Hurricanes Eta & Iota
Situation Report #4
December 2, 2020

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Project HOPE is deploying an Emergency Medical Team (EMT) in partnership with the Spanish INGO SAMU.
- Project HOPE is on the ground in Honduras coordinating shipments of PPE and preparing for other health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming.
- Across Honduras 95,000 people are housed in shelters.¹
- COVID-19 cases are rapidly rising in Honduras with 3,042 new cases confirmed last week.²

The situation in Honduras and other Central American countries remains critical. Over the last week, the official count of people residing in shelters increased from 88,000 to 95,000 people in Honduras, with the majority congregated in the northern Sula valley region. Several departments, including Santa Barbara where Project HOPE is focusing operations, continue to report landslides due to the heavily saturated ground. Regular seasonal rain will only increase the potential for additional landslides in the region and risk to local communities. Landslides and continued flooding have isolated communities as bridges have been damaged or destroyed.

In the last week Honduras reported 3,042 new COVID-19 cases and 49 deaths due to COVID-19. Some shelters, housed in schools, churches and private homes, remain higher risk congregate settings without sufficient WASH systems or personal protective equipment (PPE). In Santa Barbara there is currently no safe running water due to damage to the sewer system, increasing the risk of disease and requiring the use of manual purification systems and water trucks.

Quick Facts

- Hurricanes Eta and Iota made landfall as a Category 4 storms in Central America 2 weeks apart
- Project HOPE is sending 250K surgical and KN95 masks to the region as well as an emergency medical team
- 4M+ people remain affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras
- 95K+ people are in shelters in Honduras
PROJECT HOPE’S RESPONSE

PHASE I

Project HOPE is deploying an Emergency Medical Team (EMT) in partnership with the Spanish INGO SAMU at the request of the Honduran government and PAHO/WHO. The EMT will be on the ground on December 4 to deliver primary care services to communities in the Santa Barbara District without access to health services.

Project HOPE’s emergency response team participated in a joint assessment with the INGO ChildFund International in the Santa Barbara district where a lack of emergency support has been identified. The partnership between ChildFund and Project HOPE will provide a comprehensive health, WASH, and protection delivery services for vulnerable populations. Planned programming across both organizations includes providing access to potable water, hygiene promotion and infection prevention and control training, and psychosocial support programs for children.

In coordination with health authorities, HOPE is assessing damaged medical facilities in Santa Barbara to determine if rapid rehabilitation services can be provided. Currently, there are dozens of damaged and destroyed facilities throughout Honduras, creating health access crises for many communities.

PHASE II

Throughout Central America, Project HOPE is preparing to offer longer-term interventions to provide COVID-19 and mental health trainings for frontline workers as they respond to the dual crises of Hurricanes Eta and Iota and COVID-19. Based on curriculums already utilized in Latin America, the trainings will improve health workers abilities to contain and treat COVID-19, as well as manage mental health needs in a highly stressful environment.

In anticipation of a greater need for vaccination campaigns including COVID-19, HOPE is planning to support cold-chain resiliency projects. After Hurricanes Iota/Eta, the cold chain capacity throughout Honduras was damaged, limiting the country’s ability to transport and store vaccines and other cold-storage supplies.

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i https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Latin%20America%20and%20The%20Caribbean%20-%20Weekly%20Situation%20Update%2029%20November%202020%20-%20As%20of%2030%20November%202020.pdf

ii https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/honduras