

Emergency appeal MDR43007	GLIDE n°: TC-2020-000218-NIC TC-2020-000220-HND TC-2020-000222-GTM
Date of issue: 24 November 2020	Timeframe covered by this update: 8 November to 24 November 2020.
Operation start date: 8 November 2020	Operation end date: 31 May 2022 (18 months)
Funding requirements: 20 million swiss francs (CHF). As of 24 November, there is a 8% coverage of the Appeal. The IFRC kindly encourages increased donor support to this Emergency Appeal to enable the targeted National Societies to assist the affected communities hit by Hurricane Eta and Iota. For the Donor Response, click here . To make a personal donation to the Appeal, click here .	DREF amount initially allocated: 1 million Swiss francs (CHF) allocated to Nicaragua (CHF 440,000), Honduras (CHF 400,000) and Guatemala (CHF 160,000). In addition, IFRC have allocated 1.5 million from DREF funds to: Belize (CHF 450,000), Costa Rica (CHF 350,000) Panama (CHF 150,000) and Colombia (CHF 500,000) to respond to the effects of the hurricanes.
People targeted: 15,000 families (75,000 people)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved and supporting the operation: American Red Cross, British Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Guatemalan Red Cross, Honduran Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Nicaraguan Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and The Canadian Red Cross Society.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Guatemala National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), Honduras National Risk Management System (SINAGER), Nicaragua National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention to Disasters (SINAPRED), Emergencies and Disasters for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC), Office for the Coordination of Affairs Humanitarian (OCHA), with the agencies and programs of the United Nations System, and member Organizations of the Humanitarian Country Team (EHP).	

This Appeal will consider the effects of the two hurricanes as a single operation for Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala. The field team is expanding the affected territories covered by the Red Cross support in all three countries, significantly increasing the population to be reached according to the new needs. The Emergency Appeal Revision is underway and will be shared soon (available [here](#)).

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

On 3 November, Hurricane Eta struck Nicaragua as a Category 4 storm, causing landslides, and flooding that displaced thousands and left scores of people dead or missing in Central America and part of the Caribbean.

Just 13 days later, Hurricane Iota caused worsened the situation in the areas already affected by Eta and significantly extended the impact to more regions of Nicaragua, and other Central American countries. This 2020 Atlantic hurricane season has been historically active, with Iota bringing the season's count to the 31st named storm, breaking the 2005 record when 28 storms were named. Iota



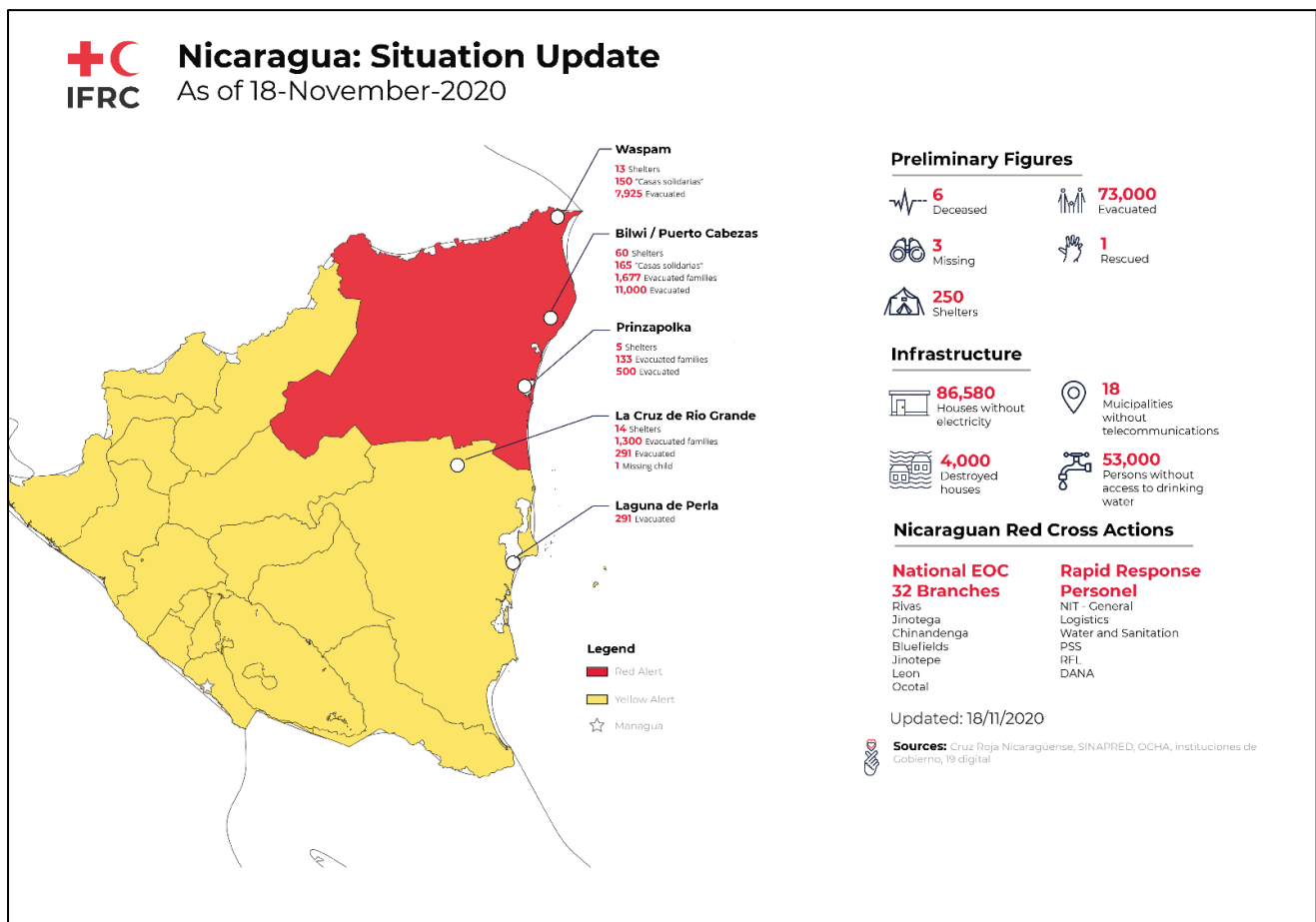
Honduran Red Cross (HRC) volunteers carrying out rescues and assessments. Source: HRC, 18 November 2020.

originated as a tropical wave that moved into the Eastern Caribbean on 10 November. The storm quickly strengthened into a hurricane on 15 November, becoming a Category 5 hurricane on 16 November. Iota made landfall in Nicaragua and the Gracias a Dios region in Honduras as a category 5 hurricane on 17 November, causing flash flooding, river flooding, and potentially deadly landslides. Some parts of the region continue with swollen rivers that have burst their banks, flooding in communities, and cutting off access and power supply.¹

Before Iota struck, about 3.6 million people across Central America had been affected by Eta, a storm that hovered for days over Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala, with heavy rains creating flooding and landslides. With Iota, further devastation was caused in additional areas and between the two storms nine countries in Central America were affected. As of today, more than 7 million people in Central America have been affected by two hurricanes in a two-week period.²

Nicaragua:

Iota is now considered the strongest storm to hit Nicaragua in the country's history. It came just a few days after hurricane Eta hit the same Caribbean region of Nicaragua. Thousands of people were affected after Iota made landfall near the coastal community of Haulover with maximum sustained winds near 155 mph, according to the NHC³.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented a preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment (DANA) report⁴ after Eta on 9 November to the diplomatic missions and INGO's in the country, estimating that 2 million people were exposed to Eta mainly in the Autonomous Region of the North Caribbean Coast; Mining Triangle, Nueva Segovia; Jinotega and Chinandega. According to the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Eta alone left 178 million American dollars (USD) in losses, equivalent to 1.5% of Nicaragua's gross domestic product (GDP).⁵

An updated DANA report from the government is expected by 24 November, including preliminary information on Iota. In the meantime, OCHA⁶ reports that in Nicaragua Iota's rains reached as far as the western Pacific shores, causing flooding and saturating soil in the North, Central Pacific, and Caribbean regions.

Honduras:

¹ CNN. Iota causa devastación en Centroamérica cuando se recuperaba del paso de Eta. 19 November 2020.

² OCHA Central America: 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season – Situation Report No. 4. 20 November 2020

³ National Hurricane Center - NOAA. Iota Public Advisory. 18 November 2020.

