



©UNICEF/Costa Rica/2021

Reporting Period: Mid-January / Mid-February 2021

Central America

Hurricanes Eta and Iota

Humanitarian Situation Report No.8

unicef 
for every child

Highlights

- According to inter-agency response plans, over 5.3 million people need assistance in the countries most affected by the struck of Eta and Iota hurricanes: Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. More than 1.8 million children are in need of humanitarian support across these countries, including thousands which schools have been destroyed or heavily damaged, and are waiting for the reactivation of education activities in their communities.
- UNICEF Country Offices (COs) continue increasing their field presence and scaling up response. Progress in the response over the reporting period include:
 - **Honduras:** Nearly 20,000 people have been reached with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and supplies in shelters and communities, over 12,000 children and caregivers have been reached with protection services including psychosocial support or violence prevention actions, and 4,449 families have been reached with in-kind social transfers. Nutritional supplies are in country for serving 32,000 children and more than 150,000 schoolbooks are being printed and/or distributed for the new school year.
 - **Guatemala:** Over 35,000 children have received essential nutrition services, including treatment for 361 children under five with acute malnutrition. More than 2,500 people gained access to safe water at household level, through rehabilitation of water systems and cleaning of wells. Protection services have reached 3,840 children and 3,492 adults. Rehabilitation works are ongoing in 95 schools in two departments.
 - **Nicaragua:** Personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies have been distributed for 5,000 health workers. Over 5,200 people have benefited from access to safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene conditions. UNICEF has supported distribution of education materials, temporary learning spaces and awareness raising to allow school enrolment of 20,000 children. At least 2,902 children have been reached with psychosocial support and prevention of violence actions, through child-friendly spaces and recreational activities. A nutritional rapid assessment is ongoing in 15 municipalities, aiming at reaching 16,000 children and 5,000 pregnant and lactating women.
 - **Belize:** 204,267 people have been reached with life-saving messages on health issues. A total of 200 early childhood development (ECD) kits were distributed in affected communities, and parents and caregivers of over 500 children received key ECD messages.
 - **Costa Rica:** WASH supplies, along with education and child violence prevention information materials, were distributed to over 2,920 highly vulnerable children in communities affected by the storms.
- UNICEF has received US\$15 million against the US\$42.6 million appeal for the Eta/Iota response. The funding gap stands now at US\$28 million. Urgent support is needed to sustain and further scale up multi-sectoral response, particularly in hard-to-access communities.

Situation in Numbers



9.3 million

People affected by Eta and Iota

3.6 million

Children affected by Eta and Iota



+5.3 million

People in need due to Eta and Iota

+1.8 million

Children in need due to Eta and Iota



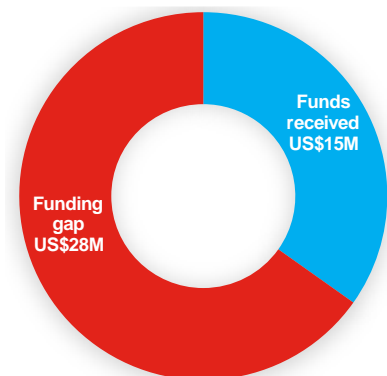
646,943

People to be reached*

327,605

Children to be reached*

**UNICEF estimated
funding requirement*
US\$ 42.6 million**



* Preliminary targets and funding requirements, to be updated for alignment with inter-agency response plans and updated needs assessments.

'Funds received' includes only new funds received for the Eta/Iota response, as of February 2021.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

The Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal issued in November 2020 for a six-months period,ⁱ is currently 35 per cent funded. As of February 2021, UNICEF had received close to US\$ 15 million, against the US\$ 42.6 million appeal. New funds received against the Eta/Iota response HAC include a US\$ 5 million top-up contribution from USAID for WASH, protection and nutrition support. In addition, flexible funds received from private donors through the Luxembourg Committee for UNICEF, the Swiss Committee for UNICEF and the United States Fund for UNICEF, have been channelled to cover critical gaps in the hurricanes' response.

Additional funding is needed for ensuring continuity of essential services, especially considering the increased cost of interventions in remote areas and taking into account COVID-19 preventive measures. UNICEF will continue engaging with partners and donors for raising flexible funding that will enable UNICEF to scale up actions in the most vulnerable communities.

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Back-to-back hurricanes Eta and Iota left over 5.3 million people in need of assistance, among them over 1.8 million children. Most families have left official shelters to return to their communities where rehabilitation works have started but living conditions, and access to services and income, have been heavily deteriorated. Other groups of affected population remain in improvised shelters, as in disadvantaged neighbourhoods in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. As the response continues, UNICEF and partners have identified remote communities that had not been reached by assessments and relief actions, efforts are being invested to reach the most vulnerable with lifesaving support.

