

Latest News: Integral Responds to Hurricane Eta in Central America



13th November 2020

Integral Alliance has launched an Integral alert for Hurricane Eta, with five Members opting in to be part of this joint Integral Disaster Response^[1]. Members are currently responding in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, both directly on the ground and through Partners.

Hurricane Eta entered Honduras as a tropical storm on 4 November 2020. High winds and sustained rains caused flooding, damage to structures, and mudslides throughout much of Central America, affecting a total of nine countries. Much of the impacted areas are rural and hard to reach because roads and bridges have been washed away. The storm has also destroyed most of the harvest and in coming months communities will face increased food insecurity in addition to COVID-19. For some of the affected countries there is a 'triple impact' effect with the hurricane, COVID-19 and a pre-existing humanitarian crisis. [Source [here](#)]. The situation is also being pushed out of the media headlines because of coverage of other world events which means fewer people hearing about the situation and donating to help those affected.

Integral Member Medical Teams International is responding in Guatemala where the death toll is expected to climb due to large scale landslides. Betsy Baldwin, their Director of the Humanitarian Response Team, says, "In a country that has suffered immense amounts of social inequality, high rates of violence, and persistent drought and food insecurity coupled with natural disasters on a regular basis, this crisis comes at an extremely challenging time during the pandemic."

Betsy continues, "The added value of an Integral joint response in this context is that we can share resources in a world where so much has been given towards COVID-19 and there is little media attention on this or other crises. The work of Integral in this context is a real opportunity to support those who have been so badly affected by the storm."

Jan Eyre, Integral's Head of Disaster Management and Programmes, says, "By issuing an Integral alert for this situation our hope is that we will be able to increase collaboration by bringing together in-country staff, increasing funding support and sharing technical expertise from across the alliance. We don't know the full scale of the impact of Hurricane Eta yet, but there is growing evidence of large scale crop losses in what is an already food insecure region. While our Members are addressing emergency needs now, they are already preparing for the support that the communities they serve will need over the coming months and beyond."

In the initial stages of an Integral response, calls are held as frequently as necessary, so that Members can share information in the critical phase when needs are acute. The Integral online platform enables Members to share photos and stories, response plans and funding needs.

^[1] Food for the Hungry (US & Canada), Medical Teams International (US), Tearfund (UK), World Relief (US), World Renew (US & Canada)

Contact: Sarah Larkin, Head of Marketing and Communications:
s.larkin@integralalliance.org | Integral's website: www.integralalliance.org

Extra information:

Integral's Vision

Christian agencies uniting globally, alleviating suffering and restoring hope, in disasters and beyond.

Integral's Mission

Integral exists to see God's Kingdom demonstrated by uniting our Members. We champion, encourage and facilitate collaborative working across the Alliance, particularly in disasters.

On Integral Collaboration:

Integral's goal is for all its Members to become more effective and efficient in their work and to see greater impact and reach as a result of working collaboratively.

Integral Members have a collaborative strategy for responding to disasters, with the Integral Disaster Response Process coordinating the emergency activities of its Members. The aim of the Integral DR process is to combine resources to ensure that as many people as possible are reached with the assistance they need. The Integral Secretariat plays a coordinating role to facilitate better communication between all Members in disaster situations with the aim of increasing support and avoiding duplication.

Integral has 22 Members with headquarters in 14 countries. Integral Members work over 90 countries, across 34 sectors, and have a network of over 580 local partners. To watch a short film introducing Integral click [here](#).

See [here](#) for more information about Integral's commitment to Quality Standards

Integral Members are:

[CEDAR Fund](#) - **Hong Kong**
[Food for the Hungry](#) – **USA & Canada**
[Integra](#) - **Slovakia**
[International Health Partners](#) – **UK**
[Medical Teams International](#) – **USA**
[Medair](#) – **Switzerland**
[Missions Alliance](#) – **Norway**
[Mission East](#) – **Denmark**
[SEL France](#) - **France**
[TEAR Australia](#) – **Australia**
[Tear-](#) **Netherlands**
[Tearfund](#) – **Belgium**
[Tearfund](#) - **Canada**
[Tearfund](#) - **Ireland**
[Tearfund](#) – **New Zealand**
[Tear Fund](#) - **Switzerland**
[Tearfund](#) – **UK**
[Transform Aid International](#) – **Australia**
[World Concern](#) – **USA**
[World Relief](#) – **USA**
[World Renew](#) - **Canada & USA**
[ZOA](#) – **The Netherlands**