



©UNICEF/Honduras/2020/Girón/AFP-Service

Reporting Period: 22 December 2020 – 15 January 2021

Central America

Hurricanes Eta and Iota

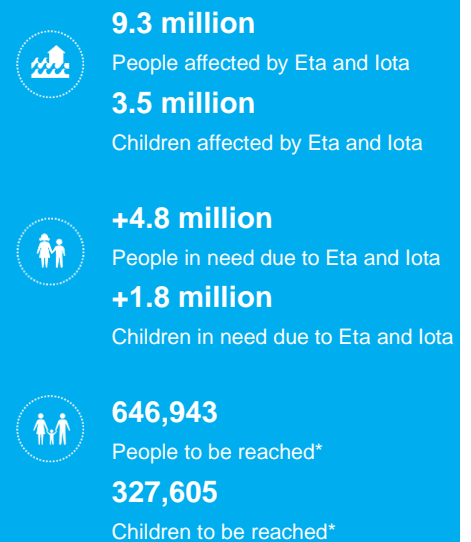
Humanitarian Situation Report No.7



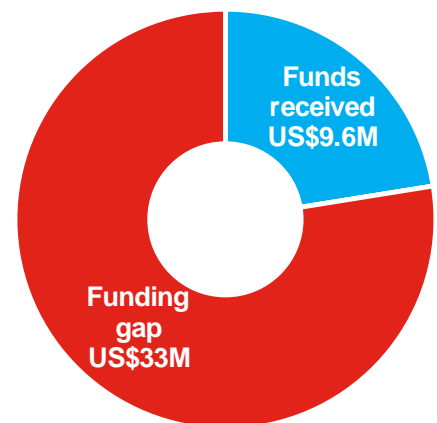
Highlights

- Nearly two months after Eta and Iota hit Central America, many communities remain under water and isolated. Over 9 million people, including 3.5 million children, have been affected and at least 4.8 million people, among them approximately 1.8 million children, need humanitarian assistance across the most impacted countries.
- New migrant caravans are forming in Honduras aiming at reaching the United States of America, fleeing violence and poverty, both exacerbated by COVID-19 and the combined impacts of Eta and Iota storms.
- UNICEF Country Offices (COs) continue increasing their field presence and scaling up response. Progress in the response over the reporting period include:
 - In **Honduras**, 5,000 people have received water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in shelters, nearly 12,000 children and caregivers have been engaged in violence prevention activities, safe spaces in shelters benefited 2,232 children, 3,713 families have been reached with in-kind transfers, and health workers have been trained on nutritional screening.
 - In **Guatemala**, nutrition brigades provided services to over 23,800 children, and identified and treated 249 children with acute malnutrition. Hygiene kits were delivered to 1,258 families, benefiting 2,375 children, and works are ongoing for rehabilitation of local water systems to benefit 489 families. In shelters and communities, 2,125 children received psychosocial support.
 - In **Nicaragua**, WASH supplies have benefited 25,000 people in affected communities, materials have been distributed to support protection activities for 3,600 children and adolescents, and 12 child-friendly spaces are being established in affected areas. Staff from ten organizations and local governments have been trained on C4D and Accountability for Affected Populations (AAP).
 - In **Belize**, 8,850 families have been reached with prevention messages for waterborne diseases and healthy behaviours, and 150 families received hygiene/nutrition kits. Early childhood development (ECD) play kits are being procured locally to be distributed to 390 families in communities affected by the hurricanes.
- UNICEF has received US\$9.6 million against the US\$42.6 million appeal for the Eta/Iota response. The funding gap stands now at US\$33 million, with sectors like health and social protection still unfunded.

Situation in Numbers



UNICEF estimated funding requirement*
US\$ 42.6 million



* Preliminary targets and funding requirements, to be updated as damage and needs assessments are conducted in countries affected by Iota, more information is available regarding the situation and needs of children and families, and inter-agency planning documents are finalised.

'Funds received' includes only new funds received for the Eta/Iota response, as of 12 January 2021.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF has received US\$9.6 million against the US\$42.6 million Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal in response to the needs of children and families affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Belize.ⁱ During the reporting period, UNICEF received new contributions from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for WASH in Nicaragua, the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) for WASH and child protection activities in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; the Government of Japan for WASH and education support in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and the Government of Spain, with focus on education in Honduras. In addition, new flexible thematic funds, channelled by the United States Fund for UNICEF, have been directed to the Eta/Iota response.

