



21 October, 2011

PAHO/WHO EOC SITUATION REPORT #3

Central American region is projected for more rains due to remnants of Tropical Depression 12E and arrival of a cold front.

El Salvador

The rains have opened dam reserves and blocked roads affecting 181 out of 262 municipalities of El Salvador. 2,000 square kilometers are now flooded which is equivalent to 10% of the entire national territory.

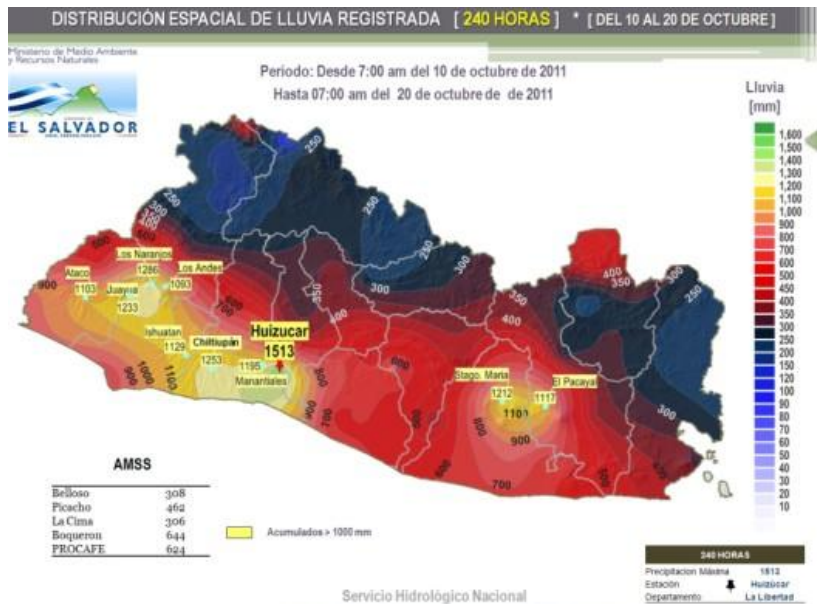
Health Impacts

Currently there 250,000 people affected and 38,682 persons displaced to 603 shelters located mostly in the

departments of La Libertad,

Usulután, and La Paz. It is estimated that 12% of the displaced people in shelters will need temporary housing for 4 to 6 months. Ministry of Health has reported increased cases of diarrhea, conjunctivitis, chickenpox, and dengue fever.

A total of 159 health centers are affected including 17 with severe damages, 36 with moderate damages and 106 with minor damages. Hospital Soyapango which serves 290,000 has lost its power source. Hospital Sonsonate reported that there are limited surgical and maternity capacities as well as blocked roads to the hospital. Most health centers are experiencing floods and equipment damages.



Source: SNET, El Salvador

The Situation Report is produced by the PAHO/WHO Emergency Operations Center regarding recent developments in the region. New editions will be issued as the situation requires. To subscribe or unsubscribe to these reports please [visit this page](#).

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Actions

- The Ministry of Health is working on disease surveillance and provision of comprehensive care in shelters.
- UNFPA mobile clinics are providing health support in shelters.
- AECID has donated 5,556 hygiene kits that have been distributed to affected families.
- PAHO/WHO has deployed field teams for damage assessment and needs analysis of health facilities that have reported damage
- PAHO/WHO has allocated USD\$190,000 for emergency response for health promotion, septic cleaning, sanitation, epidemiological surveillance and purchase of medicines.

Needs

- Priority medicines and essential supplies were identified.
- Basic sanitation and septic tanks in shelters and health facilities must be maintained.
- Continuation of damage assessment have been hampered by damaged roads and limited access to sites.

Guatemala

Damages to roads have effectively created isolated communities where there is limited access to information.

Health Impacts

- There is irregular water supply in several regions of the country as well as damaged water wells and pumping plants
- 159 shelters remain active housing about 14,966. 524,480 people have been affected from the rain including 29,618 persons that have been evacuated.
- 13 out of 43 health centers have been damaged, 8 of which are specialized hospitals that cover 34% of the population. Some hospitals that are damaged are in Peten and Alta Verapaz with high concentration of indigenous people of Kekchi.
- Damage was reported in health centers in Escuintla, Quetzaltenango, and Guatemala.

Actions

The Ministry of Health continues to provide medical care, monitoring water quality and promoting prevention of diseases transmitted by food and water. Surveillance for diseases has not yet reported any major outbreaks. The ministry is reviewing the storage capacities of vaccines.

PAHO/WHO participated in the identification of basic needs, epidemiological surveillance, vector control, damage and needs assessment, and established contacts with local NGOs to distribute medicines. A team from PAHO/WHO is participating in the WASH cluster and identifying priority areas and supplies. It is applying for CERF funded projects to help in the relief for flood victims.

WFP has donated 650 tons of rations of food for shelters and UNICEF has donated water and sanitation supplies as well as psychosocial support.

Needs

- Rapid rehabilitation of the water system is urgent to restore access to safe water.
- Recover affected health services and strengthen comprehensive care in shelters.
- Strengthen epidemiological surveillance and vector control to prevent outbreaks.
- There needs to be better information and data management to ensure rapid response.
- Priority medicines have been identified and must be distributed.

Nicaragua

13 of the 15 departments in the country are affected, totaling 317 communities that are in need. SINAPRED provided humanitarian assistance to the 10,000 housed in 103 shelters. The Ministry of Health continues to provide medical care and damage assessment in the affected areas.

PAHO/WHO has provided the Outbreak Response Fund with USD\$15,000 to support the efforts of the Ministry of Health in preventing leptospirosis.

Honduras

12 out of 18 departments in Honduras remain in a state of emergency. Emergency operations continue to be carried out by the Ministry of Health.

Health Impacts

There are 5 health facilities that were damaged but remain operational. 9 bridges have been destroyed and 118 roads were damaged. Médecins du Monde has reported that high percentage of water systems in the department of Choluteca and Valle are damaged.

Actions

The Ministry of Health authorities have provided shelters with medical care and water. UNICEF has donated a supply for disinfection and water management, including two water purification plants to COPECO. The government of Taiwan has donated USD\$200,000 and USAID has donated USD\$75,000 that will be implemented through Save the Children.

Needs

The provision of water and monitoring remains a priority identified by the Ministry of Health. COPECO has identified the need of 40,000 hygiene kits. The Ministry of Health has developed a list of requirements for handling and monitoring water quality.