The mid and long-term consequences of the disaster are of great concern. According to WFP projections, at least 1.7 million people will require urgent food assistance in 2021 in Central America, among them thousands of families in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras reporting income and job losses due to COVID-19, and the impacts of Eta and Iota, which destroyed more than 200,000 hectares of staple foods and cash crops.ⁱⁱ

As government and humanitarian partners continue responding in the field, recent milestones have been reached in terms of inter-agency coordination and response. In Nicaragua, the United Nations agencies in coordination with the Government of Nicaragua and the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SINAPRED), issued the joint Plan of Action for responding to the impacts of Eta and Iota. The Plan estimates that more than three million people were exposed to storms, with an estimated 1.8 million people affected and 730,600 people in need of assistance. The UN in Nicaragua requires US\$50 million to address the needs of 287,000 people.ⁱⁱⁱ Meanwhile, in Honduras, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee formally activated the humanitarian clusters in Honduras in late January.

Population affected by the impacts of Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Central America						
Impact	Belize	Costa Rica	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua	TOTAL
No. of people affected*	60,000	325,000	2,438,933	4,663,244	1,800,000	9,287,177
No. of children affected**	21,120	87,100	926,795	1,772,033	720,000	3,617,047
No. of deaths*	1	2	61	95	21	180
No. of missing persons*			99	10		109
No. of people in need (as per inter-agency plans)*			1,800,000	2,800,000	730,600	5,330,600
No. of children in need (based on inter-agency plans)**			684,000	874,000	333,154	1,891,154

*According to official sources and inter-agency plans.^{iv}

**Estimated by UNICEF, according to population distribution in country.

Humanitarian Strategy

As outlined in the 'Response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota' HAC, UNICEF is prioritising actions in the four most affected countries in Central America: Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Belize, aiming at reaching over 646,000 people, including more than 327,000 children. UNICEF planned coverage is being revised, in line with inter-agency response plans and updated needs assessments.

UNICEF response strategy is adapted to the needs in country and focuses in ensuring that children and families in shelters and affected communities have access to basic services including protection, nutrition, WASH services, health, education and early childhood development (ECD), and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV). With the latent risk of COVID-19 spread in the affected communities, ensuring availability of safe water and adequate sanitation, risk communication and minimum health services, personal protective equipment (PPE) items, implementation of biosafety protocols and other measures; are crucial to prevent the spread of the virus and are essential components of UNICEF's response.

UNICEF works in collaboration and coordination with governments and with its existing partners, and, where needed, develops new partnerships to delivering urgent assistance for children, women and families. UNICEF supports local and national governments, which capacities have been surpassed, in restoring and ensuring the continuity of services in the affected regions.

Honduras

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As per the updated inter-agency analysis in Honduras, at least 2.8 million people need humanitarian assistance across the country, among them 1.6 million people require urgent access to WASH services and 1.2 million people need protection services.^v Almost 100,000 people (including some 12,000 children) had to seek refuge in shelters. According to the ministry of education (MoE), more than 500 schools were damaged and around 10,000 students were hosted in shelters with no access to education activities. At least 620 schools are being used as shelter for internally displaced families as reported by MoE. The storms have exacerbated an already precarious economic and health situation for tens of thousands of families. An evaluation led by ECLAC estimated the losses and damages from both hurricanes at US\$1.9 billion.^{vi} The damages in the social sectors are high. Damages are estimated at US\$33.5 million in the education sector, US\$51.6 million in the health sector, up to US\$240 million in housing, and US\$48 million in water and sanitation. Despite the scale of damages in houses (at least 73,000 houses damaged and 9,300 destroyed)^{vii} and social infrastructure, many internally displaced persons who were hosted in shelters, are turning back to their communities. UNICEF and the humanitarian partners are monitoring the return and continue providing humanitarian assistance in shelters and communities.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition. UNICEF has received multiple micronutrient powders to be distributed to 32,000 children (6 months – 5 years) in the Cortés Health Sanitary Region to prevent micronutrient deficiencies, starting in late February. Simultaneously, health workers will conduct nutrition screening of children under 5 in affected communities. This will be conducted during medical consultations, vaccination and home visits. UNICEF is scaling up capacities in the nutrition sector, additional staff is being recruited for strengthening planning, resource mobilisation and implementation. UNICEF will work jointly with WFP, FAO and PAHO to advocate with the government, to set up a forum for strategic nutrition discussions and coordinate the implementation of national and community strategies to prevent and treat malnutrition.