The funding gap stands now at US\$33 million, with sectors like health and social protection still unfunded. With many families starting to return to their communities, urgent flexible funding is needed to scale up community-based interventions in WASH, protection (including GBV), education and nutrition.

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Nearly two months after Hurricanes Eta and Iota hit Central America, many communities remain under water and isolated. Over 9 million people, including 3.5 million children, have been affected by the combined impacts of the storms. According to the updated inter-agency analysis for Honduras, 4.6 million people are in need of assistance in the country.ⁱⁱ Overall, more than 4.8 million people, among them approximately 1.8 million children, need humanitarian assistance across Central America,ⁱⁱⁱ thousands of families have lost their houses and livelihoods and will need sustained support to thrive.

The number of families in shelters is slowly decreasing. Some people have returned to their communities facing very precarious conditions, where basic services have not been restored, in some cases leaving their children back in shelters in the care of other family members.^{iv} Some areas in Honduras have been evacuated once again due to heavy rains in early January.^v

New migrant caravans are forming in Honduras, mainly in San Pedro Sula - one of the areas most affected by the storms. These groups aim at walking thousands of kilometers towards the United States, via Guatemala and Mexico, fleeing violence and poverty, both exacerbated by COVID-19 and the impact of Eta and Iota.

Population affected by the impacts of Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Central America						
Impact	Belize	Costa Rica	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua	TOTAL
No. of people affected*	60,000	325,000	2,438,933	4,663,244	1,800,000	9,287,177
No. of children affected**	21,120	87,100	926,795	1,772,033	720,000	3,527,047
No. of deaths*	1	2	61	99	21	184
No. of missing persons*			99	11		110
No. of people in shelters*	288		2,047	88,000	Not available	90,335
No. of children in shelters**	101		778	33,440	Not available	34,319

*According to official sources.^{vi} The number of people in shelters fluctuates daily as some families start returning home.

**Estimated by UNICEF, according to population distribution in country.

Humanitarian Strategy

As outlined in the 'Response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota' HAC, UNICEF is prioritising actions in the four most affected countries in Central America: Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Belize, aiming at reaching over 646,000 people, including more than 327,000 children. UNICEF planned coverage may expand upon finalization of inter-agency response plans. UNICEF response strategy is adapted to the needs in country and focuses on ensuring that children and families in shelters and affected communities have access to basic services including protection, nutrition, WASH services, health, education and early childhood development (ECD), and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV).

With large population groups living in shelters, the risk of COVID-19 spread is significant. Ensuring availability of safe water and adequate sanitation, risk communication and minimum health services, personal protective equipment (PPE) items, implementation of biosafety protocols and other measures, will be crucial to prevent the spread of the virus and are essential components of UNICEF's response.

UNICEF works in collaboration and coordination with governments and with its existing partners, and, where needed, will develop new partnerships, to delivering urgent assistance for children, women and families. UNICEF supports local and national governments, whose capacities have been surpassed, in restoring and ensuring the continuity of services in the affected regions.

Honduras

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Official figures indicate that more than 4.6 million people have been affected by the passage of Eta and Iota, including approximately 1.7 million children. The storms left a toll of 99 deaths and more than a million people evacuated. As per the updated inter-agency analysis,^{vii} at least 2.8 million people need assistance across the country, among them 1.6 million people require access to WASH support and 1.2 million people are in need of protection services. An evaluation led by the United Nations and the national government, with support from the World Bank, revealed that losses and damages from both hurricanes are equivalent to US\$ 1.9 billion, which will mean an additional 0.8 per cent reduction in the economic growth in 2020.^{viii} A consultation with 35 municipal governments carried out by UNICEF in December, revealed that their main needs include: rehabilitation of damaged sanitary infrastructure, water supply, social protection programmes -including food assistance, cleaning of communities and civil works, and reconstruction of houses. Main support requests from UNICEF include rehabilitation of infrastructure - particularly water and sanitation, in-kind social transfers, as well as strengthening and expanding psychosocial support.^{ix}

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. Together with the ministry of health (MoH), UNICEF has identified cold chain equipment to be replaced/repared, and children pending to be vaccinated. Additional funds are required to ensure timely start of repair works.

