages through the network of community radios in Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango. Messages covered the promotion of good practices on health, nutrition, prevention of violence against children, water and hygiene.

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

- (Press [release](#)) Due to "IOTA" UNICEF monitors the situation in Guatemala and supports the authorities with the delivery of 1,900 hygiene kits to CONRED.
- (Human interest [story](#)) No water, no house, no food, the triple impact of Eta, Iota and Covid-19 on the most vulnerable families in Guatemala.
- ([U-Report](#)) [ETA Storm - How are adolescents and young people?](#)

For more information: <http://www.unicef.org/guatemala/>

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Three weeks after Hurricane Eta struck Central America, authorities continue assessing the damages and gathering information on the affected communities. As of 25 November, the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) reported that there were 109 families, including 258 children still in shelters. A total of 354 families, including 769 children remain severely impacted from the floods and in need of urgent assistance, particularly in the Cayo District. Hurricane Iota caused an average of 10-inches of rain across the central and southern areas of Belize resulting in the recording of significant flood events across the country. Based on preliminary assessments, assistance requested from NEMO for the general population encompasses food, water, hygiene kit, mattresses, small tabletop stoves and tanks, cleaning supplies, PPEs, pump sprayers, power washers, construction and roofing material. Operations focus on providing relief to the affected population and cattle farmers and agriculture in the most vulnerable areas.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. UNICEF coordinated activities of and supported 177 community health workers and 156 health care personnel to respond to the health needs of children and households in the areas of Cayo, Belize and Stann Creek districts. The community health workers have engaged with the community by providing information on infection control and prevention, health facilities available for treatment, health care for children and women, and provision of PPE.

Nutrition. UNICEF developed messages to both prevent donations of breastmilk substitutes and promote safe breastfeeding and infection prevention and control (IPC) practices; however, partners in the MoH decided to focus only on the promotion of breastfeeding. A previously identified challenge is that monitoring of International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes is only implemented within the MoH and not elsewhere (e.g. in shelters, marketing to the general public). UNICEF is currently distributing over 1,700 supplemented food packages to approximately 500 affected families, including 1,050 children, along with RCCE and healthy eating information.

WASH. UNICEF is procuring emergency hygiene/nutrition kits for 354 families, including 769 children, severely affected in the Cayo District. These kits will be distributed in three communities of Calla Creek, Bullet Tree and Santa Familia in the Cayo District, from 3 to 5 December. The kits contain hygiene supplies sufficient for a family of five members, and also include a nutrition hamper with supplemented food (Incaparina). Communication materials on WASH and nutrition are included in the kits as well. The emergency response activities will address service delivery for WASH and nutrition hampers, as the National Emergency Management Organization requested food packets and water.

Education. Schools remain closed due to the COVID-19 emergency, so response has included the provision of distance

learning materials by the MoE to school children. As per request of NEMO, UNICEF is distributing 200 early childhood development (ECD) play kits to families with children under 8 years old, in the most severely impacted communities of Calla Creek, Bullet Tree and Santa Familia in the Cayo District. The kits will include homemade toys and information / basic illustrations for parents and caregivers on effective ways to play and communicate with children.

Child Protection. UNICEF has procured PPE for 75 child protection workers of the Ministry of Human Development Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation, who are currently providing relief aid and support to cases of violence against children in at least 70 communities affected by the flooding. UNICEF is also in the process of procuring 150 recreational kits to be used in Child Friendly Spaces implemented by the Red Cross and the Belize City Council. GBV mapping has commenced in 21 affected communities and is expected to be completed in the coming days.

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

- [Reimagining a better future...responding to the present.](#)
- [UNICEF donates over 200 backpacks to children in Western Belize.](#)
- [UNICEF representatives deliver school bags for island children.](#)
- [UNICEF Belize makes backpack and supplies donation to island students.](#)

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

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 November 24, the authorities estimated that 325,000 people had been affected, of whom 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 the framework of 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. UNICEF and other UN and international organizations have received a request for support from the CNE, which it is evaluating to define its strategy and type of support.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH. UNICEF will support the hardest hit communities providing PPE items and hygiene kits for frontline workers and affected families; supplies will be accompanied by RCCE materials to promote good hygiene practices and COVID-19 prevention measures. In addition, UNICEF will train local emergency committees in the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, GBV and reporting of child abuse in shelters. UNICEF aims to reach some 3,000 people, including 840 children.

Child Protection. UNICEF will support the capacity development of 150 staff members of the municipal emergency committees, COVID-19 Civic Attention Centers, shelters and CNE. Activities will focus on improving capacities and knowledge on GBV, violence against children, referral and reporting of child abuse cases, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), in coordination with local child protection systems.

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

Panama

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Hurricane Eta and Iota caused strong floods and landslides in the Republic of Panama, affecting the Provinces of Chiriqui, Bocas del Toro, Los Santos, Veraguas, Colon and Darien, as well as the Ngäbe-Bugle and Embera-Wounaan Comarcas (indigenous regions). According to the Joint Task Force, it is estimated that more than 6,000 people were affected, including 40 per cent children and adolescents. To date, 20 people died including 4 children. Having consolidated and public figures continue to be one of the main challenges.

UNICEF carried out a mission (23 to 25 November) to perform a rapid assessment in the provinces of Chiriqui and Comarca Ngäbe-Bugle. In the 13 shelters visited, there were 710 people, of whom 51 per cent were boys, girls and adolescents; these spaces are managed by MIDES and SINAPROC. With the reduction in rainfall, it is estimated that less than 50 per cent of the temporary shelters will begin their closure phase due to the return of families to their communities to begin the reconstruction of their homes. Some of the shelters are affected by COVID19, in response to which the MINSA began the implementation of protocols for care and reduction of community transmission. Official records reported 32 shelters were enabled during the emergency phase, at 1st of December, only 5 are still operating. MEDUCA reported 30 schools affected and 3 more on high risk.

The Government of Panama declared a state of Environmental Emergency and allocated US\$ 100 million in funds to respond to the impacts of the hurricanes.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition. UNICEF provides support and technical guidance to MINSA, MIDES and the Office of the First Lady on breastfeeding and nutrition in emergencies.

Child Protection. UNICEF provides technical support to MIDES, MINSA and MEDUCA in the creation of a psychosocial support plan within the framework of child protection guidelines and standards in emergencies, provided Child-Friendly Spaces training to 100 civil servants, and contribute 12 recreational kits and 6 Early Childhood Development kits.

UNICEF, through the alliance with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), is implementing actions of psychosocial support and early childhood development through Mobile-

Friendly Spaces for affected children and adolescents in the province of Chiriqui and the Comarca Ngäbe- Bugle. To date, 32 girls, 26 boys, 31 adolescents (19 males, 12 females) have been reached through this intervention.

Cross-sectoral. UNICEF delivered supplies in response to the government's request through the Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System. UNICEF delivered 13 tons of supplies, including 5,940 thermal blankets, tarps, tanks of 10,000 litres of water each, tents, mosquito nets, and ribbons for nutritional diagnosis of malnutrition in children, to provide care for children and migrant families and local communities affected.

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



Next SitRep: in December

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

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Annex A
Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	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	1,127,979	29,726,694	96.3
Education / Early Childhood Development	2,296,800		2,296,800	100
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	3,572,200	472,021	3,100,179	100
Social protection and cash transfers	1,263,000		1,263,000	86.8
Regional office technical capacity	500,000		500,000	100
TOTAL	42,586,405	100,000	40,986,405	96.2

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

** Includes only new funds received for the Eta/Iota response.