



Period covered by report	10/10/2011	To	16/10/2011
Time of validity of report	10 PM (local)		
DG ECHO Field Office	Managua		

Number of people affected (source)	Guatemala: 109,203 affected, 6,913 evacuated, 5,528 in 53 shelters (GoG)  El Salvador: 100,000 affected, 13,874 evacuated in 261 shelters (GoES)  Honduras: 31,535 affected, 10,394 evacuated, 7,668 people in shelters (GoH)  Nicaragua: 1,600 affected and 4,463 people in shelters (GoN)  Costa Rica: 10,000 affected, 323 in shelters
Number of refugees and/or internally displaced persons (IDPs) (source)	/
Number of dead (source)	Guatemala: 28, 3 missing (GoG)  El Salvador: 32, 2 missing (GoELS)  Honduras: 13 (GoH)  Nicaragua: 6 (GoN)  Costa Rica: 2 (GoCR)  Total: 81 (Governments)
Number of wounded (source)	/

## 1. OVERALL SITUATION

Since 10 October, Tropical Depression 12-E developed and then slowly dissipated; to date a broad area of low pressure including the remnants of Tropical Depression 12-E extends from south eastern Mexico into the north western Caribbean Sea presenting persistent rains all over Central America. Precipitations are constant (from intermediate to strong) and threatening as they are affecting the soil's saturation levels. Due to this, damage has been caused to the coastal areas, mainly in Guatemala and El Salvador and to a lesser extent in Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. As of October 16, the level of rainfall, and consequently the river levels, are increasing. The forecast is an

additional 24 hours of rain (less intense than previous ones), which could exacerbate the situation over the next days.

The consequences of Tropical Depression 12-E and the low pressure systems are **torrential rainfall over Guatemala and El Salvador. Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama** are also being affected with consequent **flash flooding of rivers and landslides. Up to now there are at least 81 reported deaths, some 250,000 affected, more than 30,000 evacuated and more than 22,000 in shelters** (all numbers approximate). The Government of El Salvador declared a State of Emergency on October 14, the Government of Guatemala declared a State of Calamity on October 16, the Government of Honduras declared a State of Emergency for the southern part of the country on 16 October, Costa Rica and Nicaragua declared States of Alert on 10 October. **El Salvador officially requested international assistance on 16 October. The President of Honduras requested international assistance in a press conference on 16 October.** The other countries have not yet requested international assistance.

## **2. AID AND ASSISTANCE REQUIRED/NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

### **2.1. Humanitarian Aid**

#### **Guatemala**

On 14 October, the National Emergency Response Commission (CONRED) declared a Red Alert at institutional level.

The President of Guatemala announced on 16 October a National State of Calamity (for a period of 30 days). The State of Calamity will allow the government to have access to funding in order to facilitate the implementation of emergency plans. The State of Calamity has still to be signed by the Ministers and published officially (this is scheduled for 17 October). The President announced that for the moment the funds are insufficient to respond to the emergency and for reconstruction, and with the Declaration of a State of Calamity funding should be provided at national level.

As of 16 October, 5,528 people are in 53 shelters in the departments of Chimaltenango, Escuintla, El Progreso, Chiquimula, Huehuetenango, Jutiapa, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Santa Rosa, Solola and Suchitepequez. The Government confirmed 28 deaths, 109,203 people affected, 6,913 evacuated, 5,528 in shelters, 3 missing, and 7,917 houses damaged.

The amount that has been spent by the authorities for the response to the emergency is USD 1.35 million.

Significant damage is reported to roads and other infrastructure. Eight landslides occurred on the main road of the country, two on the Atlantic road and one on the road to El Salvador.

The Ministry of Education suspended classes in three departments: Jutiapa, Sololá and Quetzaltenango. The Ministry of Health announced an increase in cases of dengue. All the rivers are over the alert limits.

Needs Analysis and Damage Assessments are ongoing; rains are expected to continue during the next 24 hours. Some areas are already registering historically above-average amounts of rain for the month of October (100% to 200% in excess of normal rain).

## **El Salvador**

The President of El Salvador declared a State of Emergency on 14 October in order to assist the affected people in the country. On 16 October, the Government of El Salvador requested international aid to respond to the emergency.

To receive the humanitarian aid in the country, the Coordinating Office for International Humanitarian Assistance has been activated, coordinated by the Ministry of External Relations. The Government of El Salvador has also created a committee on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction integrated by the main sectors.

A State of Calamity has been declared for three Departments: La Paz, Sonsonate and Ahuachapan.

