

Alert notes

Hurricane Julia in Nicaragua
(October 10, 2022)

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Date completed: October 12, 2022

Forum: Nicaragua

Type of emergency: Hurricane Julia

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): Impact from 9 to October 10, 2022.

1. The nature of the emergency

As of 10 October 2022, a meteorological disturbance was observed in the central part of the Atlantic Ocean; since then, it has quickly evolved into hurricane Julia, Category 1. The hurricane is expected to become highly dangerous for Nicaragua.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

On October 8, the Nicaraguan government started meteorological monitoring through the Nicaraguan Territorial Studies Institute (INETER) and issued a yellow alert¹. On October 9, the hurricane escalated into Category 1, with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 kph), though its winds had dipped to tropical storm force of 50 mph (85 kph) by late afternoon as it pushed across Nicaragua². Julia entered through Bluefields on the Caribbean Coast and continued the trajectory from El Tortuguero, El Ayote, Comoapa, Ciudad Darío, Larreynaga, up to Chinandega heading towards the Pacific Ocean. On this same day, the government decreed a state of red alert for the country, while the National Disaster Prevention System (SINAPRED in Spanish) and municipalities activated emergency response protocols and measures to aid the affected population and guarantee the availability of resources from public and private institutions to attend to the emergency³.

According to INETER, hurricane Julia hit Nicaragua with rainfalls between 200mm to 250mm have saturated soils⁴, and wrought havoc across the country, especially in the North and South autonomous regions, where indigenous populations are still recovering from the 2020 hurricane season. The Hurricane has affected communities and populations throughout the national territory, especially in the centre, west, and south of the country. About a million people are left without power and heavy rains and floods forced the evacuations of more than 13,000 families⁵, while some 31,170 people lack access to drinking water⁶. The central government has begun to respond at the level of urban areas and in shelters that were set up⁷.

ACT Forum Nicaragua members are currently assessing damages in the communities of the centre, north, west, and south of the country. Severe negative impacts on agriculture and the livelihoods of families are being foreseen, due to the high indexes of accumulated humidity. At the same time, damages to water supply and distribution systems for human consumption are being recorded. The Interchurches Center for Theological and Social Studies (CIEETS) and Lutheran Church of Nicaragua "Faith and Hope" (ILFE), ACT Forum Nicaragua members, have reported damages to crops of corn, beans, and vegetables, e.g., up to 50% of losses for beans crops in municipalities of the departments of Chinandega, Leon, Matagalpa, Boaco, and Carazo. ILFE has documented 125 flooded latrines in 8 communities of Somotillo in Chinandega and the loss of household goods. In the main area of the country (Matagalpa and Boaco) served by the Council of

¹ <https://www.el19digital.com/articulos/ver/titulo:133126--nicaragua-en-alerta-amarilla-ante-llegada-de-tormenta-tropical-julia>. October 8, 2022.

² <https://wufnews.wusf.usf.edu/2022-10-08/julia-hits-central-america-and-may-cause-life-threatening-floods>

³ <https://www.el19digital.com/articulos/ver/titulo:133167-estado-de-alerta-roja-en-nicaragua-tras-el-paso-de-julia>

⁴ <https://www.el19digital.com/articulos/ver/titulo:133180-nicaragua-enfrento-al-huracan-julia-con-preparacion-y-capacidad?fbclid=IwAR1jfJnKFdZttqEbcB-WjFyn3Q6vU6WYkGLMThMTdfehIvCwg97f5faghc>

⁵ <https://www.todayonline.com/world/storm-julia-kills-25-central-america-it-churns-toward-mexico-2015986>

⁶ LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN Weekly Situation Update (3-9 October 2022) As of 11 October, OCHA.

⁷ Information gathered by requesting members and shared in the ACT Forum Nicaragua meeting on the 11th of October 2022

Evangelical Churches Pro Denominational Alliance (CEPAD), the damage to agriculture is similar, however, there is also the destruction of wells and water sources that are still being assessed.

