Hurricanes Eta & Iota
Situation Report #7
January 14, 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Project HOPE is conducting water purification training and supply distribution that will provide 3,000 families with potable water.
- Honduras confirmed 6,110 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the last 7 days.¹
- Honduras announced a curfew and other new measures, effective January 12, to help contain the spread of COVID-19.
- Project HOPE’s Emergency Medical Team (EMT) in partnership with the Spanish INGO SAMU conducted 1,181 patient consultations.

As rebuilding continues in Honduras two key crises, limited access to clean, potable water and the spread of COVID-19, continue to impact the country. In the Santa Barbara region, it will take time to test local water supplies and restore access to sewer systems and potable water following damage from Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Consumption of contaminated water leaves the region’s population susceptible to waterborne illnesses and other health impacts. With many in the region living in poverty, families cannot easily afford treated water or equipment to purify well water at home.

Across the country there were 6,110 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, a diagnosis account exceeding the previous peak 7-day infection count from late June 2020. Honduras also reported 128 COVID-19 deaths over the last 7 days. The number of undiagnosed cases may be higher. To reduce the spread of COVID, the Honduran Government has instituted a nightly curfew from 9pm to 5am effective January 12. The curfew requires everyone except those supporting heavy cargo transportation and other authorized individuals to stay in their homes. Rules limiting the capacity of commercial establishments also remain in place and many entertainment venues will remain closed.

Quick Facts

- Lack of access to clean, potable water putting Honduran communities at risk
- COVID-19 is spreading at elevated levels prompting new nightly curfew
- 250k people lack or have limited access to health services
- Water purification training and equipment being provided to 3,000 families
- 1,181 patients treated by HOPE-SAMU EMT
- Project HOPE has sent 250K surgical and KN95 masks to the region
PROJECT HOPE’S RESPONSE

Project HOPE, in partnership with local NGOs, ADASBA and CASM, continue to conduct community level WASH activities and hygiene promotion in the Santa Barbara department. Project HOPE’s WASH intervention by its conclusion will reach 3,000 families with potable 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 purification techniques taught use commercially available chlorine to purify water from local sources. Hygiene promoters will also be adding training COVID-19 trainings focusing on mask wearing and making, as well as social distancing best practices, after our response team identified limited access to and mask usage in remote communities.

Project HOPE, in partnership with the Spanish INGO SAMU, at the request of the Honduran government and PAHO/WHO, concluded its deployment of an EMT. The EMT deployed primarily to remote villages without access to health services in the Santa Barbara region, conducting 1,181 patient consultations.

Project HOPE is coordinating with local officials to deliver longer-term interventions to provide COVID-19 and mental health trainings for frontline healthcare workers. Utilizing trainer-of trainers curriculums, the trainings will improve the ability of health workers to contain and treat COVID-19, as well as manage mental health needs in a highly stressful environment. Project HOPE has already reached 146 responders in Honduras with the COVID-19 training.

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

Contact Information

Chris Skopec
cskopec@projecthope.org
1 (202) 602-8393

Tom Cotter
tcotter@projecthope.org
1 (667) 303-8970