

UNICEF Situation Report No. 1 Honduras – *Hurricane Felix* September 4th, 2007

Major Developments

<i>Figures as of 4 Sep 2007 (7:30 pm)*</i>	
Dead	-
Injured	-
Missing	-
People evacuated	18,000
People in shelters	9,000
Shelters identified	280
Shelters functioning	19
Public buildings damaged	-
Homes damaged	-
Homes destroyed	-
Health centres destroyed	-
Hospitals destroyed	-
Schools damaged	-
Schools destroyed	-
Roads damaged	-
Roads destroyed	-
Bridges and fords damaged	-
Bridges and fords destroyed	-

*Source: Permanent Commission for Emergencies (COPECO)

As explained in the Bulletin no. 44 issued by COPECO (Permanent Commissioner of Permanent Commission for Emergencies) at 3:30 p.m., the National Weather Forecasting Service informed that Hurricane Felix was located at Latitude 14.2 North and Longitude 85.0 West. Hurricane Felix degraded to level 1 in the Saffir-Simpson scale, and advances at 22 km/h, with sustained winds of up to 120 km/h.

COPECO issued *Red Alert* for the Departments of Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso, Comayagua, Gracias a Dios, Atlántida, Colón, Cortés, Yoro and Olancho; *Yellow Alert* for the Departments of Islas de la Bahía, Choluteca and Valle; and *Green Alert* for the rest of the country.

Rainfall in Tegucigalpa and its surroundings is expected to reach between 80 and 100 mm in the next 24 hours. In addition, the Commissioner informed that, depending on which trajectory the event actually takes, its impact may affect the central region of the country, including Tegucigalpa, the Capital City or the northern coast, including the city of La Ceiba and the Department of Cortes.

As requested by COPECO, a meeting was held yesterday (Monday, Sept. 3) in the UN House at 5:00 p.m., with the participation of representatives from the main diplomatic missions, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and NGOs. The Commissioner shared information on the event and requested support for the establishment of a Center for Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (CAHA, acronym in Spanish). It will be located in the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will include the technical secretariat for Cooperation (SETCO), COPECO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Federation of Private Organizations for Development (FOPRIDEH) will support this initiative and the UN has been requested to support it as well. The Commissioner informed that the Center would be in operation from Tuesday, Sept. 4th in the afternoon onwards. In addition, he informed that the *Bravo Task Force* of the United States is supporting evacuation process.

Needs Assessment

As reported by COPECO, (Bulletin No.44, 4 September 2007, 3:30 PM) no significant incidents have been registered up to date.

UNICEF Response

As per updated the Emergency Plan (EPRP August 2007), UNICEF Honduras has propositioned 1,500 hygiene and cooking family kits, as well as water disinfection and management materials and educational kits for 100 schools. In addition, it has supported COPECO's effort in training journalists for the adequate information coverage during emergencies. UNICEF is in charge of leading the Water and Sanitation and the Education Clusters as well as the Damage Assessment process, as per policy of Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). We are also leading the child protection related responses.

Inter-Agency Collaboration and Key Partnerships

The United Nations Emergency Team (UNETE) is working full time on the preparedness, the United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) is meeting twice daily and close coordination with the Government (COPECO) is the leading institution for emergency response) has been established. The On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) has been activated, and is monitoring the situation permanently. An UNDAC mission arrived today to support the damage and needs assessment, once the conditions allow.

Supply and Logistics

No specific arrangements have been set up yet.

Funding

Some possible internal funding sources have been identified, in case they are requested. In addition, some potential donors (ECHO, CIDA) have been contacted.

Staffing

No specific arrangements for additional staff have been set up to date.

Security

As a precautionary measure, non-essential staff was released from their duties at 13:00 today. Skeleton staff remained on their positions.

Next Sitrep:

September 5.