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HONDURAS: Tropical Storms

Early Action Protocol Summary

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

EAP Approved June 2022
EAP 01 EAP2022HN01

Population to be assisted: **2,700**
homes

EAP timeframe **5 years**

Early action timeframe **3 Months**

Budget: **360,830 Swiss francs**

The IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) has approved an allocation of CHF 360,830 from its Forecast-Based Action (FbA) mechanism for the **Honduran Red Cross Tropical Storm**. The allocation consists of an immediate allocation of CHF 232,476 for readiness and pre-positioning and CHF 128,353 allocated automatically for early allocation once the forecast trigger has been reached.

The Forecast-Based Action Fund (FbA) part of the DREF is a funding mechanism managed by the DREF. Allocations for the FbA are made from the anticipatory pillar of the DREF. Unearmarked contributions to the fund are encouraged to ensure funding availability for the Early Action Protocols (EAPs) being developed.

SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

Honduras is one of the most exposed countries to global climate-related hazards: hurricanes to tropical storms, floods, droughts and landslides. Between 1970 and 2019, 82 disasters associated with natural phenomena were generated, of which 67 were due to hydrometeorological causes. In addition to this list, in 2020, hurricanes ETA and IOTA hit Honduras in November 2020, leaving extensive damage to infrastructure, productive sectors and housing.

The impacts that have been prioritized are based on HRC's operational and administrative capacities, at the time available to carry them out. It also addresses challenges that have been recorded in past events and the evidence of the effectiveness of the proposed actions. One of the most recent references is the experience obtained with hurricanes ETA and IOTA in 2020.

The objective of the Early Action Plan is to reduce the prioritized impacts generated by floods associated with Tropical Storms through anticipated actions implemented by HRC.

The prioritized impacts for Honduras in this plan in the case of flooding associated with Tropical Storms are:

- Possible damages and/or loss of belongings and material goods -CVA intervention
- Possible impact on livelihoods (loss of inputs and/or tools) -CVA Intervention
- Increase in health-related effects such as gastrointestinal and skin diseases caused by consumption and contact with unsafe water. - WASH intervention

The forecasts used are detailed below:

Forecast	Source	Forecast time	Forecast time	Forecast skill
Hurricane	National Hurricane Center NOAA	Probabilistic	5 days	Error 24 hrs. = 5 knots Error 48 hrs. = 10 knots Error 72 hrs. = 15 knots ¹ FAR ² : 0.44
Rainfall	CENAOS UCR	Deterministic	5 days	Not verified
Floods	GEO GloWS ECMWF	Probabilistic	5 days	NSE ³ = 0.507
Flash Floods Forecast	CAFFGS – CENAOS	Deterministic	3 days	No data

Risk assumptions

The expected inputs are not immediately available in the domestic market.	Access to the prioritized communities is no longer possible due to increased insecurity or obstruction of access roads	The Honduran Red Cross and its affiliates have reduced their operational capacity and levels of confidence to intervene in targeted areas.	Coordination and communication channels with strategic stakeholders for the operation of the EAP are ineffective..	The operational structure of the national society is affected by the internal transmission of COVID-19, other epidemics or by the impact of another hydrometeorological phenomenon or social crisis of significant magnitude.
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The operational strategy – How the EAP will be implemented

1) Who will implement the EAP – The National Society

The Honduran Red Cross is divided into 4 regions and has a total of 53 branches. In total, the National Society has 8,500 registered volunteers.

Currently, the National Society has experienced staff responding to extreme events such as the response to the last major disaster experienced in the country which was the ETA/IOTA operation where logistical and equipment capacities were strengthened.

Currently, there is WASH equipment in place which can produce thousands of litres of drinking water per day. There are two tanker trucks with a capacity of 5,000 and 2,500 litres respectively, and further support can be obtained through local agencies if needed.

HRC maintains strategic alliances to be able to provide a response, such as the air force with whom all air rescue actions are coordinated.

The Honduran Red Cross has trained more than 120 people and has implemented Cash Transfers using different delivery mechanisms. Currently, the HRC has 1 focal point for CVA and 11 people suitable and authorized to lead interventions with Cash Transfers and participate in coordination meetings.

² The Hurricane track check Mitch, Michelle, Gamma, Mathew, Barry, Earl, Eta e Iota (see annexes).

³ Nash-Sutcliffe model efficiency coefficient (NSE).

Technological resources are used, like ODK for census taking, and distributions using MEGA V. Already on-site, the National Society has the capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance kits to 400 families in 1 hour.