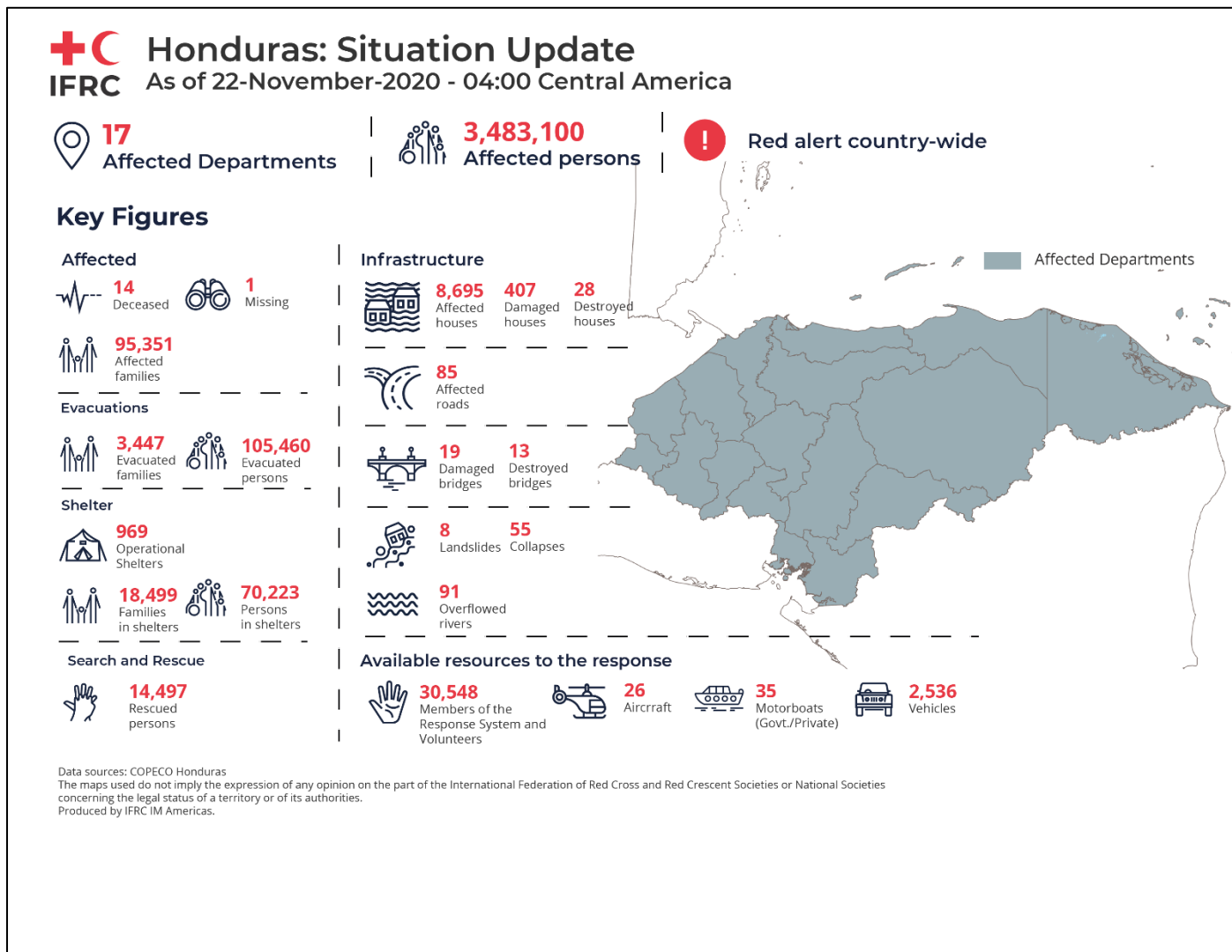
⁴ El 19 digital. Resumen preliminar sobre daños provocados por el Huracán ETA en Nicaragua. 9 November 2020.

⁵ Hola News. "El ánimo está por el suelo", dice sobreviviente de huracanes en Nicaragua. 20 November 2020.

⁶ OCHA Central America: 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season – Situation Report No. 4. 20 November 2020

According to OCHA's⁷ latest reports, more than 3 million people live in areas impacted by the Eta Hurricane and about 600,000 have been affected by Iota, which caused severe damage on the Atlantic coast, especially in the Valley of Sula, the indigenous communities of Gracias a Dios, the Department of El Paraíso, Olancho and extending into western parts of the country, such as Copán and Ocotepeque.

The Hurricane Iota impact forced hundreds of thousands of people in the Sula Valley to evacuate previously flooded areas, causing a doubling of the population sheltered or in temporary places without adequate conditions. The impact of the second floods has been more catastrophic. The soil's saturation is generating some landslides in the hills surrounding the Sula valley, forcing the people living in the area to evacuate.



Guatemala:

As of 23 November, the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) reported over 1.9 million people affected by Eta and Iota, including more than 1.2 million in need of humanitarian assistance. Among those affected, about 240,000 people are displaced in official and non-official collective centres.⁸

The northeast of Guatemala has been most severely affected. Eta brought days of consecutive rains that led to extensive flooding and landslides, leaving infrastructure damaged and entire communities flooded. In the village of Queja in Alta Verapaz, a landslide buried some 150 homes. Within two weeks, Iota brought even more rainfall to already saturated soils. Many communities, especially in Alta Verapaz and Izabal, which were the worst affected areas by Eta, continue to be inundated and isolated. Damage to roads and bridges prevents access to parts of the affected areas. It might take several weeks before the full extent of the damage and needs can be assessed, as access to parts of the affected areas is hindered. The most damage so far is reported in Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Petén, Chiquimula, Quiché, and Huehuetenango, but additional departments have been affected by Iota such as Jalapa. Additional rains could cause more floods and landslides and lead to further damage and increased needs.

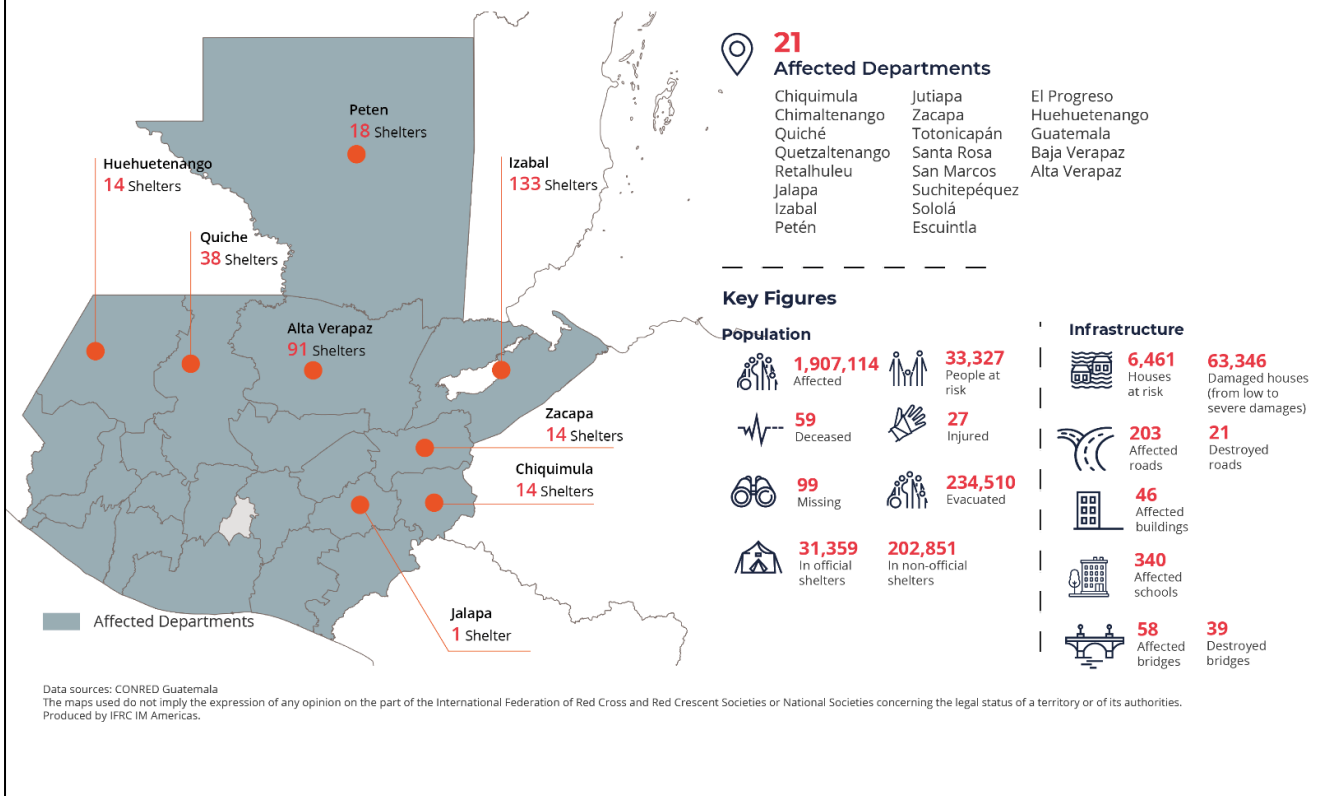
⁷ Ídem.

⁸ [CONRED Emergencia. 23 November 2020.](#)



Guatemala: Situation Update

As of 23-November-2020 - 08:00 Central America



Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Societies

National Societies are responding to the two emergencies as one operation, providing much-needed support and assistance to hard-hit communities. Red Cross volunteers and staff have been deployed to remote locations to provide much needed services in the most affected areas. Activities are being supported by the Americas Regional Office (ARO) and working together with Red Cross Movement partners, authorities, community organizations, and other organizations. The NSs initially mobilized resources and personnel in response to Hurricane Eta, and their actions were interrupted by preparations and response to the new Hurricane Iota. Iota's actual impact is becoming clearer as assessment teams' access hard-to-reach affected areas isolated by extensive flooding. Damage assessments have been delayed due to access constraints and lack of stability in communications. Thanks to the global agreement between IFRC and Airbus Air Foundation, the Red Cross teams conducted air assessments, distributed initial humanitarian aid, and conducted evacuations in Honduras.

Responding to the COVID-19 context in the three countries is considered at all levels of the NS and the IFRC. Duty of Care, Business Continuity Plan, and additional security measures that are required are being followed up according to the National Prevention Plans. Volunteers and staff who deploy to the field follow safety protocols to protect themselves, communities, and resources.