Nutrition. In preparation for the distribution of micronutrients to children affected by the storms, UNICEF has trained 11 health workers on the use of micronutrients and identification of children with acute malnutrition, in the Cortés Region. The intervention will be carried out along with vaccination in health centres. Children vaccinated will be provided with micronutrients powder, screened for acute malnutrition and referred to health services for adequate care. The distribution of micronutrients is expected to start in early February.

WASH. UNICEF support to WASH services in shelters, including improved access to safe water and provision of key hygiene supplies and services, are benefiting around 5,000 people. UNICEF-supported WASH services expect to reach over 58,000 people over the next six months. Upon progressive closure of 29 per cent of shelters, as per a random field sample comprising 17 shelters, UNICEF is shifting its support towards families who have returned to their homes, facing precarious access to WASH services, including support to restore WASH infrastructure in schools, after their heavy use as shelters, in preparation for the reopening of schools. UNICEF continues working to inform the prioritization of communities, collecting information on WASH damages at national level and in close collaboration with local authorities, in order to best coordinate WASH humanitarian assistance efforts within the WASH sector. The UNICEF-led Cluster continues monitoring the sector's response. Additional WASH Sector Coordination staff has been deployed to strengthen coordination at subnational and national levels, including information management capacity.

Child Protection. UNICEF has continued to provide child protection, and mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) to girls, boys and families affected, in close coordination with government and members of the child protection area of responsibility. As families return to start rebuilding homes, UNICEF and partners ensure that no child is

separated from their families, and continue to provide community-based protective and psychological services. Over the past weeks, in seven municipalities of the north coast (Puerto Cortés, Omoa, Potrerillos, Villanueva, Choloma, El Progreso, La Ceiba), UNICEF has supported 11,775 girls, boys and their caretakers, including 3,443 through violence prevention actions. Protective services were provided to 4,210 victims of violence, safe spaces in shelters benefited 2,232 girls and boys, and MHPSS reached 1,890 children. In many parts of the country, where entire communities were destroyed, children and their caretakers will need to stay in shelters for many more weeks. In these cases, UNICEF and the Protection Cluster members are coordinating with COPECO to ensure that minimum standards for the protection of children, women and other vulnerable groups are implemented and maintained. UNICEF is working with the national child protection agency (DINAF) to ensure hygiene kits, PPE and key messages for children and their caretakers are pre-positioned, in anticipation of a migrant caravan expected to depart from San Pedro Sula in mid-January. The government and humanitarian actors expect many families who have lost their homes and livelihoods after the tropical storms will take part of this caravan.

Social Protection. UNICEF continues supporting the provision of in-kind social transfers made by municipal governments to the most affected households, inside and outside the shelters, including mainly food kits. A total of 3,713 families (approximately 15,223 people) have been reached.


Human Interest Stories and External Media.

[Social media] [Jean Gough, UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, visits communities affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras.](#)

[Social media] [Jean Gough and President Juan Orlando Hernandez agree to work together in reopening schools and in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)

[Media] [Jean Gough: The best investment of a government is to invest in children.](#)

For more information: www.unicef.org/honduras/

 [@unicefhonduras](https://www.facebook.com/unicefhonduras)

 [@unicefhonduras](https://twitter.com/unicefhonduras)

 [@unicefhonduras](https://www.youtube.com/unicefhonduras)

 [unicefhonduras](http://www.unicef.org/honduras)

Guatemala

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

According to data from the National Coordination Office for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) as of 12 January 2021,^x around 2,000 people remained in official shelters, in Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Quiché and Petén departments. About 54,000 people remained in other alternative shelters. The assessments of damages in infrastructure reports 447 affected schools and 4,331 houses with severe damages. CONRED continues delivering supplies to the affected communities, including the distribution of over 1,600 tonnes of supplies, via land and air. It has been estimated that due to the impact and damage caused by the hurricanes, 23 per cent of the population in ten affected departments (approx. 2.2 million people) are likely facing high levels of acute food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification -IPC Phase 3 or above).^{xi} Despite receiving food assistance, these families will not be able to meet their food needs without exhausting essential assets of their livelihoods.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. In coordination with PAHO, UNICEF monitors the situation of children health care, with emphasis on immunizations and morbidity from acute respiratory infections (ARIs) and diarrhoea.