WASH. UNICEF response is aimed at improving access to safe water and to safe sanitation facilities. At least 19,636 people have been reached through the distribution of hygiene kits, cleaning and disinfection kits, and safe water, in shelters and communities. Upon progressive closure of shelters, and in coordination with local authorities and key WASH actors, UNICEF is shifting its support towards families who have returned to their homes, and who face precarious access to WASH services. This support includes the rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure in schools that have been used as shelters, disinfection of wells, as well as minor community infrastructure reparations. UNICEF continues its work in finetuning the prioritization of communities, to support advocacy and informed decision-making by WASH organizations.

Education. UNICEF is actively supporting the secretary of education (SEDUC) to ensure a safe back to school for all children, as outlined in SEDUC's return to school strategy and contingency plan. At least 694 children have been supported in

accessing learning opportunities through the distribution of learning materials, and more than 150,000 workbooks are being printed and/or distributed. Additional efforts to promote the return to school include the procurement of learning materials for 26,880 children and planned support to 41 schools for cleaning, disinfecting and light repairs across five critically affected municipalities.

Child Protection. UNICEF has supported over 3,443 girls, boys and their caretakers through group activities – carried out in shelters and community spaces - aimed at identifying and reporting violence against children, and providing information on referral pathways to report violence against girls and boys. UNICEF, in coordination with the national child protection agency (DINAF) provided protection services to 4,210 victims of violence, safe spaces in shelters have benefited 2,232 girls and boys, and mental health and psychosocial support services reached 1,890 children. At least 268 children and adults were reached through awareness-raising and community mobilization activities for the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation in humanitarian situations. In total, child protection interventions have reached more than 12,043 girls, boys and their caregivers. UNICEF continues to lead the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, where 15 organizations including the national child protection agency are coordinating continued child protection interventions as more families return to their communities.

Social Protection. UNICEF continues supporting the provision of in-kind social transfers made by municipal governments to the most affected households, inside and outside the shelters, including mainly food kits. A total of 4,449 families (approximately 18,240 people) have been reached.

For more information: www.unicef.org/honduras/



@unicefhonduras



@unicefhonduras



@unicefhonduras



unicefhonduras

Guatemala

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Need

According to information from the National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), seasonal rains have been reported over the reporting period in the departments of Alta Verapaz and Izabal. It is estimated that about 600 people remained in 12 official shelters in the department of Alta Verapaz, by mid-February. About 700 people remained in other alternative shelters. CONRED is conducting geophysical studies in communities such as Campur in San Pedro Carchá municipality (Alta Verapaz department), in order to assess the habitability of the area after remaining under water for a long period. During field missions, it has become evident that some remote communities still lack due attention to needs such as health, housing and food, water for consumption and protection, hence additional efforts and resources are needed to reach the most in need in these areas. The Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN) presented the evaluation of damages and losses caused by Eta and Iota, estimating at US\$ 777.1 million (6,000 million GTQ) the damages, losses and additional costs in the social, productive, manufacturing, infrastructure and environment sectors.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. UNICEF continues to monitor the situation of child and maternal health care, particularly the continuity of services with emphasis on immunizations and morbidity due to acute respiratory infections (ARI) and diarrhoea, and antenatal control of pregnant women. Discussions have been held with the ministry of health (MoH) to incorporate the vaccination component in brigades.

Nutrition. UNICEF continued supporting life-saving nutrition interventions, and has reached over 35,000 children with essential nutrition services including 13,085 children in Huehuetenango, 11,772 in Alta Verapaz, 4,194 in Quiché and 6,393 in Chiquimula. The nutrition brigades have identified and treated 361 children under five with acute malnutrition (216 girls/145 boys). Additionally, to prevent malnutrition, the brigades provided micronutrient supplements to children, and quality counselling on infant, young child and maternal nutrition to mothers, and pregnant and lactating women.

WASH. Through UNICEF support, 2,584 people gained access to safe water at household level, through the rehabilitation of three water systems and the cleaning and disinfection of 250 family artisan wells, for which five local brigades have been trained. In addition, nine water supply networks were assessed for damages, and the process of rehabilitation of services is being prepared. UNICEF donated equipment for cleaning and disinfection of wells to the local health authority (DAS) in Sayaxche municipality (Peten), and five vacuum pumps for the bacteriological analysis of water for human consumption, in five local health districts in Alta Verapaz department. In relation to the promotion of hygiene and sanitation, 24 communities have been pre-activated with the community-led total sanitation (CLTS) methodology and have initiated action plans to eliminate open defecation. Twelve mobile hand washing stations have been delivered for COVID-19 prevention in public places. UNICEF held a workshop to strengthen capacities of the Cluster system, aimed at staff responsible for environmental sanitation of the ministry of public health and social assistance, in four affected departments.

