

# HONDURAS

## Impact of floods



### KEY PRIORITIES

188,000

PEOPLE AFFECTED

23,000

PEOPLE EVACUATED

22

PEOPLE DEAD FROM THE  
FLOODS

RISK OF FURTHER

## Landslides

NATIONAL  
RESPONSE CAPACITY

Comisión Permanente de  
Contingencias Honduras

INTERNATIONAL  
RESPONSE CAPACITY

- Honduran Red Cross
- Japan International Cooperation Agency
- Doctors without Borders

### CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

- Tropical storms and prolonged rains throughout September–October have caused riverine flooding and consequent landslides across Honduras. As at 14 October, the rainy season had affected 188,000 people, including 144,000 affected by Hurricane Julia. Over 12,300 people are staying in 141 shelters across eight departments (Atlántida, Comayagua, Cortes, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Santa Barbara, Valle, and Yoro) (OCHA 14/10/2022 and 13/10/2022). As at 10 October, 22 people had died and over 23,000 people had evacuated (OCHA 13/10/2022; COPECO/Gov't of Honduras 11/10/2022).
- In October 22–23, the national Permanent Commission of Contingencies issued alerts on river overflow in the states of Atlántida, Colón, Cortés, Islas de la Bahía, and Yoro (Radio America 22/10/2022; COPECO Twitter 23/10/2022). On 24 September, the Government of Honduras declared a 90-day country-wide state of emergency and had deployed armed forces and the police for overall security (ECHO 26/09/2022; The Watchers 27/09/2022).
- Between 1 September and 10 October, 162 municipalities in 15 of the 18 departments in Honduras reported damage to basic and critical infrastructure, including over 3,500 damaged or destroyed houses (COPECO/Gov't of Honduras 11/10/2022). The floods have most affected municipalities in the Sula Valley, mainly those along the Ulúa River, in the departments of Copán, Cortés, Santa Bárbara, and Yoro. Flooding has also affected municipalities near the capital city Tegucigalpa (ECHO 28/09/2022 and 23/09/2022).
- Flooding has also affected people on the move seeking to reach Mexico or the US. Four people, including one minor, have died, and 17 are injured (OCHA 13/10/2022; Notimerica 30/09/2022).

### ANTICIPATED SCOPE AND SCALE

- Hurricanes in 2020 drastically reduced the capacity of river embankments in the country, which, combined with oversaturation of soil, has prevented the accelerated flow of standing water, causing overflowing and flooding (LP 29/09/2022; CSIS 27/09/2022). Rain was forecast until 25 October, but the rainy season sometimes lasts until November, which could increase the number of people in need (La Tribuna 25/10/2022; Periódico Digital Centroamericano y del Caribe 23/10/2022).
- The impact of Hurricanes Eta and Lota has also reduced government funding to respond to future natural hazards. The growing number of people significantly affected by back-to-back natural hazards, including the current flooding, further limits the national response capacity (LP 29/09/2022; OCHA 26/09/2022).
- Crop failures because of flooding will likely increase the number of food-insecure people and affect the livelihoods of people living in Yoro and Gracias a Dios departments (Proceso Digital 29/09/2022).

### HUMANITARIAN CONSTRAINTS

- Several communities have become inaccessible because of damage to road infrastructure resulting from landslides, as is the case in Trojes and Danlí municipalities, El Paraíso department. There are high numbers of irregular migrants in transit who may experience increased vulnerabilities in these municipalities (ECHO 23/09/2022).
- The departments of Cortés, Gracias a Dios, Santa Barbara, and Yoro have experienced landslides on main roads, streets, and bridges, making it difficult to reach people in need. Flooding has also impeded the mobility of people in need to access humanitarian aid. In Colonia Villa Nueva neighbourhood, Tegucigalpa, a landslide in a main road has obstructed passage from the city to the east of the country (Proceso Digital 29/09/2022).

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

### Shelter

As at 11 October, flooding had damaged or destroyed at least 3,500 houses (OCHA 13/10/2022; COPECO/Gov't of Honduras 11/10/2022). As at 14 October, more than 12,300 people were hosted in 141 emergency shelters provided by the Government (OCHA 14/10/2022 and 13/10/2022). As at 10 October, more than 23,000 people had evacuated from their homes (OCHA 13/10/2022; COPECO/Gov't of Honduras 11/10/2022). In El Progreso municipality alone, in Yoro department, 5,000 people have evacuated to temporary shelters. Some of them are in schools that have also experienced damage from the rains (LP 19/10/2022; Proceso Digital 09/10/2022). There is currently limited information on the living conditions of people in emergency shelters, although needs and protection concerns are likely heightened for flood-displaced people.

