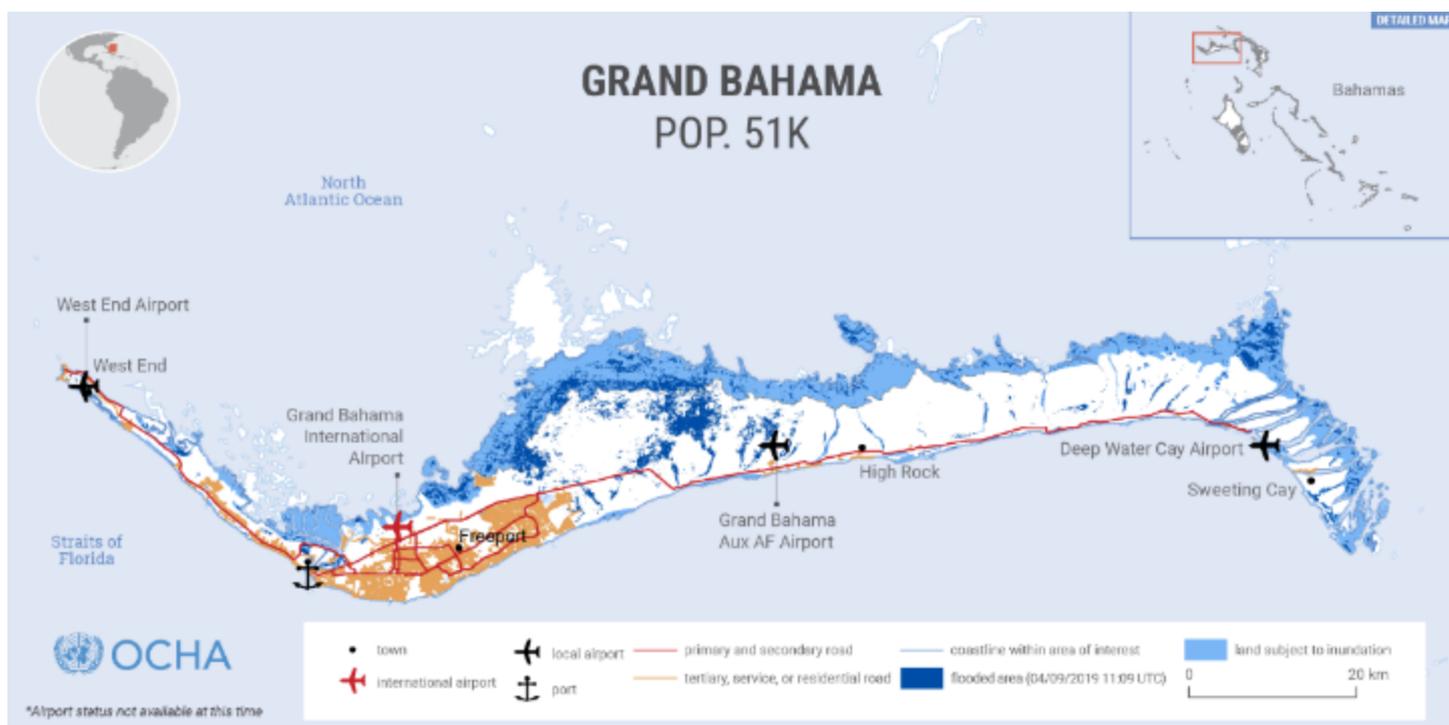


This report is produced in collaboration with humanitarian partners. Information is based on preliminary reports ahead of pending assessments and verification. The update will be produced within the next 24 to 36 hours, depending on the information available from impacted areas.

MAIN POINTS

- Dorian cleared Grand Bahama on 3 September, allowing teams in Bahamas to perform aerial reconnaissance and begin assessing the scope of the damage.
- Initial reports show severe widespread damage to housing and infrastructure across both Abaco and Grand Bahama.
- Bahamas is reporting at least seven deaths so far and are expecting this number to rise.
- Preliminary information on needs suggests that more than 60,000 people may need water and food assistance – further assessments are still pending.
- International organizations are making additional deployments of personnel and resources to support the Government and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).



