



Tropical depression/ storm Amanda impact in El Salvador

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1



Reporting Period: 31 May - 10 June 2020

Highlights

- Tropical Depression / Storm Amanda has left over 119,000 people affected across El Salvador. The national government has declared the state of emergency and requested support from the international cooperation, including from UNICEF.
- Non-food items, food assistance, safe water, sanitation and hygiene items and services, as well as psychosocial support, remain critical for affected families, particularly for over 8,000 people in shelters.
- Through UNICEF-supported actions, 500 people in shelters have benefited from non-food items and critical supplies, water tanks have been installed benefiting 388 families, 15 shelters have received cleaning and sanitation supplies and 20,000 surgery masks have been distributed to the Ministry of Health for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in shelters.
- UNICEF El Salvador estimates that US\$2,2 million will be required to provide critical support in WASH, shelter and child protection sectors, targeting over 35,000 people in shelters and affected communities.

Situation in Numbers



+119,000

People affected
(As of 10 June, estimated based on reports by Gov. El Salvador)



+34,000

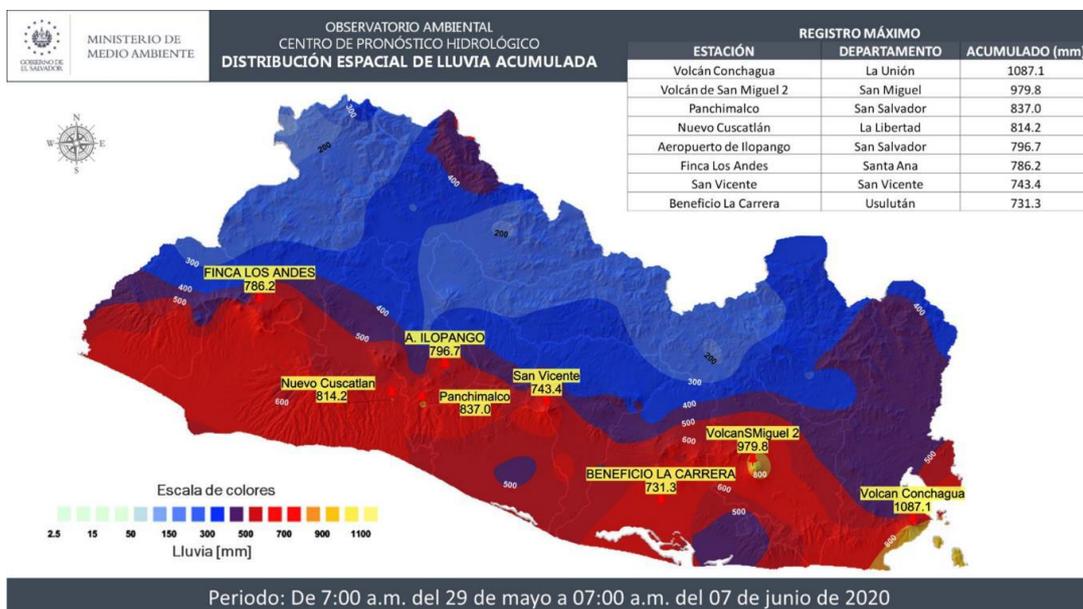
Children affected
(As of 10 June, estimated based on reports by Gov. El Salvador)



8,119

People in shelters
(As of 10 June, reports by Gov. El Salvador)

Accumulated rainfall El Salvador (29 May – 7 June 2020)



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Amidst a country-wide lockdown due to the global emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Tropical Storm (TS) Amanda hit El Salvador in the early hours of 31 May, causing catastrophic damages and loss of human life on a nationwide level. This TS is estimated to be the most devastating weather disaster in El Salvador in 22 years since Hurricane Mitch struck the country in 1998. According to records from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), TS Amanda caused the accumulation of over 600 mm of rainfall (more than 800 mm in certain locations) around the country, when Mitch accumulated a maximum of 400 mm of rain over a longer period. According to the historical average, in five days the effects of TS Amanda caused 30 per cent of the total annual rainfall. The situation worsened on 5 June, when Tropical Storm Cristóbal formed in the Gulf of Mexico and continued to cause heavy rains over El Salvador.

The Government declared the state of emergency and Red Alert, activating the Civil Protection system. Considering the emerging needs, the Salvadorian Government has requested support from the international cooperation, including from UNICEF. As rains continued, the Civil Protection response focused on rescue operations, and now is centred in the provision of shelter, water and food assistance.

Authorities report that at least 29,968 families (over 119,000 people) have been affected since the onset of the emergency. As of 10 June, 8,119 people remained in 239 shelters across 14 departments, mainly in San Salvador (41 per cent) and La Libertad (35 per cent) departments.³ This situation is further aggravated by the fact that San Salvador is the Department with the highest number of COVID-19 cases (50 per cent of all reported cases), adding the risk of contagion among individuals and families in these emergency shelters.

Furthermore, part of the affected population is not willing to go to shelters due to concerns about COVID-19 contagion and to protect their belongings. In 129 shelters assessed, health authorities identified at least 169 cases of acute respiratory infection, three pneumonia patients and 41 cases of acute diarrhoeal disease.⁴

Basic infrastructure has been also affected. Authorities have attended 2,581 reports of damages in basic infrastructure and services, 392 schools have been damaged,⁵ 3,000 houses have been destroyed or damaged,⁶ at least 679 landslides have been reported and 19 traffic routes remain with restricted or closed access⁷ affecting the mobility of thousands.

Over 3,000 hectares of crops have been damaged or lost, 92 per cent of them were maize crops. In an area where over 336,000 people experience severe food insecurity,⁸ crop losses can have a severe impact in the livelihoods of many families. The storm come as El Salvador, home to 643,000 people in need according to recently conducted Humanitarian Needs Overview, continues to deal with the COVID-19 crisis that is compounding existing vulnerabilities.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF is supporting the civil protection system and has prioritized the response in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Nutrition, Child Protection and Shelter, through existing partnerships with Governmental institutions, NGOs and municipalities.

In **WASH**, UNICEF will support 35,000 people in shelters and in affected communities through the installation of WASH services, improvement of water distribution systems, installation of water tanks, provision of filters and jerrycans, distribution of solid waste management supplies, mosquito nets, personal protective equipment (PPE) and family hygiene kits to reduce risk of waterborne diseases, arboviruses and COVID-19.

In **Nutrition**, UNICEF will provide nutritional supplies, such as nutritionally fortified food and micronutrients to 1,000 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women and will promote breastfeeding among targeted communities.

In the **Shelter** and **Child Protection** components, UNICEF will provide basic items to ensure a safe shelter environment for families and children including mattresses, blankets and towels; and will ensure needed psychosocial support (in collaboration with El Salvador Red Cross); as well as prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children in shelters and in the most affected communities.

At least 500 people in shelters have already benefited from non-food, WASH and PPE supplies provided by UNICEF, including towels, mattresses and blankets. In the Usulután municipality, 105 families (approximately 420 people) have

Impact of Tropical depression / storm Amanda in El Salvador (as of 10 June) ¹	
No. of people affected	119,872
No. of children affected (Estimated) ²	34,763
No. of families affected	29,968
No. of deaths	30
No. of missing persons	1
No. of people in shelters	8,119
No. of temporary shelters	239

¹ Government of El Salvador, 10 June 2020, 13:10 local time, <<http://amanda.marn.gob.sv>>.

² Estimated by UNICEF, based on population distribution.

³ Government of El Salvador, 10 June 2020, 13:10 local time, <<http://amanda.marn.gob.sv>>.

⁴ Report from the Health Surveillance Direction, for 169 shelters as of 4 June 2020, 09:00 local time.

⁵ Government of El Salvador, 10 June 2020, 13:10 local time, <<http://amanda.marn.gob.sv>>.

⁶ Presidential Commissioner for Operations and Government Cabinet, 'Informe de Monitoreo de Albergues'.

⁷ Ministry of Public Works, 4 June 2020; Government of El Salvador, 4 June 2020.

⁸ WFP, Situation Report #1 Tropical Storm Amanda, 3 June 2020.

been reached with food items. Two water tanks (2,500 litres) have been installed benefiting 388 families in Huisisilapa and El Paisnal. In addition, 60 families in five shelters of Ilopango (including 45 girls, 38 boys) have received hygiene kits (age and gender appropriate) and disinfecting supplies. Another 15 shelters have received cleaning and sanitation supplies. UNICEF has distributed 20,000 surgery masks to the Ministry of Health for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in shelters.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), already activated in the context of the COVID-19 emergency, has been active in responding to the storm's impacts. UNICEF leads the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and Education clusters, and co-leads the Food Security and Nutrition cluster (together with WFP and FAO) and the Protection Cluster (with UNHCR).

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF El Salvador estimates that US\$ 2,2 million will be required to provide critical support in WASH, shelter and child protection sectors. A contribution of US\$ 200,000 from UNICEF Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds has been secured to scale up activities in shelters.

Sector	Requirements
WASH	1,500,000
Nutrition	200,000
Protection/Shelter	500,000
Total	2,200,000

External Communication and Media

Through social media channels, UNICEF El Salvador features testimonies from affected population, highlighting the voices of children and adolescents. Key messages on self-protection are published regularly as vulnerabilities in shelters and spread of COVID-19 continues.

Press Release:

<https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/tropical-storm-amanda-leaves-destruction-and-grief-it-passes-through-el-salvador>

Social media posts:

<https://twitter.com/UnicefSV/status/1270071154850529286>

<https://twitter.com/UnicefSV/status/1269670041684934656>

<https://www.facebook.com/UnicefElSalvador/videos/1143516472693191/>

<https://www.facebook.com/UnicefElSalvador/videos/866348697221196/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CBHmmaji8o4/?igshid=1nmja8gdo5u0y>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CBDqS02Dsvm/?igshid=1hbew1yf5nzle>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shllkQHE_aU

<https://twitter.com/SaludSV/status/1269737040746340355>

<https://twitter.com/SaludSV/status/1269753541335420930>

<https://twitter.com/SaludSV/status/1270109846885588993>