CRGR
Concertación Regional para la Gestión de Riesgos

Rainfall and Dengue Health Emergency Situation Report

Institutional Yellow Alert

Status report number:: 07_2024
Place and date of issue: Central America: 15/ July /2024 **Hour:** 10:00 pm
Prepared by: MNIGR National Facilitator **Phone:** 504 9450-8543

General Information:

Central American countries have activated multiple alert levels due to heavy rains in the region as of June 14. Floods, flash floods, injuries and at least 31 deaths have been reported in connection with these phenomena.

However, in the period from July 11 to 15, there has been a considerable decrease in precipitation in the Central American region. The effects of the "canícula" or "veranillo de San Juan" as it is known, have been felt. Only in Costa Rica have new effects been registered due to the effects of the rain.

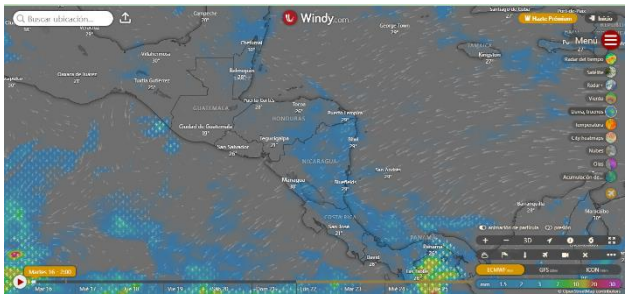

Illustration 1. Satellite image of July 15, 2024 10:00 am. Source Windy.com

On the other hand, the circulation of several variants of dengue in Central America could cause complications for the health system, according to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The RCRC countries are being hard hit by a dengue epidemic, with 111,483 reported cases of dengue fever. As of July 14, 2024, at least 130 deaths directly attributable to this vector-borne disease have been recorded.

Emergency Name	Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone - Tropical Waves - Rainy Season 2024
Date of onset of the emergency:	June 14/2024
Date of SitRep:	July 15/2024
Country:	El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica
Departments affected:	Miscellaneous (Breakdown in document)
Municipalities:	Miscellaneous (Breakdown in document)
Affected communities:	Miscellaneous (Breakdown in document)
National networks present in the area:	MPGR, MNIGR, COCIGER, MNGR, REDCOM-CR
Details of Contact person:	facilitadormnigr@gmail.com
Comments:	

Check with "X" the type of event associated with the emergency

x	Hurricane	x	Storm-depression/ tropical	x	Torrential rain
x	Landslide		Earthquake	x	Flood
	Drought		Tsunami		Fire
	Forced internal displacement		Migration abroad		Volcanic eruption
x	Epidemic		Frost - hailstorm		Pollution
	Thunderstorm		Explosion		Disturbance
Other, please specify:					

1. Short context (Summary of affectations):

Guatemala faces the canícula again in 2024, a period characterized by a decrease or absence of rainfall. This will bring with it, among its main effects, the sensation of a warmer environment, although it will be intermittent, informed the National Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH).
In Honduras between July 11 and 15, 2024, very little rainfall was recorded in the regions of the country. This allowed the Goascorán river to return to its natural course. Reported cases of dengue fever represent a 100% increase over those reported in 2023 and more compared to previous years.

El Salvador remains on Green Alert throughout the country. According to the General Directorate of Civil Protection, El Salvador still maintains the Green Alert decree nationwide due to the rainfall phenomenon affecting the country.

In the period between July 12 and 15, rains in Nicaragua decreased in intensity in almost all the territory, the exception corresponds to Bluefileds with an accumulated of 269 mm, in other territories the accumulated rains oscillate between 45 and 90 mm, soils remain saturated, floods, river floods, landslides and loss of crops have occurred.

This Sunday, July 14, it was reported that homes and farmlands were affected in the district of San Rafael de Guatuso, due to the flooding of the Frio River, as a result of tropical wave #19 that is hitting Costa Rica. The National Emergency Commission had recently changed the alerts for this weekend, where the Northern Zone and the Northern Caribbean were placed in yellow alert for possible danger of flooding of streams and rivers and the rest of the regions in green alert.

2. Security:

Country:	**Alert level**
Guatemala	Unlike other years, it is expected that the heat wave will not be prolonged" and that it will present "conditions of abundant cloudiness and the presence of rains during the same.
Honduras	The Secretariat of State in the Offices of Risk Management and National Contingencies COPECO has NOT extended any alert level for the national territory. The Ministry of Health has decreed a health emergency for dengue fever.
El Salvador	According to the General Directorate of Civil Protection, El Salvador still maintains the Green Alert decree at national level due to the rain phenomenon affecting the country. The General Directorate of Civil Protection, based on the epidemiological bulletin number 27, on dengue, issued by the Ministry of Health, maintains the National Red Alert for Dengue where infant deaths due to this vector are reported.
Nicaragua	In the period between July 12 and 15, rainfall in Nicaragua decreased in intensity in most of the territory, the exception being Bluefileds with an accumulated 269 mm.
Costa Rica	On July 12, the alert levels were updated as follows: Yellow Alert for: - Northern Region - Northern Caribbean Region And Green Alert for: - Northern Pacific Region - Central Valley Region - Southern Caribbean Region - Central Pacific Region - South Pacific Region

3. Humanitarian Situation in General

- **Honduras:** 132 families directly affected by the overflowing of the Goascorán river are cleaning and rehabilitating their homes.
- **El Salvador:** The Ministry of Health is currently working to control the dengue epidemic in the country.
- **Costa Rica:** No injuries or deaths have been reported as a result of the floods. No injuries were reported among the elderly rescued. There are reports of 16 people transferred to a temporary shelter. There are no water or electricity outages and all telecommunications services are operational.

