

7 October 2020

## 1. Highlights

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### Constraints

#### Hurricane Season (Source: National Hurricane Center)

##### Atlantic:

- **Tropical Storm Gamma:** Gamma was a near hurricane-strength tropical storm that brought heavy rains, floods and landslides to Honduras and Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. After making landfall near Tulum on 3 October, it weakened over land and finally it degenerated into a remnant low on 6 October.
- **Major Hurricane Delta (CAT 4):** Delta rapidly intensified from CAT 1 Hurricane to CAT 4 Major Hurricane on 6 October. Prior to making landfall close to Cancun in Yucatan Peninsula, it weakened to a CAT 2 hurricane, currently it is located over southern Gulf of Mexico and it is on a north-westward trajectory with 24 km/h ground speed. Current maximum windspeed is reaching 167 km/h and forecast indicates further strengthening before making landfall at Lake Charles, Louisiana on 9 October. The storm left Mexico with no major damage and no known deaths. 39,000 people were evacuated before the storm and 266,000 people were left without electricity. Extremely strong storm surge and hurricane conditions are expected for Louisiana which is still trying to recover from Hurricane Laura.

##### Eastern Pacific

- **Major Hurricane Marie (CAT 4):** Marie intensified to a category 4 major hurricane over eastern Pacific Ocean on 2 October and maintained hurricane status until 4 October. It is currently weakened to a depression and it is expected to dissipate within today.
- **Tropical Storm Norbert:** Norbert was formed as a depression on 5 October off the coast of Mexico and it intensified to a tropical storm on 6 October. Norbert is advancing on a north-westward trajectory and it is not posing any threat to land.
- **Tropical Disturbance 1:** A broad area of low pressure, located about 1000 miles southwest of the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula, is producing disorganized showers and thunderstorms. Upper-level winds could become a little

more conducive for development in a couple of days as this system slowly moves northwestward. Eye formation chance through 5 days is forecast as %20 through.

### Earthquakes

- **Bolivia:** A magnitude 5.3 earthquake was recorded at Potosi on 1 October. No damage or injuries were reported, and no tsunami warning was issued.
- **Mexico:** A magnitude 5.2 earthquake was recorded at 92 kms off the coast of El Gancho on 1 October. No damage or injuries were reported, and no tsunami warning was issued.

### Other Natural Events

- **Wildfires in South America:** Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia are continuing to battle against the wildfires. Paraguay declared national state of emergency on 2 October and in Argentina, wildfires prompt evacuations, road disruptions and structural damage across the country. 12 of Argentina's 23 provinces are battling against the wildfires. Situation is not likely to improve before November when rainfalls are expected.

### Air

- Several countries have re-opened their airports for international commercial passenger flights. List of these countries include Haiti (1 July), Dominican Republic (1 July), Bolivia (1 September), Guatemala (18 September), El Salvador (19 September), Colombia (21 September), Belize (1 October), Peru (1 October).
- Panama and Argentina are planning to reopen their airports for international commercial passenger flights on 12 October.
- Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua are amongst the countries that are open for international commercial passenger flights but there are restrictions for nationality and residency status of the passengers.
- Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela are amongst the countries that are still closed for international commercial passenger flights and there is no clarity on when they would be reopening.

### **Services**

- **WFP Common Covid-19 Logistics Services** continues to deliver critical response items to the LAC region, both directly to destination countries from the WFP hub in China and via WFP's hub based in UNHRD Panama.
- **WFP Passenger Flights:** Airports in the region continue to announce openings and commercial airlines are adding new destinations. In accordance with the globally endorsed exit strategy to discontinue the WFP Global Passenger Flights the moment a reliable commercial airline is providing flights into / out of a country, effective 13 October 2020, the following destinations will be discontinued in October: Mexico, Honduras, Colombia and Haiti. **Passenger booking requests received for flights to the mentioned destinations will be inactivated** and all

travel focal points are thus required to make alternative arrangements to facilitate their staff travels. Caracas, Venezuela will be the only remaining destination. First available flight to Caracas will be on 28 October and following flights will be performed on a fortnightly schedule for the remainder of October and November.

## 2. Contacts

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John Myraunet	Logistics Officer	<a href="mailto:John.Myraunet@wfp.org">John.Myraunet@wfp.org</a>
Samuel Kealey	Logistics Officer	<a href="mailto:Samuel.Kealey@wfp.org">Samuel.Kealey@wfp.org</a>
Nafi Mert Kazmirci	Logistics Officer	<a href="mailto:Nafimert.Kazmirci@wfp.org">Nafimert.Kazmirci@wfp.org</a>