

Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Belize: Hurricane Eta

DREF Operation n°	MDRBZ006	Glide n°:	TC-2020-000224-BLZ
Date of issue:	16 November 2020	Expected timeframe:	4 months
		Expected end date:	31 March 2021
IFRC Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow			
DREF allocated: 425,329 Swiss francs (CHF)			
Number of people affected:	50,000	Number of people to be assisted:	5,000
Provinces affected:	Cayo, Stann Creek, Belize Districts	Provinces/Regions targeted:	Cayo, Stann Creek, Belize Districts
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS) delivers humanitarian services through its seven (7) branches (and headquarters), in close coordination with public authorities and non-governmental organizations to serve communities in crisis nationwide. The BRCS counts with 420 active volunteers and 15 staff.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), Belize Defence Forces (BDF), CDEMA, UNICEF, IOM.			

[<Click here for the DREF budget and here for the contact information.>](#)

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 4 November 2020, Hurricane Eta made landfall on Nicaragua's shores as a Category 4 hurricane, causing destruction and excessive rain with windspeeds of 140 mph. Several Central American countries experienced the negative effects of Hurricane Eta, including Belize.

On 3 November, rain started in Belize increasing intensity by the 4 and 5 November. The impact on Belize was approximately twenty inches of rainfall which mostly affected the central and southern regions of the country. This caused severe flooding in the Western District of Cayo, Southern District of Stann Creek, and Belize District, including Belize City. On 3 November, collective centres were activated to shelter people living in swampy and low-lying areas.



Photo: Belize Red Cross (BRC) volunteers distribution household items to the affected population. Source: 8 November 2020

On 8 November, the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) issued its 10th Advisory¹ reporting that Cayo and Beze were experiencing unprecedented flood conditions. The Macal and Mopan rivers in the Cayo District and the Sibun and Belize Rivers in the Belize District are still at major flood stages. Every village from Arenal to Roaring Creek have been affected. The most impacted communities with devastating damages include: Arenal, Benque, Paslow

¹ [NEMO. Advisory 10. 8 November 2020.](#)

Falls, Calla Creek, Bullet Tree Falls, Santa Familia, Blackman Eddy, and other downstream villages, including Roaring Creek.

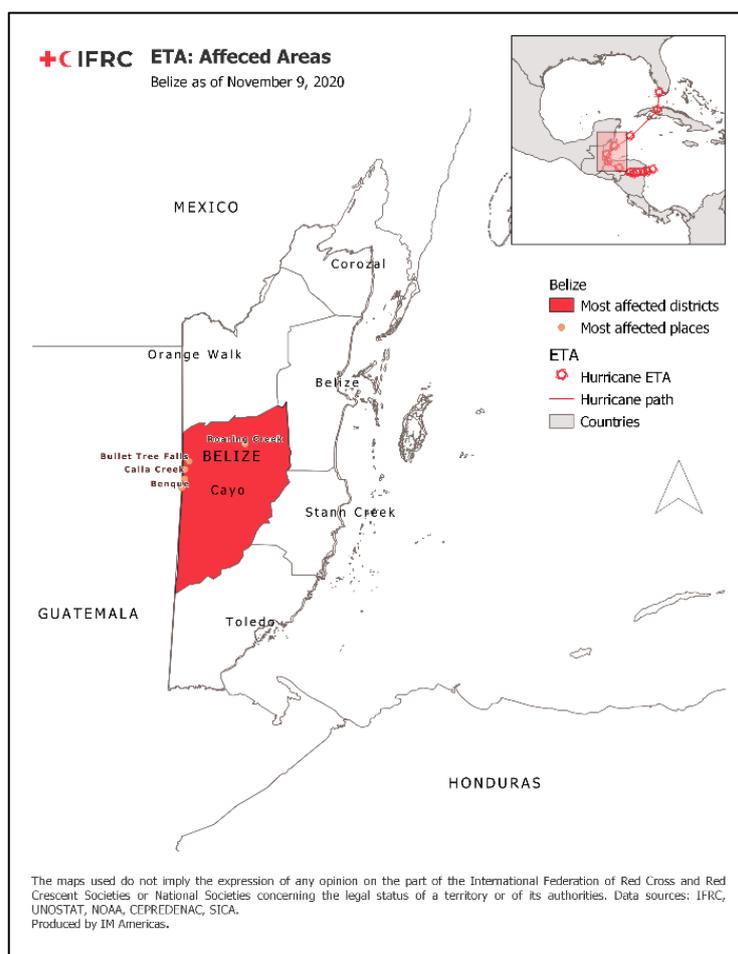
Floodwaters have cut off several communities, with Cayo, Stann Creek, and Belize districts being most affected. NEMO reports flooding that may have potentially affected about 50,000-60,000 people². This represents approximately 15% of the total population. There have been no reports of loss of life, however, according to a damage assessment air reconnaissance (flyover) conducted by the National Damage Assessment Committee member for Agriculture, Works, Search and Rescue, Lands and NEMO, the road network has suffered significant damages, especially the George Price and Phillip Goldson Highways and to a lesser extent Hummingbird and Southern highways.