**Agriculture:** The authorities are currently assessing the situation in terms of damage.

**Shelters:** 37% of population in shelters are located in the department of La Paz. Primary assessments are showing a lack of resources for food, clothes, clean water, medicine and hygiene kits. 261 shelters are active.

At least 25 schools are being used as shelters. The Secretary for Social Inclusion offered 350 hygiene kits, 1,112 blankets and 460 mattresses.

**Water and Sanitation:** Needs assessments are showing a deficiency in access to safe water, water for personal hygiene and for cooking. The Civil Protection announced the implementation of a plan for contaminated water.

**Food:** The Civil Protection requested the support of the WFP, in order to complement the actions carried out by the Government, distributing high-energy biscuits. In Usulután, 1,250 families will be assisted in 25 communities with 10.27 MT of high-energy biscuits (family rations for 5 days).

The Secretary for Social Inclusion, the Armed Forces and the Health Secretary distributed 350 food kits to affected people and announced the distribution of food and non-food items to the 14 departments of the country. A request has been made to WFP for 3.6 MT of rice. In addition, the Secretary will receive support from FOPROMID (Fund for Attention, Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters) with an amount of USD 161,542 to buy 194,000 food rations for five days.

**Education:** The Authorities suspended classes while the State of Emergency is in force. Up to now, 257 schools have been damaged in the country.

**Protection:** ISNA (National Institute for Children Development) has developed psycho-social support in shelters. Additionally, the Human Rights Commission is ensuring respect of Human Rights in shelters.

**Logistics:** The Armed Forces have participated in distributing food and non-food items in the most affected departments. 10.27 MT of high-energy biscuits have been distributed with the support of a private company.

Health: FOSALUD (Solidarity for the Health Fund) announced that assistance will be extended to the most affected departments and that health staff is available to assist in shelters.

## **Honduras**

On 16 October, COPECO (Permanent Commission for Contingencies) declared a state of Red Warning in two departments (Choluteca and Valle) for 48 additional hours, as the forecast from the National Meteorological system identified that the rainy conditions will continue for the next 48 hours. A Yellow Warning has been declared in eleven departments (Comayagua, La Paz, Intibuca, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Copan, Santa Barbara, Cortes, Atlantida, Francisco Morazan and Colon) and a Green Warning in two departments (Olancho, El Paraiso).

As the main impact of the low pressure system is in the southern part of the country, the Government of Honduras declared a State of Emergency in the Departments of Choluteca and Valle, due to the damage caused in these areas. In various meetings between civil society and government authorities, support has been requested from the Government of Honduras to the international community.

Up to now, there are 31,535 affected people, 10,394 evacuated, 7,668 people in shelters, 2,128 houses damaged, 51 houses destroyed, 188 houses damaged, 8 bridges damaged and 7 destroyed, 2 schools damaged. 13 deaths are reported in the country.

Water and Sanitation: Pumping systems have been damaged, affecting the distribution of water in Choluteca and Marcovia in the Choluteca Department.

## **Nicaragua**

A Yellow Alert has been declared in the Departments of Leon, Chinandega, Madriz, Esteli, Nueva Segovia, Jinotega and Matagalpa.

Up to now, the Government of Nicaragua has reported 6 deaths. 41 shelters are activated, 1,790 people have been evacuated, 4,463 people in shelters, 5,945 people are affected, 1,048 houses have been damaged in 6 Departments (Managua, Esteli, Madriz, Leon, Chinandega, Matagalpa). In total, 33 Municipalities have been affected and 20 bridges have been damaged.

The Government of Nicaragua has reported that 152 neighbourhoods have been affected in the Department of Managua alone. In the Municipality of Managua, 35 houses have been destroyed and 70 have been damaged, 303 families have been evacuated.

In the Department of Esteli, 467 houses have been damaged, 10 bridges have collapsed and damages to infrastructure is reported.

Other departments are reporting damage, but no official data have been reported as of 16 October.

## **Costa Rica**

The National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (CNE) intensified surveillance and monitoring of active landslides located in the south western

part of the Central Valley and is maintaining a focus on the Nicoya Peninsula, where the rains are causing some incidents.

The Government of Costa Rica is maintaining a Yellow Alert along the Pacific Coast and in the Central Valley (Departments of Guanacaste, Alajuela, Puntarenas, San Jose). The CNE reported that 325 people are in 12 shelters. In total, 10,000 people and 97 communities have been affected by the flooding in Costa Rica and the Government has channelled USD 430,000 to respond to this emergency.

