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Reporting Period 10 – 21 December 2021

Central America

Hurricanes Eta and Iota

Humanitarian Situation Report No.6

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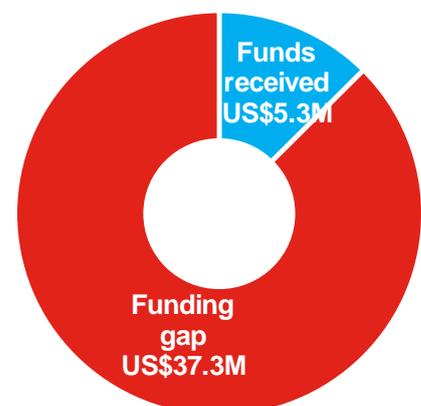
Highlights

- The situation remains dire for thousands of children and families affected by the passage of Eta and Iota hurricanes in Central America. Nearly 9.3 million people have been affected (including 3.5 million children) and thousands remain in shelters, facing heightened protection and public health risks.
- Ensuring shelters are safe spaces for children and families; rehabilitation of schools – including those that have been used as shelters; access to healthy foods; rehabilitation of water systems and providing lifesaving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and services; and mainstreaming actions for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA); remain among the most pressing needs of the affected families.
- UNICEF Country Offices (COs) continue increasing their field presence and scaling up response. Progress in the response over the reporting period include:
- In **Honduras**: Over 4,600 people in shelters benefit daily from access to safe water, hygiene supplies and services. More than 30,000 more people, including those who have returned to their communities, are starting to receive UNICEF-supported WASH services. In shelters, UNICEF and partners are reaching more than 29,000 people with mental health and psychosocial support, and nearly 11,000 women, girls and boys have benefited from gender-based violence prevention interventions. With UNICEF support, 2,749 vulnerable families have received in-kind social transfers.
- In **Guatemala**, UNICEF has reached 11,744 children with essential nutrition services, in Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz departments. In late December, UNICEF will launch WASH activities in some the most affected areas, targeting 15,000 people, construction materials for the rehabilitation of 95 schools are being procured, and psychosocial support have been provided to over 4,600 children and adolescents, in shelters and communities.
- In **Nicaragua**, WASH supplies are being procured to reach 5,000 families in some of the most affected communities in Waspam municipality and Jinotega department, before the end of December. Education supplies and WASH in school actions will reach 20,000 children, starting in January 2021. UNICEF and partners are setting up child friendly spaces to reach around 8,000 children and adolescents in shelters and communities.
- In **Belize**, 250 women and children have been reached through telemedicine support services, 160 families received early childhood development (ECD) for at-home activities, and 40 recreation kits were distributed to child friendly spaces, aiming to impact 1,600 children.
- In **Costa Rica**, WASH supplies were delivered to authorities to start distribution, targeting over 2,900 children. These kits include additional information material to promote the return to school in February 2021.
- UNICEF has received US\$5.3 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. The current funding gap stands at 87.5 per cent.

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 21 December 2020.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

As of 21 December, UNICEF had received US\$5.3 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 US\$1.3 million in Honduras and US\$0.8 million in Guatemala, for WASH and nutrition lifesaving activities. In addition, US\$375,000 of Global Humanitarian Thematic pool funds have been allocated to scale up the response. This will allow for flexible allocations in sectors with outstanding urgent funding gaps, as nutrition. Public donors, like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, have recently announced new upcoming contributions to UNICEF's Eta / Iota response in Central America.ⁱⁱ

Despite generous contributions received and ongoing fundraising efforts, the current funding gap stands at 87.5 per cent. UNICEF continues appealing for flexible funding to enable support across all the affected countries, in critical sectors that remain underfunded.