Education. In coordination with the MoE and local governments, UNICEF delivered construction material to repair classroom roofs and WASH facilities for the rehabilitation of 95 schools in Alta Verapaz and Izabal. Close to 60 per cent of repair works have concluded. About 50 schools that were destroyed or flooded will not be ready for the reopening of schools in March. In the coming month, UNICEF will procure

and deliver to the MoE eight temporary classrooms for supporting the reactivation of education activities in affected communities.

Child Protection. UNICEF and its partners IsraAID, Refugio de la Niñez and World Vision, have provided protection services to 3,840 children directly (2,003 girls and 1,837 boys), 1,465 mothers and 2,027 relatives. Psychosocial care is provided at community level, using the “Return to Happiness” methodology.^{viii} In the department of Izabal, 803 children have been reached at the community level (372 girls and 431 boys), 434 mothers and 415 relatives. Through mobile teams, UNICEF and partners have provided individual and family care services in the department of Alta Verapaz, 1,250 children have been supported in communities (668 girls and 582 boys), 458 mothers and 617 relatives. A total of 270 officials and professionals have been trained on the “Return to happiness” and protection standards. Through recent assessments in remote communities, six shelters were identified in the Sesajal community (San Pedro Carchá municipality, Alta Verapaz) with approximately 165 families. UNICEF is coordinating with local authorities the provision of psychosocial support to families in this hard-to-access community.

Social Protection. The national government continues to outline the response on social protection. UNICEF is providing technical assistance to design an unconditional cash transfer programme planned for 110,000 farmers in vulnerable conditions who suffered damage in their crops. This programme foresees to make four transfers of US\$ 130 (1,000 GTQ).

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. In coordination with the ministry of health, actions are focused on the health districts of two municipalities of Huehuetenango (San Mateo Ixtatán and Santa Cruz Barillas) and four in Alta Verapaz (Chisec, Cobán, San Cristóbal Verapaz and San Pedro Carchá), with district promotion managers, rural health technicians and water and environmental sanitation inspectors. A network of community communicators, community media and community leaders has been established to be trained on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and use of community video in emergency situations.

For more information: www.unicef.org/guatemala/

 [@unicefguatemala](https://www.facebook.com/unicefguatemala)

 [@unicefguatemala](https://twitter.com/unicefguatemala)

 [unicefguatemala](https://www.youtube.com/unicefguatemala)

 [UNICEF Guatemala](https://www.unicef.org/guatemala/)

Nicaragua

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The passage of Eta and Iota left approximately 1.8 million people affected in Nicaragua, mainly in the regions of RACCN (North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region), Triángulo Minero (the Mine Triangle), as well as Nueva Segovia, Jinotega and Chinandega. The North Caribbean Coast was by far the most affected department as it took a direct hit from rains and winds causing damage in basic infrastructures including water supply systems and health facilities, with girls, boys and adolescents being among the most vulnerable groups. While 1.7 million children were able to return to school on 1 February, according to national authorities, ensuring availability of WASH services both at communities, health services and schools, remains a critical priority to preventing the emergence of waterborne diseases. Eta and Iota have impacted women, girls, men and boys differently, with the level of vulnerability and gender equality being key determinants of which groups are worse affected. Across the most affected communities, the situations of violence against children and adolescents have increasingly been reported.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. UNICEF has continued supporting the MoH and implementing partners' COVID-19 infection prevention control (IPC) actions. To this end, a set of prevention messages have

been shared with eight implementing partners. Coordination actions with three local radio stations in the North Caribbean

Coast region have been carried out. In addition, PPE supplies have been distributed for 5,000 health workers.

Nutrition. UNICEF has continued supporting MoH actions in conducting nutritional rapid assessment in 15 municipalities, aiming at reaching 16,000 children and 5,000 pregnant and lactating women. Five municipalities have finished collecting data and are processing the information of 5,283 children and 925 pregnant and lactating women. In addition, with the support of two nutrition advisors on virtual surge deployment, UNICEF produced tools to map the capacities and partners' coverage on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM); supported coordination of nutrition activities among implementing partners; and created a draft zero of a simplified protocol / community pocket manual for the management of acute malnutrition at community level.

WASH. UNICEF and its implementing partners have provided drinking water and actions to improve sanitation and hygiene conditions for 5,204 people; 476 latrines have been installed; 24 shelter sites received hygiene kits and were provided with clean water; 30 health units in Prinzapolka municipality have received cleaning kits while 150 cleaning kits for health units, schools and shelters have been distributed by implementing partners in other municipalities; 2,500 hygiene family kits and 1,193 filters have been distributed. UNICEF continues field monitoring and training activities. Quality analysis of water sources in 15 sites have been carried out with the support of the National University of Engineering.

