



**National Emergency Management Organization
Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis**

INITIAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT



**TROPICAL DEPRESSION 16
Flooding Events**

As at 20th October, 2008

BELIZE

INITIAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT¹

TROPICAL DEPRESSION 16 - Flood Event

Tropical Depression No. 16 (TD 16), which threatened Honduras, Guatemala and Belize made landfall in northern Honduras on Thursday, 16th October 2008. The remnants of TD 16 caused widespread rainfall across Belize and caused life threatening floods along the Mopan and Macal Rivers from the Belize - Guatemalan Border to Branch Mouth, where the Macal River meets the Mopan River and forms the Belize River. All rivers in Belize were at flood stage and exceeded flood stage. Some 24 communities comprising of towns and villages from Arenal, Benque Viejo Del Carmen, Bullet Tree Falls, San Ignacio, Spanish Lookout and communities as far as Roaring Creek were impacted. Approximately 7000 persons countrywide were affected with about 4, 800 persons being affected in the Cayo Districts. There are approx. 200 person in Shelter in ITVET.

Communities hardest hit include Bullet Tree Falls, Calla Creek, Santa Familia, and Branch Mouth, Spanish Lookout, and surrounds, Blackman Eddy and Roaring Creek. Search and rescue operations conducted in the affected areas saved about 90 persons. There were no related deaths. Livelihoods affected are based largely on subsistence farming, trading, transportation, cottage industries and casual employment in the agriculture and tourism sectors. Water and food was provided to more than 200 persons in Shelters over a the weekend at the ITVET and Bullet Tree Falls Community Shelter. There are no reports of illnesses; however Cholera and Diarrhea are potential threats being closely monitored by the Ministry of Health.

Minimal losses were experienced in other areas of the country. Those losses will be reflected in the next report.



¹ There are 3 Assessment Reports (1) Initial Situation Assessment due 8 hours after the event, (2) the Initial Detail Assessment is due within 48 hours after the ISA, and (3) Detail Sectorial Assessment (DSA) reports is due between 7 – 21 days.

The estimated value of damages and losses in the areas of homes / personal possession; farms; animals; small businesses; crops; trade; petroleum sales and infrastructure at this stage are preliminary at best.

The initial rough estimates of losses can range from anywhere between \$30 to \$60 million in the affected areas for the following:

1. Lives

- a. Human losses - none

Initial (rough) estimate

2. Personal Property

- a. Homes / personal possession - \$ 2 – 3 million

3. Agriculture

- a. Crops (primarily Corn) - \$ 8 - 9 million
- b. Farms
- c. Animals
- d. Small business

4. Infrastructure

-\$ 4- 5 million

- a. Roads (erosion)
 - i. Paved (20 - 30 miles)
 - ii. Unpaved 40 – 50 miles 0
- b. Bridges (no report of losses)
- c. Culverts (Santa Familia, Succotz uncertain)
- d. Schools
- e. Government Buildings (BTF Police Station)

(Note.1 Petroleum and Tourism direct losses will be reflected in the Detail Sectorial Assessment Report due in 7 days)

Humanitarian assistance will be necessary to facilitate households' return to normalcy. The priority needs are baby feed, pampers, blankets, water and water purification tablets for about 1, 000 persons who might be in direct need. The immediate term food and water needs requires urgent attention once the Recovery start as most of the affected communities live at the poverty line and below and depend on subsistence farming for their livelihoods. Other assistance required will be dependent on the detailed assessment when the water recedes. Initial recovery activities must focus on health and sanitation and must include the cleaning and the restoration of residences and businesses. Assistance must be generated to support people as a priority in their efforts of replacing what they lost. Arrangements can be made based on pledges and donations from local and international appeal. Alternate means of livelihood must be identified and relocation of residences, schools, medical, centres, bridges, community centres and police stations out of or above the flood plain must be given high priority.