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The situation remains dire for thousands of children and families affected by the passage of Eta and Iota hurricanes in Central America, on 4 and 17 November respectively. Nearly 9.3 million people have been affected (including 3.5 million children) and thousands have been displaced into shelters, facing heightened protection and public health risks. Governments and humanitarian partners continue responding to the crisis, while finetuning needs analysis, particularly in hard-to-access areas. The recently published interagency Action Plan for Guatemala, indicates that Eta and Iota left 1.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Guatemala.ⁱⁱⁱ

Given the extent of damages in houses and basic services, and considering that in parts of the affected countries floodwaters may last another six months,^{iv} relief actions are expected to continue over a prolonged period of time. In this scenario, working groups part of the Regional Group on Risks, Emergencies and Disasters for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC), including UNICEF-led sectors, have identified key priorities in order to strengthen and ensure the most adequate response possible to populations affected by the storms.^v Among other critical issues, REDLAC called partners to provide support for decongesting overcrowded shelters and safe return to communities, ensure that active shelters are safe spaces in terms of protection and public health risks, support the rehabilitation of schools – including those that have been used as shelters - and provision of key items for students and teachers, ensure that food assistance includes healthy foods, maintain adequate funding levels for WASH interventions, and mainstream actions for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

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	2,435,448	4,663,244	1,800,000	9,283,692
No. of children affected**	21,120	87,100	925,470	1,772,033	720,000	3,525,723
No. of deaths*	1	2	61	99	21	184
No. of missing persons*	-	-	99	11	-	110
No. of people in shelters*	288	88	5,083	93,293	59,964	158,716
No. of children in shelters**	101	24	1,932	35,451	23,986	61,493

*According to official sources by the time of drafting this report.^{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 needs assessments on the Iota's impact in the region and inter-agency response plans. UNICEF response strategy is adapted to the needs in country and focuses in 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, which capacities have been surpassed, in restoring and ensuring the continuity of services in the affected regions.

Honduras

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team finalized its mission in Honduras and presented its mission report to authorities and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). Priority humanitarian needs identified by UNDAC include^{vii}: access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, given the collapse and contamination of systems; food assistance, considering the worsening of food security conditions, losses in livelihood crops and disruption of local markets; health care, due to the increased public health risks, including COVID-19 -related, and the limited capacities of the health system; improved shelter management, considering overcrowding, lack of WASH services and COVID-19 preventive measures in shelters; emergency shelter, as around 200,000 people are estimated to be in informal shelters with no access to humanitarian assistance; and protection services, foreseeing increased risks including GBV, violence against children and other types of violence, as a consequence of the worsening of the living conditions added to pre-existing contexts of violence and displacement.

With over 4.6 million people affected (including approximately 1.7 million children) after the passage of Eta and Iota, in addition to the socio-economic and humanitarian impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, analysts consider that Honduras may not fully regain pre-pandemic conditions for another 10 years.^{viii} A recent report by ECLAC^{ix} estimates the economic impact of the storms and the reconstruction efforts. The cost of hurricanes Eta and Iota has been estimated at US\$ 1,879 million, considering damages (50 per cent), losses (45 per cent) and additional costs (5 per cent). Added to the losses caused by the storms is the crisis derived from COVID-19 which, according to estimates by the Central Bank of Honduras, exceeds US\$ 2,264 million. The losses caused by the pandemic and the storms represent a historic drop of around 9 to 10 percent of Honduras' GDP.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. Together with the ministry of health, 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 repairs.

Nutrition. As preliminary actions prior the distribution of micronutrients to children affected by the storms (as indicated in the previous sitrep), UNICEF held a meeting with the Health team of the Cortés Region and the Town hall of Puerto Cortés to coordinate the nutrition response in Cortés, including the distribution of multiple micronutrient powders to children under 5, and identification and referral of cases of acute malnutrition.

WASH. UNICEF continues supporting WASH services in shelters, including improved access to safe water and provision of key hygiene supplies and services, benefiting around 4,600 people. Over 30,000 more people in shelters and communities where families have begun to return, are starting to receive WASH humanitarian assistance through UNICEF. Over 50,000 people will be reached by UNICEF-supported WASH services over the next six months. A major constraint, as damage evaluations come through, is the estimated investment needed to restore and improve lost access to WASH services reported by 25 per cent of over 400 WASH systems in the affected areas, of which 93.8 per cent reported systems damages.^x The cost of restoration of systems is estimated at US\$12.4 million, as per information from national WASH institutions, representing approximately 30 per cent of required financial resources. Costs are estimated to be higher pending specialized assessments, including on climate resilience measures to be implemented. UNICEF is adapting its approach to expand its focus on communities and support restoration of systems, within the next six months.

