

Alert note

Floods in Honduras
(September 27, 2022)

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Date completed: 28 September 2022

Forum: Forum Honduras

Type of emergency: Floods and landslides

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): It started on September 12th, 2022, with intervals

| 1. The nature of the emergency | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------|
| <p>Since mid-September, Honduras is facing a heavy rainy season that has created havoc and damage due to the excess rainfall, affecting the population and families from the different departments of the country, leaving their households destroyed, with no food, water, or refuge, and with their crops lost, unable to fulfill their basic needs.</p> | | | | | |
| 2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information) | | | | | |
| <p>The Government of Honduras issued a national declaration of a state of emergency on the 24th of September due to the damages and losses caused by the heavy rainy season. At the moment, this emergency has been considered of medium scale. However, if the rain continues, it could aggravate the situation further. Up to date, 18 departments of the country have been affected, amongst them Santa Bárbara, Copán, Cortes, Yoro, Francisco Morazán with grave damages, Colon, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Comayagua, La Paz, Intibucá, Valle, and El Paraíso, with medium-scale damages. The heavy rains have provoked damage with overflowing evacuations, floods, and destruction of households, crops, and isolated communities due to the increase in the flow of rivers and streams, which has generated at the same time, damages to the road network (primary, secondary, and tertiary). According to data provided by COPECO (Secretary of State in the Offices of Risk Management) and CODEM (Municipal Emergency Committee), 9 casualties, 51 wounded people, and 6,792 confined families have been reported. Overall, 14,320 families and 56,763 people have been affected. Other families have sought shelter under bridges, on the street, and in places where the currents generated by excess water cannot affect them. This situation is heavily affecting families with greater vulnerability after the devastating effects of hurricanes ETA and IOTA, from which they were recovering since the response from the Government of Honduras has been minimum as the damages caused by ETA and Iota were huge that requires a significant investment for repairing infrastructure (roads, bridges, homes, water services). Family economies have been affected by the loss of their livelihoods and some have not been able to rebuild their homes and those that have, have not done so in a resilient manner.</p> | | | | | |
| Affected population | | | | | |
| Sex | < 5 years | 6 - 12 year | 19 - 64 years | > 65 years | Total |
| Women | 5,903 | 7,674 | 12,987 | 2,952 | 29,516 |
| Men | 5,177 | 7,084 | 11,988 | 2,997 | 27,246 |
| Total | 11,080 | 14,758 | 24,975 | 5,949 | 56,762 |
| <p>The perception of the ACT Forum Honduras members is that the emergency could extend to a great magnitude, because of the heavy rains (accumulating approximately 600 mm during the month of September), which would generate greater damages and a slow recovery process. On the other hand, the number of affected families is expected to increase, as information from isolated places has been difficult to obtain.</p> | | | | | |
| 3. Local and national capacity | | | | | |
| <p>The 151 shelters currently available that have received 8,595 people (around 4% of the affected population) are run by CODEM, COPECO, and community leaders with the support of different civil society organizations. Most of these do not count with the conditions to offer quality attention to the affected families, there are also reports of families that are in high-risk areas and refuse to evacuate. In order to face disaster, the community, municipal, departmental, and national structures such as the CODELs (Local Emergency Committee), CODEM (Municipal Emergency Committee), CODEP (Departmental</p> | | | | | |

Emergency Committee), and COPECO have a national emergency response plan, which implementation faces challenges, due to lack of technical and economic resources. CODEMs count with an emergency attention plan which has not been updated, and it is currently taking place the process of elaborating the EDAN and sharing information. So far, the government has set up 151 official shelters in 8 departments, evacuated 15,826 people, and provided the affected families with food rations, mattresses, blankets, and 20,194 aid kits (cleaning kit, baby kit, kitchen kit, hygiene kit, tool kit) and zinc sheets. However, in some communities where the response from the government is not enough or inexistent, communities have set up shelters in churches.

The Humanitarian Network is coordinating with COPECO, before the emergency declaration by the government. The clusters have been activated and began to coordinate with COPECO at the territorial, level. Humanitarian organizations with a presence in the flood and landslide areas are providing information on the damage and gathering information on the ground about the needs of the affected people to feed COPECO's official information. They are also supporting the shelters with food, psychosocial support, medicine, and protection.

In relation to the response capacity of SINAGER/COPECO in some of the regions where the member organizations of the forum have their interventions (especially in western Honduras), it is weak, the personnel has been appointed recently and they are small teams, 2 to 3 people, which makes it impossible to give a quick response and requires coordination with local organizations that have the rapid capacity to gather information and reach the communities quickly. The ACT Forum members are already coordinating with these local COPECO teams.

4. Key needs and gaps

The government has identified pressing needs in the sectors of protection (including psychosocial support and child protection), prevention and assistance for GBV, shelter, WASH (delivery of hygiene kits for affected families and considering sex, age, and disability), food security, and livelihoods. The government has activated all emergency response mechanisms, has deployed teams, it has been coordinating with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) but faces several gaps and challenges as some of its specialized agencies lack the technical expertise, tools, and mechanisms. Therefore, it becomes pivotal to partner with the government to harness mutual experience and capabilities to address the mentioned gaps and challenges.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

| | Indicate your intention with an X below |
|--|---|
| Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium-scale emergencies</i>) | X |
| Appeal (<i>intended for large-scale emergencies</i>) | |

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

| ACT Member | Geographical focus | Sectors of expertise | Support required | Estimated Budget range |
|----------------|--|---|------------------|------------------------|
| CASM and OCDIH | National level North: Cortés, Atlántida, Colón. West: Santa Bárbara, Lempira, Copán, Ocotepeque. Center: Francisco Morazán, Comayagua, La Paz e Intibucá. | Psychosocial support WASH Cash/Vouchers Food/Nutrition | Financial | \$150,000.00 |

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| | South: Choluteca, Valle, El Paraíso, | Household items Livelihood | | |
| | | | | |

5. Potential responses

The ACT Forum Honduras has already an EPRP in place and its emergency response mechanism has been now activated. As this is a national emergency, the ACT forum member organizations are present in the thirteen departments of the northern region (Cortés, Atlántida, Colón), western part (Santa Bárbara, Lempira, Copán, Ocotepeque), Center western area (Comayagua, La Paz e Intibucá) and the south (Choluteca, Valle and south of El Paraiso). During Hurricane ETA and IOTA, a joint action was implemented. This practice is part of the philosophy of these organizations which always carry out a No-Harm action, as part of the essential humanitarian norms. They count on the technical capacities, logistics, coordination with departmental and municipal authorities, as well as relations with community-based organizations for the management of emergencies. In addition, they require financial support to respond to the families who suffer at this moment and to be able to offer them some relief.