Nutrition. UNICEF continued to support life-saving interventions, reaching 23,836 children with essential nutrition services, including: 13,399 children in Huehuetenango (6,631 girls/ 6,768 boys), 4,711 in Alta Verapaz (2,392 girls/ 2,319 boys), 2,402 in Quiché (1,216 girls/1,186 boys), and 3,324 in Chiquimula (1,703 girls/1,621 boys). The brigades identified and treated 249 children under five with acute malnutrition (150 girls/99 boys). Additionally, children received micronutrient supplements, and pregnant and lactating women and mothers received quality counselling on infant and young child feeding, and maternal nutrition to prevent malnutrition. UNICEF continued to plan with the MoH the deployment of additional nutrition brigades in 12 municipalities of Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango and Izabal departments, with the aim of reaching more than 60,000 children through a total of 41 nutrition brigades, starting in January 2021.

WASH. In coordination with the Red Cross and Helvetas, 1,258 family hygiene kits have been delivered, benefiting 2,375 children (1,211 girls, 1,164 boys) in 13 communities, in the departments of Izabal and Alta Verapaz. A participatory workshop to prioritize needs and communities was carried out with 14 Environmental Sanitation Inspectors (ISA) and Rural Health Technicians (TSR) from the Izabal department health authorities. UNICEF has assessed seven water systems in the municipalities of Alta Verapaz and Izabal, including the Campur village water systems in Alta Verapaz, in which UNICEF has started rehabilitation works. This system will benefit 489 families. In addition, ten pumping equipment kits for the extraction of sludge and cleaning of wells have been delivered to the Health Directorates for the most affected departments and, to date, 30 artisanal family wells have been cleaned, benefiting 165 families. The UNICEF-led WASH Cluster has finalized its Strategic Response Plan, in line with a community prioritization exercise. The Plan has been disseminated with key donors for fundraising. Sector's priorities include setting up an accountability to affected populations (AAP) mechanism and capacity building workshop with sub-cluster coordinators to ensure consistency and coherence in the response. Monitoring indicators have been agreed upon and integrated in the existing 345W. WASH sub-clusters are activated and established to support strategic decision and service delivery at local level.

Education. In coordination with the ministry of education (MoE) and local governments, UNICEF started to deliver

construction materials to repair classroom roofs as well as WASH facilities for the rehabilitation of 95 schools in Alta Verapaz and Izabal. Acquisition of temporary classrooms is ongoing, nevertheless, given the number of destroyed schools, additional support is needed to address the needs for materials and equipment. Ensuring availability of learning materials and schools is especially urgent since classes are scheduled to start in mid-February. By the time of this report, 49 schools are being used as shelters, limiting the possibility for approximately 11,300 children to return to school, who require learning materials, school's furniture and equipment. The Education Cluster, with UNICEF co-leadership, is active and in coordination with sector's authorities.

Child Protection. UNICEF continued working, in coordination with the Secretary of Social Welfare (SBS) and partners on the ground (World Vision, IsraAID and Refugio de la Niñez), providing psychosocial support to 2,125 children, in shelters and communities. As of 12 January, most of the official shelters in the departments of Alta Verapaz and Izabal had been closed, many affected families have sought shelter with their families and neighbours. UNICEF and its partners have supported seven active shelters in Alta Verapaz (320 children) and ten shelters in Izabal (380 children). Community monitoring for prevention of violence has been conducted covering 1,425 children and their families, these efforts are coordinated with the Municipal Child Protection Offices and community leaders. These activities are based on the "Return to Happiness" methodology, including guidance for violence prevention and therapeutic work with families, in communal rooms, soccer fields, squares, etc. UNICEF and its partners continue to spread messages on violence prevention in the departments of Alta Verapaz and Izabal, in local languages, through local radio stations and printed material, reaching over 45,000 people.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. UNICEF will provide technical support to community media in municipalities of Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz departments, focusing on AAP and use of community video.

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

[Social media] [Jean Gough, UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, visits communities affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota in Guatemala](#)

[Social media] [Carlos Carrera, UNICEF Guatemala Representative.](#)

For more information: www.unicef.org/guatemala/

 [@unicefguatemala](https://www.facebook.com/unicefguatemala)

 [@unicefguatemala](https://twitter.com/unicefguatemala)

 [unicefguatemala](https://www.youtube.com/unicefguatemala)

 [UNICEF Guatemala](http://www.unicef.org/guatemala/)

