



© FAO

## The Republic of Honduras

Hurricanes Eta and Iota  
Urgent call for assistance



to assist  
**93 000 people**



FAO requires  
**USD 4 million**



period  
**December 2020–  
November 2021**

### Overview

**Hurricanes Eta and Iota are the most severe natural hazards that have hit Honduras in more than 20 years.**

After making landfall in Nicaragua on 3 November 2020, Category 4 Hurricane Eta started bringing torrential rains and winds as strong as 275 km/h in northern Honduras. During its slow three-day journey over Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, Eta downgraded to a tropical storm and then onto a tropical depression, with heavy rains in much of Honduras and causing river levels to rise, flooding and landslides across the country.

On 16 November 2020, Category 5 Hurricane Iota made landfall, which went from being a major storm to a tropical depression following almost the same path as Eta. Hurricane Iota caused even more flooding and wind damage, affecting already vulnerable communities following the passage of Eta, further aggravating humanitarian needs and food insecurity.

In Honduras, 2.9 million people are facing acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC], December 2020–March 2021), and this figure is expected to further increase to 3.1 million between April and June 2021. This is linked to the sudden decrease in food access and availability, labour, loss of productive assets and crops, damage in production areas, supply and the depletion of food reserves. The livelihoods of rural populations are devastated and the situation is threatening the most vulnerable population groups, who experience higher constraints in accessing food, and will face a rapid deterioration of their food security and nutrition, forcing them to adopt negative coping mechanisms.



© FAO

## Situation analysis

The northern Atlantic departments of Atlántida, Cortés, Santa Bárbara and Yoro suffered significant damages and are likely see losses in agriculture, livestock and livelihoods that will in turn worsen food insecurity and poverty, and may trigger increased displacement and migration.

Agricultural production systems in seven departments in the southern and western parts of the country (Choluteca, Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso, Santa Bárbara, Lempira, Copán and Ocotepeque) were severely affected. Other areas with significant impacts include Gracias a Dios in the North-East.

In December 2020, humanitarian organizations including United Nations agencies launched a Flash Appeal for USD 90 million to provide immediate, live-saving assistance following the devastating effects of the two hurricanes. Of this, the Food Security Sector requires USD 25 million to support 400 000 people.

### Objective

To provide emergency response and support the early recovery of livelihoods benefiting smallholder farmers affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. The response focuses on family farming, reducing risk factors, improving household water/irrigation systems, targeting smallholder farmers and the most vulnerable affected rural population.

### Needs and impact assessments

In the aftermath of the disaster, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has immediately mobilised internal funds from the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities to carry out a damage assessment and needs analysis (November–December 2020) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. The evaluation, through an adapted methodology and tools, is collecting, processing and analysing data in order to assess the damages and losses in the agriculture sector as well as the impact on households' food security. Results will allow for the development of a national agro-livestock response plan towards the recovery and rehabilitation of the sector.

Food Security Sector partners are also conducting market and supply chain analyses, and will support rapid multi-sector needs analysis with technical assistance, as well as support government authorities with joint needs analyses.

### Planned response

In order to respond to the immediate needs of disaster-affected populations, FAO will conduct emergency rapid response interventions to distribute time-critical inputs to protect the livelihoods and food security of affected populations. In collaboration with local implementing partners, FAO will work towards restoring overall food production capacities in the country to rapidly increase food availability and access.



**4.7 million people** affected



**569 220 ha** (permanent and annual crops) damaged or lost



**21 919 livestock** (cattle, poultry, small ruminants, swine) lost



Due to the compounding effects of Hurricanes Eta and Iota, emergency agricultural response and early recovery activities are urgently needed to quickly restore the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.





FAO will provide immediate livelihood support to 18 600 vulnerable households (93 000 people) in the 12 most affected municipalities in departments of Choluteca, Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso (in the South) Copán, Lempira, Santa Bárbara and Ocotepeque (in the West). Selected beneficiaries will include acutely food-insecure people who depend on agricultural activities for their livelihoods and indigenous peoples.

Along with input distributions, FAO will provide technical assistance to beneficiaries and technical officers of the implementing partners and municipalities.

FAO is planning to intervene in time for the first planting season of 2021 (*primera*, May–July) and for the *postrera* season (August–November 2021).

### **Crops**

- Distribute beans and maize seeds.
- Distribute fertilizers.
- Distribute vegetables seeds for backyard gardening.
- Distribute supplies for water systems for both irrigation and household use.

### **Livestock**

- Distribute veterinary supplies and poultry for family farming.
- Monitor existing health programmes (a prophylactic plan for disease prevention and parasites control).
- Train central veterinary authorities and local services on biosecurity of disposal of animal carcasses.
- Strengthen detection capacities to prevent outbreaks of emerging or endemic diseases for safety restocking in the post-disaster reconstruction phase.

- Carry out evaluations and analyses to identify priority actions in terms of animal health and production.
- Provide rural infrastructure development support for raising poultry and swine, as well as training in alternative source of nutrition.

### Fisheries and aquaculture

- Distribute fishery inputs for smallholder fisherfolks and aquafarmers.
- Provide construction material for the rehabilitation of community infrastructure for fish production.
- Train in alternative source of nutrition.

### Ongoing response

FAO is supporting the population and authorities to conduct a detailed evaluation of damages and losses in the cropping and livestock subsectors in the affected municipalities/departments in coordination with partner organizations, such as non-governmental organizations and the Honduras Association of Municipalities.

### Partnerships

FAO activities will be implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the Technical Unit for Food Security and Nutrition, as well as with the Honduras Association of Municipalities and water committee. The activities will be aligned to the Government's strategies for response and recovery. Close collaboration with other United Nations agencies (e.g. the World Food Programme) and local stakeholders of the food security sector will be ensured.



© FAO

## Contact

FAO Representation in Honduras  
 FAO-HN@fao.org | Tegucigalpa, Honduras

FAO Office of Emergencies and Resilience  
 OER-Director@fao.org | fao.org/emergencies  
 Rome, Italy

Food and Agriculture Organization  
 of the United Nations

©FAO, 2020  
 CB2604EN/1/12.20  
 Last updated 17.02.2021



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence