

HURRICANE OTTO

Situation Report No.3 Date: 24 November 2016
Central America

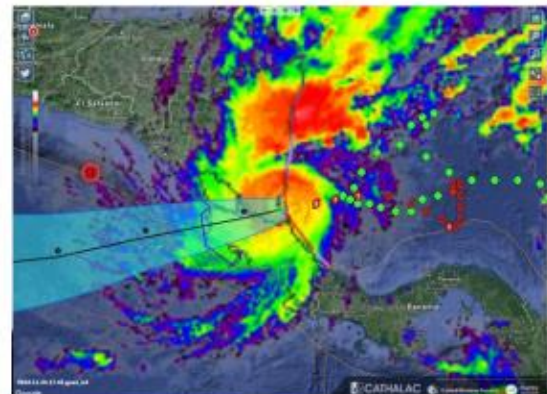
This report is produced by PAHO/WHO in collaboration with PAHO Country Offices, Ministries of Health, and with inputs from official organizations. This report covers the period from November 22- 24 November.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Category 2 Hurricane Otto (with maximum sustained winds of 176 km/h and higher gusts of 208 km/h) made landfall in Central America at the border of Nicaragua and Costa Rica with a speed of 16 km/h.
- Costa Rica: 214 communities and 1,300 people have been affected, 3,000 have been evacuated.
- Nicaragua: 10,570 people have been evacuated, in Bluefields, 7,800 people are in 28 shelters.

EVENT DETAILS:

- Hurricane Otto struck Nicaragua and Costa Rica as a category 2 hurricane, with maximum sustained winds of 176 km/h, higher gusts of 208 km/h and speed of 13 km/h. According to the NOAA-NHC, it should leave Central America through the Pacific Coast early morning Friday, November 25.



Source: NOAA-NHC

SITUATION OVERVIEW (by country):

PANAMA

- **Damages:**
 - Flooding has occurred in a health center in Cocle (El Jobo-Rio Indio).
- **Actions:**
 - Government:
 - Monitoring, coordinating and assessing the damage caused by Hurricane Otto in the areas of Colon, Panama, Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro.
 - Approximately, 2,000 Armed Forces personnel are involved in the response

- actions and monitoring of the event.
- A green alert declared by the National Civil Defense System remains for the entire country.
- Health sector:
 - The Health EOC is active and is coordinating the actions and resources of the sector (Social Security and MINSA).
 - The red alert raised by Ministry of Health continues for the provinces of Colon, Bocas del Toro and Chiriqui.
 - Coordination between Panama and Costa Rica continues in the area of Punta Burica (Chiriqui), if assistance becomes required for Puerto Armuelles Hospital.
 - Rehabilitation of Wichu Wala health center has begun, which was flooded yesterday in Guna Yala Commune.
- PAHO/WHO:
 - Supporting the Health EOC with personnel and tools for information management.
 - Coordination of specific requests during the event.



Pictures: Panama Ministry of Health EOC (Minister, Viceminister, technical and management team, Social Security with PAHO/WHO support)

COSTA RICA:

- **Damages:**
 - 214 communities and 1,300 people have been affected; 16 shelters are in place.
- **Actions:**
 - Government:
 - Emergency and Risk Management and the National Prevention Office (CNE) is monitoring and coordinating the response, as well as keeping the public informed about the situation.
 - CNE extended the red alert to 18 cantons (14 in Central and South Pacific and 4 in Alajuela), as shown in the map. A yellow alert is in place for the rest of the country
 - 3,000 people have been evacuated from high-risk areas.
 - Health sector:
 - The Vice-minister of Health from the Ministry of Health EOC is coordinating health response actions.
 - The situation room is active and coordinating with the health sector at a national level.
 - Coordinating redistribution of health services according to damage and risk

- level assessments.
 - Preparation of possible EMT level 1 deployment.
- PAHO/WHO:
 - Level 1 Emergency has been declared.
 - Situation room and Emergency Committee have been activated.
 - Coordination and participation in UNETE for the UN response.
 - In active communication with Social Security and Ministry of Health, if assistance becomes required.



Red and yellow alert areas in Costa Rica



NICARAGUA:

- **Damages:**
 - 7,800 people are taking refuge in 26 shelters.
 - 10,570 people in total have been evacuated, 44 temporary shelters have been established at a country level.
- **Actions:**
 - Government:
 - A red alert remains for Caribe Sur, Rio San Juan, and Zelaya Central and it has been extended to Chontales, Boaco, Rivas and Granada. Yellow alert remains for the rest of the country.
 - Municipal and sectorial emergency response actions have been activated in red alert zones.
 - Classes have been suspended in most educational facilities.
 - Families have been evacuated in San Juan.
 - Health Sector:
 - The Ministry of Health is part of the SINAPRED EOC.
 - Medical teams, 4 mobile clinics and emergency health supplies have been sent to the affected areas. 30 mobile clinics are available if needed.
 - PAHO/WHO:
 - A level 1 Emergency has been declared.
 - Coordinating with UN, through UNETE.

- Coordinating and assisting the Ministry of Health in their response to the emergency.

EL SALVADOR:

- **Actions:**
 - Government:
 - A green alert at a national level and a yellow administrative alert have been raised by the Civil Defense as a preventive measure while continuing to monitor the situation.

GUATEMALA:

- No incidents have been reported. Monitoring continues.

HONDURAS

- No incidents have been reported. Monitoring continues.

Sources: Ministries of Health, PAHO/WHO country offices in Central America, National Emergency and Risk Response Systems in each country (CONRED, COPECO, Civil Defense, CNE, SINAPRED, SINAPROC), NOAA-NHC and CATHALAC

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