### Food security

The floods have affected about 100,000 hectares of crops, of which 8,000 hectares have been completely lost. Crop losses are estimated at HNL 1,800 million (USD 73 million). The main affected crops are the essential crops of banana, oil palm, rice, maize, and plantain. These damages will affect the livelihoods of people engaged in agriculture and decrease food access, availability, and stability (Bloomberg Línea 19/10/2022; Proceso Digital 29/09/2022; VTV 30/09/2022).

As at September 2022, Honduras was facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity, as it had been since January. The most affected areas were the departments of Francisco Morazán (362,000 people), Cortés (352,000), and Yoro (181,000), where people experienced severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or worse) (FEWS NET 30/09/2022; IPC 24/01/2022). Food insecurity was expected to decrease starting in September since the flow of basic grains to the markets resumed and increased their availability, but Hurricane Julia affected important crops of staple food. Honduras has started to import beans from neighbouring countries (Proceso Digital 23/10/2022; FEWS NET 30/09/2022). Recurrent climate shocks have driven food insecurity in Honduras, affecting food production and availability and increasing staple food prices in markets (IPC 24/01/2022).

### WASH

As at 10 October, at least 80 drinking water systems had been damaged, hampering access to clean water (OCHA 13/10/2022). Flood-affected people require hygiene systems and basic sanitation, including sanitary kits. The availability of drinking water and sewerage infrastructure in some affected areas have further deteriorated following the latest flooding. Stagnant water and poor sanitation conditions may lead to outbreaks of waterborne diseases, such as bacterial diarrhoea. Prior to the floods, the lack of financial resources from the Government had made it difficult to strengthen and expand existing WASH systems across Honduras. The current heavy rains and flooding present further challenges for affected people in accessing WASH services (ACT Alliance 27/09/2022; CSIS 27/09/2022).

### Protection

There are over 2,800 children in shelters because of the floods (OCHA 13/10/2022). Some have reported sexual abuse and harassment in shelters (MSF 21/10/2022). Shelters are not a safe space for children, and over 73 schools remain closed because of the impact of flooding (COPECO/Gov't of Honduras 11/10/2022). Attention to unaccompanied children is also needed (OCHA 13/10/2022). Between January–June 2022, there were over 1,600 cases of sexual abuse against children and women in Honduras, including close to 1,100 towards minors. 17% of the cases were reported in the state of Francisco and 12% in Cortés, two states highly affected by the rains. Over 84% of the cases have gone unpunished (SWI 11/10/2022 and 27/04/2022; El Siglo 11/10/2022).

## AGGRAVATING FACTORS

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### Climate hazards

Honduras is one of the Central American countries most susceptible to climate hazards. Hurricanes Eta and Iota recently affected the country in 2020, leaving more than 3.4 million people in need of emergency assistance and causing significant damage to housing and infrastructure (FloodList 19/11/2022 and 04/11/2022; IRC 22/09/2022; IFRC 12/07/2022). In February 2022, significant riverine flooding also affected the Sula Valley, leaving people in San Pedro Sula city without electricity because of damage to power infrastructure in Cortés department (FloodList 15/02/2022). Government funding and investments have continued to prioritise damage to homes, roads, water services, bridges, and other infrastructure caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. The delivery of aid to newly affected people is likely to be delayed, with further assistance or the scale-up of the response capacity remaining unlikely (ACT Alliance 27/09/2022; CSIS 27/09/2022).

Honduras has also been experiencing consecutive years of drought. Communities experiencing recurrent and multiple climate-related disasters in recent years have not been able to fully recover and rebuild yet (ACT Alliance 27/09/2022). The current flooding is likely to compound people's vulnerability to climate hazards and further weaken their capacity to cope (El País 08/09/2022; Criterio.hn 22/09/2022).

### Inflation

High levels of inflation and a lack of livelihoods have resulted in 74% of the population of Honduras living in poverty (Artículo 66 21/09/2022). The inflation rate, forecast to reach 12% by the end of 2022, mainly affects the cost of fuel and the price of farming inputs, such as seeds, fertilisers, and pesticides. The situation predominantly affects poor rural families who depend on farming for their livelihoods and do not have many assets to rely on (Artículo 66 21/09/2022; Proceso Digital 29/09/2022; VTV 30/09/2022).

## IMPACT OF THE FLOODING IN HONDURAS

### MAPA DE ALERTAS



Copeco suma a Alerta Amarilla al departamento de Colón y Olancho a Verde



**VIGENTE POR 48 HORAS**

Emitidas el día Sábado 22 de Octubre, 2022

Source: Radio America 22/10/2022