

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

November 9, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

Hurricane Eta has devastated Central America and parts of Mexico, causing fatal flooding and mudslides. Over 100 people have died across the region, though the full extent of casualties is still unknown. A mudslide in Guatemala buried dozens of homes and a search and rescue mission is underway. In Honduras, 12,000 individuals are in shelters, a precarious situation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Millions of individuals have been impacted and thousands of families have fled their homes. There is a desperate need both for search and rescue missions and for safe housing, food, and health care for all those impacted. We urge the Administration to bring all resources to bear and lead an all-hands effort with the European Union, the Red Cross, the United Nations, and the Pan American Health Organization to ensure that urgent relief is delivered.

Without emergency relief, many more lives could be lost, and those who remain displaced may choose to make the dangerous trek north to the U.S.-Mexico border. By helping our neighbors address this crisis now, we may be able to save lives and prevent a future crisis at our southern border.

While we know that the United States has provided some financial assistance to Central America (including an initial \$120,000 in USAID assistance to Honduras and \$100,000 to Nicaragua and Guatemala each) and provided important support from U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), we urge an immediate and whole-of-government response. In addition, as we seek to understand the full extent of U.S. assistance to the region in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Eta, we ask that you provide responses to the following questions:

1. What type of financial and humanitarian assistance is being provided in each of the countries in the region impacted by Hurricane Eta?
2. To what extent is the U.S. government leading or participating in an international response to Hurricane Eta? With which international and multilateral organizations are you collaborating? What role is each of these taking on?
3. What assets has SOUTHCOM deployed to the region to provide relief? What additional actions does SOUTHCOM plan to take in the coming weeks and months?

4. Has the Administration analyzed the extent to which Hurricane Eta will cause further climate migration to the United States? Please provide us with this analysis.

It is critical that the Administration responds at a level that matches the gravity of the situation. We look forward to hearing from you on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



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Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



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Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Cc: Acting Deputy Administrator John Barsa  
U.S. Agency for International Development

Admiral Craig S. Faller  
Commander, U.S. Southern Command