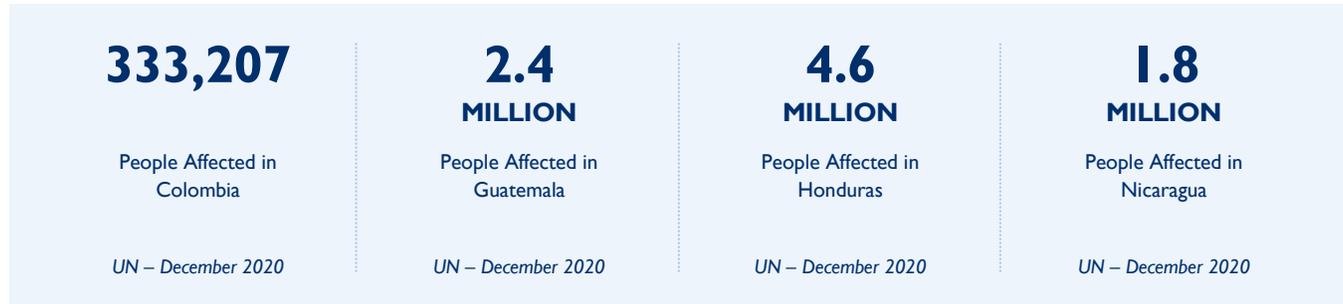


Latin America – Storms

JANUARY 29, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- With USAID/BHA support, NGO and UN agency partners deliver multi-sector humanitarian assistance to storm-affected communities in Guatemala and Honduras.
- Thousands of households in Honduras remain displaced in official and informal shelters, while needs for assistance to repair houses remain high.
- An updated food security analysis indicates that storms Eta and Iota have significantly worsened food security conditions among households in Guatemala.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Latin America Storms Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$53,591,816
	DoD ²	\$7,312,173
Total		\$60,903,989

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

¹ USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) funding figures reflect committed and obligated funding as of January 29, 2021.
² U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

TIMELINE

Nov. 3, 2020

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

Nov. 4–8, 2020

The USG declares three disasters for the effects of Eta in Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, and supports partner response activities

Nov. 5–13, 2020

DoD conducts missions in Guatemala and Honduras in support of the Eta response

Nov. 16, 2020

Iota affects parts of Colombia, then makes landfall over Nicaragua and passes over Central America

Nov. 17, 2020

USAID activates a DART and RMT; the USG declares a disaster in Colombia

Nov. 17–Dec. 2, 2020

DoD conducts missions in Guatemala and Honduras in support of the Iota response

Dec. 11, 2020

USAID demobilizes the DART and RMT

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

USAID/BHA Partners Reach Storm-Affected Communities With Humanitarian Assistance

In response to identified humanitarian needs, USAID/BHA partners continue to provide multi-sector assistance to households affected by storms Eta and Iota in Latin America. Between December 1 and 31, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) delivered emergency food assistance to 15,000 households in Honduras' Atlántida, Colón, Gracias a Dios, and Yoro departments, prioritizing areas reporting the highest levels of food insecurity. The majority of households receiving food assistance had experienced severe livelihoods impacts due to the storms and coronavirus disease (COVID-19) mitigation measures. With USAID/BHA support, WFP also expanded humanitarian logistics support to hard-to-reach areas of Honduras during December; the UN agency delivered assistance, including food and emergency relief commodities, by air to four isolated communities in Gracias a Dios. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner Global Communities has been delivering shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance since December; the non-governmental organization (NGO) recently repaired a community water system in Cortés Department's Villanueva Municipality serving approximately 270 households.

In Guatemala's Huehuetenango Department, USAID/BHA partner Project Concern International (PCI) has begun providing food, multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), relief commodities, shelter support, and WASH services to storm-affected populations. PCI is coordinating closely with local government agencies, international humanitarian organizations, private sector companies, and other partners to reach communities with assistance. Meanwhile, with USAID/BHA funding, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is delivering food, shelter, and WASH support to populations in Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments and Save the Children Federation (SCF) has begun MPCA distribution to meet critical food and non-food needs and water system repair activities in Quiché Department.

Shelter Needs Remain High in Honduras

As of January 26, the Government of Honduras (GoG) National Emergency Commission (COPECO) reported that nearly 17,200 people remained at official evacuation centers in Honduras, representing a decrease from the total 88,000 people at official shelters as of January 12. Additionally, as of mid-January, an unconfirmed but significant number of displaced populations remained in informal shelters or with relatives or host families. While updated figures on the number of people who have returned to their houses are not available, as of mid-January, nearly half of the people in official emergency shelters were beginning to return to their communities of origin or returning to their homes during the day to safeguard their belongings, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports.