Considering the National Society's budget line to have emergency assistance available immediately, and to have the capacity to advance funds (to initiate early actions) in a short period of time between activation and the arrival of FbA funds by the DREF is guaranteed, based on the legal agreement previously signed together with the approval of the EAP.

In addition, support is provided by key actors such as the IFRC Climate Center, and PNS, who provide technical and scientific assistance in DRM, logistics, strategic relationships, early warning/action, monitoring and evaluation, and financial accountability. The National Society supports in reducing the impacts of climate change and extreme natural events on vulnerable populations.

2) How will the EAP be activated - The Trigger

The activation statement will have 2 criteria (both must be met) and will be activated as indicated below:

Triggers:



The interruption mechanism (or stop-mechanism) of the Early Action Plan regarding floods associated with tropical storms, will consist of the following: if during the third day of the predicted lead time, the event decreases its category to a tropical disturbance, or if the event abruptly changes its trajectory predicted by the competent entities; the actions planned and/or carried out up to that moment according to the EAP must be stopped. On the contrary, if the forecast persists with the thresholds forecast, and the event maintains or increases its category, the activities and intervention foreseen in the TAP should continue as planned.

Hurricane FIFI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1974 (12/9-22/9) • 250km/h, 400 mm of rain in 24 hours
Huracane Mitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1998 (22/10-05/11) • 250 km/h, 600 mm of rain during 5 days
Huracane Michelle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2001 (29/10-05/11) • 220km/h
Tropical Storm Gamma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005 (14/11-21/11) • 75km/h
Tropical Storm Matthew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 (23/09-26/09) • 85km/h, 200 a 250 mm of rain
Hurricanes Eta/Iota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 (Eta 31/10-13/11, Iota 13/11-18/11) • Eta 275km/h, 626.67 mm acumulador, Iota 166.97mm

Based on the Intervention Map, the NS will coordinate with the municipal authorities and local committees identified to prioritize and select the communities that will benefit.

Once the communities are selected, NS teams are deployed to carry out census and identify the target population based on demographic characteristics (2,700 families – 2,000 in WASH and 700 in CVA and in compliance with HRC institutional humanitarian assistance regulations.

The Intervention will be prioritized in the flood plains and riverbanks, mainly Ulua (Santa Barbara and Cortes), Chamelecon (in Cortes), Aguan (in Yoro) and Choluteca (in Francisco Morazan and Choluteca), especially the municipalities with the lowest Development Indicators.

