HURRICANE LISA
SITUATION REPORT No. 1
AS OF 6:00 PM ON 04 NOVEMBER 2022

Category 1 Hurricane Lisa impacted mainland Belize

HIGHLIGHTS:
- Lisa crossed the mainland of Belize at approximately 5 miles south of Belize City on Wednesday November 2, 2022
- No reported loss of life or major injuries as a result of the hurricane
- Approximately 39% of the population of Belize was most affected by Hurricane Lisa
- Initial estimates of losses to the housing sector amounts to approximately BZD $20 million

SITUATION:
- On Wednesday 2nd November 2022, Hurricane Lisa made landfall on the Belize mainland at approximately 3pm local time as a Category 1 hurricane. Lisa hit Belize with maximum sustained winds estimated to be near 75 mph (120 km/h) with higher gusts. Hurricane-force winds extended outward up to 15 miles (30 km) from the centre and tropical-storm-force winds extended outward up to 70 miles (110 km).
- An observation station at the port of Belize City reported a sustained wind of 68 mph (109 km/h) with a wind gust of 86 mph (138 km/h).
- Lisa produced rainfall amounts of 4 to 6 inches with local amounts of up to 10 inches across Belize, and northern Guatemala. This rainfall led to flash flooding conditions, primarily across Belize and into northern Guatemala. Rivers in the neighbouring Guatemalan highlands feed into Belize.
- Lisa was accompanied by a storm surge that raised water levels by as much as 4 to 7 feet above normal tide levels in areas of onshore flow near and to the north of the centre of Lisa along the coast of Belize.
- Hurricane Lisa moved in a westerly direction across the middle of the country bringing damage to the Cayo District as well, before it left Belize.
The following was provided by the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), Belize as at November 04, 2022:

**THE IMPACT**

- On Wednesday Lisa crossed the mainland of Belize at approximately 5 miles south of Belize City. This meant that the powerful north-eastern quadrant of the hurricane pounded the Belize District incessantly and relentlessly for more than two hours.
- The Belize District was most affected by Hurricane Lisa and is home to 94,271 residents or approximately 39% of the population of Belize. As a result, the Belize District has been declared a Disaster area.
- Fortunately, there has been no reported loss of life or major injuries as a result of Hurricane Lisa.
- Based on preliminary information received through the National Emergency Operations Center, as much as 200 families are likely to have been displaced where homes were totally destroyed.
- It is estimated that approximately 3,000 houses have been partially destroyed in the Belize District primarily, and to a lesser extent, the Cayo District.
- Partial damage ranged from roofs being blown off, structures being partially destroyed, ground floors being flooded and household goods being destroyed by wind and water.
- Initial estimates of losses to the housing sector amounts to some BZD$20 million.
- At the time of landfall, approximately 5,001 persons were in 83 shelters countrywide, however as at November 4, 2022, there are 11 shelters open (9 of which are in Belize City) with 232 persons remaining in shelter.
- The Relief Supplies and Management Subcommittee of the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) has indicated the need to provide relief to some estimated 5,000 plus families in the Belize District, and up to 500 to 1,000 families in the Stann Creek District. The estimated number of families affected in the Cayo, Orange Walk and Corozal districts can reach as much as 500 families.

Initial sectoral assessments have revealed following:

**Agriculture**

- Some impact to the agricultural sector seen- primarily regarding sugar cane and papaya;
- To a lesser extent, impact to plantain and banana crops have been observed in the Cayo District;
- The Stann Creek district, which is the banana and citrus belt of Belize, was spared of significant damage;
- Overall, the impact to the agricultural sector has been less than anticipated;

**Infrastructure and Utilities**

- Impacts on infrastructure include damage to culverts and some damage to roads, primarily in the Belize District
- A major concern was the loss of electricity for the Belize City, where 60% of power was lost, however, 90% of this has been restored as at November 4th by the Belize Electrical Company and full restoration is expected in Belize City and other impacted areas by November 5th;
- Lack of electricity impacted the Belize Water Services Limited (BWS) which has had challenges providing potable water;
- There is significant debris in the impoverished areas in Belize City (known as Southside Belize) including felled trees, light poles and electrical wires.
Updates from Impacted CDEMA Participating State

