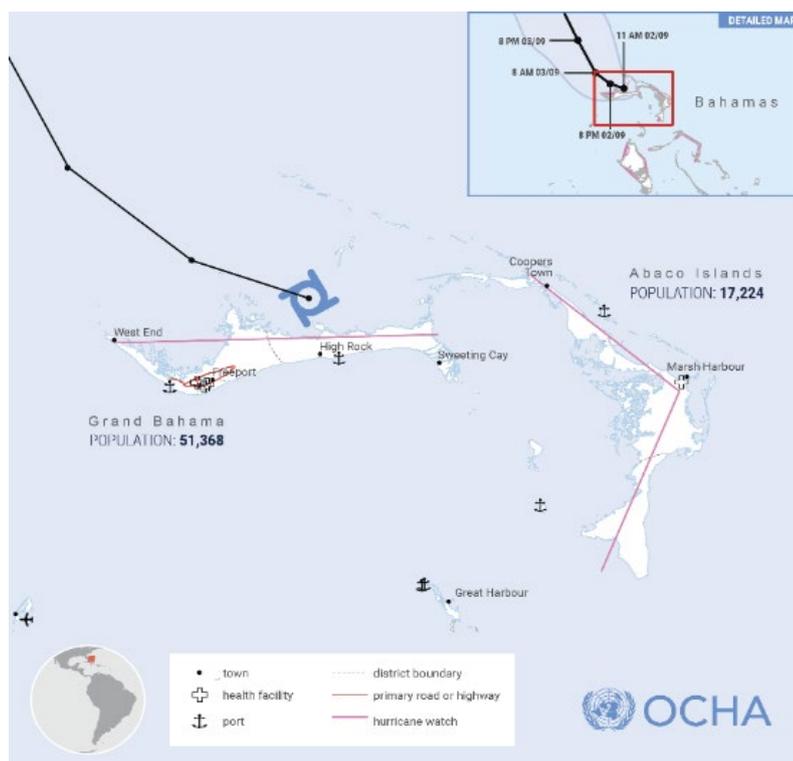


This report is produced in collaboration with humanitarian partners. Information is preliminary, based on secondary data analysis and initial calculations. It is subject to change based on assessments. The update will be produced within the next 24 to 36 hours, depending on the information available from impacted areas.

MAIN POINTS

- Hurricane Dorian made landfall over northwest Bahamas on 1 September as the strongest hurricane in Bahamas' history.
- Dorian is currently moving westward over Grand Bahama at approximately 1 mph, practically stalling over the island and delaying the deployment of assessment teams on standby in Nassau.
- The Prime Minister of the Bahamas has reported that five individuals have been confirmed killed as a result of Hurricane Dorian.
- Pre-impact projections based on available data suggest urgent needs in water, food, shelter and early recovery. However, many of these projections are subject to post-impact verification once the Government issues an all-clear.



Source: OCHA ROLAC based information from Bahamas census and NOAA
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

At 12:45pm EST 1 September, Dorian made landfall as a category 5 hurricane on Elbow Cay in the Abacos (pop. 17,200) with windspeeds of 185mph. As of 2 September, 2:00pm EST, Dorian is located over Grand Bahama (pop. 51,000) and moving at a slow speed of approximately 1mph, slowing down from its previous speed of 5-7mph, and featuring life-threatening storm surge of 18-23 feet above normal tide levels. Dorian is now the strongest hurricane on record for the Bahamas and has tied a record for the strongest Atlantic hurricane landfall.

Unconfirmed media reports from Abaco indicate badly damaged roofing and downed power lines, with some roads all but impassable. Flooding in Abaco is believed to have contaminated wells with saltwater. Data from the Pacific Disaster Center shows a potential need of 222,000 liters of water per day. North Abaco Minister of Parliament Darren Henfield reports that Abaco has suffered catastrophic damage and that there are casualties which have yet to be confirmed. Unconfirmed media reports also say that the Power and Light office in Abaco was flattened.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) indicates that there are reports of massive flooding in Grand Bahama as well. The Grand Bahama International Airport is said to be underwater. The Bahamian Defense Force was dispatched to rescue people in East Grand Bahama.

According to IFRC reports, there has been extensive damage to housing and buildings that has left many without adequate shelter, with as many as 13,000 home damaged or destroyed.

Between Abaco and Grand Bahama, the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) estimates some 76,000 people exposed to damaging winds, further estimating that of this population, around 22 per cent are children under 15, around 71 per cent are people between 15-64 years old and around eight per cent are over 64 years old. These estimations are subject to change after post-impact verification

Projected impacts from teams in Bahamas suggest that water will be a priority need due to the state of water supply system and the strong likelihood of saltwater intrusion brought on by storm surge and flooding. Severe impact to communications, power and transportation are also projected.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE

At Bahamas' request, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) assembled two Rapid Needs Assessment Teams (RNAT) who began arriving in Nassau, Bahamas on 31 August. The teams remain on standby to deploy to Abaco and Grand Bahamas once the all-clear status has been given by the Government. Given Dorian's slow movement, this all-clear may not come until 4 September. Until RNAT teams are able to deploy, it is difficult to gauge the exact scope of the needs after Dorian clears.

The RNATs consist of 18 people from CDEMA Participating States, Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), PAHO, Port Managers Association of the Caribbean (PMAC), the private sector, OCHA and WFP.

The CDEMA lead in Bahamas has already liaised with NEMA regarding needs. NEMA is already developing a matrix of anticipated needs to be shared with partners imminently. Bahamas indicates that national actors are in place and ready to respond, and that international assistance will be used to fill response gaps where needed.

IFRC, who are also in Bahamas, have disbursed some US\$250,000 emergency funding from their Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and are working to expand to an emergency appeal for some \$1.5 million.

In response to a direct request from the Government of the Bahamas to the US Embassy in Nassau, USAID/OFDA is providing plastic sheeting, water containers and hygiene kits, with more to come.

SHELTER

- Using UNITAR/UNOSAT projections on exposed populations, there may be some **3,600** families in need of shelter in Abaco and **11,431** families in need of shelter in Grand Bahama (*information subject to post-impact verification*).
- Abaco and Grand Bahama may require emergency roofing kit for 3,600 and 11,431 families, respectively, including tarpaulins and other as-yet undetermined supplies (*information subject to post-impact verification*).

WASH

- Based on preliminary analysis by NEMA, with RNAT support, water will be a priority need. Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) estimates that there will be a need for some 76,278 gallons of water per day (*information subject to post-impact verification*).

FOOD SECURITY

- Based on early, preliminary calculations, Abaco may require food for 14,500 people, Grand Bahama for 45,700 people (*information subject to post-impact verification*).
- NEMA indicates they have capacity to begin packaging food supplies in Nassau and then deliver to affected areas, which they project to be all of Abaco and most of Grand Bahama.

LOGISTICS

- Marsh Harbor (Abaco) is the main entry point for access and distribution of supplies on Abaco. Given its location on Dorian's path, NEMA acknowledges they may have to find other points of access until Marsh Harbor can take ships again, depending on the level of impact.
- Airport access will be determined after rapid assessments.
- The British Royal Navy auxiliary aid ship RFA *Mounts Bay* is expected to arrive in the Bahamas at 11:00pm 2 September available to support response efforts as and if requested by the authorities. A ship from the Netherlands Navy is also understood to be in the area standing by for possible support requests.

HEALTH

- NEMA medical authorities indicate they are still assessing the need for medical supplies.
- PAHO is monitoring the situation for potential needs for Emergency Medical Teams to deploy.

EDUCATION

- Schools in New Providence, Abaco, Grand Bahama, Bimini, Eleuthera, Cat Cay and the Berry Islands are closed until further notice.

EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- WFP telecommunications support is already present in Bahamas. Télécoms Sans Frontières LAC will deploy to Bahamas with satellite connectivity equipment.

Useful links

Hurricane Dorian Contact list - <https://bit.ly/2kqJHjU>

Sector Leads - <https://bit.ly/2jYUOR9>

Background on the crisis

At 12:45pm EST 1 September, Dorian made landfall as a category 5 hurricane in Bahamas with wind speeds in excess of 185mph, lashing the Bahamian islands of Abaco (pop 17,200) and Grand Bahama (pop. 51,000). Since striking the Bahamas, Dorian's travelling speed slowed to 1mph over Grand Bahama, prolonging the island's exposure to life-threatening storm surge of 18-23 feet above normal tide levels. Dorian is now the strongest hurricane on record for the Bahamas and has tied a record for the strongest Atlantic hurricane landfall. Unconfirmed media reports cite catastrophic conditions across Abaco and Grand Bahama, with damaged roofing, downed power lines, flooding and an unconfirmed number of casualties. Bahamas' National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is working with partners such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), UN agencies and others in calculating projected needs based on secondary data analysis and initial calculations, which is subject to change based on assessments once teams are able to deploy.

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For more information, please visit www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int

Please provide any feedback to ocha-rolac@un.org

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