Education. UNICEF and four of its partners have supported school enrolment of some 20,000 children in 79 communities of five of the most affected municipalities. Out of the 4,000 school bags and school materials provided to the Regional Government of the North Caribbean Coast, some 500 were delivered by UNICEF and local authorities to children in Wawabar and Karata communities, along with the installation of two temporary learning spaces (TLS). In addition, ten tents are being distributed to serve as TLS for ten communities in the North Caribbean Region where school principals will be trained on TLS management. UNICEF also supported the awareness raising campaign on the importance of children going back to school.

Child Protection. UNICEF, together with the Regional Government of the North Caribbean Coast and Women's Movement Nidia White, started the community identification of

survivors requiring specialized assistance as well as the distribution of 800 dignity kits for girls living in extreme vulnerability, at risk or survivors of sexual violence. UNICEF partners reached 2,902 children with psychosocial support and prevention of sexual violence actions, through child-friendly spaces and recreational activities. In Wawabar and Karata communities, 25 teachers were trained to provide psychosocial support and carry out activities for emotional recovery and violence prevention in child-friendly spaces and TLS. In addition, 39 staff from the Regional Government and partner Nidia White were trained on protection of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) policy reaching.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. UNICEF completed the introductory course on the implementation of the AAP approach, in which 81 staff from ten partner organizations and the Regional Government of the North Caribbean Coast participated. Materials have been adapted to share with counterparts, focused on promoting hygiene habits, aligned with WASH interventions. A process of implementation of the advocacy strategy with the media of the North Caribbean Coast was initiated to make UNICEF's response to the emergency visible and to broaden the media agenda around the following topics: water and sanitation, violence prevention, nutrition and education.

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

- [UNICEF delivers 20,000 backpacks.](#)
- [1,200 families affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota, from the Autonomous Region of the North Caribbean Coast, will receive family hygiene kits.](#)
- [In Karatá, boys and girls started classes in a temporary learning space installed by UNICEF.](#)
- [Happy to be part of the school start in the North Caribbean Coast. UNICEF began with the Regional Government the distribution of 20,000 backpacks and school supplies](#)
- [In Samil, located on the southern coast of the North Caribbean Coast, all wells in the community are contaminated](#)
- [In the community of Walpasiksa, UNICEF carried out a visit to verify the damage caused to the water sources from which the population is supplied.](#)

For more information: www.unicef.org/nicaragua/



Belize

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) continues to directly support 225 families, including 600 children, in the Belize and Cayo districts affected by flooding caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. All shelters are closed, and humanitarian assistance continues in the most vulnerable communities. NEMO continues to distribute household items to families directly impacted. Priority needs of returning families include food assistance, access to safe water, hygiene and household building supplies. UNICEF has continued to pledge its commitment to the Government of Belize to support the integrated protection of children and adolescents in the emergency.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health. UNICEF-supported efforts have reached 204,267 people with key messages on health, such as home management of diarrhoea and need to keep children warm. UNICEF has delivered 2,000 blankets to the MoH's Maternal and Child Unit to keep children warm and prevent them from fevers and infections caused by viruses and bacteria. As frontline health workers have faced lack of sufficient PPE, UNICEF has provided 5,000 N95 masks and 1,000 face

shields, 50 clinical thermometers, and 40 plastic tarpaulins to Maternal and Child Unit.

Nutrition. Loss of livelihoods, growing unemployment and destruction of crops continue to threaten food security and heighten the risk of acute malnutrition, especially amongst children. UNICEF continues to work with partners, such as the Belize Red Cross and the MoH, to provide emergency hygiene/nutrition kits which include supplemented food (Incaparina), to communities in the Northern Districts also

affected by the flooding. Nutrition kits' contents are reviewed by nutritionists from UNICEF and the MoH and are suitably adapted for the nutrition needs of children.

Education. In early February, UNICEF in partnership with the ministry of health and wellness, and the ministry of human development, families and indigenous peoples' affairs, distributed 200 early childhood development (ECD) emergency play kits in communities severely affected by hurricanes Eta/Iota in the Cayo District. Over 500 children were impacted as parents and caregivers received key messages on how to play and communicate with their children during this time. UNICEF has already met with partners to plan further response in the Belize and Northern districts, areas also impacted by the flooding. The work is important as schools and ECD centres have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability. UNICEF, in collaboration with the ministry of human development, families and indigenous

peoples' affairs distributed 200 ECD play kits to four most affected communities in the Cayo District. Demonstrations and key messages on play and positive communication with children were also shared. Training of parent advocates in districts will be rolled out to support positive parenting and care for child development practices in communities.

