



SITUATION REPORT



SITREP 1: OVERFLOW OF THE ULUA RIVER AND FLOODING IN THE SULA VALLEY

EVENT:

**LOCALIZATION (COUNTRY,
REGION, AREA AFFECTED):**

DELIVERY DATE::

Overflow of the Ulua River and
flooding in the Sula Valley

Honduras. Cortés Departament

September 30th, 2022



MAJOR DAMAGES AND LOSSES

SOURCE COPECO, 29/09/2022)



1. CONTEXT

As a result of the latest rains over the national territory, COPECO declared a Red Alert on September 22 for two departments of the country and the communities bordering the banks of the Ulúa and Chamelecón rivers. On September 24, the **Executive declared by decree a National State of Emergency** throughout the country for the period of ninety (90) days that the cyclonic season is expected to last in the eighteen (18) departments of the country, in order to respond immediately and timely to the serious situation and the risks faced by thousands of families in the national territory, as a result of the torrential rains, floods, landslides and landslides on roads, bridges, homes and other social infrastructure works, which so far have left nine dead and thousands of families affected.

COPECO has requested the immediate evacuation of the population living in vulnerable areas and at risk of flooding in the alerted Departments and Municipalities, as well as in low lying sectors and areas bordering the Ulúa and Chamelecón Rivers, where CODEM, CODELES and all first response structures headed by COPECO, remain attentive to the mobilization of people to the shelters that have already been established.

The Secretary of State in the Offices of Risk Management and National Contingency (COPECO), maintains the red alert for the municipalities bordering the banks of the Ulua and Chamelecon rivers, which includes: Pimienta, Villanueva, San Manuel, Potrerillos, in Cortés, Santa Rita, El Progreso and El Negrito in Yoro Department, up to theTigre branch in Tela Atlántida.

Likewise, COPECO maintains, in yellow alert, eight departments: Santa Barbara, Lempira, Intibucá, La Paz, Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso, Valle and Choluteca. COPECO also determined to leave five departments in green alert, among them: Copán, Gracias a Dios, Ocotepeque, Olancho and part of Cortés.

Data provided by COPECO as of September 30 confirms that Cortés is one of the departments with the highest level of affectation, registering 18,416 evacuations and **5,331 people sheltered** so far. The number of affected families is 6,868.





SOURCE COPECO

2. LIKELY EVOLUTION

According to the Center for Atmospheric, Oceanographic and Seismic Studies (CENAOS) of COPECO, the high pressure wedge, oriented from the Northwest to the Southeast of the country, continues to generate abundant cloudiness and weak precipitation over several regions and occasionally moderate precipitation in the Northwest. In the Southern region, weak to moderate scattered precipitations with electrical activity are expected due to the convergence of humidity and wind.

In this regard, due to the intensity of the rains recorded since the beginning of September to date in the country, there is a high level of humidity, soil saturation, increased river flows and as a result there have been reports of damage such as landslides, mudslides, landslides and subsidence.

In these circumstances, the people who are now sheltered in the Sula Valley corresponding to the municipalities of Villanueva and San Manuel may remain in this situation for 7 to 21 days; for the municipality of La Lima it is expected that they will be in the same situation for approximately 45 days, due to the amount of accumulated water and its low evaporation.





3. ANALYSIS OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND IMMEDIATE NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED

In view of the fact that humanitarian needs exceed the response capacity of COPECO and local governments, in different coordination meetings they have requested support from the humanitarian network and international cooperation in order to meet the different needs faced by the people affected during the alert in the country. Action Against Hunger requires the collaboration of its strategic allies to provide humanitarian assistance in three of the most affected municipalities, according to the following sectors and needs:



In at least two shelters per municipality (a total of **6 shelters**), safe spaces will be established for breastfeeding and nutritional food counseling. In addition to the distribution of **300 child care kits** aimed at the hygiene of children under two years of age (Baby WASH) and provide support with the distribution of a complementary food to children under 5 years of age, pregnant and/or breastfeeding women who are at risk of malnutrition. This complementary food is a mixture of corn and soy flour fortified with iron and zinc. This activity will reach 150 women and 450 children under 5 years of age