Education. Storms have left 534 schools damaged, affecting more than 100,000 students. By the time of this report, 620 schools are used as shelters. The first Education Cluster meeting was convened by the Department of Education

(SEDUC) and UNICEF on 16 December. A total of 26 organizations participated in the meeting including authorities, local and international NGOs, Red Cross and UN agencies. The Cluster will start mapping the partners' current interventions and capacities to inform its planning process, which will be built around SEDUC priorities. UNICEF is providing psychosocial support in Northern Honduras and Santa Barbara department, in coordination with Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) and the MoE, and textbooks and school kits will be distributed in January 2021.

Child Protection. UNICEF and partners continued to monitor the situation in shelters and provide child protective services, emergency mental health and psychosocial support services, in partnership with the Child Protection AoR, national child protection agency (DINAF) and 36 municipal governments, reaching 29,012 girls, boys and their caretakers. UNICEF and partners also reached 10,920 women, girls and boys through gender-based violence prevention interventions in shelters and communities affected, along the north coast and western parts of the country. Monitoring and provision of essential protective services is becoming more challenging as many families are starting to return to their communities.

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 2,749 families (approximately 11,500 people) have been reached.

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

[Social media] [Mark Connolly, UNICEF Representative in Honduras, visits with Queen of Spain to discuss AECID-UNICEF cooperation to protect the education of children affected by Eta and Iota in Honduras](#)

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

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Guatemala

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The number of people affected by Eta and Iota in Guatemala has reached 2.4 million, among them approximately 925,000 children. The Government of Guatemala maintains a state of calamity in seven departments: Izabal, Petén, Alta Verapaz, El Quiché, Chiquimula, Zacapa and Huehuetenango. The President of the Republic has established a Special Cabinet for Reconstruction, which will advise and coordinate rehabilitation actions across governmental entities, as part of the recovery plan for the Eta-Iota tropical phenomena. As many families have started to return to their communities, the number of people in official shelters dropped from around 12,000 as of 8 December, to approximately 5,000 on 21 December. In addition, close to 115,000

people remain in unofficial shelters.^{xi} Considering the current context, a special focus should be on addressing the needs of families returning to their communities and homes. According to recent surveys by humanitarian partners, priority needs of returning families are those related to food, access to safe water, kits and facilities for personal hygiene.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. UNICEF monitors the continuity of services, particularly of those related to maternal and child health (immunizations, pregnancy and delivery care). Information collected is analysed and transferred to the ministry of health (MoH).

Nutrition. UNICEF continued to support life-saving interventions, reaching 11,744 children with essential nutrition services, including 8,229 children in Huehuetenango (4,032 girls/ 4,197 boys) and 3,515 children in Alta Verapaz (1,786 girls/ 1,729 boys). These services included the identification and treatment of 132 children under five with acute malnutrition, through the nutrition and health brigades. In addition, children received micronutrient supplements and mothers of children, as well as pregnant and lactating women received quality counselling on breastfeeding and maternal nutrition. Moreover, UNICEF has continued to prepare and plan with the MoH the implementation of additional nutrition and health brigades in four municipalities of Alta Verapaz (Chisec, Cobán, San Cristóbal Verapaz and San Pedro Carchá), two municipalities of Huehuetenango (San Mateo Ixtatán and Santa Cruz Barillas) and two municipalities of Izabal (Morales and Puerto Barrios), with the aim of reaching more than 33,000 children. These brigades will initiate their actions at the beginning of January 2021.

WASH. UNICEF has procured 1,258 additional family hygiene kits that will be delivered in the coming weeks in Alta Verapaz and Izabal to families (including 2,390 children) who are leaving temporary shelters and are gradually returning to their communities. This activity will be carried out in partnership with the Guatemalan Red Cross. UNICEF has deployed dedicated staff to articulate the work efforts in the sub-national cluster of Alta Verapaz and support coordination in Izabal department. UNICEF has started a partnership with NGO Helvetas, aiming at providing WASH services for 15,000 people in six municipalities, starting in late December.