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

- [UNICEF, MHD and NEMO distribute Early Childhood Development Play Kits](#)
- [UNICEF and Ministry of Health distribute Early Childhood Development Play Kits](#)
- [UNICEF supports early learning to continue with distribution of ECD Play Kits](#)
- [ECD Play Kits Handover Ceremony and Distribution Sessions](#)

For more information: www.unicef.org/belize/



Costa Rica

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In Costa Rica, where the Eta and Iota left around 325,000 people affected, authorities have informed that all the 83 shelters have been deactivated and displaced families have returned to their communities. The National Emergency Commission (CNE) continues providing support to the most affected communities, in collaboration with partners.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH. UNICEF has procured supplies to support the hardest hit municipalities of Hojancha, Nicoya, Nandayure, Golfito, Corredores, Coto Brus, Osa, Tarrazú, León Cortés, Quepos, Parrita, Garabito, Desamparados and Puriscal, providing PPE items and hygiene kits for the most affected families. WASH supplies were delivered to the CNE central warehouse together with education and child violence prevention information materials. Supplies were distributed by the CNE on 8 February, reaching over 2,920 highly vulnerable children with this support.

Education. As per government request, the WASH kits that were delivered to the affected families included education materials. Since the reopening of schools also started on 8 February, the kits are directly supporting the safe return to classes and right to education of the children affected by Eta and Iota hurricanes.

Child Protection. UNICEF will launch trainings on PSEA, GBV, and identification, reporting and referral of child violence and abuse situations. Workshops will be held for staff of the two national Temporary Attention Centres for Migrants (CATEMs) and for the Municipal Emergency Commissions of 14 municipalities prioritized for distribution of support kits. This capacity building process has been closely coordinated with the National Technical Advisory Committee for Psychosocial Support during Emergencies.

Human Interest Stories and External Media.

Press releases:

- [CNE - Donación permitirá que más de 2900 niñas y niños afectados por los huracanes ETA e IOTA cuenten con kit de útiles y mascarillas.](#)

- [UNICEF - Donación permitirá que niñas y niños afectados por los huracanes ETA e IOTA cuenten con kit de útiles y mascarillas.](#)

Photos:

- [Donation ceremony CNE.](#)
- [Donation in schools.](#)

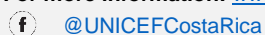
Media coverage:

- [TV Canal 6.](#)
- [TV Occidente.](#)

Social media:

- CNE:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/CNECostaRica/posts/3750645275028057?>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/CNECostaRica/posts/3763500277075890>
 - <https://twitter.com/CNECostaRica/status/1360681648682057728>
 - <https://twitter.com/CNECostaRica/status/1358879015235387400>
 - <https://twitter.com/CNECostaRica/status/1360681648682057728>
- UNICEF:
 - <https://www.instagram.com/p/CLDHeA3jK-w/>
 - <https://twitter.com/PatPortelaSouza/status/1360719624506114053>
 - <https://twitter.com/UNICEFCostaRica/status/1358913864709062661>
 - <https://twitter.com/UNICEFCostaRica/status/1358915364311207938>
 - <https://twitter.com/UNICEFCostaRica/status/1358915887911297028>

For more information: www.unicef.org/costarica/



Summary Analysis of Regional Response

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) provides technical support to Country Offices' (COs) teams, and monitors closely the situation in communication with COs and partners. 'Virtual teams' have been activated in LACRO to provide remote hands-on support to COs, and staff from the regional team has been deployed in mission to support key sectors. Sectoral coordination mechanisms have been also activated at regional level.

The UNICEF regional office **Child Protection** team continues to support the coordination of the response to Eta and Iota through direct technical support to COs and through the inter-agency humanitarian response groups, with special emphasis on implementing actions for the care of children and adolescents and their families in the event of shelters closure. In this context, key priorities include advocacy and resource mobilisation to sustain the humanitarian response. The regional office organized an exchange between three countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua) to identify needs, exchange best practices and plan the next steps in the response.

The **Gender** team continues to provide technical support to COs to ensure the mainstreaming of Gender and GBV response. Guidance to develop the Gender rapid assessment and the C4D campaign to prevent sexual violence has been provided and efforts are in supporting the implementation of a comprehensive Gender and GBV prevention, mitigation and response strategy in Nicaragua.

The LACRO **Nutrition** team provided technical support to COs in the implementation of nutrition response activities. It also provided support to mobilize nutrition surge through the Global Nutrition Cluster Technical Alliance for Nicaragua and Honduras, resulting in two nutrition in emergency advisors virtually deployed in Nicaragua to support IYCF and CMAM. In collaboration with Health RO, a virtual information sharing session was held with health and nutrition teams from Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Response progress, bottlenecks and recommendations for improvement were discussed. This space enabled the exchange of experiences and learning among COs.

