



SITUATION REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS*

6 million

People in Caribbean nations directly affected

17, 000

People in need of immediate shelter

57

People reported dead

90 %

Of houses destroyed or damaged in
Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda

Sources: UN OCHA Caribbean Hurricane Report, Sept. 18, 2017

**This report includes estimates of those affected in sovereign nations of the Caribbean, and therefore does not include the impact from Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands or territories.*

2017 Hurricane Devastation in the Caribbean

September 22, 2017 | No. 1

SITUATION OVERVIEW

This report includes information about sovereign nations of the Caribbean, and therefore does not include Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the British Virgin Islands or territories. Beginning on September 8, 2017, Hurricane Irma tore through the Caribbean, leaving a trail of destruction and devastation. Beginning on September 18, as communities were assessing the damage and just starting the rebuilding process, Hurricane Maria made landfall as a Category 5 hurricane, dealing a crippling blow to island nations. Both hurricanes Irma and Maria registered as some of the most powerful hurricanes in recorded history, with maximum sustained winds of 125 mph.

The most affected nations to date are Cuba, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. In Dominica, nearly 90 percent of buildings on the island have been damaged or completely destroyed. Cuba suffered widespread power outages, flooding and agricultural losses. Antigua and Barbuda reported widespread damage to roads and infrastructure. Both Haiti and the Dominican Republic were spared a direct hit from the hurricanes, but suffered agricultural and livestock losses that will make survival very difficult for farmers who depend on the land for their livelihoods.

RESPONSE EFFORTS

Widespread or complete power and communication system outages have limited the ability of relief efforts to reach the most affected areas. UN agencies are using the island of St. Lucia as a launching pad for sending relief cargo and aid.

National Red Cross societies have mobilized and are starting to clear roads. The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) team in Trinidad and Tobago has been participating in cluster meetings to coordinate with national societies, local NGOs and international organizations. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) has deployed a rapid needs assessment team and is coordinating shipments of relief supplies with the coast guard of Barbados. Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations (ECHO) are supporting affected states with supplies, funding and technical support personnel.

Local governments and IFRC chapters are coordinating with logistics and telecommunication partners to restore power networks and provide clean drinking water.

CURRENT NEEDS

- Power generators
- Non-food items (NFIs) including shelter repair kits
- Support for housing
- Bottled water
- Food packages

LWR – ACTIONS TAKEN AND NEXT STEPS

LWR has committed \$50,000 to support families in Northern Haiti affected by hurricanes Irma and Maria. Our efforts will focus on working with local coffee and cacao cooperatives to help families recoup agricultural livelihood losses, as well as building capacity in emergency preparedness for future hurricanes.

In Cuba, we are coordinating with our partners in the ACT Alliance, mainly the Cuban Council of Churches (CCC), to evaluate needs and potentially provide financial support for a unified appeal. We are also exploring possible partnerships with local organizations elsewhere in the Caribbean that are responding to the emergency in their respective countries.

LWR will continue monitoring the situation closely to determine how we can further assist our local partners to address the most pressing needs on the ground and assist those affected by this tragedy.

LWR PRESENCE

With nearly 75 years of demonstrated expertise helping to transform some of the hardest-to-reach places in the developing world, LWR is an innovative, trusted international nongovernmental organization committed to those otherwise cut off from basic human services and opportunities.

LWR helps communities living in extreme poverty adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being and we respond to emergencies with a long-term view. When a disaster hits – whether it's a drought, tsunami or civil war – we work alongside communities over months and years to help them recover and adjust to new realities, ensuring that they are prepared to withstand the next unexpected challenge. Regardless of whether these challenges are chronic or acute LWR invests in communities to enable those living in extreme poverty to build the resilience they need to thrive.

LWR began working in Haiti in 1997 to advance rural development, increase food security and gender equality, protect natural resources and strengthen partners' organizational capacity. After Haiti's devastating earthquake in 2010, LWR provided material resources and support to restore lost livelihoods, while also working to strengthen rural communities taking in those displaced by the disaster. Currently, LWR programs increase small-holder farmers' participation in value chains; improve food security; and promote reforestation in northern Haiti.

Outside of our Haiti office, we are relying on our partners in the ACT alliance to assess the needs in countries such as Cuba.

For additional information about LWR's response to this situation and other emergencies around the world, please visit lwr.org. You can also join the conversation about how LWR is responding to emergencies with a long-term view at facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief or twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief.



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