Education. UNICEF is procuring construction material for the rehabilitation of 95 schools. Materials will be delivered to ten municipal authorities and, with their support, will be distributed to communities who will provide workforce to carry out the repairs works - as per agreement with the ministry of education (MoE). For ten destroyed schools, the installation of temporary classrooms will be considered. UNICEF is working with MoE in the cost estimation and prioritization of schools to benefit from temporary classrooms. Ensuring availability of learning materials for 60,000 students and teachers, will be critical for school return in March 2021. UNICEF will support the procurement and distribution of basic learning material for these students.

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 4,644 children and adolescents, in shelters and communities. As of 21 December, 1,232 were benefiting from UNICEF and partners services in 24 active shelters in Alta Verapaz (1,004 children) and 11 shelters in Izabal (228 children). On 18 December, UNICEF and partners conducted the first phase of training on the "Return to Happiness" methodology for the provision of psychosocial support, reaching 12 officials from local government entities and NGOs (Social Welfare Secretariat - SBS, Attorney General's Office -PGN, Refugio de la Niñez and local NGO -ADRA), who will provide psychosocial support in Izabal department. In coordination with Refugio de la Niñez, a mobile unit was deployed to Izabal department to monitor cases of violence and provide psychosocial support. In Alta Verapaz and Izabal, UNICEF and partners continue disseminating messages on violence prevention in local languages, via local radios, printed materials and posters in shelters and communities.

Social Protection. The Cabinet for Reconstruction, under the technical leadership of the ministry of communications, infrastructure and housing (CIV), is advancing in a consolidated planning to coordinate the response to losses of homes, livelihoods and infrastructure. UNICEF remains ready to provide technical assistance for the creation of a social protection programme for households with slight and moderate damages in their housing.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. Through radio stations in Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango, UNICEF continued disseminating key messages on the protection of children and the prevention of malnutrition in the emergency context. UNICEF contributed to the preparation of educational material on protection against violence in shelters.

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

[Blog] ["I would like to wake up and see that this never happened"](#)

[Blog] ["Me gustaría despertar y ver que esto nunca sucedió"](#)

[Social media] [Carlos Carrera, UNICEF Representative in Guatemala, visits areas affected by Eta and Iota and UNICEF response.](#)

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

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 UNICEF Guatemala

Nicaragua

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The Government's preliminary impact assessment cites damage to or loss of more than 45,000 homes, with almost 90 per cent of those concentrated in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN). The Government estimates damages and losses across all sectors to be US\$766 million, approximately 6 percent of GDP. In some communities in Puerto Cabezas, Prinzapolka and the Mining Triangle region, crop losses are estimated to be as high as 90 per cent, which will devastate rural livelihoods and exacerbate food security. Authorities estimate that 96,137 people are food insecure, of which some 73,000 are in the RACCN. WFP estimates that around 245,000 people in the most affected areas could suffer from food insecurity in the long-term, after the impact of both storms, creating an urgent need for food assistance and early recovery support.

As a direct cause of Eta and Iota, water and sanitation services have been partially or totally disrupted in most of the affected communities, exposing the population, especially children, mothers and the most vulnerable groups, to the highest risk of diseases, including waterborne and COVID-19. According to the Rural WASH Information System, the majority of water and

sanitation infrastructure in hundreds of communities in the RACCN and northern region has been partially damaged or completely destroyed. Serious damage to WASH infrastructure (including wells, rainwater collecting systems, mini aqueducts, etc.) has been reported in the majority of the coastal and inland communities of the RACCN region. According to data provided by the government, more than 98,000 families at the urban level and more than 15,000 families at the rural level have been affected by the damage caused to the water supply systems and sanitation facilities, nationwide.

Child Protection analysis conducted by UNICEF in the field, during 7-11 December 2020, has reflected concerns not only in exacerbation of sexual violence, including sexual exploitation but also of child labor, begging and, human trafficking as a result of the economic crisis. At the same time, internal displacement has also generated family separation in shelters with adolescents in charge of their younger siblings.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition. UNICEF has continued to carry out training sessions with implementing partners to standardize the measurement of the middle upper arm circumference (MUAC) for rapid diagnosis, reference and treatment of children with acute severe and moderate malnutrition. Training on breastfeeding has also been reinforced. Twelve municipalities have been visited and 25 people have been trained by municipal health personnel and family and community health teams, with UNICEF support. In conjunction with nutrition technical staff from MoH, UNICEF has designed a tool to rapidly assess the nutritional situation of children under 6 years of age, and a database has been created to manage information from a community survey on the nutritional situation of children, and pregnant and lactating women. Local Health authorities will conduct the data collection, UNICEF will assist with the processing of the data. UNICEF is supporting this initiative following the request by the MoH. This exercise may be affected by the lack of sufficient anthropometric supplies to carry out the nutritional survey and the risk of not completing the data collection on time due to the holidays. Prior to Eta and Iota, UNICEF supported the MoH in identifying key nutrition needs across the country. This situation analysis was shared with the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention of Disasters (SINAPRED), as part of the flash appeal process, to inform needs assessment and resource mobilization efforts.