Nicaragua

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

It has been estimated that the combined effects of Eta and Iota affected over 1.8 million people throughout Nicaragua.^{xii} Given the logistic challenges, great efforts are being invested by UNICEF and partners in finetuning the identification and geo-location of affected communities and needs in some of the most remote areas. Access to water and sanitation remains one of the main concerns, over 98,000 families have been affected by damages in water supply and sanitation systems in urban areas. In the most affected municipalities, over 18,000 wells resulted damaged or contaminated, and more than 4,000 latrines were damaged.^{xiii} Ensuring availability of WASH services is critical for children's return to normalcy, and for preventing the emergence of waterborne diseases. At least 261 schools have been destroyed or endured damages, affecting the timely return to school of over 88,000 children.^{xiv} Moreover, in the aftermath of the disaster, a deterioration of the mental health and stability of children and families is expected, along with increased domestic violence and violence against children.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. UNICEF disseminates messages promoting good practices for prevention of COVID-19 through social networks. Advocacy and technical support are being conducted with MoH

staff to reinforce epidemiological surveillance actions in the affected areas.

Nutrition. UNICEF is working with the Global Nutrition Cluster Technical Alliance to mobilize surge support in the areas of infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E) and community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) to support UNICEF Nutrition response. Identification of profiles is ongoing and remote technical support is expected to start in late January 2021.

WASH. During the reporting period, UNICEF continued its interventions in close coordination with government and NGO partners. WASH supplies have been delivered to the most affected communities in Waspam and Rosita municipalities in the RACCN, with the support of AMC and Caritas, including: 5,000 hygiene kits, 45 kits for cleaning of shelters, eight water tanks (5,000 and 6,000 lts), 40 water tanks collapsible (500 lts), and 20 kits for water testing. These supplies are benefiting 25,000 people in the affected communities. UNICEF continues leading coordination platforms at the national level, including establishing a monitoring mechanism, creating a dashboard with data analysis of response and gap areas, establishing contact and mailing lists. At the sub-national level, in RACCN the first sector meeting took place on 12 January with participation of high-level regional authorities and the WASH regional technical unit (UTRASH), as well as several NGOs working in the WASH response in the region. Field level assessments have been carried out and discussions are ongoing with communities to assess needs and priorities, and adapt the response accordingly. Coordination among sectors have been also promoted for integral response, including with Health and Education, to ensure WASH facilities in health centres and schools as part of the response; with Nutrition, coordination is ongoing with NGO ACH to develop an inter-sectoral response (WASH-Nutrition) in Waspam.

Education. UNICEF is shipping into the country ten tents for temporary learning spaces and school bags to reach 20,000 children in some of the most remote affected communities. Distributions are expected to start in February. UNICEF supports local authorities in the overall coordination of the sector in which four NGOs are supporting the response efforts, including provision of school furniture and material, rehabilitation of infrastructure and WASH in schools.

Child Protection. During the reporting period, UNICEF distributed 1,200 family protection kits that include materials on hygiene, COVID-19 prevention, and positive parenting

practices. These items will support activities for 3,600 children and adolescents. In UNICEF-supported child-friendly spaces (CFS) 230 children received protection services in Sinsin, Sagnylaya and Bilwi communities. With local governments, ten CFSs are being established in collaboration with Plan International, and two more with Save the Children. This process includes training of local government staff on CFS. UNICEF supported the development of a community roadmap on child protection and access to justice, this will be presented in consultation with local actors during the next days.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. Capacity building is one of the C4D pillars of the emergency response. UNICEF held the second session of the C4D / AAP learning programme with participation of 57 staff from ten organizations, staff from the RACCN government and staff from most affected municipalities. Prioritized behaviors and tools were also shared for the correct monitoring of behavior changes in WASH, protection, nutrition and emergency education activities.

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

[Video] [Learn about the story of José Hernández and his family from the Terciopelo community in Rosita, who were affected by the hurricanes](#)

[Video] [In 2021, the beginning of the school year will be difficult for 20,000 children and adolescents from the Rosita communities that were affected by the hurricanes #Eta and #Iota.](#)

[Video] [One month after hurricanes Eta and Iota UNICEF is providing humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable communities](#)

[Social media] [UNICEF and the Nidia White Women's Movement began the delivery of 1,200 family hygiene kits. for girls](#)

[Social media] [UNICEF is on the ground to design participatory projects that allow humanitarian assistance to be more effective](#)

[Social media] [UNICEF is on the ground to design participatory projects that allow humanitarian assistance to be more effective](#)

For more information: www.unicef.org/nicaragua/

 [@UNICEFNicaragua](#)