Up to date, no casualties have been reported, however, over 2000 houses are destroyed and more than 3000 are flooded⁸. All assessment activities are in progress.

CIEETS, ILFE, and CEPAD will employ a beneficiary targeting methodology based on pressing humanitarian needs and communities' vulnerability, meaning the families characterized by being underprivileged small and medium farmers with 4 to 6 members will be prioritized. These families often experience acute barriers to accessing food, water, stable livelihoods, and safe housing in humanitarian settings. Hurricane Julia, in a noticeably short time span, has had an immediate impact on these families, particularly in their livelihoods, food security, and access to WASH services and facilities.

3. Local and national capacity

The Government has started a response plan emphasizing the rehabilitation of transportation, electricity, and educational infrastructure. At the same time, assistance to sheltered families has immediately started. Information on the plans and actions drawn by the government is not openly available, therefore, the information available on government-related media is being taken as official. The members of the ACT Nicaragua forum are planning a rapid response in coordination with SINAPRED, local governments, pastors, and community leaders in the affected territories.

4. Key needs and gaps

The hurricane has affected communities and populations throughout the national territory, especially in the centre, west, and south of the country. As a result of the field visits conducted by the requesting members that are currently taking place, identified most pressing needs are as follows:

- Sufficient food: One of the sectors affected by Hurricane Julia in the country is the food sector, creating a deficit in the availability of food for families.
- Safe shelter and basic non-food items: There are direct damages to housing infrastructure.
- WASH: infrastructure and facilities are severely compromised and contaminated by excess humidity.

The dire situation further compounded by the hurricane exacerbates the pre-existing vulnerabilities among the underprivileged affected people. There is a pressing need to provide immediate aid to minimize the loss of lives and ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

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 |
|---|--|---|------------------|------------------------|
| Interchurches Center for Theological and Social Studies. (CIEETS) | 1. Municipality of Villanueva, Chinandega Department (8 communities) | 1. Food Nutrition. 2. Household items. | Financial | 50,000 USD |

⁸ <https://www.confidencial.digital/nacion/julia-danos-nicaragua/>

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----------|------------|
| | 2. Municipality of La Tuna – La Dalia, Matagalpa Department (3 communities) | 3. Shelter 4. WASH | | |
| Council of evangelical churches pro-denominational alliance. (CEPAD) | La Conquista, Santa Teresa (Carazo) El Jicaral (León), Teustepe (Boaco), Matagalpa (Matagalpa) | 1. Food Nutrition. 2. Household items. 3. Shelter 4. WASH | Financial | 50,000 USD |
| Lutheran Church of Nicaragua "Faith and Hope" (ILFE) | Department of Chinandega, Municipalities of Chinandega, Villa Nueva and Somotillo. | 1. Food Nutrition. 2. Household items. 3. Shelter 4. WASH | Financial | 50,000 USD |

5. Potential responses

The requesting members have a historical presence in the above-mentioned areas affected by Hurricane Julia and have accumulated experience to respond from earlier emergencies caused by natural events such as Hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020, hurricanes Mitch in 1998 and Felix in 2007, volcanic eruptions in 2014, and droughts in 2010 and 2012). From these emergency responses, CIEETS, CEPAD, and ILFE have built capacity and expertise in the sectors of Food Security, Livelihoods, Shelter, WASH, habituation as well as Cash Transfer. In addition, emergency response technical staff are ready to respond and be deployed, and a network of organized and trained community leaders is being engaged as well.

Through the Damage Evaluation and Necessities Analysis (EDAN in Spanish) that has been carried out, information on damages has been gathered and communities' needs have been identified, allowing the proper targeting of the communities to be assisted.

It is foreseen to provide a humanitarian response in the sectors of Food/Nutrition, Household items, Shelter, and WASH. To that end, the ACT Forum Nicaragua is seeking to activate a RRF of 150,000 USD.