Among other factors, damage from storms Eta and Iota is hindering the ability of some affected populations to return to their communities, with COPECO estimating that the storms damaged approximately 73,000 houses and destroyed nearly 9,300 houses in Honduras. In coordination with other relief organizations, USAID/BHA partners are providing shelter and settlements support, including technical assistance and shelter materials, as well as emergency relief commodities, to affected households in five departments of Honduras.

Food Security Analysis Indicates Worsened Conditions in Guatemala Following Storms

According to a recent IPC analysis of food security conditions in the 10 departments of Guatemala most heavily affected by Eta and Iota, 23 percent of the population across the departments will likely face high levels of acute food insecurity through March; even with food assistance, these households will be unable to meet their food needs without using coping strategies such as selling household assets and reducing the quality and quantity of food consumed.³ The October 2020 IPC analysis projected 16 percent of the population in the same departments would experience acute food insecurity through March 2021, indicating that the impact of the November hurricanes—including loss of food stocks, disruption to the agricultural labor season, and damage to agricultural production infrastructure, crops, houses, and roads—contributed to deteriorated food security conditions. The storms damaged approximately 338,000 acres of agricultural land in the ten departments analyzed, according to the Government of Guatemala (GoG) Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

Additional \$20.8 Million Needed for Honduras Response, Bringing Total Appeal to \$90 Million

On December 30, humanitarian agencies released an updated flash appeal for the Honduras storms response, requesting a total of \$90 million to meet the needs of 1.4 million people affected by storms Eta and Iota. Populations in storm-affected areas require urgent food, health, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance. The revised appeal incorporates needs identified during a multi-sector assessment conducted following Iota's passage, which primarily impacted Copán, Ocotepeque, and Santa Bárbara departments; the initial flash appeal for the Hurricane Eta response, released on November 19 requested \$69.2 million to deliver assistance to 450,000 people in Honduras. As of January 27, 2021, the Honduras appeal was 29 percent funded, according to OCHA.

KEY FIGURES



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USAID disaster response personnel across Central America at the height of the DART's activity

NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

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, 2020, USAID activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)—supported at its height by 40 personnel across seven countries—to assess damage, identify priority needs, and work with partners to provide assistance to affected populations, and a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management

³ 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.

Team (RMT) to support the DART. As part of the U.S. Government (USG) response to the effects of Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Guatemala and Honduras, the U.S. Southern Command's Joint Task Force-Bravo (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 of 257 metric tons (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 storm-affected populations in Belize, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

In response to storm-related humanitarian needs, international donors have mobilized funding for relief organizations across Central America. As of late December, the EU had provided nearly \$21.9 million for response activities in Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama, including a recent delivery of humanitarian cargo including COVID-19 tests, kitchen sets, tents, and water containers to Honduras. With \$8.8 million in funding, the Government of Japan is supporting four partners to provide food assistance, relief items, and materials for home repair, as well as to improve humanitarian coordination and shelter management. As of late December, the Government of Switzerland had supported the national Red Cross societies of Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua with approximately \$791,400 to deliver health, shelter, and WASH assistance to affected populations, while the Government of the Republic of Korea had provided \$700,000 to respond to needs generated by Hurricane Iota in Colombia, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Across the region, UN agencies and NGOs are coordinating to support populations in collective shelters with emergency food assistance, relief items, and other humanitarian assistance, and have provided life-saving assistance to communities isolated by flooding. As of December 22, 64 organizations reported implementing more than 2,800 multi-sector humanitarian activities in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, according to the UN.

COLOMBIA

USAID/BHA provided immediate funding to the American Red Cross (AmCross) 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 established a humanitarian air bridge between San Andrés and



35

USAID-funded flights transporting GoC-provided relief supplies

Providencia, through which a commercial airline completed 35 flights transporting emergency relief supplies. 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 debris management and initial early recovery efforts. With USAID/BHA funding, AmCross and World Vision are delivering WASH and shelter assistance, respectively, on San Andrés and Providencia, while Malteser International is providing hygiene and shelter items to households in northern Colombia's flood-affected La Guajira and Magdalena departments.

In coordination with the GoC, humanitarian agencies are delivering multi-sector assistance in storm-affected areas of Colombia. The GoC National Disaster Risk Management Unit is also supporting local authorities' efforts to rebuild houses and repair damaged WASH infrastructure. Additionally, the GoC 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 capable of processing 175,000 liters of water per day, sufficient to cover all water needs on the island.