 [@UNICEFNicaragua](#)

 [unicefnicaragua](#)

 [UNICEF Nicaragua](#)

Belize

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) continues to directly support 225 families, including 600 children, in the Belize and Cayo districts affected by flooding caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. All shelters are closed, and humanitarian assistance continues in the most vulnerable communities. NEMO has distributed household items to families directly impacted. Priority needs of returning families include food assistance, access to safe water, hygiene and household building supplies. In December 2020, the government continued assisting farmers and the agriculture sector with heightened COVID-19 prevention awareness in areas already vulnerable to the spread of cases. The national government approved additional funding of BZ\$9 million (US\$4.5 million) for road works, especially on the major roads and highways severely impacted, and tasked NEMO the production of an updated map of flood-prone areas in the country.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. At least 8,850 families have been reached with prevention messages for waterborne diseases and healthy behaviour by community health workers (CHWs). UNICEF continues to coordinate with the Ministry of Health and Wellness on availability of health services as currently, there is a gap in human resources due to COVID-19. Approximately 30 per cent of health workers are in isolation. UNICEF is providing guidance on engaging the private sector and supporting training for additional healthcare workers. Stocks are out for Zinc, which is essential for reducing morbidity associated with

water-borne disease symptoms like diarrhoea, and lowering respiratory infections in children. This is urgently required in-country, given the heightened risk in the areas most affected by the floods. Efforts are underway with UNICEF's Supply Division for supporting availability of Zinc in country.

WASH. UNICEF provided 150 emergency hygiene/nutrition kits to civil society organisation (CSO) partners to distribute to 150 families, impacting 375 children in need of immediate support and assistance. A total of 1,610 packs of reusable menstrual hygiene kits will be distributed in the first quarter of

2020 to girls residing in the affected communities of Belize Rural and Cayo districts.

Education. UNICEF Belize has procured five early childhood development (ECD) emergency kits from Supply Division, and in partnership with the Government of Belize, an additional 390 ECD play kits are being procured locally to be distributed to 390 families in communities severely affected by Hurricanes Eta/Iota in the Cayo, Belize and Northern districts. An additional 975 boys and girls, from ages 0-8 will benefit from play and recreational materials to support learning opportunities. UNICEF and the National ECD technical Working Group will engage in planning meetings to further review and develop the ECD/education emergency response.

Child Protection. As part of the COVID-19 response, UNICEF Belize is working with CSO partners in the child protection sector to reach parents remotely with parenting messages, COVID-19 prevention, positive discipline and nutrition. Given that the national capacities in child protection and GBV are exceeded with the floods' relief, parents severely affected by Eta and Iota have reached out to CSO partners for support. As provider of last resort with the child protection sub cluster,

UNICEF provided 150 emergency response kits to CSO partners to distribute to 150 families in need of immediate support and assistance. Planned training sessions on gender-based violence (GBV) with CSOs and GBV officer and training on operationalisation of child friendly spaces are underway.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. UNICEF distributed recreational kits to CSO partners to assist in their response to child protection in emergencies, complementing ongoing messages. The kits include equipment for the development of CFSs at the district level. Training of social workers on CFSs implementation including community engagement is being rolled out.

Human Interest Stories and External Media. UNICEF Belize continued to amplify emergency response actions across its social media platforms.

[Child Friendly Spaces Training of Facilitators](#)

[Distribution of Recreational Kits \(Child Friendly Spaces\)](#)

For more information: www.unicef.org/belize/

 [@UNICEFBelize](https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFBelize)

 [@unicefbelize](https://twitter.com/unicefbelize)

 [UNICEF Belize](https://www.youtube.com/UNICEFBelize)

Costa Rica

There are no updates for the reporting period. Further progress in the response will be reported in upcoming SitReps. See previous reports for additional information.

For more information: www.unicef.org/costarica/

 [@UNICEFCostaRica](https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFCostaRica)

 [@UNICEFCostaRica](https://twitter.com/UNICEFCostaRica)

 [unicefcostarica](https://www.instagram.com/unicefcostarica)

 [UNICEF Costa Rica](https://www.youtube.com/UNICEFCostaRica)

Summary Analysis of Regional Response

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) provides technical support to COs' teams, and monitors closely the situation in communication with COs and partners. 'Virtual teams' have been activated in LACRO to provide remote hands-on support to COs, and staff from the regional team has been deployed in mission to support key sectors. Sectoral coordination mechanisms have been also activated at regional level.