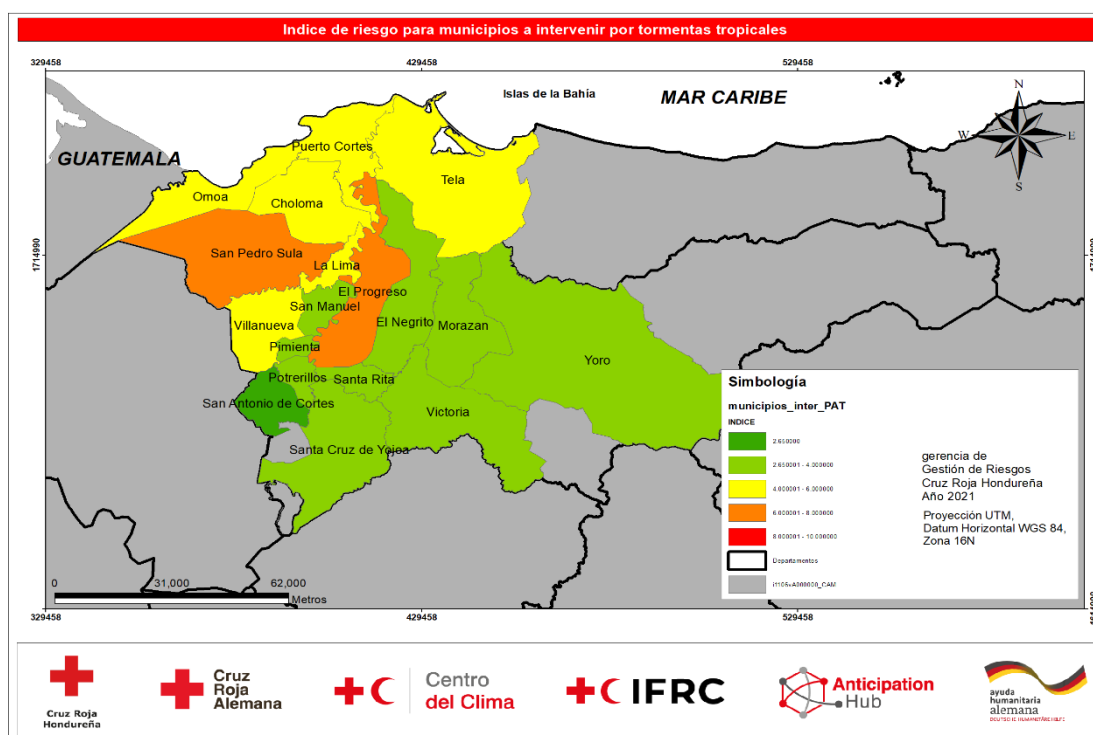






Illustration 1 Intervention map

3) How will the EAP reduce the impact on the population – The early actions

 <p>WASH</p> <p>Distribution of family water purification kits</p> <p>Through this action and the inputs it possesses, the immediate risks caused by water contamination will be reduced for families affected by the floods</p>	<p>For this type of action, the National Society has experience in delivering them, guaranteeing efficiency through several executed projects and is governed under the respect of sphere standards.</p>	<p>This kit is intended to be used during the first 72 hours when there is no access to water, thus leaving room for emergency mechanisms to be activated. A 20-liter bucket with a dispenser and 6 sachets of iron sulfate and calcium hypochlorite water purifier, which can purify 60 liters of water, will be delivered.</p>
 <p>WASH</p> <p>Safe water production, storage and supply</p>	<p>Ensure that families at risk maintain access to safe water before and during the event, anticipating actions to install water storage tanks in strategic locations and supplying water through the water purification plants that the SN has and the experience it already has in this area.</p>	
 <p>Livelihoods</p> <p>Develop communication and awareness-raising actions for communities identified as being at high risk</p>	<p>The development and dissemination of key messages beforehand, the issuance of information bulletins, so that communities can make effective use of the inputs distributed during early actions and in turn become aware of the threat.</p>	
 <p>Livelihoods</p> <p>Unconditional Multipurpose Cash Transfer Distribution</p> <p>Monetary Transfers as an early action because they will enable the selected families to have cash for actions such as: transportation of people and/or goods, purchase of basic products or provision for cases in which they have to move to another house, making it possible to mitigate possible damages and/or losses that may occur with the impact.</p>	<p>A more flexible assistance modality, based on the utmost respect for the choices and needs of families in a given crisis.</p>	<p>It can also stimulate the strengthening of livelihoods, local market economies, and thus help ensure that the local economy is not adversely affected by humanitarian action. The Movement's strategic guideline to increase assistance through CVA by 50% in relation to in-kind deliveries by 2025. The calculation is based on the Amplified Basic Food Basket (\$ 156 for the year 2022 according to the country's cash transfer group). For 700 families, a single delivery of CHF 156 will be made.</p>

Intervention Sectors



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 700 families

Male: 1,663 (48%)

Female: 1,837 (53%)

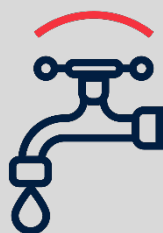
Requirements (CHF) 156.640

Population to be assisted: Population located in the flood plains and riverbanks, mainly Ulúa, Chamelecón, Aguan and Choluteca, especially the municipalities with the lowest Development Indicators.

Program standards/benchmarks: The intervention will be focused on families that develop subsistence agriculture, work as day labourers in the banana, sugar cane and palm industry, and small entrepreneurs. This has been done based on flooding events caused by past tropical cyclones, with the help of information provided in reports from IFRC, ECLAC, COPECO, National Society.

Output Code	Livelihoods Outcome 3 Communities especially in areas at risk of falling ash protect their livelihoods.	Outcome: 700 families (3,500 persons) receive Multipurpose Cash Transfers for livelihoods protection.									
	Livelihoods Output 3.1.5: Households benefiting from Multipurpose Cash Transfers (CTP).	Output: # families receive Multipurpose Cash Transfers									
	Planned activities	Timeframe (semester)									
	Readiness phase	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AP081	NS staff focal point CTP.										
AP081	Market and Price Analysis and Monitoring (annual update)										
AP081	Feasibility analysis of CTP.										

AP081	Basic and/or refresher training in CTP for volunteers and personnel.												
	Planned activities	Timeframe (semester)											
	Pre-stock phase	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
AP081	Procurement and repositioning of debit cards for multipurpose transfers.												
	Planned activities	Timeframe (years)											
	Early action phase	1	2	3	4	5							
AP081	Volunteer per diem for registration and distribution of CTP beneficiaries (for 20 volunteers plus 5 technical staff for 4 days).												
AP081	Selection and Registration of families to receive Multipurpose Cash Transfer as early action.												
AP081	Distribution of Multipurpose Cash Transfers.												
AP081	Lessons learned workshop.												