The **Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)** has responded by activating its Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and 32 branches at the National level, supporting evacuations and rescue missions in several of the affected areas, assessing damages, and bringing humanitarian aid to those in most need. 63 ambulances are operating nationwide, and 1,520 volunteers are activated at the national level. NRC supported evacuations in several communities in the Northern Caribbean Coast as well as Rivas, Boaco, Chontales, Sebaco, Ocotal, and Jinotega. A response team of 39 specialists (WASH, CEA, PSS, Logistics) was pre-deployed, awaiting Iota's impact in Bilwi on the northern coast. On November 19th, the team reached Waspam with 80 tons of food and household items for 5,000 families. NRC volunteers continue to support the government Damage Assessment and Need Analysis (DANA) in Bilwi, Prinzapolka, and other affected areas. There were partial damages reported to the Bilwi branch with only two offices functional and the loss of an ambulance. The Rivas branch requested immediate support on WASH following the storm. Several communities in Tola are isolated due to flooding, and the level of impact is still being assessed. NRC has requested support to increase water production capacity due to the great need for water sources. The National Society sent response teams to Waspam, Rivas, Jinotega, Bilwi, and Puerto Cabezas. NRC has shared preventive messages in local media and provided interviews to international media. Also, vector control work, food and hygiene kits delivery continue. More than

7,500 aquatic rescues have taken place, and 13 people resumed contact with their families through Restoring Family Links (RFL) services.

The **Honduran Red Cross (HRC)** prepositioned rescue boats in the south and the north of Honduras to have initial Search and Rescue capacity based on geographical potential scenarios of Hurricane Iota impact. To date, 11,706 evacuations, 147 air rescues, and 4,707 water rescues have been made by the National Society, and more than 3,000 food packages have been distributed. A total of 1,608 hygiene kits were distributed in collective centres in 8 communities before hurricane Iota reached the area. A management plan for volunteers was established in the areas of intervention. The National Society continues to evacuate families to collective centres and others to foster homes. 700 family hygiene kits have been prepositioned in Pimienta, Villanueva, San Manuel, Puerto Cortés, Omoa, and Choloma in the northern Cortes department to distribute in collective centres. Key evacuation and preventive messages are being shared, and the list of safe accommodations is being updated. HRC continues to provide medical, psychosocial support, and RFL services to the affected communities. The National Society prepositioned in the Tegucigalpa warehouse household items (HHI) for 1,500 families to be distributed to the most affected areas. Additionally, there is an extra amount of HHI donated by the French and British governments expected to arrive in Honduras in the upcoming days.



HRC volunteers supporting the aeromedical transport of a mother and her child to receive specialized medical support jointly with the Honduran Air Force. Source: HRC, 20 November 2020.

Under the leadership of the Honduran Red Cross, different internal and external coordination mechanisms have been established. An agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and PAHO to install the Health Basic Clinic Emergency Response Unit (ERU). The National Society received a letter of request from the MoH for its installation in the municipality of Choloma, in the department of Cortes, but this location may change in the next few days due to changing priorities after Iota's passage. The National Society is also participating in the different coordination mechanisms of the humanitarian sectors of Protection, Health, and Shelters. On 18 November, the Red Cross teams in place attended the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) coordination meeting in San Pedro Sula, led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to discuss the actions implemented by all sector members to Eta and Iota's response.

At COPECO's request, the Honduran Red Cross is responsible for coordinating the DANA process through the different municipalities. People in 286 municipalities have been trained, and an information management system has been put in place for COPECO.

Unfortunately, due to the impact of flooding in several areas of the country, some branches and volunteers have been affected by the floods. 10 HRC branches suffered damages: Taulabé (roof damage), Siguatepeque (partial flooding), Marcala (roof and wall damages, partial flooding), Pimienta: (roof damage), La Lima (completely flooded), Choloma (completely flooded), Chamelecón (completely overflowed), Yoro (roof damage), El Progreso (roof damage), and Teupasenti (roof damage).

The **Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)** activated its Emergency Operations Centre at headquarters and activated its 20 branches in response to Eta and later to monitor Iota and Guatemala's conditions. Ahead of the expected rains, recommendations for preparedness were disseminated via GRC's social media channels for both Hurricanes. During the first hours of the impacts, volunteers in the affected areas have evacuated families in collaboration with the national police in Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Petén, Jalapa, and Chiquimula. A Search and Rescue team was deployed from GRC headquarters to Izabal. Volunteers continue to monitor the rising river levels and damage to infrastructure. Damage Assessment and Need Analysis (DANA) are ongoing, but due to damage to roads and bridges, access remains constrained, and many communities continue to be isolated. Some areas can only be reached by boat, others via narrow paths over unstable soil. GRC volunteers living in the affected areas are among the affected population. Psychosocial support, prehospital care, and



GRC volunteers providing psychosocial support to children in Puerto Barrios Izabal. Source: GRC, 21 November 2020.

medical assistance are provided in the affected departments, including people staying in collective centres. Prepositioned stock was used to distribute HHI, such as hygiene kits, blankets, and kitchen sets. In the first weeks of the emergency, 300 GRC volunteers have provided support to 5,180 people or 819 families. The interventions have been mostly concentrated in the severely affected areas of Cobán in Alta Verapaz and Puerto Barrios in Izabal. Still, since the impact of Iota, the intervention areas have expanded to include other affected municipalities. The affected areas suffer from historical, social exclusion with mostly indigenous communities speaking various dialects, with high rates of poverty as well as chronic and acute malnutrition rates. Estimates are that over 1.8 million people have been affected in the country.

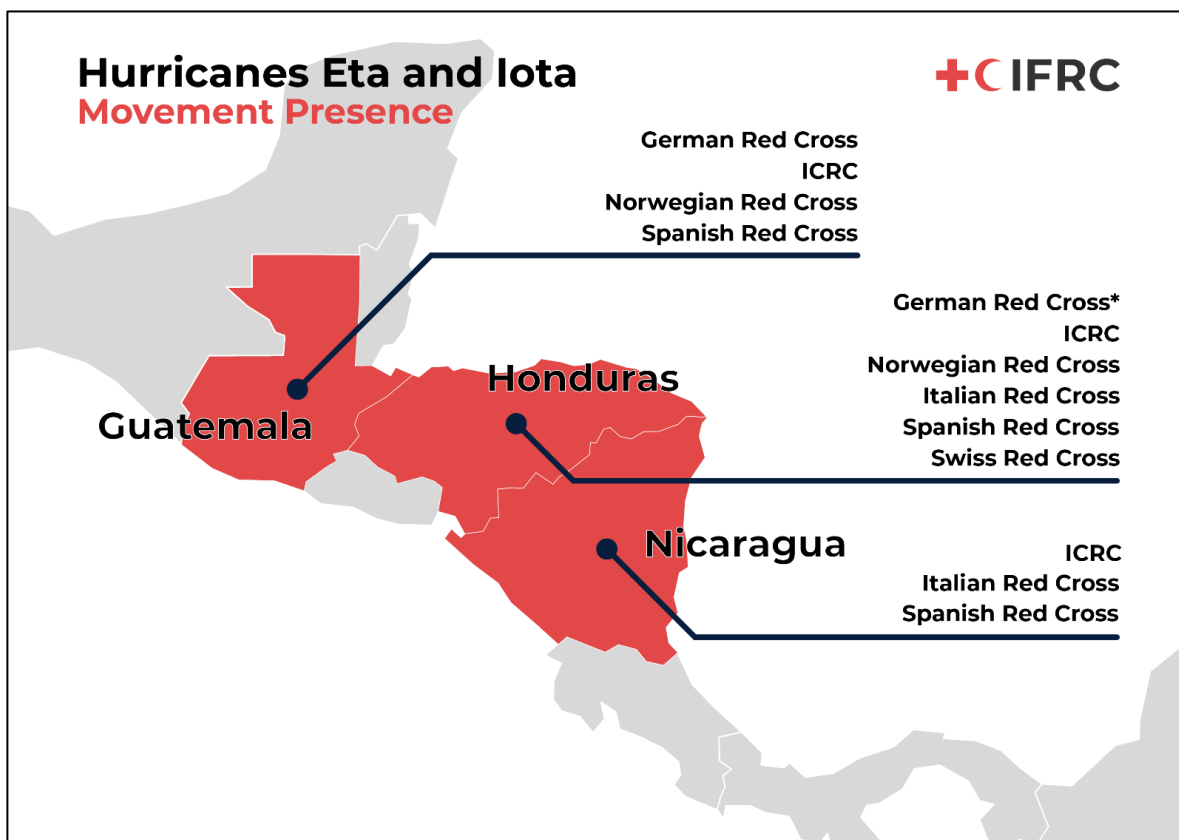
A National General Operational Plan of Action was elaborated to respond to the immediate and early recovery needs resulting from Eta's impact. It will likely be revised to adjust as needs change in the aftermath of Iota, which has affected additional departments. Coordination at the national level continues via CONRED and at departmental and municipal levels via the Emergency Operations Centres. GRC participates in Interagency Joint Needs Assessments, in coordination with CONRED, UN OCHA and other UN agencies, and INGOs.

GRC is organizing daily Movement Coordination meetings with its partners, including IFRC, Spanish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, German Red Cross, and the ICRC. Partners are contributing to funds as well as in-kind donations. Additional contributions to the GRC response have been received from the French Red Cross via PIRAC, the French Government, the Spanish AECID, the Government of Korea, and the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB). Through its website and social media platforms, GRC has launched a fundraising campaign and receives contributions from private and corporate donors.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

The Red Cross Movement has been very active since before the onset of the emergency, actively tracking and alerting the storm development, participating in regional coordination meetings called by the IFRC, and strengthening the affected countries' existing coordination mechanisms. Partner National Societies (NS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are actively sharing information with National Societies, the IFRC, and counterparts in their respective headquarters. NS with a Central American presence have provided vehicles, equipment, and human and financial resources working in development projects in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

In the COVID-19 context, the localization approach and the focus on local resources are essential. To this end, the Canadian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, German Red Cross, and Italian Red Cross, with a long-term presence in the affected countries, are ready to support the affected National Societies and IFRC actions. Other NS have been in close communication with ARO and participate in the coordination meetings and information sharing.