BELIZE

The following was provided by the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), Belize as at November 04, 2022:

NATIONAL RESPONSE

- The Relief Supplies Subcommittee of NEMO has the capacity through established national, municipal and village government councils to assess needs to identify those in genuine need and to distribute supplies based on those needs. This can be done in collaboration with established NGOs such as the Belize Red Cross, Rotary and the Belize Council of Churches.
- The Committee has been providing potable water, food, temporary roofing cover and other forms of relief supplies to impacted communities.
- Preparation of Housing Relief Assistance is being advanced.
- There have been fly-over assessments to ascertain the level of damage across the country.
- Damage Assessment Teams have been on the ground to obtain preliminary information on the impact in specific areas.
- A Detailed Sectoral Assessment is underway which will provide further insight into the extent of the impacts to priority sectors.
- There is a large clean-up campaign underway in Southside Belize, with 400 persons, 18 dump trucks and 12 backhoes currently addressing the significant debris on the streets.

Images of the aftermath of Hurricane Lisa: NEMO Belize Facebook Page, Nov 4, 2022
MONETARY DONATIONS:

The Government of Belize is requesting some US$11 million dollars to meet only immediate needs and to provide basic food, household supplies and construction materials to enable the affected population to have a level of human dignity. Financial and other contributions may be made through the notification of the Foreign Assistance Committee of the Ministry of Finance in Belize.

The Government of Belize has provided guidance that Monetary Donations should be transferred to the following account (details in the table below):

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CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CDEMA) ACTIONS:

- The CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CDEMA CU) has been monitoring the situation in Belize and has been in constant contact with disaster management officials in-country providing technical advice as the situation unfolded.
- The Regional Coordination Plan was activated on Sunday October 30th, 2022.
- CDEMA Coordinating Unit continues to liaise with Regional Institutions and International Partners.
- CDEMA continues to be in constant contact with the Sub-region Focal Point.
- Three Caribbean Development Partner Group (CDPG) Meetings were held concerning Lisa.
- A briefing on Hurricane Lisa was received from the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), to inform the planning and operational arrangements of the RRM.
- Two Information Notes were disseminated.
- The Regional Response Mechanism deployment teams remain on alert; however no deployment has been planned based on the prioritized cash donations from the Government of Belize.
- CDEMA remains in close communication with the Government of Belize to provide any further support based on the outcome of the Detailed Sectoral Assessment.
CDEMA’s Situation Report #1

Updates from Impacted CDEMA Participating State

BELIZE

Partner Updates - Humanitarian Aid Pledges

- The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) has expressed willingness to support as needed including in Damage Assessments and distribution of supplies to farmers.
- The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is on standby to provide assistance concerning the reduction of waterborne illnesses and overall disease surveillance and eradication.
- The International Federation of Red Cross has procured shelter kits, cleaning and hygiene kits that can assist approximately 500 families in Belize as needed.
- The Belize Red Cross is working closely with the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) and has Teams on the ground conducting Assessments. The Disaster Response Recovery Fund is being utilized to provide support to the country. It is estimated that 1000 families or 5000 persons will receive support.
- The United Nations has published Flash Updates concerning Lisa.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) has pre-deployed personnel to support as needed and USD $200 000 for cash transfers to assist with immediate needs. WFP also has an arrangement with the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) and Belize where a portion of a potential payout may be used for cash transfer.
- The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) Belize is supporting assessments of shelters in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Belize.
- The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Belize has conducted assessments and identified schools which were damaged and have tents positioned in-country for use if the need arises. They also have 8 water tanks available for use.
- Other regional and international entities including the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) and the CARICOM Private Sector Organisation have pledged support to Belize as needed.