

HURRICANE EARL

Situation Report No. 2 August 8, 2016



HIGHLIGHTS

- On August 4, 2016 at 09:00 (BLZ time), the country of Belize was declared ALL CLEAR by the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO)
- No deaths or injuries occurred and all community and regional hospitals are fully operational
- Electricity and water services are in the process of being restored to the entire population

184,700

Persons Affected¹

3

PAHO experts
deployed

164

Persons in Shelters²

¹ UNICEF, from August 05, 2016

² The National Emergency Management Operations (NEMO), Belize from August 07, 2016

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On August 4, 2016, Hurricane Earl (Category 1), struck Belize, downgraded to a Tropical Storm, and was no longer a threat to the country as of August 5, 2016. No deaths have been reported. Currently, there are a total of 164 people taking refuge in 8 shelters.

Initial reports indicated that Belize City had extensive flooding and structural damage, particularly to low-income homes. In addition, extensive damages to agriculture may have occurred.

The PAHO Regional Response Team conducted a field assessment in the communities of San Pedro (pop. 10,000) and Caye Caulker (pop. 1,600). Assessments showed that the communities have electricity and running water. Damage was observed to houses and business structures due to the effect of winds and a tidal surge approximately two feet high. In addition, scattered debris (roofing materials and trees) was observed along the sea front areas. The communities have begun cleanup and the rebuilding of damaged structures.

Currently, the flood waters are swelling and expanding in the lower areas of the Belize River Valley as it recedes into the Cayo District. Residents along the Belize River are being advised to move away from flooded areas.

The Belize electrical company (BEL) is gradually restoring electricity to the remaining communities without power.

HEALTH FACILITIES

The Ministry of Health stated on August 5, 2016, “At this time all Community and Regional hospitals and Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital have resumed regular services. They were able to maintain exceptional functioning operations to the public during the passage of Hurricane Earl with minimal disruption”.

Based on the Regional Response Team Evaluation, in San Pedro and Cay Caulker, the two health facilities remain functional. The polyclinic (6-beds) in San Pedro has sound structure and a generator; however running water issues were identified after the storm. The walk-in Caye Caulker Clinic shows evidence of structural (roof, walls, and columns) and non-structural damages. The clinic had water damage from leakage from the roof and windows. Neither facilities have a back-up water supply, but both are centrally located and accessible to the public and near the national referral hospital for emergency evacuations. No medical personnel were affected and reported to duty during and after the hurricane.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Belmopan and San Pedro are operating in low water pressure mode as repairs to leaks in the water system continue. Water systems in rural Belize District still lack electricity and are currently running on generators. The water system in the community of Santa Familia is still down and emergency water relief is being coordinated for the residents.

According to NEMO, the country’s main source of drinking water is currently bottled water. The population has shown awareness on the importance of safe and quality drinking water. NEMO’s National Relief and Supplies Management Committee, through their warehouses continue to distribute humanitarian supplies.

NEEDS

- Evaluation of damage and Needs Analysis (DANA) of structures
- Analysis of water and sanitation (WASH)
- Establishing preventative methods for vector control, particularly in Belize District rural areas

Needs identified by Belize-MoH team

- Back-up water supply and electric generators for health centers
- Chlorine tablets for water purification

- PPES for first responders
- Risk communication

RESPONSE ACTIONS:

GOVERNMENT

- Cleanup of debris is ongoing as flood waters recede in most parts of Belize City
- Rapid humanitarian relief assessments are in final stages
- Advised residents to treat drinking water which may have been contaminated due to flooding

PAHO/WHO

- A rapid assessment of the national hospital network conducted on August 5, 2016 conducted by PAHO/WHO indicated that all regional and community hospitals are fully functional
- Three deployed experts are conducting evaluations of health facilities, water systems, and providing health coordination to Belize-MoH
- Recommends a water storage (for at least three days) integrated in the water supply systems of the San Pedro and Caye Caulker clinics

Partner Coordination

- UNICEF, BATSUB (British Army Training and Support Unit Belize), and BDF (Belize Defense Force) are assisting people in shelters
- The Belize Red Cross and USAID are supporting NEMO in food/water relief operations

Map of Hospitals in Belize



HOSPITALS IN BELIZE

1. Northern Regional Hospital (Orange Walk)
2. Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital (Belize City)
3. Belize Medical Associates (Belize City)
4. National Health Services (Belize City)
5. Belize Healthcare Partners Limited (Belize City)
6. Lopez Pharmacy & Medical Clinic (Belmopán)
7. St Luke's Medical Center (Belmopán)
8. Western Regional Hospital (Belmopán)
9. The Hope Clinic (Dangriga)
10. San Ignacio Hospital (San Ignacio)
11. La Loma Luz Seventh Day Adventist Hospital (San Ignacio)

Sources:

- National Emergency Management Operations (NEMO), Belize
- Ministry of Health Belize
- PWR- Belize (RRT)
- Belize Electricity Limited (BEL)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information, please contact:

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