The LACRO **Health** team continued to support the response and coordination. In Nicaragua, support from the UNICEF Global Health Thematic Fund will enable investment on primary health care at central and local level, it will support synergies and intersectoral investment on WASH and nutrition, already in place as part of the emergency response. In Guatemala and Honduras efforts are focused on immunizations at central and community level, but there is still a considerable financial gap in this sector.

The **C4D/AAP** regional team, in collaboration with the Gender team, conducted the AAP training, with 81 partners from Nicaragua and supports awareness raising on AAP in Guatemala, with partners and staff. C4D, Gender, Child Protection-PSEA and Emergencies sections started exchanges with Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras, to implement a comprehensive AAP response. Besides, the RO team continues to facilitate the exchange of AAP, C4D, and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) resources related to the emergency among the involved COs.

The **Communications** team supported the official visit of the UNICEF's Regional Director, Jean Gough, to the most affected areas hit by hurricanes Iota and Eta in Honduras and Guatemala. The Regional Director's twitter account, [@Jean_UNICEF](#), was set up and [real-time tweets](#) with pictures and videos were published and compiled. The latest high-quality photos and videos can be found on [weshare](#). In coordination with DOC, the LACRO comms team coordinated an interview for [Devex](#) with UNICEF Regional Nutrition Specialist, on nutrition issues two months after the hurricanes.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

In **Honduras**, government response efforts are coordinated by the National Contingency Coordination Agency (COPECO) part of the National Risk Management System (SINAGER). An addendum to the Flash Appeal issued by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has been issued.^k Activation of clusters was formally approved by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).

The UNICEF-led WASH Cluster continues monitoring the sector's response and has set clear goals and targets to respond accordingly to the emergency, measuring progress over agreed indicators. A WASH Sector Coordinator has been deployed to strengthen coordination and information management at subnational and national levels.

In collaboration with the Education Secretariat (SEDUC) and Save the Children, the education cluster was activated. UNICEF is co-leading coordination efforts among 17 partners. The education cluster partners are actively working on mapping education response activities and supporting SEDUC's leadership on advocacy, positioning and guidance on reducing the number of schools being used as shelters, in coordination with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster.

UNICEF continues to lead the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. Fifteen organizations, including the national child protection agency (DINAF), are coordinating continued child protection interventions including access to protective services for child survivors of violence, the provision of community-based mental health and psychosocial support and actions to prevent violence against children as more families return to their communities.

In addition, UNICEF leads two technical commissions within the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility to improve visibility and advocacy for improved protection of girls and women from GBV, and to work with local authorities to improve service delivery for GBV survivors. As part of this work, UNICEF has developed a PSEA strategy, including standard operating procedures, a communication strategy, a confidential e-mail and hotline, and training for UNICEF staff, partners and beneficiaries for the prevention of SEA, and to confidentially report possible cases and ensure prompt, survivor-centred care.

In **Guatemala**, the National Coordinating Office for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) leads the governmental preparedness and response efforts, with Emergency Operations Centers (COEs) and local authorities, at local level. The HCT is active with participation of national authorities. An inter-agency Action Plan has been issued by the HCT, to outline the current humanitarian priorities and progress in the response and resource mobilization efforts in Guatemala.^x Five clusters have been activated by the Resident Coordinator: WASH, Health, Food Security, Shelter and Protection. UNICEF is coordinating and co-leading WASH, Education and Nutrition Clusters, and the Child Protection AoR. UNICEF is increasing capacities with the incorporation of a coordinator for the nutrition section.

Regarding the 6+ functions of the WASH Cluster in Guatemala: WASH coordination workshop (with the coordinators of four affected departments) was conducted. Gaps in coordination structures have been identified, and minimum action plan to complete the 6+ key functions has been developed. The response prioritization system at the functional community level has been

completed in two affected departments (Alta Verapaz and Izabal) and established in 2 more departments (Huehuetenango and Peten).

In **Nicaragua**, the governmental response is coordinated by the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention of Disasters (SINAPRED). The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the United Nations Emergency Team (UNETE) are monitoring the situation and coordinating support with local and national authorities. UNCT partners in coordination with the Government of Nicaragua and the SINAPRED, issued the joint Plan of Action for responding to the impacts of Eta and Iota.^{xi} Out of the total requirements, 33 per cent are intended for early recovery response, 21 per cent for WASH, 12 per cent for health and nutrition, 10 per cent for protection and 8 per cent for education.

