

Latin America – Storms

DECEMBER 11, 2020

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The effects of Hurricanes Eta and Iota are expected to worsen food insecurity in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua in the coming months, with 3 million people currently projected as experiencing severe acute food insecurity.
- The U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua visits Puerto Cabezas, where USAID/BHA partner UNICEF delivers WASH assistance to affected households.
- USAID deactivates the DART and RMT; USAID/BHA staff continue to manage humanitarian response activities from Central America and Washington, D.C.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Latin America Storms Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$23,850,708
	DoD ²	\$7,060,000
	Total	\$30,910,708

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA). Funding figures reflect committed and obligated funding as of December 11, 2020. Total comprises a subset of the nearly \$48 million in publicly announced USAID/BHA funding to the Latin America and Caribbean storms response.

² U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). Funding figures reflect funding as of December 11, 2020.

TIMELINE

Nov. 3, 2020

Eta makes landfall over Nicaragua's northeastern coast as a Category 4 hurricane

Nov. 4, 2020

The USG declares a disaster for the effects of Eta in Honduras

Nov. 6, 2020

DoD begins providing support to the humanitarian response in Honduras; the USG declares a disaster for the effects of Eta in Guatemala

Nov. 7, 2020

DoD initiates response in Guatemala

Nov. 8, 2020

The USG declares a disaster for the effects of Eta in Nicaragua

Nov. 16, 2020

Hurricane Iota passes over Colombia's San Andrés, Providencia, and Santa Catalina islands, then makes landfall over Nicaragua and passes over Central America

Nov. 17, 2020

USAID activates a DART and RMT; the USG declares a disaster for the effects of Iota in Colombia

Dec. 2, 2020

DoD completes all missions in Guatemala and Honduras in support of the storms response

Dec. 11, 2020

USAID demobilizes the DART and RMT

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Storm Impacts Expected to Contribute to Increased Food Insecurity in Central America

As a result of the extensive damage to crops, livestock, and livelihoods from Hurricanes Eta and Iota, coupled with pre-existing vulnerabilities, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) estimates that at least 3 million people are currently facing Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.¹ Storm-related impacts have exacerbated existing food insecurity, driven by several years of poor rainfall and the socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, in parts of rural northeastern Nicaragua, the Caribbean basin of Honduras, and northern and eastern Guatemala, in addition to the Central American Dry Corridor. Eta and Iota arrived at the peak of the agricultural labor season in the region and resulted in damage to more than 494,000 acres of staple food and cash crops, livestock losses, and destruction of fishing equipment; the full extent of damage from Iota is still being assessed. While local governments and relief agencies are providing assistance to address the immediate food needs of storm-affected populations, existing efforts are unlikely to meet the medium- to long-term needs of affected households. FEWS NET projects that an even higher number of people in the region will face Crisis outcomes through the peak of the lean season in August 2021, with access to food and income particularly limited among small-scale farmers and other poor households until the harvest season begins in September 2021.

U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua Visits Puerto Cabezas With USAID/BHA Partner UNICEF

On December 10, U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua Kevin K. Sullivan traveled with representatives of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Plan International to Sisín and Tuara communities in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region's Puerto Cabezas Municipality, Nicaragua. UNICEF distributed 320 household hygiene kits provided with USAID/BHA support—sufficient to support the needs of approximately 1,600 people—in Sisín and Tuara. In the coming weeks, with USAID/BHA funding, the UN agency will expand protection and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs to support individuals adversely affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Nicaragua.

USAID Deactivates DART and RMT, Continues Support to Response

USAID deactivated the field-based Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) for the humanitarian response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Latin America on December 11. At its height, the DART was supported by 40 people in

¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

seven countries in the region; since November 17, DART personnel conducted assessments, identified priority needs, and coordinated assistance for storm-affected populations in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

As of December 11, USAID/BHA had provided more than \$23.8 million to support 11 humanitarian agencies in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua to deliver multi-sector assistance to storm-affected populations and facilitate the transportation of critical relief supplies to affected communities. In total, USAID/BHA has allocated nearly \$48 million to provide emergency shelter, food, hygiene supplies, logistics support and emergency relief items, medical care, and protection services to tens of thousands of people in the four countries during the next 6 to 12 months. USAID/BHA personnel also coordinated with the DoD to utilize its unique capabilities for humanitarian response; from November 6 to December 2, the U.S. Southern Command's Joint Task Force-Bravo (JTF-B) transported a total 257 metric tons (MT) of humanitarian cargo, as well as humanitarian response personnel, on behalf of host governments and relief organizations in Guatemala and Honduras. Following the deactivation of the DART and RMT on December 11, USAID/BHA teams based in San José, Costa Rica, and Washington, D.C., will continue to coordinate with local authorities, U.S. embassies, USAID missions, and humanitarian partners to assess needs and provide assistance.

NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

KEY FIGURES



40

USAID Disaster Response Personnel Across Central America at the Height of the DART's Activity

REGIONAL

Immediately following Hurricane Eta's landfall over Central America, USAID/BHA staff in the region began coordinating response activities with national authorities and USAID/BHA partners. On November 17, USAID activated a DART—supported at its height by 40 personnel across seven countries—to assess damages, identify priority needs, and work with partners to provide assistance to affected populations, and a Washington, D.C.-based RMT to support the DART. In response to the effects of Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Guatemala and Honduras, JTF-B rapidly mobilized to rescue people from isolated areas and evacuate people in need of medical assistance. JTF-B also supported USAID/BHA-validated requests for unique DoD capabilities by conducting aerial damage assessments and transporting food rations and relief items on behalf of host governments and humanitarian organizations; from November 6 to December 2, JTF-B transported a total 257 MT of humanitarian cargo, as well as humanitarian response personnel, in the two countries. Additionally, through a regional mechanism, USAID/BHA is supporting the local procurement of emergency food items and provision of supplies and emergency relief items for affected populations in Belize, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is supporting national Red Cross societies to respond to immediate humanitarian needs resulting from Hurricanes Eta and Iota, and had reached

more than 102,000 people with emergency assistance in Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama as of November 23. UN agencies and humanitarian non-governmental organizations are coordinating to support populations in collective shelters with emergency food assistance, relief items, and other humanitarian assistance, as well as providing life-saving assistance to communities isolated by flooding. As of December 4, nearly 60 organizations reported implementing more than 1,400 multi-sector humanitarian activities across El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, according to the UN.



31

USAID-Funded Flights
Transporting GoC-
Provided Relief Supplies

COLOMBIA

USAID/BHA provided immediate funding to the American Red Cross to support the distribution of urgently needed relief commodities on Colombia's San Andrés and Providencia islands. In late November, USAID/BHA also supported the delivery of approximately 100 MT of Government of Colombia (GoC) relief supplies, including communications equipment, generators, food, medical supplies, and potable water, from Colombia's capital city of Bogotá to San Andrés. In addition, USAID/BHA has established a humanitarian air bridge between San Andrés and Providencia, through which a commercial airline had completed 31 flights transporting 114 MT of emergency relief supplies as of December 10. USAID/BHA also provided 88 tool kits, including hammers, handsaws and screwdrivers; nearly 1 MT of nails; and 80,000 roof tiles to help remove debris and repair roofs on San Andrés. Between December 1 and 5, a DoD vessel also transported nearly 197 MT of GoC-provided heavy duty equipment from Colombia's Cartagena city to Providencia to assist with GoC-implemented debris management and initial early recovery efforts.

The GoC has delivered food, tents, critical household items, and safe drinking water to affected households in Providencia via boat, and the Colombian Red Cross provided a water treatment unit that can process 175,000 liters of water per day, sufficient to cover all water needs on the island. The GoC National Disaster Risk Management Unit also allocated nearly \$600,000 to support local authorities' relief efforts to rebuild houses and repair damaged WASH infrastructure on the affected islands.



11,150

People in Guatemala to
Receive USAID-
Supported Multipurpose
Cash Assistance

GUATEMALA

With USAID/BHA funding, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is providing food assistance and hygiene kits with items to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 to affected households in Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments. CRS is also targeting 11,150 storm-affected individuals with multipurpose cash assistance, WASH support, and shelter assistance in the two departments. USAID/BHA partner Save the Children Federation (SCF) is providing multipurpose cash assistance to households in Quiché Department for the purchase of food and WASH items and distributing hygiene kits, while Project Concern International (PCI) is providing multipurpose cash assistance for the purchase of food, as well as relief commodities to improve shelter and WASH conditions, to households in Huehuetenango

Department. Additionally, with USAID/BHA support, IFRC is providing hygiene items, delivering hygiene promotion messaging, supporting improved access to safe drinking water, and providing support for child protection and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV).

The Government of Guatemala (GoG)—through the GoG National Emergency Commission (CONRED)—had delivered nearly 1,340 MT of relief commodities and food assistance across the country as of December 4. The UN deployed a UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team to assist with response coordination and information management, focused on Alta Verapaz and Izabal. At least 29 relief organizations are conducting response activities across the country, and humanitarian partners had delivered more than 324,800 liters of safe drinking water to affected people as of December 7, the UN reports. To address needs in Guatemala’s shelters, where overcrowding and the risk of COVID-19 transmission remain a concern, the International Organization for Migration has initiated an Integrated Shelter Registration System to coordinate with local authorities to assess conditions and develop appropriate response plans.



20,000

Households in Honduras
Receiving Emergency
Food Assistance From
WFP

HONDURAS

With USAID/BHA funding, ADRA and World Vision are distributing blankets, hygiene items, and kitchen sets to individuals residing in collective shelters in Honduras. USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) is delivering emergency food assistance to an initial 20,000 households, while several partners, including Global Communities, GOAL, IFRC, and UNICEF, are providing WASH support to people in shelters and affected communities. To meet immediate health needs, IFRC is providing health services, including first aid, psychosocial support, and technical assistance for community-based surveillance for diseases. UNICEF is also providing services to prevent GBV and violence against children, as well as to meet other protection needs. In addition, Global Communities, which has been implementing COVID-19 prevention and response activities in Honduras since July, is undertaking COVID-19 mitigation interventions in 59 shelters across Cortés. USAID/BHA partner GOAL is also providing technical assistance in emergency shelter management, as well as support for shelter repair.