WASH. The delivery and distribution of an important quantity of WASH supplies (including hygiene kits, water tanks, buckets, water quality testing kits, etc.) is being planned with AMC and Caritas, to cover 5,000 families in some of the most affected communities in Waspam municipality and Jinotega department, before the end of December. One of the challenges encountered is the limited availability of some of the WASH supplies on the local markets (i.e. water filters); offshore procurement options are being explored. UNICEF continues leading efforts to support sectoral coordination, in collaboration with ECHO and several NGOs that are carrying out or planning response activities in the affected zones.

Education. UNICEF has formalized agreements with Plan International and World Vision for Education in Emergencies support (including temporary learning spaces, training of teachers on COVID-19 protocols, distribution of education material and WASH in schools) in 40 schools, aiming at reaching 7,000 children in Waspam, Puerto Cabezas and Siuna municipalities. In addition, UNICEF is procuring 20 tents for temporary education spaces and 15,000 school bags, targeting 20,000 children in affected municipalities in the RACCN region, starting in January 2021. These children will also benefit from improved WASH in schools.

Child Protection. UNICEF with implementing partners, and in coordination with the child protection local and national authorities, is setting up 29 safe spaces for 8,000 children and adolescents in shelters and communities, in the municipalities of Waspam, Puerto Cabezas, Prinzapolka, Matagalpa and Jinotega. These spaces will support the affected children's psychosocial well-being, through recreational activities, strengthening of life skills, and developing of self-awareness on protection against violence and GBV.

With UNICEF leadership, the child protection sector continues working on the mapping of child protection and GBV services, and the construction of roadmaps and specialized protocols for children and adolescents, this work is now in its final stages.

UNICEF is partnering with civil society organisation Movimiento de Mujeres Nidia White (MMNW), to implement a GBV comprehensive mitigation, prevention and response programme, aiming at reaching 1,000 girls and adolescent girls. Intervention will focus on strengthening the correct functioning of the safe shelter "La Esperanza" in Bilwi, the construction of GBV community referral mechanisms, and promote the empowerment, safety and well-being of those at risk of sexual violence, through vocational skills training, capacity-building and education.

UNICEF is conducting a rapid gender analysis in the field along with local partners, which aims at providing useful information and recommendations to actors responding to the current crisis, and to support them to deliver gender-appropriate interventions.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. With partners, UNICEF has developed an Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) plan, to ensure that affected families are informed about UNICEF and its partners' humanitarian action and can share their opinions on access and delivery of services. This will allow a more participatory intervention process, connected to the needs of the communities. As a first step of the plan, a training was carried out for partners on AAP, reaching 15 staff from seven organisations. A coordination mechanism was established, with UNICEF leadership, to promote coordination of communication/AAP actions, connecting partners and government and community structures.

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

[Social media] [UNICEF delivers 4,700 hygiene kits to families affected by #Eta and #Iota](#)

[Social media] [Antero Almeida de Pina, Representative of UNICEF Nicaragua visits communities affected by hurricanes](#)

[Social media] [UNICEF delivers 50 psychosocial kits to carry out community activities and assist 2,000 children and adolescents in shelters.](#)

[Video] [#Iota: Kesi, is 14 years old, she has been left without a place to celebrate next Christmas.](#)

[Video] [One month after Iota UNICEF is on the ground to assist with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Education, Health and Protection.](#)

[Video] [Communities affected by Iota do not have access to safe water](#)

[Press release] [USAID, UNICEF and Plan International bring humanitarian aid to families affected by hurricanes Iota and Eta on the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua](#)