The **Regional WASH LAC Group**, co-led by PAHO and UNICEF, has supported the country coordination platforms in their efforts for community prioritization, assessment and monitoring of response. In Honduras, the community prioritization exercise is supported by local authorities and is nation-wide. The WASH LAC Group is providing on-the-job support and technical guidance to the newly recruited WASH Coordination teams. The Group has also supported the creation of [websites and dashboards](#), including the maintenance of these for the Eta/Iota WASH Sector platforms. Some of the mapping and data consolidation support include: interactive maps for hurricane affected areas, map of WASH actors, data and file management, contact and mailing lists creation and coordination with OCHA.

The Regional WASH team has supported mobilization of LAC surge, standby partners and recruitment of staff. LACRO has supported COs with their WASH Strategic Response Plans including for the wider sector, identifying indicators and establishing monitoring and reporting mechanisms through real time data reporting. In addition, LACRO has supported COs with supply plans and fundraising.

To strengthen capacities towards an effective people-centred response, focused on the demands and vision of the communities, the **C4D/AAP LACRO team**, together with the Nicaragua CO, are conducting a practical training aimed at counterparts and UNICEF's partners, with four sessions addressing basic concepts, integration, implementation and coordination of AAP.

The **Regional Nutrition team** provided technical support to COs in defining the needs for surge support and deployments (Nicaragua). It also provided support to training sessions regarding nutrition with implementing partners (Honduras). The **Regional Health team** is providing technical support to the affected COs on an ongoing basis.

The UNICEF LACRO **Communication team** is supporting the ongoing visit of the UNICEF's Regional Director, Jean Gough, to the most affected areas hit by hurricanes Iota and Eta in Honduras and Guatemala. The Regional Director's twitter account, [@Jean UNICEF](#), has been set up and real-time tweets with pictures and videos are being published. The latest high-quality photos and videos from Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras have been updated and shared with media, partners, donors and NatComs in support of fundraising efforts via [weshare](#).

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

In **Honduras**, government response efforts are coordinated by the National Contingency Coordination Agency (COPECO) part of the National Risk Management System (SINAGER). An addendum to the Flash Appeal issued by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has been issued.^{xv} Sectoral groups/Clusters had been activated locally for the COVID-19 response and remain active in the current emergency. UNICEF leads the WASH and Education Clusters, and Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR), and participates in the Health, Shelter, and Food Security and Nutrition Clusters. The Resident Coordinator and OCHA are leading

consultations for the formal activation of Clusters, according to global procedures. Local Humanitarian Country teams are being established in the most affected departments.

In **Guatemala**, the National Coordinating Office for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) leads the governmental preparedness and response efforts, with Emergency Operations Centers (COEs) and local authorities, at local level. The HCT is active with participation of national authorities. An inter-agency Action Plan has been issued by the HCT, to present the current humanitarian priorities and progress in the response and resource mobilization efforts in Guatemala.^{xvi} Five clusters have been activated by the Resident Coordinator: WASH, Health, Food Security, Shelter and Protection. UNICEF is coordinating and co-leading WASH, Education and Nutrition Clusters, and the Child Protection AoR. UNICEF has increased the emergency team with the incorporation of WASH Cluster coordinator at the sub-national level, multi-sector Information Management Officer and an emergency coordinator.

In **Nicaragua**, the governmental response is coordinated by the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention of Disasters (SINAPRED). The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the United Nations Emergency Team (UNETE) are monitoring the situation and coordinating support with local and national authorities. UNCT partners, in consultation with national authorities, are currently working on the preparation of a Flash Appeal to help the resource mobilisation efforts in response to the most urgent needs in the country. With Regional Government and decentralized institutions, UNICEF leads WASH, Education, and Child Protection sectors, and co-leads Health with PAHO and UNFPA. Coordination focus on articulation, avoid duplications, monitoring and evaluation, and secure coverage of all affected areas and communities.

In **Belize**, the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) continues to respond to the heightened emergency. The United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) has been activated and meeting regularly. UNICEF plays a key role in the UNETT leading WASH, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection clusters. Along with the UNETT, there is close monitoring and organization of the response in coordination and communication with national authorities.