*German RC has no in-country presence in Guatemala but participates in Movement Coordination meetings, and it is coordinating a bilateral contribution to the National Society.

IFRC Partnerships and Resource Development Department (PRD) has been coordinating with internal and external partners. Two meetings with Movement partners and one meeting with external partners have been held to share needs and actions taken by the Red Cross to support the communities. In-kind donations are being received from donors.

The ICRC is supporting the NS with RFL services, forensic services, mental health, and psychosocial support, water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion, distribution of items (PSS kits, hygiene kits, care kits, kits for child and adolescent safe spaces, food kits) and with resources.

Six Emergency Response Units are deploying to Honduras. Rapid Response Personnel have been deployed to several locations (remote and field). Members from the American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Dominica Red Cross, Ecuadorian Red Cross, German RC, Mexican Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Panamanian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, and Swiss Red Cross have been deployed.

In partnership with PIRAC (French government through the French Red Cross), relief items were shipped from Guadalupe to Guatemala and Honduras. Also, Emergency Response Units (ERUs) are on the way to support the relief actions in Honduras to address urgent needs related to Sanitation, Water, Hygiene promotion, Health, IT & Telecom, and logistics. ERUs are supported by the Spanish Red Cross, German Red Cross, and the Canadian Red Cross.

Emergency Response Units already in Honduras:

- WASH M15 & M40: joint deployment by German, Swedish and Austrian Red Cross.
- MSM20 & IT Telecom by Spanish Red Cross.
- Emergency Clinic, by Canadian Red Cross.
- Logistics: joint deployment by Swiss (lead), British and Spanish Red Cross.

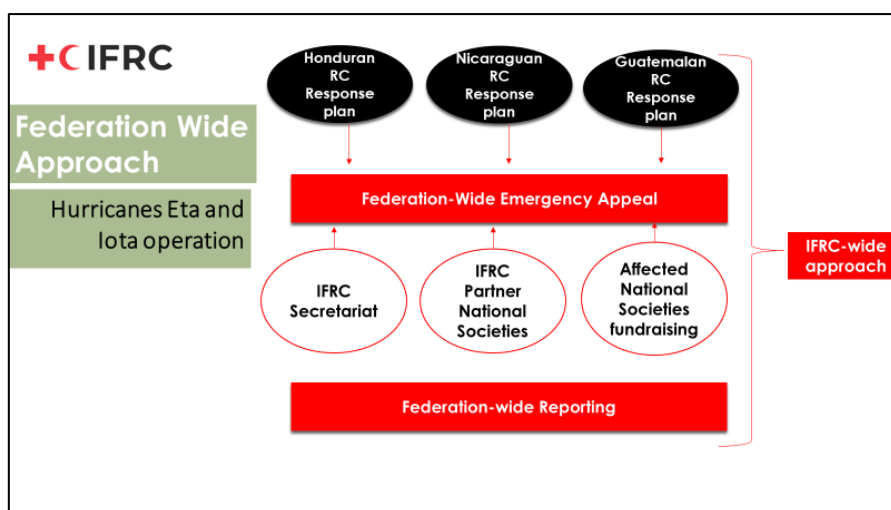
Emergency Response Units alerted for Nicaragua:

- WASH M15.
- Water treatment plants are planned to be dispatched from Guadalupe (PIRAC-French Red Cross).
- WATSAN kit 2 to assist 2,000 beneficiaries with hygiene promotion and household water treatment materials.

Rapid Response Personnel for Guatemala:

- 1 Operations manager from Swedish Red Cross deployed to support GRC, in addition the following alerts have been issued to assist GRC:
 - 1 Community Engagement and Accountability
 - 1 Information Management
 - 1 Communication officer
 - 1 Assessment Coordinator
 - 1 Planning Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

This operation will have a **Federation-wide approach** to coordinating, planning, implementing, monitoring, reporting, and evaluating. IFRC is coordinating the collection of Movement Partners' actions on bilateral contributions, Rapid Response Personnel deployment and support provided. Support channeled via the IFRC Emergency Appeal will be included in standard reporting and through the [GO emergency page: Central America: Hurricanes Eta and Iota](#). A Federation Wide Reporting (FWR) surge staff will be supporting the setting up of information management systems for the operation.



Overview of other actors in country

At regional level, IFRC is taking part in meetings with CEPREDENAC (Regional coordination platform in Central America), OCHA, UN Agencies, and other international organizations located in the region and/or responding to the emergency. Collaboration and support between different actors and agencies are crucial when considering the current Covid-19 restrictions and limitations. OCHA is coordinating and collecting the actions of the different organizations. All humanitarian actors and their actions are registered on OCHA's [Honduras 345W](#) and [Guatemala 345W](#) platforms.

Nicaragua

The Prevention Mitigation and Disaster Response (Prevención, Mitigación y Atención a Desastre, SINAPRED) activated the departmental, municipal and local structures of the system (CODEPRED, COMUPRED, COLOPRED) and holds daily meetings to evaluate the situation post-impact as well as daily press conferences. DANA process is still undergoing nationwide through SINAPRED's local structures. NRC is an active member of local structures to coordinate the response. The Vice-president holds daily briefings through local media to inform on the ongoing response. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented the [preliminary DANA report](#) after Eta on 9 November to the diplomatic missions and INGO's in the country estimating the 2 million people were exposed to Eta and USD 172 million on damages. An updated report is expected on 24 November including preliminary information on Iota.

Honduras

The Honduras Humanitarian Country Team with the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Honduras and COPECO, and with the support of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), issued on 18 November 2020 a [Flash Appeal for Tropical Storm Eta](#) requesting 69.2 million American dollars to attend 450,000 people. The Honduran Red Cross is also part of the Flash Appeal and it is coordinating its response with the UN system.

The partnership between Airbus and IFRC was activated during the early stages on the emergency and used in Honduras so far, through helicopter flight support from San Pedro Sula, to carry out the following activities:

- Search and rescue and support to evacuations.
- Aerial assessment to support the emergency planning.
- Transport of key personnel and life-saving and essential items.



Airbus agreement activated for search and rescue actions together with Red Cross personnel and aerial assessments. Source: IFRC, 18 November 2020.

Guatemala

The National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shared an international appeal request following Eta's impact to help address the impact of Eta on 600,000 affected people on 10 November 2020. This request is expected to be updated after the impact of Iota.

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has held meetings with CONRED to learn about the actions currently being implemented and the immediate needs of the population. United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations and the Red Cross Movement present in Guatemala participate in the HCT meetings.

Operational Risk Assessment

Identified Risk	Potential impact	Mitigation
Hurricane Season – new events	Given the likelihood of increased rain in the region and the continuation of the 2020 extended hurricane season, it is not ruled out that new floods will occur in already saturated areas. The affected families will once again suffer the onslaught of extreme weather events. An additional factor is the vulnerability of basic infrastructure exposed to recurrent hydrometeorological factors such as roads, basic public services, and existing health threats (Dengue, Zika, etc.)	<p>Continuous monitoring of the hurricane season is ongoing from IFRC regional and country levels by the Operating National Societies.</p> <p>Preparedness actions have been considered in the Business Continuity Plans to protect the teams of volunteers, staff, and key facilities from continuing the operations and provision of deployment of stocks/equipment to respond in the event of further damages.</p>

<p>COVID-19 Pandemic – Risk of infection</p>	<p>Working and responding to different emergencies under the COVID-19 Pandemic is a risk that can increase infections of staff, volunteers, and affected communities.</p> <p>The National Society response to COVID-19 is supported through the IFRC global appeal, which is facilitating and supporting them to maintain critical service provision, while adapting activities to COVID-19. National Society response to COVID-19 is supported through the IFRC global appeal, which is facilitating and supporting them to maintain critical service provision, while adapting activities to the COVID-19 context.</p> <p>The deployment of rapid response personnel, ERUs, Operating NS staff, and volunteers increases the risk of being infected and not operating in the field because of quarantine measures. Staff and volunteers working in the operations contract COVID-19 and are unable to operate under existing protocols.</p>	<p>Teams will adhere to and practice all precautionary measures outlined in the COVID-19 prevention plans. Red Cross volunteers and staff will also have access to PPE, insurance, psychosocial support, and the volunteers' security will always be a priority throughout the operation.</p> <p>Rapid response personnel, ERU members, staff, and volunteers have been placed in different accommodations within the security area of intervention to mitigate the whole team's exposure and continue activities.</p> <p>Transportation movements are monitored, and teams must remain in the same group when transported to the intervention area to facilitate tracking and reduce exposure. IFRC COVID-19 protocols are observed and respected.</p> <p>Permanent coordination between Surge, Staff-health COVID, Security and Business Continuity Plan units at different levels.</p>
<p>Long period of limited access and high operational expenses</p>	<p>Extensive geographic areas have been isolated due to flooding. With Hurricane Eta, soils were saturated by heavy rains, and with Iota, the extension of affected areas expanded. Hundreds of communities are still isolated, with no access to food, safe water, and other basic needs. The waters may recede slower than desirable, so reaching those outlying communities may take longer and incur higher operational expenses.</p>	<p>Continue actions being taken by air and water to get to the hard-to-reach areas to coordinate with governmental authorities and humanitarian agencies to maximize access and resources. Operational costs will be considered in the planning process. IFRC Partnerships and Resource Development Department (PRD), together with the Communications team, is extending the Emergency Appeal to the international community to support the NS's efforts.</p>
<p>Migration flow</p>	<p>Historically, there are "caravans" that leave from the Northern Triangle of Central America. This may generate a migration flow in the next weeks or months. Mainly flows that come from Honduras take routes through Guatemala. Due to lack of livelihoods, internal displacement can occur in the short term, and the family's vulnerability is further exposed in the current emergency context.</p>	<p>NS are monitoring the situation according to the procedures established in the different coordination mechanisms and the migration cell.</p>

Needs analysis

The rains and high winds during its short crossing from Nicaragua into Honduras and parts of Guatemala affected many of the same areas in these countries that are still struggling with Eta's crushing impact and effects on shelter, food security, WASH, health, and protection.⁹

Civil protection systems and the humanitarian system continue to coordinate DANAs, and the three NS are supporting the national efforts. As the DANAs continue, more detailed evaluations of the affectation will be available.

