

Hurricanes Eta & Iota

Situation Report #6

December 17, 2020

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Project HOPE is conducting water purification training and supply distribution that will provide **3,000 families with potable water**.
- Project HOPE is supporting **regional water quality testing** in Santa Barbara to direct additional water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming.
- Project HOPE's Emergency Medical Team (EMT) in partnership with the Spanish INGO SAMU has conducted **985 patient encounters**.
- Project HOPE delivered **200,000 surgical and KN95 masks** to local partners and the Honduran government for distribution.
- Honduras confirmed **2,525 new confirmed cases of COVID-19** in the last 7 days.ⁱ

Access to clean water and health services remains the primary concern in Honduras. Damage to sewer systems and wells has left most water sources contaminated in the Santa Barbara department. Local authorities lack resources to provide clean water and testing for most communities, leaving tens of thousands of people vulnerable to health impacts. With much of the region living in poverty, families cannot afford treated water or sufficient equipment to purify well water at home. Project HOPE and SAMU's EMT is encountering many patients with water quality related health needs including gastrointestinal illness and dermatological needs.

In addition to water quality related health challenges, COVID-19 continues to spread. In the last week, Honduras reported 2,525 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 52 deaths due to COVID-19, though unconfirmed or unreported cases are likely higher. Lack of or limited access to health services in isolated areas has also impacted the management and treatment of non-communicable diseases and routine health needs.

Across Honduras, shelter populations have begun to decrease as people return home or to farms to rescue crops during the harvest season. According to COPECO, the population housed in shelters is now just

Quick Facts

- Project HOPE has deployed an Emergency Medical Team in partnership with SAMU
- Lack of access to clean, potable water putting Honduran communities at risk
- Water purification training and equipment being provided to 3,000 families
- Project HOPE has sent 250K surgical and KN95 masks to the region
- 43K+ people are in shelters in Honduras

under 44,000 people.ⁱⁱ Many people leaving shelters are returning to housing still damaged by the storm and to communities that may be further isolated from local infrastructure and services.

PROJECT HOPE'S RESPONSE

Project HOPE, in partnership with the Spanish INGO SAMU, at the request of the Honduran government and PAHO/WHO, has deployed an Emergency Medical Team (EMT). The EMT in Santa Barbara region has been deployed primarily to remote villages without access to health services. The EMT has encountered water related illnesses due to contamination of local water supplies and has identified cases of COVID-19. The EMT has conducted 985 patient consultations and will continue operating through the week.

Project HOPE, in partnership with local NGOs, ADASBA and CASM, continues WASH activities and hygiene promotion in the Santa Barbara department. Project HOPE's WASH intervention is designed to reach 3,000 families with potable drinking water. Community hygiene promoters are providing water purification training as well distributing chlorine, buckets, and low literacy training materials to improve access to clean water. The training focuses on using chlorine, which is commercially available. Hygiene promoters will also be adding training on mask making and wearing to reduce the spread of COVID-19, after our response team identified limited access to and mask usage in remote communities.

Project HOPE has donated more than 100 water quality testing kits to help the local Santa Barbara health authorities test for contamination in vulnerable communities. The data received from these tests will help direct additional WASH and public health programming, including water purification training, emergency water distribution, and other public health campaigns.

Project HOPE also delivered 200,000 surgical and KN95 masks to local partners and the Honduran government for community and health facility distribution. HOPE is preparing additional shipments of personal protective equipment, including gowns, face shields, and coveralls for frontline healthcare workers.

ⁱ <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/honduras>

ⁱⁱ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/INFOGRAFIA%2035%20CORTE%200400%20HRS%20TURN%20B-1%2012-11-2020.pdf>

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