While the greatest flooding was concentrated in the west, the entire country has been affected. NEMO reports roads that are flooded and or impassable are the Bullet Tree and Santa Familia roads, the Calla Creek road, Santa Rosa road to Calla Creek, More Tomorrow M&S road, Sittee River bypass to Hopkins, and the Coastal Road from Hope Creek to Gales Point junction.

The Macal and Mopan rivers in the Cayo District rose more than 8.8 meters flooding every village from Arenal to Roaring Creek. The hardest-hit communities are Arenal, Benque, Calla Creek, Bullet Tree Falls, Santa Familia, Blackman Eddy, and the downstream villages, including Roaring Creek. All crossings in the Cayo district are flooded or at risk of flooding except the main crossings, Hawkesworth and the Santa Elena bypass (new) bridge. Most low-lying villages in rural Belize are starting to experience severe flood conditions¹.

In addition, there is an active system in the Caribbean Sea (Hurricane Iota) that is projected to impact Central America on 16 November. This would only exacerbate the suffering of those already impacted by Hurricane Eta and potentially increase the number of persons who require aid from the Belize Red Cross Society.

Therefore, it is critical to reach and meet the needs to the people affected to recover from the impact of Eta while preparing for the potential of a second impact.



² [OCHA. Central America: Tropical Storm Eta. 9 November 2020.](#)

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

The Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS) has been closely coordinating with NEMO, the National Disaster Office (NDO), even before Hurricane Eta's impact. On 3 November 2020, the BRCS attended the first meeting to discuss the response actions with City Emergency Management Organization (CEMO) and NEMO, and other actors. Subsequently, the National Society issued a [GO Field Report](#) advising possible flooding due to constant rains associated with the system. Branches were notified and placed on alert in the event the National Society needed to mobilize its Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) team.

On 5 November 2020, NEMO asked the National Society to assist in shelter management for collective centres. Support was requested in the provision and the distribution of household items.

The Belize Red Cross Society (BRCS) initially reported that many of its volunteers were stranded in flooded communities, affecting its capacity to carry out needs and damage assessments. The National Society has since been able to mobilize some of its volunteers in affected areas to conduct initial DANA and distribute hygiene kits to a few affected areas. Thus far, 60 families in the Hattieville area Belize District have benefited from the distribution hygiene kits, tarps, clothing, blankets, food packages, water, cleaning kits and jerrycans.

The leadership of the BRCS has also begun to mobilise financial support from local donors to support their current and planned relief efforts.

The National Society has since published a second [GO Report](#) requesting assistance. To date, the BRCS has distributed the following items in the quantities outlined below:

Item	Number Distributed in response to this operation	National Society Stock	Estimated Balance as of November 12, 2020
Hygiene Kits	246	584	338
Kitchen Sets	115	584	469
Tarps	23	466	443
Blankets	421	1,136	715
Jerry Cans	377	1,889	1,512
Buckets	421	722	301

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

The IFRC Americas Regional Office (ARO) is not directly represented in Belize but through its Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) office based in Trinidad and Tobago. The CCST is closely supporting the National Society. In the past, it has also supported the BRCS with the implementation of a DREF (2016) in response to the impacts of Hurricane Earl. Currently, the Capacity Building Initiative project, geared towards community preparedness, is being implemented in three communities. The CCST supported the planning of the response and development of the emergency plan of action (EPoA) for flood impacts of Hurricane Eta in support of the National Society.

Updates on Hurricane Eta's impact and the Belize Red Cross Society's response have been posted on social media by the Communications Officer for the POS CCST. See links below. In addition, a press release and key messages are being drafted.

Facebook

1. <https://www.facebook.com/CADTIM.IFRC/photos/a.481238271931455/3366483846740202/?type=3&theater>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/436354109753205/posts/3363456383709615/>
3. https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3360349444020309&id=436354109753205

Instagram

1. https://www.instagram.com/p/CHWlz2MD_Ck/
2. <https://www.instagram.com/p/CHTsQ57DLjf/>
3. <https://www.instagram.com/p/CHTrLF6gEcV/>
4. <https://www.instagram.com/p/CHRHyEhpq29/>

Twitter

1. <https://twitter.com/CADIMCOE/status/1325623096070598656>
2. <https://twitter.com/CADIMCOE/status/1325215149049962498>
3. https://twitter.com/IFRC_es/status/1325213956554813441
4. <https://twitter.com/CADIMCOE/status/1324853665828581378>

For Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) actions, the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean CCST CEA Officer is assisting Belize Red Cross Society with risk communication messages on flooding, prevention of vector-borne diseases and safe water.

Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions in country

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) has taken control of the emergency relief operations in country. Rescues are also being coordinated and executed with the assistance of the British Military. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) has been monitoring the situation.

The United States, Mexico and International Financial Institutions are standing by to assist with food, water and shelter as needed. The British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB) is assisting the Belize Defence Force (BDF) with search and rescue operations. According to the Minister of National Security, the BDF and Coast Guard are in operation in the centre and south and his office is coordinating with the villages to help distribute food and water, subject to COVID-19 protocols.

IOM has been supporting displaced families in Cayo with water, hygiene and food.

UNICEF is supporting emergency WASH response activities following a request from NEMO for water and food supplies. WASH partners are procuring supplies for delivery if needed, some of which have also been pre-positioned at district level. WASH partners have also distributed hygiene kits to the Government for national and sub-national delivery. These materials are available for delivery to flood-affected areas upon request.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

Belize reports over 40 communities affected, mainly along the Mopan, Macal, Belize and Sibun rivers. Communities in Cayo, Belize, Stann Creek and Toledo districts are the hardest hit. Damage assessments preliminary estimates 50,000 to 60,000 people affected along riverside communities.³ An estimated 21,120 children are thought to be affected.⁴

Overall close figures and estimates indicate as much as 500 families are temporarily displaced, many of whom opted to stay mostly with family or friends. There continues to be major flood damage to residential property, utilities, farms and road infrastructure⁴.

Food, water, hygiene kits, clothing, bedding, cleaning supplies, PPEs, pump sprayers, power washers, construction and roofing material are the main items needed for the affected population⁴.

As such, the following prioritized needs have been identified based on ongoing information gathering by the BRC and the call for support from the National Disaster Office.

Shelter:

Preliminary figures indicate that 159 persons are sheltered in 10 collective centres⁵:

District	Collective Centres	People
Cayo	8	148

³ OCHA. Central America: Tropical Storm Eta. 9 November 2020.

⁴ UNICEF. Tropical Storm ETA Situation Report 2

⁵ NEMO. Advisory 10. 8 November 2020.

Belize	2	11
TOTAL	10	159

While official government Collective Centres have opened to the public, there is reluctance amongst the population to seek protection amid fears of COVID-19. Many people have opted for informal familial shelters and churches, which have served as support for the population.

Infrastructure damage has been reported: falling poles, trees, power lines, and widespread flooding in housing areas have contributed to the need for persons to be rescued from their homes.

The NEMO is assessing further damages to houses and infrastructure. The Collective Centres require support to access the resources to ensure minimum comfort and hygiene conditions while complying with protection and physical distancing measures for the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a need to get basic items to meet the immediate needs of those in Collective Centres, such as blankets, personal hygiene items, etc.

Health:

People temporarily staying in collective centres require support, especially in the context of COVID-19. There is a need to strengthen the prevention and control measures for the transmission of COVID-19, especially the potential for a deterioration in hygiene practices as well as access to proper water and sanitation (diarrheal diseases), exposure to humidity and cold (acute diseases of the respiratory tract), and the proliferation of vectors of communicable diseases (Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika, Malaria). Prevention measures need to be implemented in the shelters to reduce the contagious risks such as psychical distance, delivery of PPE, hygiene promotion activities, and dissemination of messages. The provision of basic health services will be crucial.

It is expected that during the second week after the flooding, vectors will proliferate due to the accumulation of stagnant water and drowned animals, as well as the flooding of latrines and the contamination of wells, situations that can increase the risk of the population to be exposed to water-borne and vector-borne diseases. In addition, health structures can be affected for the disaster producing a disruption of the basic health services and programs (immunization, maternal and new born care, chronic diseases,) that can increase the morbidity-mortality of the population.

The 31 Public Health Officers and 20 Community Health Workers trained through PHAST are being activated to support communities

Water and Sanitation:

There is a need to assess the quality of water for human consumption and preventive health actions for populations returning to their homes and those living in Collective Centres. This will avoid outbreaks and epidemics caused by the post-flood conditions. The National Society will purchase bottled water and distribute it for 2,000 people.

Livelihoods:

The hurricane has caused heavy and permanent rains, generating floods and overflowing rivers in urban and rural areas. This has caused damage to public and private infrastructure, also affecting the livelihood activities of the most vulnerable people. Agriculture, small businesses, and tourism will be particularly affected.

According to the Statistical Institute of Belize, there has been a continued upward trend in the cost of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages from September 2019 to September 2020. Some food items with rising costs included flour, rice, eggs, natural milk, kidney beans, watermelon, and tomatoes. It was noted that there was a marked increase from May 2020, which coincides with the Covid-19 pandemic⁶. In the Consumer Price Index 2020 report, under the "All items" tab or items typically purchased by Belizean households, the index rose from 105.3 in September 2019 to 105.6 in September 2020 or by 0.3%. A Category 4 Hurricane such as Eta will no doubt have a direct negative impact on the cost and access to goods making it more difficult for the most vulnerable, particularly the rural poor. Devastation to crops, micro businesses, low insurance rates for the private sector, coastal degradation and other negative impacts on the tourist sector, as well as damage property will undoubtedly contribute to loss of income, which is already affected by the spread of COVID-19.

⁶ http://sib.org.bz/wp-content/uploads/CPI_2020-09.pdf

There is a risk that people follow survival strategies irreversible and permanent damage to livelihoods. These strategies can be to reduce the number of meals, sell work tools among others. Livelihood assessments should be developed and assistance for basic needs implemented, in addition to identifying actions to protect and recover livelihoods.

More detailed information may be obtained at the conclusion of field assessments.

Estimated disaggregated data for population targeted.

The Belize Red Cross will respond to hurricane ETA's aftermath in the following localities: Cayo, Stann Creek and Belize Districts.

It is expected that under this operation an estimated of target of 1,000 families (5,000 people) will be assisted. More than half of these families have suffered from total or partial loss of their homes due to floods in the municipalities of Cayo, Stann Creek and with Belize Districts.

The BRCS has been in constant contact with community chairpersons who have been able to provide a breakdown of the impacts within each of the 3 most affected areas. The compositions are broken as follows:

It is estimated that the Belize Red Cross will attend 2,500 men and 2,500 women through their intervention.

Category	Estimated % of target group⁷
Young Children (under 5 years)	12%
Children (5-19yrs)	35%
Adults (20-49 yrs)	41%
Elderly (>50 yrs)	12%
People with disabilities	9%

Detailed targeting information will be compiled and made available by the Belize Red Cross after assessments are completed in coordination with national authorities and other organizations. This information will be published by the National Society later in an Operational Update.

The beneficiary families within the target populations will be selected based on different criteria, such as:

1. Level of impact (housing, livelihoods, health, etc.)
2. Displaced persons/ persons in shelters (public and private)
3. Absence of assistance received from other entities.
4. Specifically, vulnerable population (children, pregnant women, single parent family, elderly people, people with disabilities, etc.)

The target population has been calculated considering the data presented above that indicate that these areas are most severely affected by flooding. In many cases, major roadways have been rendered inaccessible and access to relief through governmental channels may prove difficult.

The difference among the number of people to be targeted is based on different needs and different levels of effects by the impact of the Hurricane Eta.

⁷ Statistical institute of Belize (<https://sib.org.bz/statistics/population/>)

Scenario planning

Scenario	Humanitarian Consequence	Potential Response
Scenario A Best Case Scenario	The consequences of the hurricane are minimal and only some communities are impacted. Roads remain open and livelihoods are not interrupted	Population in at risk areas is supported through evacuations to Collective Centers. There will be minimal delays in the procurement and importation of PPEs and other household items (HHs).
Scenario B Likely scenario	Given the presence of the high rainy season in the region, it is not ruled out that new floods will occur in the area and that the affected families again suffer the onslaught of the weather and of the hurricane season in the region	Continuous monitoring of water levels in flood prone areas. Deployment of water and sanitation team to assist on water production, distribution in most affected communities. Some delays in procurement and importation of PPE's and HHs for water and sanitation and hygiene promotion assistance.
Scenario C Worst case scenario	Infrastructure and means of transportation are severely affected and communities cannot be reached.	Communication with the national government to estimate the contingency plans to be implemented due to these related factors.

Operation Risk Assessment

The National Society is currently ready to respond by carrying out its role as an auxiliary to government. It is important to note that the Government of Belize is currently in transition. Belize's Parliament was dissolved on October 6, 2020. General elections were held on Wednesday, 11 November 2020. The former opposition will now form a new Government. In the meanwhile, the BRC must continue to get aid to those impacted by disasters while the new government is formed, and key offices are transitioned over the next coming months. This should only serve to heighten and emphasize the importance of the National Society's continuous role and responsibility to aid the people of Belize on a neutral, impartial and apolitical basis notwithstanding the natural vagaries that attend in democratic governments.

Hurricane Season

Given the high season of rains in the region, it is not ruled out that new floods will occur in the area and that the affected families will once again suffer the onslaught of the weather and the hurricane season in the region. An additional factor is the vulnerability of basic infrastructure exposed to recurrent hydrometeorological factors such as constitute the roads, basic public services, and diseases' appearance. It is important to consider articulating the national government to estimate the contingency plans to implement for these related factors.