## **Panama**

Flooding has been reported in the Provinces of Azuero, Tonosi and Los Santos where 359 people have been affected and 3 people reported missing.

1,000 people, mostly indigenous, have been affected in the Province of Darien. More than 400 houses have been damaged in the area of Pita, Sambu and Biroquera, all parts of the Province of Darien.

### **2.2. Civil Protection**

See section 3 below.

## **3. LOCAL RESPONSE**

### **Guatemala:**

The Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) at national level has been activated, as well as the EOC at departmental level in Quetzaltenango, Escuintla, San Marcos, Suchitepéquez, Retalhuleu, Huehuetenango and Totonicapán. Constant monitoring is being provided.

Response teams have been sent to Puerto San José, Nueva Concepción and La Gomera in the Department of Escuintla, Santa Rosa and Playa Grande, Ixcán and Quiché, to support the local response. An immediate Response Team has been sent to Quetzaltenango.

The authorities announced that the National Fund for Disasters has 9.5 million Quetzales (approx. EUR 850,000)

Assistance is being provided to the evacuated people in shelters in 11 Departments by CONRED. The official entity in charge of the attention in shelters is the SOSEP (Social Secretary of the President's wife). This institution has provided food, hygiene kits for adults and children and safe water.

### **El Salvador:**

The Government of El Salvador activated the Civil Protection Fund (FOPROMID) to enable response to be provided to the emergency. 837,558 USD has been allocated by the Government to respond to the Emergency.

The Civil Protection is mobilizing its entire staff at national level and the police in order to respond to the emergency and provide security in evacuated areas.

The Civil Protection activated the Municipal Technical and Sectoral Commissions which started evacuating people.

The Secretary for Social Inclusion provided 350 hygiene kits, 1,112 blankets and 460 mattresses to 14 departments.

### **Honduras:**

COPECO declared a Green alert for 72 hours in 13 departments, including the communities located on the side of the Ulua River. The Authorities have been responding to the events.

17 MT of food, 2,200 hygiene kits, mattresses and water have been distributed by COPECO. In Tegucigalpa, COPECO distributed cheques (53) for USD 265 each to families in Santa Rosa and Suazo Cordoba neighbourhoods.

### **Nicaragua:**

The Authorities are currently responding to the events. The Civil Defence evacuated 48 families (179 people) in San Francisco Libre municipality to two shelters due to the flooding.

## **4. INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

### **In Guatemala:**

**BCIE –Central American Bank for Economic Integration-:** 200,000 USD have been donated by the BCIE to Guatemala for the Department of Santa Rosa, recently affected by seismic activity and by the flooding due to Tropical Depression 12-E.

**OFDA/USAID:** 50,000 USD have been donated to the GoG on 15 October.

**Taiwan:** Offered assistance to the Government of Guatemala; the amount is unknown.

The Guatemalan Government requested the support of the institutions which form part of the **Humanitarian Network** in the country. However, the Humanitarian Network replied that in the absence of the declaration of a State of Emergency, they would not be able to support the Government in response to its request for support for needs assessment.

**The Guatemalan Red Cross** implemented response activities immediately and is monitoring the situation at national level. The Red Cross carried out the following activities: declaration of Red Alert and the activation of the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC); constant communication with the 30 Red Cross branches at the national level; inter-institutional coordination with State authorities at the central and municipal levels; 1,400 volunteers supporting activities; deployment of damage assessment teams to the affected areas; preventive evacuations in high risk areas; restoration of family links; support in setting up collective centres; opening of a collection centre in the national headquarters and a bank account for donations; planned distribution of hygiene kits to most affected communities (approx. 2,000 families); publication of a report on the Disaster Management Information System; information-gathering from the branches.

Several NGOs are carrying out assessments: ACH in the area of Escuintla, where they are currently implementing a DIPECHO project (DG ECHO's Disaster Preparedness programme) and also in other parts of the country where they are also working. COOPI is

carrying out assessments in the area of Peten, Izabal and San Marcos. Christian Aid is also carrying out assessments in their area of work.

WFP distributed 7,260 food kits to 1,815 people.

#### **In El Salvador:**

**The World Bank:** Offered 50 Million USD for the emergency response, in the form of a loan to improve Disaster Risk Reduction in the country.