[Press release] [UNICEF representative visited the communities impacted by Eta and Iota on the North Caribbean Coast](#)

Belize

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Based on national assessments led by the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), the aftermath of Hurricanes Eta and Iota resulted in significant flooding the country, with the west, central and north being most affected. Approximately 5,000-10,000 persons, including approximately 3,500 children were directly impacted and are in critical need of support. NEMO and the Government of Belize continue to respond to the urgent needs of families with food, home supplies, support to the agricultural sector, rehabilitation of roads and bridges and water treatment. UNICEF, with the collaboration of other partners, such as the Belize Red Cross, continues to increase their field presence, scaling up the response, through existing and new partnerships with Civil Society Organizations and the ministries with responsibility for health and human development.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. UNICEF continued to coordinate with the ministry of health and wellness (MoHW) to ensure that the affected population has access to health care services. UNICEF is facilitating telemedicine for the Maternal and Child Health Unit to bring antenatal care and vaccination clinics to the affected areas, connect them with remote specialists, and access to health information. The Southern Regional Hospital in Stann Creek was added to the telemedicine network and has established emergency call numbers for the polyclinics, Maternal and Child Health Unit which has enabled patients to get drug refills for a longer period and appointment scheduling. A total of 250 women and children have been reached through WhatsApp and phone calls. Ensuring availability of human resources for health continues to be a challenge with some of the health professionals being infected with COVID-19 and in quarantine. UNICEF continues to engage the MoHW on how some services can be integrated in telemedicine programs.

Education. UNICEF Belize distributed 160 ECD kits during the reporting period, including play and recreational materials to support learning opportunities for children, from birth to eight years old. With the partnerships of the village councils in Seine Bight and Gales Point, a total of 160 families, including approximately 640 boys and girls received play kits. As preschools and primary schools remain closed due to the pandemic, there is need to support parents in responsive caregiving. Through a loud-speaker system, UNICEF facilitated demonstrative sessions with parents and their children in groups of six. The ECD kit is intended to support the cognitive, psychosocial and physical development of young children in emergencies, disasters and unstable conditions.

Child Protection Some 40 recreation kits were distributed to facilitate the implementation of child friendly spaces (CFS) in communities, aiming to impact 1,600 children. Two trainings on implementing CFS were conducted targeting 20 child protection workers, emergency volunteers and teachers. The GBV service

mapping was completed and a service directory has been developed, the directory will be distributed to affected communities to increase awareness around available services. Plans for information sessions with 200 adolescent girls, women and men are underway. One challenge has been finding ways of supporting girls, women and men to participate in the virtual consultations, given the limitations in internet access and use of mobile technology such as smart phones, tablets and computers. This is being addressed by finding spaces within the communities for people to connect and working with the telecommunications company to provide data.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. With the closure of schools, one challenge has been engaging children in preschools, who are at risk of being left behind. The risk was further heightened in communities affected by Eta and Iota. As part of the response with the distribution of the 160 ECD kits, UNICEF in collaboration with partners from the Seine Bight Village and Gales Point Manatee Village Councils, devised innovative strategies to facilitate ECD demonstration sessions, reaching 127 families with information on the use of the kits. [Field Visit to Gales Point Manatee Village \(Belize District\)](#); [Field Visit to Seine Bight Village \(Stann Creek District\)](#).

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Belize scaled up its social media and media engagement around the Eta and Iota response in the most affected communities. [Photos from the Field – Gales Point Manatee](#); [Photos from the Field – Seine Bight](#); [Care for Childhood Development](#); [Distribution of Recreational Kits](#); [Photos from CFS Training](#); [Breaking News Belize Coverage](#)

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

Costa Rica

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In Costa Rica, where the Eta and Iota left around 325,000 people affected, authorities have informed that all the 83 shelters have been deactivated and displaced families have returned to their communities. The National Emergency Commission (CNE) continues providing support to the most affected communities, in collaboration with partners.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH. UNICEF has procured supplies to support the hardest hit communities of the Southern and Northern Pacific regions, providing PPE items and hygiene kits for the most affected families. WASH supplies were delivered to the CNE central warehouse together with education and child violence prevention information materials. UNICEF aims to reach over 2,920 children with this support. Distribution to prioritized communities is scheduled for late December.