As of 13 November 2020, a new cyclonic event is headed toward Central America and will make landfall as a hurricane as soon as Monday 16 November 2020.

COVID-19 Pandemic

This DREF operation and its operational strategy considers the risks related to the current COVID-19 pandemic and is aligned with the IFRC global emergency appeal that supports National Societies to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of November 8, 2020, Belize has a total of 2,364 recovered cases, 1,742 active cases, 4,076 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and have registered 72 deaths according to the Ministry of Health data⁸. The effective reproduction number as of November 9th is 1.15 with a testing positive rate of 16.71%. Belize is experiencing a high 14 day cumulated incidence of 628.7 per 100K.

National Society responses to COVID-19 are supported through the IFRC Response which is facilitating and supporting them to maintain critical service provision, while adapting to COVID-19. This DREF operation is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and regional Emergency Plan of Action for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC Americas Regional Office, in coordination with global and regional partners. The NS will also now have to respond to the flooding caused by Hurricane Eta to more than half of the country. Over 50,000-60,000 persons have been affected by the flood and 78 persons are currently in shelters and these numbers are expected to increase as rescue missions are still underway.

⁸ [Belize Ministry of Health](#).

The National Society has been actively involved in assisting families affected by COVID 19 by distributing hygiene kits, food packages and disseminating information. The National Society has been working closely with the health officials by supporting trainings, donating PPE's and hygiene kits to front line workers. The National Society will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders and revise the action plan accordingly if needed, taking into consideration the evolving COVID19 situation and the operational risks that might develop, including operational challenges related to access to the affected population, availability of items, procurement issues, and movement of National Society volunteers and staff. For more information please consult the [COVID 19 Operation Page](#).

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

To provide disaster relief to 1,000 families (5,000 people) within the affected areas of Cayo, Stann Creek, and Belize Districts who have been heavily affected and/or displaced due to floods. During the next 4 months the Belize Red Cross will provide assistance in shelter, health, wash and livelihood through in-kind or cash assistance.

Proposed Strategy:

The proposed strategy is based on maintaining the coordination previously established with NEMO and other first response agencies and conducting needs assessments in affected communities. In this way, the intervention will be supported by data and official reports that will allow for a continuous monitoring and evaluation system that effectively provides the identification of particular needs. Community feedback mechanisms will be established where the action plan results can be fed back and evaluated to measure good practice and accountability to the affected people.

The BRC will have the full support of its 420 active volunteers across their 7 branches. The National Society will assign 22 volunteers and 5 staff to be dedicated to this operation.

The Belize Red Cross will conduct a sectorial assessment in the field of interventions listed below, in close coordination with National authorities and the National Emergency Management Organization. The assessment will allow to identify the population to be reached with in-kind assistance and the population to be reached with cash assistance based on specific needs identified.

Health, Water and Sanitation: Initial stages of the intervention are meant to support the immediate needs of the people in the most keenly affected. As flood waters recede across the impacted territories, there will be a need for cleaning supplies to remove mud, debris and residual water from homes. People temporarily staying in collective centres (familial and government) require support, especially in the context of COVID-19. Family units will also require additional support, particularly given the fact that most persons have opted to shelter with family instead of formal Collective Centres. The BRC will distribute the following items:

Item	General Composition
Cleaning Kits	Broom, mop, cleaning solution, gloves, chlorine bleach, scrubbing brush, sponge.
Family Hygiene Kits	Washing powder, soaps, shampoo, toilet paper, rags toothpaste, toothbrush, sanitary towels.

There is also a need to assess the quality of water for human consumption and preventive health actions for populations returning to their homes and those living in Collective Centres. This will avoid outbreaks and epidemics caused by the post-flood conditions. The National Society will purchase bottled water and distribute it for 2,000 people. Information will be provided regarding best practices on water, health and sanitation as outlined in the Communications and CEA section below.

The Belize Red Cross will also continue to distribute buckets and jerrycans to facilitate safe storage of water. The beneficiaries will also be sensitized to the use of safe water and hygiene promotion.

COVID-19 PPEs such as masks will be distributed to the affected population.

Livelihoods: The BRC has been trained in Cash Transfer Programming and has used this modality in their latest response operation in 2016. The National Society will embark on a Cash and Voucher Assistance program in the onset of the response in order to respond to the immediate needs of the population through unconditioned and multi-purpose cash assistance. The target population for this intervention is 500 families (2,500 people) each receiving a card valued at USD285.00 to support their immediate and recovery needs. The transfer value is reflective of the minimum wage in the country of USD\$1.65 per hour or USD\$264 per month⁹. This voucher will therefore allow the most vulnerable, low income affected families to cover their monthly needs in terms of shelter, health, WASH and livelihoods.