3

USAID partners
providing MPCA to
households in Guatemala

GUATEMALA

With USAID/BHA funding, CRS is providing food assistance, hygiene kits, and shelter support to affected households in Alta Verapaz and Izabal, and aims to reach 25,000 storm-affected individuals with MPCA and WASH support in the two departments. In addition, USAID/BHA partner SCF is providing MPCA and hygiene kits to households in Quiché, while PCI is providing MPCA and relief commodities to meet urgent needs, including for food, shelter, and WASH assistance, in Huehuetenango. Additionally, with USAID/BHA support, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is delivering services to promote improved health and hygiene conditions and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, supporting improved access to safe drinking water, and providing psychosocial support and assistance for child protection and the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV).

The GoG had delivered nearly 1,800 MT of relief commodities and food assistance across the country as of January 15. Additionally, the UN deployed a UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team to assist with response coordination and information management during the month of December. 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.

HONDURAS

USAID/BHA partner WFP is delivering emergency food assistance and



15,000

Households in Honduras reached by WFP in December with in-kind food assistance funded by USAID

providing humanitarian logistics services, including air transport of cargo and passengers. To meet immediate health needs, IFRC is providing health services, including first aid and technical assistance for community-based surveillance for diseases. CARE and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) are also providing services to prevent GBV and violence against children, as well as to meet other protection needs. With USAID/BHA funding, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), CRS, Global Communities, GOAL, UNICEF, and World Vision are providing WASH support to people in shelters and affected communities in Honduras. USAID/BHA NGO partners are also providing shelter items, technical assistance in emergency shelter management, support for shelter repair, and MPCA to storm-affected households. In addition, Global Communities, which has been implementing COVID-19 prevention and response activities in Honduras since July, has delivered COVID-19 mitigation interventions in approximately 60 shelters across Cortés.

In response to the storms, the 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 worked with WFP to deliver pre-positioned emergency food assistance to the most affected communities in coastal areas 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 53 international and national humanitarian organizations were conducting multi-sector response activities across the country as of late December, according to the UN.



40,200

People UNICEF aims to reach with nutrition services in Nicaragua

NICARAGUA

USAID/BHA is supporting UNICEF and NGO sub-partners to provide emergency WASH assistance and services to populations in heavily affected areas of the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region and Jinotega, Matagalpa, and Nueva Segovia departments. UNICEF and NGO sub-partners also aim to support populations in need with protection services, including psychosocial support and child-friendly spaces, and 40,200 people with nutrition services.

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. In late November, the GoN distributed zinc roofing material to communities in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region. The Nicaraguan Red Cross also provided food assistance and hygiene kits, established two water treatment plants, and deployed a team to provide psychosocial support to affected populations in the region.

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

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Colombia			
AmCross	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	San Andrés and Providencia	\$467,473
Malteser International	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	La Guajira, Magdalena	\$250,000
World Vision	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Shelter and Settlements	San Andrés and Providencia	\$1,823,155
	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			\$3,064,513
Guatemala			
CRS	Food Assistance, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Alta Verapaz, Izabal	\$6,100,000
IFRC	Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
PCI	MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Huehuetenango	\$5,000,000
SCF	MPCA, WASH	Quiché	\$4,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE GUATEMALA RESPONSE			\$16,100,000
Honduras			
ADRA	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Atlántida, Colón	\$150,000
CARE	Protection	Cortés, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$650,000
CRS	MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cortés, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$3,750,000
Global Communities	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cortés, Copán, Ocotepeque, Santa Bárbara, Countrywide	\$4,300,000
GOAL	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Atlántida, Cortés, Gracias a Dios, Yoro	\$3,850,000
IFRC	Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
UNICEF	Protection, WASH	Atlántida, Cortés, Yoro	\$1,250,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Atlántida, Colón, Copán, Gracias a Dios, La Paz, Ocotepeque, Santa Bárbara, Yoro	\$7,000,000
	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
World Vision	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Copán, Cortés, Yoro	\$4,150,000
	Logistics Support		\$152,836
	Program Support		\$15,017

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE HONDURAS RESPONSE			\$27,767,853
Nicaragua			
UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Jinotega, Matagalpa, North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region, Nueva Segovia	\$6,600,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE NICARAGUA RESPONSE			\$6,600,000
Regional			
	Program Support		\$59,450
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE REGIONAL RESPONSE			\$59,450
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$53,591,816
DoD			
Regional			
	Search and Rescue Missions, USAID-Validated Logistics Support		\$7,312,173
TOTAL DOD FUNDING FOR THE REGIONAL RESPONSE			\$7,312,173
TOTAL DOD FUNDING			\$7,312,173
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR LATIN AMERICA STORMS RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$60,903,989

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 January 29, 2021.

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)