Shelter

In response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota, preventive evacuations were conducted due to the high impact of winds, tidal surge, and heavy rains in all three countries. Families have been taken to collective centres, which has generated the need to ensure that evacuees have basic items to meet their immediate needs. In addition to that, there have been reports of overcrowding in collective centres in Honduras and Guatemala. Therefore, recommendations of social distancing for COVID-19 are not properly being fulfilled, and more PPE and basic equipment are required to receive families within this type of area. The number of collective centres opened is high, and unofficial settlements have not fully been confirmed and are scattered across extensive areas, making it difficult to reach with assistance due to limited resources. Several families have also evacuated to stay with host families, and part of the population in Honduras are living in informal settlements, some along the roads. IOM is implementing a tool to facilitate the identification of people in this situation in Honduras and Guatemala (IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix – DTM).

Many of the displaced persons are in informal settlements due to the two hurricanes and the new displacements. It is challenging to have a real-time assessment to identify these people's needs, as several areas continue to be isolated. The need to have a response from the Shelter sector is high and reported as one of the priorities. The distribution of

⁹ [OCHA. Central America: 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season – Situation Report No. 4. 20 November 2020.](#)

household items and the search for temporary housing to accommodate displaced families and afterward are needed to begin the recovery efforts to repair the resulting damages on their houses in order to return.

As reported to date:

	Nicaragua	Honduras	Guatemala
Reported evacuations	Of the 160,597 people who were sheltered, and the 32,117 families evacuated, most have returned to their homes and communities. According to the latest reports, there are still 964 people in collective centres in Waspam, 560 in Bilwi, and 225 in Prinzapolka for a total of 1,749 families and 8,746 people in collective centres. ¹⁰ Active shelters require food and medical and psychosocial attention. ¹¹	According to COPECO, there are 969 operating Collective Centres, housing 88,722 people (approx. 18,400 families). ¹² IOM is collecting sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) data collection and will share it through its DTM tool.	CONRED reports 332 active official collective centres, hosting 31,659 people, and 203,545 people staying in unofficial centres. ¹³
Reported damage	Notable impacts include roofing damage, extensive power failures, and cuts to telecommunications and access from the Puerto Cabezas municipality, now cut off from Managua and Waspam due to flooded roads. Puerto Cabeza's isolation is especially concerning, as it is the point of entry for supplies to the area. Moreover, Iota all but destroyed the seaport and two local markets. Additionally, the Ministry of Health reports damages to 16 of 81 health facilities, while the Ministry of Education reports damage to 76 schools in the Prinzapolka, Puerto Cabezas, and Waspam municipalities. ¹⁴	There are 25,616 homes affected, 87 sections damaged or collapsed, some 13 bridges destroyed on different roads, and 30,548 people working on rescues. These are apart from the 45 affected by Eta. ¹⁵	There are 70,630 houses with different degrees of affectation, 203 roads affected, 21 roads destroyed, 58 bridges affected, and 40 bridges destroyed. There are 46 buildings and 340 schools affected. ¹⁶

Shelter inter-agency coordination

As the global convener of the shelter cluster, and in support of the existing humanitarian coordinating mechanism in the National Societies, IFRC advocates for the activation of the shelter sector coordination group, considering the needs for shelter assistance due to the impact of Eta and Iota, as well as the presence of at least seven international shelter agencies in the country. IFRC will support the National Societies or another shelter partners in the country who are willing to assume the working group's leadership, depending on the coordination needs identified and the availability of funds. Given the precarity of collective shelters, there is the need to accelerate the transition to safe housing conditions and returning home when possible. Simultaneously, and in the medium term, a process to coordinate the recovery of homes and settlements carried out by various shelter agencies needs to take place.

The Honduras Red Cross is participating in the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) meetings led by the IOM to discuss the actions implemented by all sector members to Eta and Iota's response.

¹⁰ [El 19 digital. Gobierno de Nicaragua prepara informe preliminar de daños y afectaciones causado por el huracán Iota. 22 November 2020.](#)

¹¹ [OCHA. Central America: 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season – Situation Report No. 4. 20 November 2020.](#)

¹² [COPECO. 22 November 2020.](#)

¹³ [CONRED. Emergencia. 23 November 2020.](#)

¹⁴ [OCHA. Central America: 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season – Situation Report No. 4. 20 November 2020.](#)

¹⁵ [COPECO. 22 November 2020.](#)

¹⁶ [CONRED. Emergencia. 23 November 2020.](#)

Livelihoods and basic needs

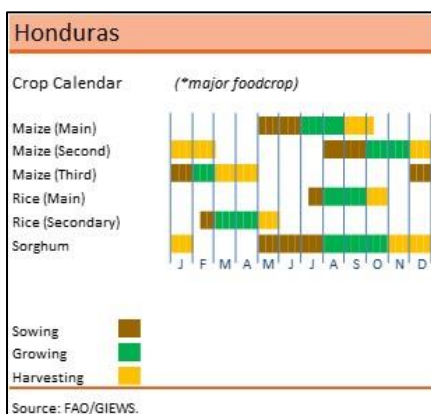
Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala are currently going through the economic effects of the COVID-19 outbreak mobility restrictions and neighbouring countries' lockdowns. Quarantine measures adopted by the population and governments also contributed to the contraction of economic activity in which many livelihoods and businesses have been affected by the outbreak.

As a result of the hurricanes Eta and Iota, a significant number of families are currently in collective centres and sheltered by relatives or friends. Damages to houses and infrastructure such as drinking water systems, allows us to identify that people require basic food needs, access to safe water, clothing, and hygiene items.

The full magnitude of the damage to small local businesses, agricultural, tourism, and service activities cannot yet be determined. It is estimated that the effects will be significant, considering the current economic crisis in the region. Damage to small businesses' infrastructure, agricultural production activities, and access routes to markets have been reported, which will make it difficult to restart these activities.

While information from Iota's impact on food security is still required, its compounding impact on Eta-affected areas and its direct impact on newly affected areas will significantly decrease food access and formal and informal labour supply and prompt negative coping strategies.

Although the level of impact is unknown, Hurricanes Eta and Iota that hit Nicaragua caused severe damage in several productive areas of Nicaragua, putting at risk the seasonal planting of basic grains such as beans and rice. The Nicaraguan Union of Agricultural Producers reported that preliminary estimations indicate the loss of 70% in bean production in some areas and nearly 10% in rice plantations. In addition to this impact, more than 1,200 kilometers of productive roads were damaged, impairing milk collection and the coffee harvest transportation.¹⁷



Agricultural production systems in seven departments in the south and west of Honduras (Choluteca, Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso, Santa Bárbara, Lempira, Copán and Ocotepeque) were substantially affected.¹⁸ As one-third of the population of Honduras deals with the immediate and devastating impacts of tropical storms Eta and Iota, the long-term effects on the country's economy, crop production and small-scale producers could be even more devastating. As it can be seen in the September 2020 updated seasonal calendar the next cycles for major food crops may be lost. So far, according to the Honduran Institute for Coffee -IHCAFE – Eta alone has left losses on the coffee crops adds up over 13.2 million USD.¹⁹ Iota had an impact directed at the growing areas and productive infrastructure and the collateral damage due to high rainfall will mean greater impacts on the field. The effect this will have on income and livelihoods for people, especially the poorest in society, is unimaginable. Experts are already

saying that it will take at least a decade for the country to recover from these effects.

In Guatemala, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) estimated agricultural damages resulting from Eta at nearly 120,000 hectares across 108 municipalities, affecting 182,000 families. Most damage was reported in Jutiapa, followed by Chiquimula, Santa Rosa, and Alta Verapaz. The affected departments have also suffered losses in livestock, birds, and fish. Over 75,000 birds died, 34,000 fish, and 8,400 bovines, among others. Most heavily affected are Quiché, Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, and Izabal. These figures are preliminary and date from 17 November, before the impact of Iota. It is expected the damage to agriculture and livestock will increase as more information becomes available.²⁰

Health

The public health systems in the affected countries, already dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, were not prepared for the hurricanes' effects. Health infrastructure and equipment have been affected, and health care workers themselves are among those impacted. The damage to health networks is extensive.