WASH

People targeted: 1,300 families

Male: 3,800 (48%)

Female: 4,200 (53%)

Requirements (CHF) 43,711

Population to attend: Population that is in the flood plains and riverbanks, mainly Ulúa, Chamelecón, Aguan and Choluteca, specifically families that are affected by the interruption of drinking water services or lack of access to safe water due to impacts by tropical cyclones.

Standards/Reference parameters of intervention: The intervention will be focused on the families that due to the impact of tropical cyclones are limited in access to safe water, supplies for personal hygiene and in accordance with the actions carried out by the National Society, IFRC and NGOs related to the restoration of access to safe water and within the framework of the minimum standards of the Sphere manual.

Output Code	WASH Outcome 1: Vulnerable people have increased access to adequate and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services.	2,000 families have access to adequate and sustainable water services.									
	WASH Output 1.1: The National Society provides communities with access to clean water.	# Of families receive supplies focused on water purification.									
	Planned activities.	Timeframe (semester)									
	Pre-stock phase	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AP026	Procure storage tanks and supplies for water purification.										
AP026	Procure and preposition home water purification kit.										
	Planned activities	Timeframe (days)									
	Early action phase	1	2	3	4	5					
AP026	Distribution and installation of storage tanks.										
AP026	Distribution of home water purification kit to families.										

AP042	Communication expenses (internet, telephone, DHL).	■		■		■		■		■	
	Financial expenses.	■		■		■		■		■	
AP042	Fuel and vehicle maintenance.	■		■		■		■		■	
AP026	Printing of documents.	■									
AP039	Activate a direct line of communication of focal points with the CODELES and councils.										
	Planned activities	Timeframe (days)									
	Early action phase	1	2	3	4	5					
AP039	Evaluation of the intervention during activation.										■
AP042	Rent and conditioning of warehouses.	■									
AP039	Monitoring of activation activities.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
AP039	Lessons learned workshop.										■

Output Code	Implementation Strategies Outcome 1: S1.1: National Society organizational and capacity development objectives are facilitated to ensure that the National Society has the legal, ethical and financial foundations, structures and systems, competencies and capacities necessary for development and planning.	1 NS in which organizational and capacity development objectives have been provided.									
	Implementation Strategies Output 1.1.4: The National Society has effective and motivated volunteers who are protected.	# Of effective, motivated and protected NS volunteers.									
	Planned activities	Timeframe (semester)									
	Readiness Phase	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Budget

To implement the Early Action Protocol (EAP), the amount of 360,830 Swiss francs has been allocated according to the summary by intervention area presented below.

Budget by Year / Implementing Partner							
Thematic Areas	YEAR1	YEAR2	YEAR3	YEAR4	YEAR5	YEAR6	EAP Budget CHF
READINESS	6,651	8,084	4,155	4,647	1,719	0	25,256
PRE-POSITION STOCK	1,637	0	0	0	0	0	1,637
EARLY ACTION	0	0	0	0	4,912	0	4,912
Implemented by IFRC	8,289	8,084	4,155	4,647	6,631	0	31,805
READINESS	33,235	34,112	15,459	7,949	3,815	0	94,570
PRE-POSITION STOCK	111,013	0	0	0	0	0	111,013
EARLY ACTION	123,441	0	0	0	0	0	123,441
Implemented by Host NS	267,689	34,112	15,459	7,949	3,815	0	329,024
READINESS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PRE-POSITION STOCK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EARLY ACTION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Implemented by PNS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	275,978	42,196	19,614	12,596	10,446	0	360,829

Preparedness and pre-positioning activities will be reflected in the IFRC's National Operational Plan (COP), which reports annually*In the case of an Early Action Activation, the annual allocation of funds for preparedness will end with 12 months' notice, allowing the National Society to conclude its legal and financial commitments and responsibilities to third parties under the Early Action Protocol.

Contact information

Additional documentation

- Full Early Action Protocol

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact

Honduran Red Cross

Secretary General:

Alexei Castro, alexei.castro@cruzroja.org.hn +504 3151-2286

Operational Coordination:

Carlos Colindres carlos.colindres@cruzroja.org.hn +504 9783-6847

In IFRC

IFRC Regional Office for the Americas: Nadia Ortega, Disaster Risk Management Senior Officer,

nadia.ortega@ifrc.org

IFRC Country Cluster Support Team for the Central America countries: Gerardo Escalante, Disaster Management Coordinator, gerardo.escalante@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

Programme and Operations focal point:

Nazira Lacayo, Senior Officer DREF, Forecast-based Action, nazira.lacayo@ifrc.org

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.