Education. As per government request, the WASH kits that are being delivered to the affected families, include education

materials for children. This is aimed at supporting and promoting the back-to-school process that will start in February 2021.

Child Protection. As indicated in previous reports, in February 2021, UNICEF will launch trainings on protection of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA), GBV, and identification, reporting and referral of child violence and abuse in shelters. Progress on this activity will be reported in due course.

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

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 on-hands 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**, led by UNICEF and PAHO, has organized meetings with the WASH cluster/sectors of the three most affected countries using the benchmark to guide discussions and identify areas of action and support for concrete coordination results. Following Honduras website, LACRO WASH created a website to be used as a platform for exchange of data and information by Nicaragua WASH platform. LACRO WASH also created a monitoring tool and dashboard of data analysis to support the Nicaragua WASH response. In Honduras, the support focused on the market assessment including WASH, recruitment of consultants for coordination support, and technical prioritization. For Guatemala, support was provided for a plan with targets against severity levels including nutrition and public health context as well as for a registry of assessments. An analysis was also completed to compare the standardization of the response across the sectors, with focus on hygiene, cleaning, disinfection and return kits. All countries have prepared CERF proposals for WASH as well as other proposals.

LACRO Education section continues providing technical support to all COs to ensure the implementation of the response, aimed at ensuring the continuity of learning and the right to education of affected children. A virtual deployment of the regional EIE specialist has been arranged in order to contribute to the design and implementation of the education response, as well as the drafting of relevant documents and proposals.

The **Child Protection (CP)** team continues to provide technical support to COs to ensure the implementation of the responses in child protection and PSEA, in addition to support in the preparation of proposals to donors. This technical support includes needs assessment, protection issues in shelters, guides for the inclusion of a child protection approach in shelters and the preparation of supply plans, among other activities. Through the **Regional sub-group on Child Protection in Emergencies**, co-lead by UNICEF and World Vision (WV), the CP team supports response activities of all partners by providing, among other activities, harmonized advocacy messages towards child protection as a lifesaving intervention.

The **Gender** team continues to provide technical support to COs to ensure the implementation of the responses in Gender and GBV, in addition to support the preparation of proposals to donors. Guidance to conduct a Gender rapid assessment and a comprehensive GBV prevention, mitigation and response strategy in Nicaragua has been provided, as well as tools to other countries affected to develop GBV service mapping and GBV interventions in shelters.

In the areas of **Health** and **Nutrition**, the Regional Office has been actively providing technical support to the COs in the planning and implementation of response plans and preparation of sector chapters in appeals and funding proposals.

The **C4D team** conducted technical assistance and training on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) aimed at government officers, partners, and UNICEF staff in Nicaragua, while supported Honduras CO in the deployment of a Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) expert to support the response. The team continues collecting and exchanging RCCE resources such as guidance, multimedia materials, good practices, and references on protection, violence, migration, and nutrition in emergency contexts. These resources are distributed through an internal website, a weekly newsletter reaching UNICEF and external networks such as the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN).

UNICEF LAC-RO supported a multimedia mission to Guatemalan communities devastated by Eta and Iota. A [field diary](#), reporting on the impact on children and UNICEF's integrated response, as well as [blog](#), with the testimony of a 13-year old girl, were published and shared globally. The girl's testimony is also available on a [podcast](#) format in Spanish. All new assets from the Guatemala mission are available [here](#). A new video with staggering drone images and a testimony of a 14-year-old girl from Nicaragua, was produced and made available in English and Spanish on [weshare](#) for global dissemination. On social media, regional channels have continued sharing latest information and amplifying the work carried out by COs, including visits of [Mark Connolly](#), UNICEF Representative in Honduras with the Queen of Spain, to discuss [AECID-UNICEF cooperation](#) and [Carlos Carrera](#), UNICEF Representative in Guatemala, visit areas affected by Eta and Iota and UNICEF response. 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),^{xii} is being prepared. 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. UNICEF presence on the ground has increased through the starting of activities of a WASH supervisor in the north zone of the country, and a WASH Advisor from LACRO to support subnational level coordination. A WASH Cluster coordinator is being recruited to oversee sectoral progress on the ground. The Child Protection AoR now features an Information Manager dedicated to the sector. An active recruitment for an Emergencies coordinator is also in place, as well as an Education in Emergencies Specialist with focus on GBV.

