

# Responding to Hurricanes Eta & Iota in Nicaragua, Guatemala & Honduras

*May 2021 Update*



# OVERVIEW

Hurricane Eta slammed into Nicaragua's Atlantic coast on November 3, 2020. The storm, which was a Category 4 major hurricane at its landfall, also devastated communities in Guatemala and Honduras. Two weeks later, on November 16, Hurricane Iota struck the same area as a Category 5. Both storms delivered blows to communities that participate in CWS-supported food security programs in all three countries.

Before the storms hit, COVID-19 was already on the rise in all three nations. Their economies were contracting, and civil society was challenging national governments about corruption and/or authoritarian rule. NGO workers were trying to cope with stress and burnout after a year of pandemic, drought, recession and instability. When the hurricanes hit, an already-unstable situation became critical.

The CWS relief effort was swift and locally-led. Within a week, CWS had mobilized \$42,000 in rapid response grants to existing partners in each country. We also launched a flash campaign through all of our Central American networks and social media to ensure that people with disabilities and older adults were included and active participants in recovery efforts.

This response has been divided into two phases. Phase I covers the rapid response, and the ongoing Phase II addresses rehabilitation and reconstruction.



## **MORE THAN 91,500 PEOPLE\***

were affected, including program participants and other vulnerable families in three countries.

\*Data from our partners' damage assessments.



## **FIVE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

carried out the emergency response, and three are involved in rehabilitation programs.



CWS partners have reached **15,223 PEOPLE** in this response.

## **THIS RESPONSE HAS FOCUSED ON:**



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene



Food Security



Shelter & Housing



Health



Inclusion

# PHASE 1: EMERGENCY RESPONSE



## GUATEMALA: ALTA VERAPAZ & IZABAL

CWS supported partner Colectivo Artesana to store, transport by land, water and air, and distribute purchased and donated relief supplies to 9,000 people in hard -to-reach communities.

## HONDURAS: SAN PEDRO SULA, MACUELIZO, AZACUALPA & NUEVA FRONTERA

Partner CASM activated 11 shelters for 5,363 evacuated families. They provided food to 2,590 families and hygiene supplies to 1,735. CASM also helped 85 people get individual therapy and offered group therapy for 415 people.

## NICARAGUA: MANAGUA

Partner INPRHU distributed food baskets to 59 families of at-risk children. Each basket included enough food for two months. INPRHU also reinforced COVID-19 messaging and organized support groups to address mental health.

## NICARAGUA: CARIBBEAN COAST

Partner Accion Medica Cristiana provided supplies to 1,000 families (6,102 people) in four emergency shelters and four rural communities. Each family received food, water, hygiene/cleaning supplies, tarps, blankets and plastic bags.



## NICARAGUA: CARAZO DEPARTMENT

Partner CIEETS selected 60 families who were in particularly difficult or vulnerable situations after the hurricanes. Each family received a cash transfer to buy food, repair homes or water systems, or replace lost crops or property.

“I was in my community during both hurricanes. They ripped the roofs off the houses, the trees, the crops. I was filled with fear. In terms of the crops, everything is in ruins. My house is like a hammock about to collapse, and because of the flooding there are many diseases in both children and adults...What worries me the most is how to recover the agriculture. We have no way to get seeds. I feel hopeful when I see my children--we are all grateful to be alive, but we need food. We are a very small group with few resources. We ask that you pray for no more hurricanes to come. I thank AMC for their support and for responding to the emergency. We received a food kit, plastic, chicken and we were able to feed ourselves.” ▶



◀ “I lost my home and everything I had-- everything is flooded and diseases are appearing. AMC has always supported us here at [the school I am a teacher at and the director of], and now with a food kit.”

“I am from the Kuiwitingny community and am an AMC agricultural promoter. It was scary to go through these two hurricanes. At first I stayed in my house with my wife. When the winds got worse, my wife took refuge in the shelter and I stayed to take care of the house. But everything was flooded. My crops, mainly fruit and timber trees, were destroyed. I hope to cultivate again with the little seed I have left and what I managed to save from the crops. Thanks to the AMC trainings that give me hope to get back up again and apply my knowledge to cultivate again.” ▶



“The animals have died and the crops have disappeared, but I have to get back up with what little I have left. I ask for your help with housing and seeds to plant for food. Thank you to AMC for the food help they have given us.” ▼



# PHASE 2: REHABILITATION & RECONSTRUCTION



## HONDURAS: SANTA BARBARA

Partner CASM, in alliance with PAG, is planning to build the resilience of 70 families. This includes constructing new homes, providing agricultural kits and offering technical assistance.

## GUATEMALA: IZABAL

Partner Colectivo Artesana is coordinating with local organizations to:

- install rainwater systems for 15 families
- support 25 families to start raising chickens and use resulting compost for home gardens (seeds will also be provided)
- Install six community medicine cabinets, provide basic medicine and information on their use, and provide paramedical training for community leaders.
- Strengthen community organizations to help mitigate the impact of future disasters.

## NICARAGUA: CARIBBEAN COAST

Partner AMC purchased and distributed seeds for 585 families in upstream communities near Waspam. These included beans, banana seedlings, cassava wood, quequisque seeds and rice seeds.

## NICARAGUA: CARAZO DEPARTMENT

Partner CIEETS is supporting more than 100 families as they recover water systems, wells and latrines; buy food and replant family gardens; and conduct minor repairs on houses.





Photos credits:

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Bottom right of page 2 and bottom of page 4: Nicaragua // courtesy AMC

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