**The United Nation System:** Put in place emergency funds to respond to the crisis for an amount of USD 900,000.

The Emergency Team of the United Nations in El Salvador met in order to plan possible actions in coordination with Civil Protection. WFP, OIM and PAHO are assessing the situation in shelters. The Salvadorean Red Cross mobilized a team to facilitate the evacuation of 250 people. The situation is being monitored. The following activities are being executed: EOC remains active; situation reports and press releases are being drafted; deployment of 9 damage assessments teams; distribution of hygiene kits, blankets, mattresses and water to 614 families; evacuation of 2,000 people who were in high-risk or flooded areas; participation in institutional coordination meetings; inter-institutional coordination maintained with government agencies and NGOs; information gathering and analysis; coordination meetings with PNS (Participant National Red Cross Societies) present in-country; constant communication maintained with IFRC's PADRU; development of a preliminary Plan of Action targeting some 800 families and replenishment of relief materials.

Several NGOs are carrying out assessments: PLAN in Chalatenango, OIKOS in Ahuachapan, OXFAM in San Salvador and Swiss Labour Assistance in San Vicente. Vision Mundial in El Salvador has been carrying out assessments and distributing kits. All have been in contact with DG ECHO, sharing the results of their first assessments.

**In Nicaragua:** CARE France carried out an assessment mission to Masaya where aid has been distributed in coordination with the Authorities.

**In Honduras:** there are not any specific requirements from the national government. WFP has pre-located food assistance kits in the most affected areas for 2,000 families (30 MT). Food distribution has already started with food assistance for 529 families in Choluteca Municipality and for 395 families in Marcovia Municipality. UNICEF has pre-positioned 250 hygiene kits to be distributed.

At **regional level**, IFRC in close coordination with National Societies, is carrying out the following activities: constant monitoring of weather conditions; Orange Alert has been activated at institutional level; three regional situation reports have been disseminated; internal coordination meetings have been held and a press release prepared. DREF requests for El Salvador and Guatemala are being prepared.

## **5. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL PROTECTION RESPONSE**

N/A

## **6. ON-SITE COORDINATION MECHANISM**

On 12 October, DG ECHO established contact with partners working in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras, requesting to be informed of the results of their damage and needs assessments. Until now, more than 25 partners have been sending updated information.

The UN is mapping the interventions in El Salvador and UNETE (United Nations Emergency Team) is following the work of sectoral commissions in each country.

In Honduras, the UN is exchanging information through the Information Analysis Unit of the UNETE. The Resident Coordinator travelled to Choluteca in order to view the damages caused by the rains.

OCHA planned a mission in Guatemala to take place from 17 October.

The Humanitarian Networks (whose members are all the organizations engaged in response activities) are activated in Guatemala and Honduras.

## **7. OTHER INFORMATION**

In Central America, community-level early warning and communication systems installed under DIPECHO programmes are being tested and have provided alerts, allowing the self-activation of Civil Protection Committees also established by the DIPECHO projects which led, or were otherwise involved in, search and rescue activities and evacuations. Emergency equipment and evacuation centres, donated through/rehabilitated under DIPECHO projects, were utilised. A report will be submitted in the coming days on how Disaster Preparedness actions benefitted the current disaster response at local level.

## **8. OVERALL RECOMMENDATION/ACTION**

DG ECHO, through its office in Managua, is following the situation and is in permanent contact with the partners. A first assessment has been carried out in El Salvador on 12 October with the participation of the DG ECHO Technical Assistant.

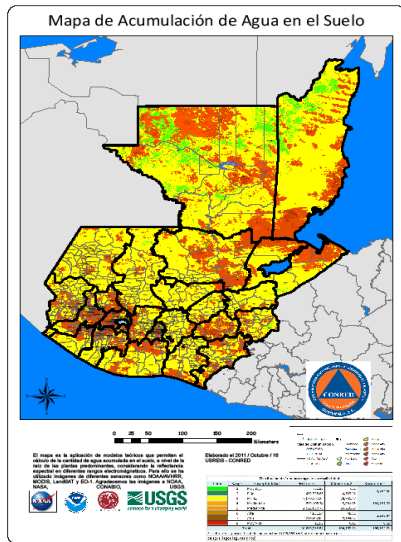
DG ECHO is planning to organize meetings with partners, meeting with national authorities and the UN System in El Salvador and Guatemala in the coming days.

## **9. MAPS**

A map showing the accumulation of rain levels in Guatemala, one showing the accumulation of rains in El Salvador and one showing the levels of warnings in Honduras are attached below:



Soil accumulation of water in Guatemala, 16 October, 8.00 PM (local time)



Map of distribution of rains in El Salvador, 16 October, 8.00 PM (local time)



Map of warnings in Honduras, 14 October, 5 PM (local time)