In the North Caribbean Coast, a coordination hub has emerged under the Regional Government leadership, with a strong support from UNICEF, regional sectoral groups for education, protection, health and WASH integrating national and regional authorities as well as UN agencies, national and international NGOs.

In **Belize**, the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) continues to respond to the heightened emergency. The United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) has been activated and meeting regularly. UNICEF plays a key role in the UNETT leading WASH, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection clusters. Along with the UNETT, there is close monitoring and organization of the response in coordination and communication with national authorities.

In **Costa Rica**, the UNCT and UNETE work in close coordination and communication with national authorities. UNICEF strengthens institutional and multisectoral coordination strategies between the central government and local governments, building on the work with platforms of local protection systems and child-friendly districts, which have been supported by UNICEF for the past 10 years. UNICEF carries out its activities within the framework of the coordination of the UN System.

UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office: www.unicef.org/lac

UNICEF LAC Facebook: www.facebook.com/uniceflac

UNICEF LAC Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/reports/urgent-appeal-for-children-and-families-affected-hurricanes-by-eta-and-iota>

Who to contact for
further information:

Jean Gough
Regional Director
Latin America and the Caribbean
Email: jgough@unicef.org

Michele Messina
Regional Emergency Advisor a.i.
Latin America and the Caribbean
Email: mmessina@unicef.org

Laurent Duveillier
Regional Chief of Communication
Latin America and the Caribbean
Email: lduvillier@unicef.org

Annex A

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements (US\$)	Humanitarian resources received (US\$)**	Funding gap	
			US\$	%
Nutrition	2,711,209	1,847,057	864,152	32%
Health	1,388,523	113,250	1,275,273	92%
WASH	30,854,673	9,550,764	21,303,909	69%
Education / ECD	2,296,800	538,653	1,758,147	77%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	3,572,200	2,325,902	1,246,298	35%
Social protection and cash transfers	1,263,000	-	1,263,000	100%
Regional office technical capacity	500,000	184,592	315,408	63%
<i>To be allocated</i>		413,748		
TOTAL	42,586,405	14,973,967	27,612,438	64.8%

* As defined in Appeal of 18 November 2020 for a period of six months.

** Includes only new funds received for the Eta/Iota response, as of February 2021.

ⁱ UNICEF, 'Humanitarian Action for Children - Response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota', November 2020, <<https://www.unicef.org/media/89546/file/2020%20HAC%20Response%20to%20Hurricanes%20Eta%20and%20Iota.pdf>>.

ⁱⁱ OCHA, 'Latin America & the Caribbean. Weekly Situation Update (22-28 February 2021)', 1 March 2021, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/argentina/latin-america-caribbean-weekly-situation-update-22-28-february-2021-1-march-2021>>.

ⁱⁱⁱ United Nations Nicaragua, 'Plan de acción Nicaragua Huracanes Eta e Iota', January 2021, <<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Nicaragua%20Plan%20de%20acci%C3%B3n.pdf>>.

^{iv} Sources: Belize (NEMO -Iota preliminary assessment, 23 Nov.); Costa Rica (National Emergency Commission -CNE, 16 Nov.); Guatemala (CONRED, 10 Feb.; Plan de Acción UNCT); Honduras (SCGG & COPECO, 3 Dec.; CEPAL Evaluación de daños 18 Dec.; Addendum Flash Appeal HCT); Nicaragua (UN Plan de Acción).

^v Humanitarian Country Team, 'Addendum Flash Appeal Honduras', December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-addendum-flash-appeal-tormentas-tropicales-eta-iota-diciembre-2020>>.

^{vi} ECLAC, 'DALA huracanes Eta e Iota Honduras', February 2021, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/dala-huracanes-eta-e-iota-honduras>>.

^{vii} USAID, 'América Latina – Tormentas. Hoja de información básica No. 10', 29 January 2021, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2021_01_29%20USAID-BHA%20Hoja%20Informativa%20Sobre%20Tormentas%20en%20Am%C3%A9rica%20Latina%20N.%C2%BA%2010.pdf>.

^{viii} Psychosocial support model designed by UNICEF.

^{ix} Humanitarian Country Team, 'Addendum Flash Appeal Honduras', December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-addendum-flash-appeal-tormentas-tropicales-eta-iota-diciembre-2020>>.

^x OCHA UNCT Guatemala, 'Plan de Acción, Guatemala - Respuesta Eta/Iota', 16 December 2020, <<https://reliefweb.int/report/guatemala/plan-de-acci-n-guatemala-respuesta-etaiota-diciembre-2020>>.

^{xi} United Nations Nicaragua, 'Plan de acción Nicaragua Huracanes Eta e Iota', January 2021, <<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Nicaragua%20Plan%20de%20acci%C3%B3n.pdf>>.