The provision of cash also covers some of the shortfall of items that cannot be provided in kind such as food, the replacement or repair of appliances, replacement of school books for families with children, clothing, medicine and other immediately essential items. It will also provide a space for the National Society to offer assistance to those affected while waiting on other relief items. Local procurement and the use of cash will have an added value of contributing and stimulating local markets that would have been negatively impacted by flood waters.

The multi-purpose, unconditioned cash assistance is planned to be implemented through IFRC's tested, reliable and transparent debit card mechanism.

Shelter: After this initial form of aid, the National Society will procure and distribute shelter tool kits, tarpaulins, kitchen sets and blankets. These items will help support the restoration of homes that have been severely impacted. The BRC will also distribute mattresses to affected families based on the needs assessments conducted. It is recognised that these items may be purchased with the unconditional CVA first distributed, but the average cost of a basic mattress represents approximately half the value on the card. Families are likely to have lost more than one of these items and given the high cost, it is estimated that they may not be able to afford to replace these items for every member of the family. Providing mattresses to those most in need will reduce the need to share beds within families, therefore protecting the most vulnerable.

Blankets and kitchen kits are currently being distributed from the National Society's stock. More of these items will be procured to complement the mattress distribution and to replenish the stock being utilised.

Communication and CEA: Information, education, and communication on vector diseases will also be provided to the general population through the creation of PSAs for radio, posters, banners, and other methods of public communication. The same will be done for education on the use of chlorine bleach and other means of water purification. These interventions will target all 1,000 families and benefit the public at large. The activities will be supported by the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean CCST Communications and CEA Officer.

Activities will be carried out in coordination with National Response agencies (including NEMO) to effectively contribute to the national response strategy led by government institutions, which will allow the optimal use of available resources.

Gender, protection, and inclusion principles will be incorporated into activities by encouraging male and female volunteers, women's participation in community activities, and monitoring through focus group activities with women and other vulnerable groups.

Operational support:

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

Reporting on the operation will be conducted by the IFRC's minimum reporting standards. A final report will be issued within three months of the operation's completion. The results of past lessons learned will also be presented to the implementation team, and the corresponding reports' preparation will be monitored.

Administration and Finance

BRC has assigned a focal point (Project Manager) and a dedicated team to manage the planned disaster relief operation. The Director General of the National Society has the overall oversight and will set the direction of the operations; she has extensive experience in disaster response. The team of BRC is currently managing four projects with year-to-date implementation rates of over 80%, one of which (for CHF164,630.96) is ending, releasing its capacity for absorbing new workload. As of October, the closing balance of working advances is only CHF 18,747.79.

⁹ [Minimum wage in Belize.](#)

The IFRC CCST has also assigned a dedicated Programme Manager to support the National Society. The IFRC PMER and finance team will also provide necessary support and guidance to the National Society operations team to ensure that IFRC policies and procedures are followed during the implementation of the planned activities under the DREF. Surge personnel will also be deployed in order to support the cash assistance programme.

IFRC also provides the necessary operational support for budget review and validation and bank transfers and technical assistance to National Societies on expense justification procedures, including invoice review and validation.

Human Resources

The DREF operation will hire:

- One Project Officer, for 4 months
- One Finance Officer, for 4 months (CVA experience a requirement)
- One PMER Officer, for 4 months

In addition, 22 volunteers and 5 staff of the Belize Red Cross will be fully dedicated to the operation in targeted areas.

The Belize Red Cross expects that their entire 420 active volunteers of the National Society will be involved at some stage in the response. Therefore, they will be insured for 2020 and 2021. An estimated 100 volunteers involved in the response activities will receive visibility during their actions.

During the ongoing COVID-19 operation, the National Society is operating at full capacity and needs to increase its ability to implement the planned emergency response actions. IFRC is currently working with partners to deploy Rapid Response Personnel. Once agreed upon, the deployment would be for three months to assist the Belize Red Cross with executing, monitoring, and reporting operational activities.

The workforce and volunteer base of Belize Red Cross have benefitted from additional training that have increased skill levels over the past few years. During the past months, staff and volunteers have been trained in the following areas, among others: use of Kobo and ODK software for mapping of vulnerable communities; psychosocial support; street mediation; conflict management; Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST); Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA); Enhanced Community Based Health and First Aid (eCBHFA) First Aid; Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Public Health in Emergencies; financial systems management; and resource mobilization. Some staff and volunteers are also members of the Regional Intervention Teams (RIT).

The implementation of the DREF operation will be supported by the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean CCST with frequent technical missions to Belize.

Logistics

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including procurement, customs clearance and storage following the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes, and procedures.