4. Affectations by the events

- **Guatemala**: in Guatemala, 50 people have died so far this year from dengue and more than 43,000 people have had the disease, almost six times more than in the same period last year, according to a report from the Ministry of Health.
- Honduras: on the other hand, the Ministry of Health (SESAL) has reported that 81 deaths directly attributable to dengue have been registered, which represents a 100% increase compared to 2023. Honduras alone accounts for 60% of dengue deaths in Central America.
- **El Salvador:** the Environmental Observatory of MARN, reported that on July 15 there will be higher concentrations of Sahara dust in the air, which makes the atmosphere hazy and hot, and less rain. This natural phenomenon will be present until Tuesday, July 16 and will also affect other Central American countries.
- **Nicaragua:**
  - 18 homes are reported affected, in the Santa Rosa neighborhood of Bluefields, in the municipality of Masaya and Masatepe.
  - 2 people were killed by the currents in Wiwili, Nueva Segovia.
  - In the community of Santo Domingo, in the municipality of Totogalpa, 45 families have been affected with the loss of 80 manzanas of crops (beans and corn).
- **Costa Rica:** about 75 agricultural hectares have been flooded and maintained some degree of saturation, including at this time on Monday. There is also talk of some 150 homes with some damage, 125 of them due to their proximity to the Frio river and the overflow area of the river. It is not known what mechanisms were involved in the construction of this urbanization, since the CNE has been clear in the danger zoning of this river and this was not taken into account. In addition, there was hail rain. As collateral damage from the heavy rains, a vehicle struck a power line pole. This collapsed and kept a neighborhood of Desamparados de Alajuela without electricity for half a day.

5. Actions carried out by other entities: governmental and international cooperation agencies.

- **Guatemala:** Attention by authorities, activation, monitoring, issuance of press releases and press conferences. Vector control campaigns.
- **El Salvador**: Attention by authorities, Civil Protection, Ministry of Environment and first response institutions, activation of alerts, declaration of national state of emergency, evacuation and rescue actions. Vector control campaigns.
- **Honduras:** Attention by authorities, monitoring, activation of alerts and vector control campaigns.
- **Nicaragua:** Attention by authorities, monitoring, activation of alerts and vector control campaigns.
- **Costa Rica**: Monitoring, activation of alerts, bulletins and vector control campaigns.

6. Actions carried out by the national networks and CRGR

- CRGR: Monitoring of forecasts, follow-up of precipitation models and official entities. Preparation of situation reports, monitoring reports and briefing notes. Communication with National Committees.
- **Guatemala:** Monitoring of the adverse event through official sources and emergency response project.
- **Honduras:** Monitoring and dissemination.
- **El Salvador**: Monitoring with network organizations and community leadership. Monitoring of official web pages (DGPC and MARN). Monitoring of written and digital media. Preparation of infographics, sharing of communiqués issued by DGPC and MARN.
- **Nicaragua:** Follow-up of scientific entities on monitoring of the event (NOAA, INETER). Rainfall and impact monitoring is being maintained. Communication is maintained with the network of climate monitors to know the main incidents and/or effects
- .**Costa Rica:** RedCom-CR: monitoring and dissemination.

7. Recommendations

As CRGR and National Networks:

- Systematic monitoring of the event with information provided by official scientific entities and Regional and National Systems (NOAA, CRRH, CEPREDENAC).
- Identify critical points (floods, landslides) in the territorial work coverage of the National Networks and the CRGR, especially in the territories contemplated in the probable impact scenarios.
- Request the activation of humanitarian leadership, according to capacities. If this is part of the local networks and brigades, request the sending of information.
- During the crisis, request protection and take security measures under the direction of leadership.
- Maintain the Regional Situation Room.
- We recommend taking the necessary measures to protect their lives and those of their families, avoiding crossing rivers and streams during rains, staying away from areas prone to landslides and minimizing work in the field in the event of storm conditions.
- Create and disseminate infographics with preventive measures aimed at the general population, especially in the event of increased river flows, flash floods, lahars in the volcanic chain, mass movements (landslides), damage to the road network, elimination of mosquito breeding sites, etc.
- Identify the areas with the most significant impacts and those with the highest risk of floods and landslides.
- Promote campaigns to eliminate mosquito breeding sites that transmit dengue and the use of mosquito nets for the most vulnerable people.

8. Annexes

- **El Salvador:**

National vector control campaign.

- **Costa Rica:**

Imagen 1: toma aérea de San Rafael de Guatuso

Sources:
SNET, NOAA-CPD, Medis, ECHO Flash, Protección Civil de El Salvador, COPECO, CONRED, INETER, SINAPRED, CNE.
Community leadership member of the 5 National Networks.
Community volunteer networks National
Networks reports ver aquí. (see here).