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office: www.unicef.org/lac

UNICEF LAC Facebook: www.facebook.com/uniceflac

UNICEF LAC Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/reports/urgent-appeal-for-children-and-families-affected-hurricanes-by-eta-and-iota>

Who to contact for further information:

Jean Gough
Regional Director
Latin America and the Caribbean
Email: jgough@unicef.org

Michele Messina
Regional Emergency Advisor a.i.
Latin America and the Caribbean
Email: mmessina@unicef.org

Laurent Duvillier
Regional Chief of Communication
Latin America and the Caribbean
Email: lduvillier@unicef.org

Annex A

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (US\$)	Humanitarian resources received (US\$)**	Funding gap	
			US\$	%
Nutrition	2,711,209	597,057	2,114,152	78%
Health	1,388,523		1,388,523	100%
WASH	30,854,673	6,762,237	24,092,436	78%
Education / ECD	2,296,800	538,653	1,758,147	77%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	3,572,200	1,362,924	2,209,276	62%
Social protection and cash transfers	1,263,000		1,263,000	100%
Regional office technical capacity	500,000	184,592	315,408	63%
<i>To be allocated</i>		120,889		
TOTAL	42,586,405	9,566,352	33,020,053	78%

* As defined in Appeal of 18 November 2020 for a period of six months.

** Includes only new funds received for the Eta/Iota response, as of 12 January 2021.

-
- ⁱ UNICEF, 'Humanitarian Action for Children - Response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota', November 2020, <<https://www.unicef.org/media/89546/file/2020%20HAC%20Response%20to%20Hurricanes%20Eta%20and%20Iota.pdf>>
- ⁱⁱ Humanitarian Country Team, 'Addendum Flash Appeal Honduras', December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-addendum-flash-appeal-tormentas-tropicales-eta-iota-diciembre-2020>>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Including data for Belize (est. by UNICEF), Guatemala (as per inter-agency Action Plan), Honduras (as per Addendum Flash Appeal), Nicaragua (est. by UNICEF).
- ^{iv} Naciones Unidas Honduras, 'HONDURAS: Tormentas Tropicales Eta e Iota. Informe de Situación No. 07', 13 January 2021, <<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SitRep%207%20Eta%20e%20Iota%20Honduras%202020%20-%20Aportes%20sectoriales.pdf>>
- ^v Idem.
- ^{vi} Sources: Belize (NEMO -Iota preliminary assessment, 23 Nov.); Costa Rica (National Emergency Commission -CNE, 16 Nov.); Guatemala (CONRED, 12 Dec.); Honduras (SCGG & COPECO, 3 Dec.); Nicaragua (OCHA Tropical Storm Eta & Hurricane Iota: Humanitarian Snapshot, 4 Dec., Government of Nicaragua).
- ^{vii} OCHA, 'Addendum Flash Appeal HURRICANES ETA & IOTA', January 2021, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-addendum-flash-appeal-hurricanes-eta-iota-december-2020>>
- ^{viii} World Bank, 'Una respuesta inédita ante un desastre sin precedentes en Honduras', 11 Jan 2021, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/una-respuesta-dita-ante-un-desastre-sin-precedentes-en-honduras>>
- ^{ix} According to consultations conducted by UNICEF with Mayors in municipalities prioritized by UNICEF cooperation programme 2017-2021.
- ^x CONRED, 'Consolidado incidentes Fenómeno tropical Eta-Iota, 12 de enero, 18:00h', 12 January 2021, <<https://conred.gob.gt/emergencia>>
- ^{xi} IPC, 'Guatemala: Acute food insecurity, September 2020 analysis projection update', 8 January 2021, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/guatemala/guatemala-acute-food-insecurity-situation-september-2020-and-projection-update>>
- ^{xii} OCHA, 'Tropical Storm Eta & Hurricane Iota: Six Weeks Later', 22 December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/central-america-tropical-storm-eta-hurricane-iota-six-weeks-later-22-december-2020>>
- ^{xiii} According to estimations by ENACAL.
- ^{xiv} Based on estimated enrolment in affected schools.
- ^{xv} Humanitarian Country Team, 'Addendum Flash Appeal Honduras', December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-addendum-flash-appeal-tormentas-tropicales-eta-iota-diciembre-2020>>
- ^{xvi} OCHA UNCT Guatemala, 'Plan de Acción, Guatemala - Respuesta Eta/Iota', 16 December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/guatemala/plan-de-acci-n-guatemala-respuesta-etaiota-diciembre-2020>>