The Government of Honduras (GoH) deployed more than 50,000 first response staff and volunteers to conduct search and rescue operations and provide immediate relief assistance to affected populations, and the GoH National Emergency Commission (COPECO) worked with WFP to deliver pre-positioned emergency food assistance to the most affected communities on the coast of Honduras. Through December 9, an UNDAC team supported coordination and assessment efforts in Honduras, with assistance from the USAID/BHA-supported Americas Support Team, a group of urban search and rescue technical advisors from the Fairfax County, Virginia, Fire and Rescue Department. At least 29 different humanitarian organizations

are conducting multi-sector response activities across the country and had reached nearly 337,700 people with WASH assistance and more than 257,700 people with food security and nutrition assistance as of December 2, according to the UN.



NICARAGUA

USAID/BHA is supporting UNICEF and non-governmental organization (NGO) sub-partners to provide emergency WASH services to approximately 13,500 people—including nearly 6,100 children—in heavily affected areas of the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region and Jinotega and Nueva Segovia departments. In addition, USAID/BHA is supporting UNICEF and NGO sub-partners to reach 34,000 people in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region’s Prinzapolka, Puerto Cabezas, and Waspam municipalities with emergency and early recovery WASH assistance, as well as protection services—including psychosocial support, child-friendly spaces, and technical assistance to local authorities to address GBV risks—aimed to reach 13,000 people.

Following Hurricane Eta’s landfall, the Government of Nicaragua (GoN) mobilized military personnel, fire brigades, and Nicaraguan Red Cross teams to evacuate populations, provide medical care, deliver emergency assistance, and remove debris from blocked transportation routes. As of November 27, the GoN had distributed nearly 350,600 sheets of zinc roofing material in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region to assist communities with emergency shelter. In Prinzapolka, the Nicaraguan Red Cross provided food assistance, hygiene kits, and a water treatment plant and deployed a team to provide psychosocial support to affected populations; the Nicaraguan Red Cross also provided a water treatment plant to nearby Waspam. Additionally, public health brigades had reached 120,000 people in affected areas with medical assistance as of November 23, the UN reports.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LATIN AMERICA STORMS RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN COLOMBIA FOR THE STORMS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
American Red Cross	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	San Andrés and Providencia	\$100,000
	Logistics Support to Transport Relief Commodities to Affected Islands and for Humanitarian Air Bridge Between Affected Islands		\$523,885
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE COLOMBIA RESPONSE			\$623,885
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE COLOMBIA RESPONSE			\$623,885
FUNDING IN GUATEMALA FOR THE STORMS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			

CRS	Food Assistance, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Alta Verapaz, Izabal	\$3,100,000
IFRC	Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$500,000
PCI	Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Huehuetenango	\$5,000,000
SCF	Multipurpose Cash Assistance, WASH	Quiché	\$4,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE GUATEMALA RESPONSE			\$12,600,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE GUATEMALA RESPONSE			\$12,600,000
FUNDING IN HONDURAS FOR THE STORMS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
ADRA	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Atlántida, Colón	\$150,000
Global Communities	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cortés, Copán, Santa Bárbara	\$1,250,000
GOAL	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Atlántida, Cortés, Yoro	\$1,500,000
IFRC	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNICEF	Protection, WASH	Atlántida, Cortés, Yoro	\$1,250,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Atlántida, Colón, Gracias a Dios, Yoro	\$4,000,000
World Vision	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Cortés, Yoro	\$150,000
	Logistics Support	Affected Areas	\$152,836
	Program Support		\$14,737
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE HONDURAS RESPONSE			\$8,967,573
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HONDURAS RESPONSE			\$8,967,573
FUNDING IN NICARAGUA FOR THE STORMS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
UNICEF	WASH	Jinotega, North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region, Nueva Segovia	\$100,000
	Protection, WASH	North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region	\$1,500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE NICARAGUA RESPONSE			\$1,600,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE NICARAGUA RESPONSE			\$1,600,000
FUNDING IN LATIN AMERICA FOR THE STORMS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
	Program Support		\$59,250
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE REGIONAL RESPONSE			\$59,250
DOD			
	Search and Rescue Missions, USAID-Validated Logistics Support		\$7,060,000
TOTAL DOD FUNDING FOR THE REGIONAL RESPONSE			\$7,060,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE REGIONAL RESPONSE			\$7,119,250
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE LATIN AMERICA STORMS RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$23,850,708

TOTAL DOD FUNDING FOR THE LATIN AMERICA STORMS RESPONSE IN FY 2021

\$7,060,000

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LATIN AMERICA STORMS RESPONSE IN FY 2021

\$30,910,708

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. USAID/BHA funding figures reflect committed and obligated funding as of December 11, 2020. Total comprises a subset of the nearly \$48 million in publicly announced USAID/BHA funding to the Latin America and Caribbean storms response. DoD funding figures reflect funding through December 11, 2020.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)