



Delores Membreño surveys the destruction from Hurricane Eta. Gregg Brekke for Corus International

# SITUATION REPORT: 2020 HURRICANES IN CENTRAL AMERICA

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## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Just as Central America has begun to dry out from Hurricane Eta, Hurricane Iota is on path to bring even more devastating wind, rain and crisis. Honduras has been especially hard hit, where the government reports having evacuated more than 175,000 people as Hurricane Iota approaches. The storms are affecting nearly 3 million people. Some 69 communities comprising more than 105,000 people have yet to be contacted following the storm.

The back-to-back hurricanes add incredible stress to weak public welfare and health systems. The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated poverty in the region, with forecasts for people living in hunger expected to double in the coming year as informal laborers and others have lost or will lose work.

Lutheran World Relief staff report that people forced from their homes by flooding from the Ulua and Chamelecón rivers have overwhelmed shelters in and around San Pedro Sula, Honduras' second largest city and primary economic center. Survivors are living under makeshift plastic sheeting in highway medians, under overpasses and anywhere else shelter may appear safe, but for the threat of another hurricane.

## ACTIONS TAKEN AND NEXT STEPS

A Lutheran World Relief assessment team has been on the ground in Honduras visiting shelters and connecting with local partners to determine the most critical areas of support needed in urban and rural communities. An initial response is planned in the communities of San Pedro Sula, La Lima and Choloma to address critical needs that keep people safe.

A combination of immediate cash grant support and non-food item distribution, such as utensils, hygiene supplies and other essentials, will help families secure what they need to stay safe from Hurricane Iota, flooding and coronavirus infections. A planned shelter-based psychosocial response will support those who experienced trauma during this emergency. The Lutheran World Relief team will remain on the ground in San Pedro Sula during Hurricane Iota and will be prepared to respond immediately with assessments of new damage and need as the situation unfolds.



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

*Lutheran World Relief works in concert with Corus International, a family of faith-based organizations delivering holistic, lasting solutions to the interconnected challenges of poverty, health care access and climate change.*



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