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.^{xiii} 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 established working agreements with civil society organisations and governments for the implementation of actions at the municipal and community levels.

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.

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

In **Costa Rica**, the UNCT and UNETE work in close coordination and communication with national authorities. UNICEF strengthens institutional and multisectoral coordination strategies between the central government and local governments, building on the work with platforms of local protection systems and child-friendly districts, which have been supported by UNICEF for the past 10 years. UNICEF carries out its activities within the framework of the coordination of the UN System.

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/reports/response-hurricanes-eta-and-iota>

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Annex A

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (US\$)	Humanitarian resources received (US\$)**	Funding gap	
			US\$	%
Nutrition	2,711,209	597,057	2,114,152	78.0%
Health	1,388,523		1,388,523	100.0%
WASH	30,854,673	3,499,074	27,355,599	88.7%
Education / ECD	2,296,800		2,296,800	100.0%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	3,572,200	1,037,021	2,535,179	71.0%
Social protection and cash transfers	1,263,000			
Regional office technical capacity	500,000		500,000	100%
<i>To be allocated</i>		184,592		
TOTAL	42,586,405	5,317,744	37,268,661	87.3%

* 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 21 December 2020.

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 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 'Emergency Grant Aid in response to Hurricane Disaster in the Central American countries (Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua)', 18 December 2020, <https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press24e_000025.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ OCHA UNCT Guatemala, 'Plan de Acción, Guatemala - Respuesta Eta/Iota', 16 December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/guatemala/plan-de-accion-guatemala-respuesta-etaiota-diciembre-2020>>

^{iv} OCHA, 'LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN Weekly Situation Update (14-20 December 2020)', 21 December 2020,

<<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/latin-america-caribbean-weekly-situation-update-14-20-december-2020-21-december-2020>>

^v REDLAC, 'Mensajes clave de REDLAC sobre la respuesta a las tormentas tropicales Eta e Iota - diciembre de 2020', 20 December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/mensajes-clave-de-redlac-sobre-la-respuesta-las-tormentas-tropicales-eta-e-iota>>

^{vi} Sources: Belize (NEMO -Iota preliminary assessment, 23 Nov.); Costa Rica (National Emergency Commission -CNE, 16 Nov.); Guatemala (CONRED, 22 Dec.); Honduras (SCGG & COPECO, 3 Dec.); Nicaragua (OCHA Tropical Storm Eta & Hurricane Iota: Humanitarian Snapshot, 4 Dec., Government of Nicaragua).

^{vii} UNDAC, 'Honduras. Tormentas Eta e Iota. Informe de Misiones de Evaluación UNDAC. 22 noviembre – 3 diciembre 2020', 15 December 2020,

<<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-tormentas-eta-e-iota-informe-de-misiones-de-evaluacion-undac-22-noviembre>>

^{viii} OCHA, 'LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN Weekly Situation Update (14-20 December 2020)', 21 December 2020,

<<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/latin-america-caribbean-weekly-situation-update-14-20-december-2020-21-december-2020>>

^{ix} Tu Nota, 'Pandemia y huracanes dejan pérdidas a Honduras por más de 4 mil millones de dólares', 21 December 2020,

<<https://www.tunota.com/pandemia-y-huracanes-dejan-perdidas-a-honduras-por-mas-de-4-mil-millones-de-dolares>>

^x According to national WASH Institutions: ERSAPS, CONASA and SANAA.

^{xi} CONRED, 'Informe de situación CONRED, 22 Dic. 2020, 19:00h', 22 December 2020.

^{xii} Honduras Humanitarian Country Team, OCHA, 'FLASH APPEAL HONDURAS - TROPICAL STORM ETA', November 2020,

<<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-flash-appeal-tropical-storm-eta-november-2020>>

^{xiii} OCHA UNCT Guatemala, 'Plan de Acción, Guatemala - Respuesta Eta/Iota', 16 December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/guatemala/plan-de-accion-guatemala-respuesta-etaiota-diciembre-2020>>