All procurements related to this operation will follow the IFRC's standard procurement procedures and Sphere Standards for household item purchases. The National Society and IFRC CCST will coordinate with the Americas Regional Logistics Unit for any major procurement. Belize Red Cross enjoys tax exemption on imported goods.

The following items should be procured for distribution and replenished through IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit:

- Shelter tool kits
- Tarpaulins
- Blankets
- Mattresses
- Kitchen Sets
- Buckets 14L
- Jerrycans collapsible 10L
- Family hygiene kits

Procurement processes will be managed at the national level by the BRCS with the support of IFRC. This approach will minimize the amount of funds to be transferred to the National Society via Working Advance system.

The National Society will locally procure cleaning kits.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

In the context of containment of the epidemic and measures taken, there is a strong probability of compounding existing gender inequalities, increasing the harm and risks for women, girls and people of sexual diversity, both at home and in the community. The situation could worsen in the aftermath of hurricane Eta, due to overcrowding in shelters, isolation of communities, and the workload of the police force and security institutions.

According to the UNDP Belize Assessment¹⁰, both WHO and UNICEF have indicated the importance of forecasting for gender differences during the passing of a disaster using criteria such as meeting the needs of pregnant or breastfeeding women and prioritizing health services and nutrition for children. Similarly, women living in rural areas are among the most vulnerable because they have limited access to information, goods and services, training, and fewer resources to return their families to normal in the short term.

“In some rural communities, for example in Maya communities, women and girls face additional challenges that render them more vulnerable in situations of domestic violence. For example, communities may be far removed from the district court office, and the local alcalde does not have the jurisdiction to deal with any act that constitutes domestic violence. Lack of information on their rights or language barriers may also present challenges to access to justice.”¹¹

While women make up 51% of the working age population, they only account for 42% of the labour force and 63% of the unemployed population of Belize¹². This data according to 2019 Labour force statistics emphasizes that women are already positioned from a point of socio-economic vulnerability. It is therefore that response efforts purposefully capture this target group.

It's also suggested that there is some awareness that the risk of domestic abuse increases when families are in shelters, or when they are stressed for a long time due to economic losses related to a disaster.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

The CEA approach is crosscutting and used in activities implemented as part of the different intervention strategies. It is used to integrate communication and participation for the affected and targeted communities. The activities proposed as part of the CEA approach include: sharing timely information with communities to support community preparedness and primary response actions, promoting physical and mental health during and after the flooding emergency through social networks, small group sessions, newsletters other actions. Additionally, establishing a mechanism for complaints, consultations, and recommendations during the emergency. CEA support will be provided to other areas such as Shelter, Health, WASH, Livelihoods, and in the case of Cash interventions, the CEA toolbox elements for cash programmes will be used.

CEA will be used in the response phase from the needs assessments to incorporate some key questions to develop community participation activities in the intervention. Additionally, information as aid actions will reinforce the public awareness messages not only for the emergency response but also to emphasize the protection messages for COVID-19. Belize Red Cross has experience in collecting information; in 2018 data was collected from 19 communities with a total reach of 10,921 persons.

Belize Red Cross benefits from a strong presence in the community. The Regional CEA team will support CEA focal point of the National Society in implementing feedback mechanisms to address questions, doubts and identify rumours circulating in the communities. The information collected through these mechanisms will feed into the intervention areas to improve, change, or improved the intervention.

Communications

The Communications Unit will provide coverage and dissemination for the main actions in operation, preparing digital content for dissemination in media outlets such as: web, social networks, internal bulletins, audio-visual material, etc.

The international media's attention has been focused on other issues, so it is a challenge to make visible the magnitude of the impact of this disaster. Additional effort will be required to attract media attention and help mobilize resources.

¹⁰ [UNDP_RBLAC_CasoDeEstudioBeliceSP.pdf](#)

¹¹ Belize Judiciary: Justice Through A Gender Lens, Gender Equity Protocol for Judicial Officers.

¹² <http://sib.org.bz/statistics/labour-force/>

Security

Belize Red Cross volunteers have been trained in basic safety standards (based on the Stay Safe manuals). They will have the necessary visibility material (uniforms according to BRC regulations) and will be provided accident insurance made available by the Movement.

All volunteers will be briefed on the possible risks faced and provided with the necessary PPE to conduct their duties effectively and safely.

Activities planned Week / Month		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP084	CEA activities to promote community-based disease control and health promotion (includes the promotion of safe water practices)																
AP021	CBHFA volunteers are identified and activated for emergency response.																
AP021	Health and hygiene promotion campaigns are implemented on the prevention and control of common communicable diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea, bloody diarrhoea, dermatitis, vector borne diseases and other outbreaks that may occur during emergencies in addition to reinforce of COVID-19 protocols. This will also include campaigns on the promotion of safe water use practices.																
AP021	Reproduce and distribute IEC materials on community-based disease prevention, epidemic preparedness, and health promotion, complemented by the use of social media and youth as agents of behavioural change (YABC).																