Nicaragua

According to the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health, there have been damages to 16 of 81 health facilities, with 3 health centres in Bilwi with significant damages that compromise the centres' functionality and the provision of services.²¹ The

¹⁷ [VOA Noticias. Nicaragua: agricultores preocupados por cosechas tras paso de huracanes. 23 November 2020.](#)

¹⁸ [OCHA. Central America: 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season – Situation Report No. 4. 20 November 2020.](#)

¹⁹ [La Tribuna Honduras. Más de \\$13 millones en pérdidas de café deja solo la tormenta Eta. 22 November 2020.](#)

²⁰ [MAGA. 17 November 2020.](#)

²¹ [OCHA. Central America: 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season – Situation Report No. 4. 20 November 2020.](#)

supply of drinking water has been widely compromised, so the health risk related to poor hygiene and lack of access to safe water is high. As in other countries of the region, vector-borne diseases are endemic with special relevance for Dengue, Leptospirosis, and Malaria in Nicaragua. Severe and prolonged disruption of the transmission control services of all these pre-existing conditions can lead to outbreaks with high morbidity and mortality, especially in the context of COVID-19 and saturation of services. In 2019 Nicaragua registered the highest number of Dengue cases reported in the entire historical series, with almost 200 thousand reported cases. Malaria cases also have increased in recent years.

Honduras

According to OCHA and information from the Honduras Ministry of Health (SESAL) and Health sector partners, about 2.5 million people currently have limited or no access to health services due to damages to Eta's health service network infrastructure. SESAL indicates 55 affected health centres, with 37 in the department of Cortés alone, leaving 250,000 people with limited or no access to health services. 2.5 million people in Honduras have limited or no access to health services. Ten facilities report losses to the cold chain, equipment, supplies, and vaccines, while 29 report damaged roofing, flooring, or damaged walls. Iota is expected to strain further healthcare provision services dealing with Eta, affecting some 30% healthcare professionals. Since Iota, all health facilities in the La Lima, Potrerillos, and San Pedro municipalities in Cortés report interruptions to water supplies. The growing sheltered population requires medical assistance, medicines, supplies for acute respiratory disease and infection and PPE, cleaning, and disinfectant supplies, and scaled up testing for COVID-19 mitigation.²²

Support to carry out health and hygiene promotion activities and awareness in the shelters and affected communities where the local health authorities requested it because there exists a high risk of epidemic outbreaks due to the current conditions, especially and an increase of COVID-19 cases because San Pedro Sula is one of the areas with more COVID-19 cases reported in the country (Cortes Department is reporting the 27% of COVID-19 cases in the country²³) and with historic numbers of dengue, malaria, and leptospirosis outbreaks.

Guatemala

More than 70 health facilities report damages in Guatemala, with 32 in Alta Verapaz, 26 in Quiché, and 13 in Izabal, with health systems losses estimated at 642,000 USD in these three departments. More than 40% of health personnel in affected areas are inactive due to COVID-19 precautions, creating a need for scaling up personnel. The Ministry of Health remains concerned with COVID-19 in shelters and the lack of PPE, hygiene, and cleaning supplies required for mitigation. Damaged health infrastructure will require immediate rehabilitation to guarantee continuous service, especially for at-risk populations requiring attention in maternal and newborn health, sexual and reproductive health, childcare, and older adults' care.²⁴

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)²⁵

In Nicaragua, before Iota, there were reports of affectation of the drinking water treatment plant and supplies in Bilwi after Hurricane Eta. The latest reports mention contaminated water storage systems and extensive power failures (affecting the pumping of water) in the Puerto Cabezas municipality, now cut off from Managua and Waspam due to flooded roads. Hurricane Iota's damage left 53,000 people without access to drinking water and contaminated wells, affecting water storage and distribution.

Iota further affected safe water supply for consumption and WASH needs in Honduras affected households and shelters, making water access to mitigate COVID-19 spread an even greater need. Ongoing challenges in restoring adequate WASH services and conditions due to infrastructure damage continue to increase the likelihood of water-borne diseases and compromised health services, including contaminated wells, broken pipes, and collapsed sewage systems may lead to chemical contamination. The WASH sector reports that some affected communities have been without water access for weeks due to access restrictions and the collapse of water supply systems. Health authorities are requesting support for sanitation of the affected communities due to the presence of a large amount of solid waste, stagnant water, and damage to some communities' latrine systems. Also, there is a need to carry out fumigation against dengue and malaria and distribute mosquito nets and hygiene kits in collective centres and other informal settlements.

In Guatemala, initial assessments conducted by GRC indicate floodwaters have contaminated primary water sources in the most affected areas in Alta Verapaz and Izabal. Needs include risk communications messaging on flooding, waste management, vector-borne diseases, correct water usage, access to safe water for consumption, and preventive hygiene measures. The government has requested hygiene kits, anti-bacterial soap, gel, chlorine, PPE, cleaning supplies, and educational materials on WASH for collective centres.

²² [OCHA. Central America: 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season – Situation Report No. 4. 20 November 2020.](#)

²³ [Coronavirus COVID-19 En Honduras.](#)

²⁴ [OCHA. Central America: 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season – Situation Report No. 4. 20 November 2020.](#)

²⁵ Idem.

There is a need to assess water quality for human consumption and preventive health actions into two groups in the three countries: people returning to their homes and those living in collective centres. This will minimize the chance for outbreaks, vector-borne diseases, and epidemics caused by the post-flood conditions. Distribution of safe water is already being carried out in some of the affected communities by different organizations. A further focus on sanitation is required, given the needs in the collective centres.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI)

It has been identified that there is overcrowding in collective, cases of families spending the night in the homes of relatives or overcrowded collective centres with little promotion of COVID-19 prevention measures due to the situation. Besides, the number of people in collective centres and displaced people due to Iota will likely heighten existing protection risks.

According to the first situational report of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix for Honduras, in 31 collective centres there are 148 lactating women, 7 unaccompanied children, 5 persons identified as part of the LGBTIQ+ population, 57 pregnant women older than 18 years old, 48 persons with disabilities and 144 persons with chronic illnesses. The preliminary findings stated most of these shelters do not count with feedback mechanisms for reporting and/or facilities with universal design considerations. Also, from preliminary information collected by OCHA shared in internal meetings in 23 shelters in six municipalities (San José de Colinas, La Unión, Las Vegas, Azacualpa, Santa Rosa de Copán, Nueva Arcadia), on average, only 36% of women in shelters have access to bathrooms separated by sex and only 6% of the sanitary facilities for women/girls in the collective centres are illuminated and equipped with locks. About 60% of those housed need hygiene items, and 45% of women and adolescents need menstrual hygiene items.

The latest UN's Flash Appeal addresses the need to consider protection as a cross-cutting issue to effectively mitigate Eta's impact on longstanding chronic violence, including against children and adolescents, and sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) in shelters and affected communities. There is particular concern over the heightened risk of scaled-up trafficking and recruitment as well.

All countries will need to guarantee the referral and counter-referral mechanism in cases of gender and sexual violence, in collective centres and coordinating with the health sector, and to guarantee immediate intervention actions by risk groups: maternal and newborn health, sexual and reproductive health care, adolescent care, and older adults.

Migration

Central American countries of the region are traditionally countries of origin and transit of migrants. Several "caravans" have been reported in the last couple of years. The Red Cross has monitored the situation and supporting actions (for more information, check [Information Bulletin no. 1 Central America: Population Movements associated with COVID-19](#)).

Understanding the context of COVID-19 impact in the country and the recovery process after hurricanes is essential. It will be important to monitor the evolution and migratory flows in the area from now on. However, in returnee migrants, it is difficult to identify migration needs, especially in Honduras. Deportation processes are on hold, including all the services that the HRC provides to returnees by land.

In Guatemala's case, the return processes have not been suspended, the number of migrants returned by air and land has decreased to those registered before ETA. Currently, the National Institute of Migration registers between 2 and 5 flights per week; before ETA, there were 9 return flights per week. There are resolution processes to regulate the return processes due to the country's crisis state because of the storms, mainly for the unaccompanied migrant children.

Operational Plan

The current present operation aims to meet the immediate basic needs and support the early recovery of affected people affected by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Eta's passage for an estimated 18 months.

Already vulnerable to the economic downturn from the global COVID-19 pandemic's effects, these storms have disrupted the planting cycle with long-term effects in food insecurity in areas already marginalized, especially in indigenous areas. Therefore, a focus on Livelihoods in this operation will be prioritized. There is a threat that these communities will become more excluded, and coping mechanisms such as migration will increase. Activities are being supported by the Americas Regional Office (ARO) and Red Cross Movement partners, authorities, community organizations, and other organizations.

This Emergency Appeal will be revised once rapid emergency assessments have been completed after Iota and the National Societies have a clearer picture of both hurricane's impact. Sectoral interventions will be integrated at the community level, where feasible, under a Federation wide approach.

Volunteer support and protection: The Volunteering and Youth Development Regional Unit is supporting the NSs in identifying the needs during the emergencies concerning volunteering management, provided technical support in Volunteering in Emergencies (ViE), establish communication mechanisms, and reinforce the assistance to strengthen the solidarity funds mechanisms for the protection of volunteers. It also supported the NS in gathering stories from volunteers working in the field and shared it through social media channels and with the Communications teams in Panama and shared volunteers' stories.

The National Societies have been working on the following actions on volunteering management and protection:

Nicaraguan Red Cross:

- Humanitarian assistance has been given to 85 volunteers affected by the hurricanes.
- 393 volunteers received psychological support.
- 115 volunteers received PPE.

Honduran Red Cross:

- Currently working on identifying volunteers that are affected. This will allow providing humanitarian assistance to them. Early identification of estimated 1,200 volunteers affected.
- Psychological assistance is in place for all volunteers.
- Registration of the volunteers updated.
- Volunteers from the La Lima branch that had lost their houses were sheltered during Iota in an HRC premise in Calpules (San Pedro de Sula).