WATER, SANITARION AND HIGYENE

- According to the EDAN carried out by Action Against Hunger, on September 24 in the affected areas, it is necessary to guarantee a minimum supply of safe water in at least **3 shelters**, which provide assistance to **3,000 people**. Similarly, and for this same population, it is required the delivery of personal hygiene kits for those affected, containing: bath soap, toothpaste, laundry soap, detergent powder, toilet paper, pack of masks (50 units), alcohol gel, bleach, sanitary napkins (1 pack) and pack of disposable diapers (50 units).
- The **water and sanitation infrastructure of 3 shelters** will be improved and expanded, including the repair of toilets, drinking water storage tanks and the expansion of the bathroom area in accordance with the capacity of each shelter.
- Once the waters recede, which is expected to occur in **approximately 10 days**, Action Against Hunger teams will work on cleaning and repairing community infrastructures that have been affected by the floods. Due to the damage to water pumps and wells, repairs and cleaning of these will be required in order to provide safe drinking water for the people and children in the areas.



FOOD SECURITY

- **300 families** will receive digital cards/coupons to purchase food and other basic goods in supermarkets, which will give families the autonomy to decide which products they need to ensure their food security. Coordination will be established with commercial establishments that have a presence and remain operational in the areas most affected by floods, in addition to having sufficient and diverse inventories of essential products for family consumption.



FOOD SECURITY

- Kitchen equipment and utensils will be provided to shelters to be used by designated personnel and/or the housed population for cooking. The improvement or implementation of kitchens will be carried out in **2 shelters** per municipality.



PROTECTION

- In order to care for the physical and mental integrity of children and adolescents (NNA) who are in **3 shelters in the municipalities of Villanueva and La Lima**, reducing the dangers to which children and adolescents may be exposed, the following protection actions will be carried out through specialized professionals: i) sensitization workshops on protection issues for personnel in charge of the different shelters so that they can provide greater protection to children and adolescents who are sheltered; ii) experiential workshops with children and adolescents as part of the psychosocial support; iii) equipping safe spaces with different tools and games within the shelters. These activities will benefit at least **400 children and adolescents**.
- Action Against Hunger, in coordination with COPECO, will promote the implementation of **accountability mechanisms** for beneficiary populations within the shelters (PQR/PEAS), as well as to facilitate **safe processes to denounce** any abuse or risk.



4. OUR INTERVENTION TO DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF FLOODS

Since the beginning of the emergency, Action Against Hunger teams have been participating in the different intersectoral coordination spaces convened by COPECO CODEM and Red Humanitaria. At the same time, a multidisciplinary team of Action Against Hunger has been mobilized to gather information in the field, in the municipalities of Villanueva, San Manuel, and La Lima (Cortes Department), in coordination with the Municipal Emergency Committees (CODEM), responsible for the administration of emergencies in the municipalities. An **EDAN** has been carried out jointly, **focusing on the evacuated** and sheltered **population**, identifying gaps and damages in the communities of the 3 municipalities. As a first response, ongoing humanitarian projects have been adapted in the three aforementioned municipalities to reinforce the dissemination of warnings, publicize shelter locations, as well as flood prevention measures. The following tasks have also been undertaken:

- **Coordination** with humanitarian NGOs, national and local authorities, United Nations agencies and international humanitarian agencies. Coordination efforts are primarily aimed at complementarity between organizations, the generation and exchange of information on the impact of the hurricanes and initial humanitarian needs, as well as the formation of teams to travel to the affected areas. This work is then transferred to broader coordination spaces at both national and departmental levels, with the participation of specialists from Action Against Hunger in sectoral clusters and field coordination initiatives promoted by local authorities in affected territories.
- **GIS and Remote Sensing Analysis.** Through the alliance established with the spin-off GIS4TECH of the University of Granada (Spain), detailed maps of the affected areas and the evolution of the flood sheet have been prepared. These products are used to make decisions on areas to be prioritized in sending teams to the field, as well as in the subsequent distribution of humanitarian aid.
- **Humanitarian Response.** Since mid-September, we have launched different first assistance activities in accordance with our sectors of expertise, which will be expanded in their coverage as assistance resources can be mobilized.



5. CONTACTS AT HEADQUARTERS/REGION

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