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 2,500 (500 families)

Male: 1,250

Female: 1,250

Requirements (CHF): 40,736

Needs analysis: Water, sanitation, and hygiene needs are extensive throughout the affected areas where groundwater supplies have been impacted by storm water intrusion and other contaminants and affected populations have been affected by water scarcity. Sanitation needs are also extensive on the impacted areas. Sanitation systems in hospitals need assessment and repair. Risk of water-related disease in high in the risk of water borne diseases is expected to remain high in the weeks following the disaster. Lack of sanitation and hygiene is likely to be a driver of these diseases. It is estimated that 6-8 weeks following the hurricane risk for vector-borne diseases will be high.

Population to be assisted: For this operation, priority will be given to assisting people affected in Cayo, Stann Creek and Belize Districts with particular attention on the Cayo and Belize districts as the most affected areas. The selection of this population is based on current damage assessments and needs.

Programme standards/benchmarks: The proposed WASH activities follow the National standards of Belize and Sphere standards when it comes to the water distribution and the content of the IFRC family Hygiene kits.

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.	# people reached with water-related services Target: 2,000 people
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P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population.	# people benefit from water that is fit for human consumption Target: 2,000 people																
		Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP026	Conduct a needs assessment of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, define issues and assess capacity to address the problem																	
AP026	Provide safe drinking water to 2,000 people in selected communities																	
AP026	Continuously monitor the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation in targeted communities																	
AP026	Coordinate with other WASH actors on target group needs and appropriate response.																	
AP026	Distribution of jerrycans 10L and replenishment																	
AP026	Distribution of buckets 14L and replenishment																	
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population.	# family hygiene kits delivered to target population. Target: 500 families # cleaning kits distributed Target: 500 families																
		Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP030	Procurement and distribution of 500 family hygiene kits (includes replenishment of stock)																	
AP030	Local procurement and distribution of 500 cleaning kits (includes replenishment of stock)																	
AP030	Select target groups, key sanitation messages, and methods of communication with beneficiaries (mass media and interpersonal communication).																	
AP030	Community training on water treatment at household level, sanitation and waste management.																	

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 75,839

P&B Output Code	S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform.																
	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected.	# of insured volunteers Target: 420 # of volunteers equipped: Target: 100															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP040	Ensure that volunteers are insured																
AP040	Provide comprehensive briefings on the role of volunteers and the risks they face																
AP040	Ensure that volunteers are aware of their rights and responsibilities																
AP040	Ensure that volunteers have the proper equipment for personal protection and to deliver their volunteer services																
P&B Output Code	Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place.	<i>Please include an indicator from the Key Data Sheet with a target</i>															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	AP042	Hiring of staff to support the operation (1 Project Manager, 1 PMER Officer, 1 Finance Officer)															
P&B Output Code	Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured.																
	Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.	Two surge deployed to support the operation # of monitoring visits: Target: 1 One lesson learned carried out															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	AP046	2 Rapid Response personnel deployed to the operation															
	AP046	IFRC monitoring visits															
AP046	Lessons Learned workshop																
P&B Output	Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved.																

Code	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP084	Community communication activities ensure people are kept informed of operational plans and progress and have they information they need about the response, but also continuing reinforcing COVID-19 messages																
AP084	Community feedback systems (including rumour and/or perception tracking) are established, and feedback acted upon and used to improve the operation																

Budget

See [Annex](#) attached.

Reference documents

Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



DREF OPERATION

MDRBZ006 - Belize - Hurricane Eta

16/11/2020

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Shelter - Relief	25,960
Clothing & Textiles	35,910
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	25,750
Medical & First Aid	4,000
Teaching Materials	2,300
Utensils & Tools	11,000
Other Supplies & Services	12,500
Cash Disbursement	153,060
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	270,480
Distribution & Monitoring	38,400
Transport & Vehicles Costs	9,500
Logistics Services	10,600
Logistics, Transport & Storage	58,500
International Staff	24,000
National Society Staff	15,200
Volunteers	7,510
Personnel	46,710
Workshops & Training	3,000
Workshops & Training	3,000
Travel	5,000
Information & Public Relations	11,980
Office Costs	2,000
Communications	1,200
Financial Charges	500
General Expenditure	20,680
DIRECT COSTS	399,370
INDIRECT COSTS	25,959
TOTAL BUDGET	425,329

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	
AOF2	Shelter	129,259
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	166,204
AOF4	Health	13,291
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	40,736
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7	Migration	
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	42,504
SFI2	Effective International Disaster Management	33,335
SFI3	Influence others as leading strategic partners	
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	
TOTAL		425,329