Guatemalan Red Cross:

- Identification of the volunteers that have been affected by the emergency and humanitarian assistance is being provided, including psychological assistance.
- Volunteers received PPE and visibility elements.
- Volunteers are covered by insurance and the solidarity fund.
- Security briefings were given to all volunteers involved in the operation, including reports and updates.

Logistics: The supply chain, including mobilization, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage, and transport to distribution sites, follows the operation's requirements, and aligns with IFRC's logistics standards, processes, and procedures. A proper evaluation is to evaluate the status of infrastructure/airport/port damages or congestions; difficult road/boat access, widespread of the affected area, security issues, and fuel shortages. The National Societies have storage capacity and well-trained logistics counterparts reinforced through the Logistics ERU Deployment. So far, 130 tonnes have been mobilized to the countries affected.

All procurement related to this operation will follow the IFRC's standards procurement procedures and sphere standards for household items purchases. After the revision of the market's capacities, with the support of a procurement officer from the Panama Regional Logistics Unit (RLU), the decision will follow local procurements and/or international procurements.

A Mobilization table was launched to coordinate needs in the field and contributions offered by donors/partners and updated by the Regional Logistics Unit, Panama office. Import regulations are known, and a revision process will be conducted to eliminate bottlenecks and delays.

Communications: The IFRC Communications team supports the NS with the Appeal Communications Plan and helps produce emergency and fundraising materials. To date it has produced:

- Key messages Eta: [EN](#) - [SP](#)
- Key messages Iota: [EN](#) - [SP](#)
- Photos from Hurricane / Tropical Storm Eta:
 - [Nicaragua](#)
 - [Honduras](#)
 - [Guatemala](#)
- Videos from Hurricane / Tropical Storm Eta:
 - [Guatemala](#)
 - [Honduras](#)
- Graphics on [Safe Water after a storm/flood](#) (Spanish and English).

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): Regionally, the CEA team has provided information as aid materials covering topics such as what to do after floods, COVID-19, and Dengue fever to the National Societies. Key CEA questions are planned to be included in the rapid assessments carried out in the field, and coordination is ongoing.

Advocacy was done to mobilize CEA staff in all three countries, but NS have expressed to wait for later support. It is important to note that none of the three National Societies have a strong CEA capacity. Personnel has been identified at the regional level who could provide this support.

Initial CEA actions have been identified, which could begin to be implemented immediately on the ground. These actions are:

- Health promotion using risk communication and behavioral change communication approach with an emphasis on communicable diseases and COVID-19 in communities and temporary accommodation (including prevention of vector-borne diseases).
- Develop audio material to be aired through audio systems in shelters and enable small group discussions around health topics.
- Establish dialogue platforms (i.e, interactive radio programs, call-in radio, social media interaction and live Q&A discussions, blogs, and articles in the media responding to questions) to allow communities to engage, ask questions, dispel myths and rumors, express concern about the situation in general.
- Establish two-way communication channels to inform and collect feedback/rumors using Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approaches adapted to local cultural realities and languages.
- Establish systems to involve communities in needs assessments and decision-making to ensure assistance is appropriate and relevant
- Community communication activities ensure people are kept informed of operational plans and progress and have information to make informed decisions.
- Include CEA questions/roll-out regular perceptions surveys about the operation, engagement levels, and information needs to track accountability and inform operational changes.

All actions are being coordinated with health, migration, and PGI sectors to ensure that the CEA approach is included in their interventions.

Information Technology: Some identified areas have lost connectivity, and IT services are needed to function in the operation. With the arrival of the IT and Telecom ERU to Honduras, these challenges have been minimized, and work is being done to meet these needs. The IT & Telecom ERU arrived in San Pedro Sula on November 20 and is focused on re-establishing the network and internet service of the new IFRC office. A plan is set to enhance the connectivity of HRC branches and ERU accommodations to facilitate remote meetings to enhance coordination with HQ and ease social distancing by reducing the number of people in face to face meetings.

Security: The IFRC team in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa in Honduras prepared food and water to cope with 72 hours of potential lockdown and moved to a hotel with a backup power station. The CCST Team and the Disaster Manager for Central America based in Tegucigalpa are ready for rapid response personnel's arrival to support the response actions in the southern parts of the country. Nationwide curfew is in place because of COVID. This is also mandatory for all IFRC staff. Security guidelines have been developed and are updated regularly and shared with all deployed personnel.

Disaster Law and Legislative Advocacy: Support has been provided for the analysis of the possible impact on IFRC operations of the new Law on Foreign Aliens (*1040 Ley de Regulación de Agentes Extranjeros*) adopted on 19 October by Nicaragua that obliges certain foreign entities operating in the country to register in the "Registry of Foreigners" until 19 December 2020. A letter is being prepared for the Nicaraguan authorities to confirm that the new law provisions do not apply to IFRC, which operates in Nicaragua under an LSA. Currently examining with the IDRL team the opportunity to propose the IFRC IDRL Model Emergency Decree.

With the technical support of IFRC, Honduran Red Cross is leading the development of the IDRL regulation to operationalize in Honduras: The new IDRL law was published in the Official Gazette of Honduras on 15 November. It is expected to impact positively the Movement response in Honduras since customs procedures will be simplified and more expedite under the new, which exonerates of all taxes and duties usually applicable under common law on the importation of disaster relief items all eligible humanitarian actors (including the three components of the Movement). The new law also provides special facilities related to visa obtention, work permits, and driving licenses for humanitarian personnel.



In coordination with the Guatemalan Red Cross, IFRC prepared a draft emergency decree based on the IFRC IDRL Model Emergency Decree for the consideration of the Guatemalan authorities and the Coordination Center for Aid and Humanitarian Assistance (CCAH). The 2019 IDRL study recommendations inform the proposed draft in Guatemala and the lessons learned from the 2018 response to the volcanic eruption of Volcan de Fuego.





Information Management (IM): With the technical support of IFRC, Honduran Red Cross is supporting COPECO on IM, which includes the collection, storage, analysis, and visualization of data. A dashboard has been developed to visualize the DANA results by department and Municipalities. There are still gaps of data among the country, being the municipality of Cortes, the one with the biggest gap and biggest affectation area. A secondary data collection has started through the Data Entry & Exploration Platform ([DEEP](#)) for collection, structuring, and data analysis to complement the

field's primary data. The Surge Information Management Support ([SIMS](#)) network has been activated to provide remote support to the operation. Also, an IM coordinator is supporting the operation, and a HIAC focal point has been deployed to the field. A field needs assessment is planned with the assessment cell's support to identify the crisis severity and priorities, response capacity and gaps, operational constraints, and affected areas.


Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER): PMER Rapid Response Personnel support have been requested, and remote support has been activated for all three countries with the Norwegian Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross's support. The PMER unit in ARO is supporting and coordinating the planning and reporting needs for the operation.

Summary of the ongoing response of the National Societies to-date

Sector	Response		
	Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)	Honduras Red Cross (HRC)	Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)
Preparedness, response, and assessments	<p>All NRC branches in affected areas have participated in rescue and evacuation activities since before Eta's arrival. Volunteers support evacuation and prevention actions in conjunction with the local authorities. After Iota, evacuations and rescue efforts continue in affected communities due to overflowing rivers, mudslides, and home damage. In preparation for Eta's arrival, the NRC carried out preventative actions and sent out alerts to the areas at risk before the hurricane's arrival, such as Puerto Cabezas, Jinotega, and Ocotal, and Chinandega.</p> <p>Local contingency plans were activated in branches with red and yellow alerts. Information on resources (tools, equipment, mapping of capacities) was updated. After impact, the National Society has been participating in meetings with municipal actors to coordinate the response. The National Society has been supporting the evacuation of families, and a team was deployed to assess the needs of the affected areas. The team was composed of one Regional Intervention Team member, one National Intervention Team specializing in Water and Sanitation, and a logistician.</p> <p>In response to Hurricane IOTA's arrival, a category 5 hurricane affecting the Northern Caribbean Coast, the Nicaraguan Red Cross has been developing several actions in coordination with authorities and First Response Institutions to safeguard lives. These actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and tracking the progress of Hurricane IOTA through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the National Headquarters of the NRC Maintain 600 volunteers with different specialties to support families in communities affected by the hurricane. Participation in inter-institutional meetings with authorities of the Regional Government of the Northern Caribbean Coast Region to coordinate response activities. Supporting the evacuation of families. 	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Aerial damage assessment with AirBus support in San Pedro Sula. Source: IFRC, 13 November 2020.</i></p> <p>Adhering to its role as auxiliary to the government, the HRC launched operations throughout the country, contributing to the national response. As part of the preparedness and assessment activities, the following are some of the key actions undertaken by the HRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Monitoring Centres and local delegations were activated at the national level and participated in coordination meetings with the Municipal Emergency Committees of Honduras (CODEM); Local Emergency Committees (CODEL) and COPECO for assistance in other regions of the country. Continued coordination with different governments and mechanisms activated during the national response plan (COPECO, Mayors, Secretary of Health CEPREDENAC, etc.). The HRC is the focal point of the government for damage and needs assessments. 7 boats were preemptively located in: Puerto Cortés (1), San Manuel (1), San Pedro Sula (2), La Lima (1), El Progreso (2) and 15 ambulances ready. 	<p>Since the declaration of the red alert by CONRED, it has maintained constant monitoring throughout the national territory through the 21 branches and its volunteers' network.</p> <p>It has mobilized a technical team in disaster management, humanitarian aid, shelter management, PSS, and pre-hospital care to support Izabal, especially Puerto Barrios and Santo Tomas de Castilla.</p> <p>Since the beginning, GRC has implemented activities of the evacuation of people in risk areas, DANA in coordination with local authorities and participation in interagency joint needs assessments, pre-hospital care for sheltered and evacuated people, transfer of patients to assistance centres, search and rescue of victims, psychological first aid, medical care and delivery of medicines, RFL between family members, support in collective centres, distribution of humanitarian aid. Most activities occur in the most affected areas of Cobán in Alta Verapaz and Puerto Barrios in Izabal.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>GRC air damage assessment using a drone in Aldea Campur in San Pedro Carchá, Alta Verapaz, where a large part of the community has been left under water. Source: GRC. 12 November 2020.</i></p>

