

**Flood waters have submerged** homes in isolated Guatemalan communities such as Alta Verapaz. Many are left without supplies or places to stay.

Esteban Choc Giut, the Indigenous chief of the village, points to some rooftops in the distance. "That roof over there is mine," he says, "and that is the school building. We lost everything, including all of the 500 books."

The Guatemalan Coordinator for the Reduction of Disaster (CONRED) estimates that there are 234 communities left incommunicado following the rains from Hurricanes Eta and Iota in November. CONRED lists 2.4 million people affected by flooding, with more than 270,000 in temporary shelters. Some of those involved in the relief effort have estimated that there could be as many as 50,000 people in isolated communities who are not receiving aid.

With no clean water to wash in, playing in stagnant water and living in cramped conditions, diseases are starting to spread. Health workers who have managed to get through report seeing coughs, stomach issues, diarrhoea, vomiting and fevers, as well as skin conditions.

Support for our partner Christian Aid is vital. Christian Aid has worked in Central America for many years, and so is best placed – certainly from a UK perspective – to make a real difference on the lives of the very poorest communities affected by environmental disasters.

Thank you for all you do in support of Christian Aid partners through *Commitment for Life*.



*News in from Diana Paulding: 2019 URC Youth Representative on the URC IOPT trip & Commitment for Life supporter*

*Thank you so much to **Commitment for Life** for your support this past year of the Christian Aid Prophetic Activists' 'Stop Fuelling the Fire' campaign.*

*We petitioned the government to end the use of UK Export Finance to fund fossil fuel projects overseas. Over a thousand people signed the petition and many people contacted their MPs to raise their concerns about the issue. We went to Downing Street on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 with a coalition of organisations for a socially distanced 'hand-in' event of all of our petitions.*

*Thank you for everything you have done to help the campaign!!*