Response			
Sector	Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)	Honduras Red Cross (HRC)	Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation and maintenance of equipment that will make it possible to respond to the damage caused by Hurricane Iota. Media interviews to disseminate the Operational Plan of NRC Dissemination of general recommendations in social media on how to act before, during, and after a disaster or emergency. 	<p>After Iota:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted multisectoral DANA by Iota and coordinated with local authorities and organizations involved in emergency response. HRC has conducted aerial assessments to estimate the level of damage since homes are still in flooded areas. A Distribution Plan targeting 1,500 with family kit support is ready for implementation once the water recedes and access is granted. 	
 <p>Shelter</p>	<p>NRC has supported 11 collective centres in Prinzapolka, Puerto Cabezas, Waspam and Rivas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments are ongoing in coordination with local and national authorities 80 volunteers affected have received humanitarian aid. 	<p>The NS is actively working with national and international actors in the field to coordinate efforts specially on the CCCM working group to support the evaluations that are been conducted through the DTM assessment tool for collective centers. The following Dashboard has been shared to show the collected data up to date by IOM.</p>	<p>The Guatemalan Red Cross has supported 35 collective centres and has supported the evacuation of 676 people.</p> <p>504 families have received humanitarian assistance from GRC. Items distributed: 166 blankets and 71 kitchen sets.</p>
 <p>Livelihoods and basic needs</p>	<p>In preparation for Eta, the NRC sent a convoy to the Northern Caribbean region and food kits for 1,500 families.</p> <p>87 families from Ochomogo, Rivas assisted with food items and drinking water. 268 families (1,100 people) from Waspam in collective centres assisted with food kits.</p> <p>Food items for 1,500 families affected by Eta and Iota were donated by Banco Grupo Promerica to be distributed by the NS.</p> <p>200 packages of basic grains for distribution were donated by the National Commission of Ranchers (CONAGAN) to the NS.</p>	<p>HRC has distributed 444 food kits.</p>  <p><i>HRC volunteers distribute food kits in in Brisas del Sauce and Rio Cangrejal. Source. HRC, 23 November 2020.</i></p>	<p>Since the start of the operation, the GRC has distributed 132 food packages.</p>  <p><i>GRC volunteers deliver humanitarian aid in Aldea Mexabaj, in San Cristobal, Alta Verapaz. Source. GRC,</i></p>
	<p>In both emergencies, the NRC participated in the rescue and evacuation of 7,580 people.</p>	<p>HRC has been actively in coordination and cooperation with the emergency system and the secretary of health, providing rescue and first aid actions in the most affected areas since the Eta and</p>	<p>GRC teams were activated to provide support to meet the health needs in the immediate aftermath of Eta. First aid teams were present in the delegations of Puerto Barrios, Santo Tomás de Castilla, Cobán, and</p>

		Response		
Sector	Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)	Honduras Red Cross (HRC)	Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)	
 Health	<p>NRC continues to take measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Educational messages related to good health practices to prevent COVID-19 continue to be promoted on social media.</p> <p>Doctors, psychologists, and national intervention teams in psychosocial support were activated to provide Psychosocial Support to the affected communities and Red Cross personnel and volunteers.</p> <p>PSS activities were carried out with 230 children in collective centres.</p> <p>196 packages of medicines were donated by the National Commission of Ranchers (CONAGAN) to the NS.</p>  <p><i>NRC volunteers carrying out PSS activities with children in Waspan collective centres Source: NRC, 21 November 2020.</i></p>	<p>lota emergencies. Also, NS carry out a health field assessment in Cortes Department, and key information was shared with the health secretary.</p> <p>By the HRC health response: Basic health care interventions reached 2273 people, and 81,068 people have benefited from the donation of 6,000 kg of medical equipment and supplies in four municipalities of Gracias a Dios supporting Minister of Health.</p> <p>More than 475 persons in evacuation centres in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and intensified more on the north coast received psychosocial support where 398 children participated in psychoeducational activities.</p> <p>More than 475 persons in 9 evacuation centres in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and intensified more on the north coast side received psychosocial support where 398 children participated in psychoeducational activities. Also, a PSS system to care for volunteers directly affected and by the workload was put in place.</p> <p>NS is leading all efforts and coordination at the national level with the health secretary and CICOM system to set up the ERU Emergency Clinic of the Canadian Red Cross in Cortes District and provide access to health care to people in need and support the health system that has been greatly affected. Reassessing ERU EC (EMT) location after the clinic in la Lima was withdrawn by Samaritans Purse.</p>	<p>teams were mobilized from headquarters. They provided prehospital services targeted towards the needs of people affected by the emergency by wounds, lesions or traumas suffered. Patients were stabilized to save lives and facilitate recovery.</p> <p>In addition, actions for COVID-19 emergency care have not stopped, especially for pre-hospital care, transfer of patients to medical centres and dissemination of contagion prevention measures. 1,425 people have been reached with pre-hospital care services and 546 people received medical attention and there have been 17 transfers of patients in ambulance to hospital centres.</p>  <p><i>GRC volunteers providing pre-hospital care in a collective centre located in Colegio Cristo Viene in Puerto Barrios, Izabal. Source: GRC</i></p> <p>The NS has provided 3,674 Psychological First Aid sessions.</p> <p>GRC is working on hygiene promotion in collective centres and has distributed 55 hygiene kits, differentiated for women (20), men (17), and infants (18).</p> <p>32 families have received bottled water.</p>	
	<p>Water treatment teams have been mobilized (one SETA water treatment plant dispatched to Waspam). Water treatment and distribution of 27,000 liters of safe water to 300 families in Alamikamba and surrounding communities. 244 water liters distributed to families of Bilwi (Sandino, Pedro Joaquín Chamorro, Revolucion, and Walalaya neighborhoods).</p>			

Sector	Response		
	Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)	Honduras Red Cross (HRC)	Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)
Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)	<p>Safe water supply at the Nicaraguan Red Cross station, located in the well of the Moraga Church in Prinzapolka.</p> <p>3,000 hygiene kits delivered. 200 hygiene kits were donated by the National Commission of Ranchers (CONAGAN).</p> <p>150 children from the municipality of Prinzapolka received educational talks on proper handwashing to maintain hygiene and prevent various diseases, including COVID-19.</p> <p>Administrative measures are taken regarding working hours, use of vehicles, and entrance to NS premises.</p>	 <p><i>Distribution of hygiene kits in collective centers. Source: HRC.</i></p> <p>1,323 hygiene kits distributed in collective centres in Villanueva, San Manuel, Pimienta Puerto Cortes, Omoa, Choloma, and Chamelecón municipalities.</p> <p>On November 23, the WASH ERU arrived with water treatment plants to be in the Valle del Sula.</p>	<p>GRC is conducting dengue prevention, including awareness-raising and fumigation of temporary shelters.</p> <p>WASH teams are conducting water status assessments in affected communities.</p>  <p><i>GRC volunteers carrying out WASH assessments in water sources. Source: GRC, 20 November 2020.</i></p>
 <p>Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI)</p>	<p>NRC Office for the RFL between Relatives monitors the reestablishment of families that have been isolated due to telecommunications failures at a national level. RFL volunteers visit collective centres to provide phone call services. 13 families have re-established contact with their relatives.</p>	<p>The National Society, with the support of the ICRC and the technical team of the Monarch Butterfly program, has provided RFL services, including searches, assessments, family reunifications, Red Cross messages, and telephone calls.</p> <p>Under the RFL program: HRC has offered 64 phone calls, 12 messages, 47 RFL needs assessments, and 38 search requests.</p>	<p>GRC has offered 315 RFL services to the affected communities.</p> <p>The National Society has started the planning to conduct a first PGI briefing for staff and volunteers.</p> <p>The National Society is maintaining dialogues with UNFPA to strengthen their capacities in terms of gender mainstreaming and approach to gender-based violence.</p>
 <p>Migration</p>		<p>Through the Monarch Butterfly program, 200 food kits were delivered to families affected by Eta in the municipality of Choloma, in the communities where this project already works, since these are areas with high rates of return of migrants.</p>	<p>GRC will conduct an initial assessment to understand the needs and impacts in communities where GRC already works on migration and displacement issues and which have been affected by ETA and IOTA.</p> <p>The teams of the National Society's migration program have provided psychosocial support, pre-hospital care, and child protection activities in the areas of</p>

Response			
Sector	Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)	Honduras Red Cross (HRC)	Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)
			<p>Izabal, where they previously worked with the displaced population. The migration program uses resources, supplies, and equipment from various projects and partners to support the current actions.</p> <p>The Migration Program, in conjunction with the regional coordination of the Monarch Butterfly program, has redirected the project's lines of action to address the most urgent needs, focusing on the operation to ensure the inclusion of migrants in the response in the Izabal areas.</p>

Reference documents

Click here for:

- [DREF Operation](#)
- [Information bulletin no. 1](#)
- [Information bulletin no. 2](#)

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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.