Source: OCHA ROLAC based information from Bahamas census, www.gdam.com, COPERNICUS, HOTOSM

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

Dorian cleared Grand Bahama on 3 September and is now making its way along the coast of Georgia. Initial reports from Abaco and Grand Bahama suggest serious damage and critical needs for those affected. A flyover of Abaco on 3 September shows that parts of the island are devastated. There is severe damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure. The southern part of the island has suffered less devastation than the north. At least seven deaths have been reported.

The Minister of Health reports that 21 people from Abaco were brought to Princess Margaret Hospital in Nassau with a wide range of injuries, adding that Rand Hospital in Grand Bahama is currently unable to provide any medical treatment due to flooding that forced the evacuation of patients. The Minister of State for Grand Bahama reports that 50 patients from a local children's hospital were relocated.

The Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) reports most of their towers in Abaco are down. Marsh Harbor port, the main port in Abaco, is reportedly under water. In Grand Bahama, roads are impassable and Fishing Hole Road Bridge, which connects West Grand Bahama and Freeport, is almost underwater, according to the Minister of State of Grand Bahama. Unconfirmed media reports cite surge of about 20 feet higher than the average roof of the homes in the Bahamas and that the Freeport airport is completely flooded.

The Government has stated that they have the capacity to supply food and water for both islands for two weeks. Supplies will be sent once the all-clear has been given.

Teams in Bahamas are beginning reconnaissance flights over Abaco and Grand Bahama to assess the scope and extent of the damage. The UK, through the Department for International Development (DFID), has deployed boats to Marsh Harbor, Abaco, as well.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE

Early impact reports

- According to the first Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT) aerial reconnaissance flight over Abaco, the Sandy Point airstrip in the south and Treasure Cay in north central Abaco appear to be viable. Marsh Harbor airport remains underwater. Elbow Cay has been destroyed.
- The RNAT aerial reconnaissance flight over Grand Bahama shows that the eastern part of the island is the most affected. The High Rock community has been practically destroyed. Roads are blocked. Although there were no large groups of people seen from above, scattered groups of people are trying to move west; however, the blocked roads impede their path. Oil spills from damaged oil tanks were spotted as well. The western part of the island, where Freeport is located, was not as badly damaged. Some areas in the west in Freeport are flooded, including an airport. There are cars and people moving in the streets.

Response actions - National

- NEMA is expressing that they are currently focused on lifesaving response efforts, prioritizing search and rescue and recovery.
- The Bahamas Defense Force have been doing missions to Abaco, supporting lifesaving operations that have been taking place.
- The Government of Bahamas has issued guidance on financial contributions, making it clear that any external relief should be provided in cash where possible to avoid additional logistics burdens for NEMA and CDEMA. Instructions for providing relief donations are available here: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/latin-america-and-caribbean/document/bahamas-wires-incoming-instructions>

Response actions – bilateral assistance

- The United States Coast Guard evacuated 61 people from northern Bahamas in two days. The US has also provided four helicopters to support rescue operations.
- USAID will provide a 17-man DART Team; 450 rolls of plastic sheeting; 600 hygiene kits with buckets; 4 chain saw sets; 1200 10L collapsible water containers.
- The Government of the United Kingdom is providing rapid deployment teams, with NFIs, jerry cans, hygiene kits, and shelter kits loaded onto the RFA Mounts Bay, which arrived on 2 September. Additionally, the UK has supplies in Antigua and is willing to provide secondments to international organizations, funding through UN/Red Cross or NGOs, as well as search and rescue and emergency medical teams.

Response actions – international assistance

- United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, was in the Bahamas on 4 September, where he met with H.E. Prime Minister Hubert Minnis to discuss UN support to the government-led response and to express the United Nations' solidarity with the people and Government of the Bahamas.
- The UN Resident Coordinator a.i. for Jamaica, whose area of responsibility includes the Bahamas, arrived in Nassau on 3 September, accompanied by the OCHA Head of Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- According to CDEMA, there is a CARICOM Secretariat mission tentatively set for 5 September that would consist of the CARICOM Secretary-General, the CDEMA Executive Director, the RSS Executive Director, among others.
- IFRC is looking into sourcing extra assessment staff for the field and have expressed a willingness to consolidate assessment efforts with teams already in place. IFRC launched an international appeal of 3.2 million Swiss francs (US\$3.2 million) to reach 5,000 families, with the Swiss Red Cross providing \$200,000 to the Bahamas Red Cross to support 200 families. IFRC had previously released 500,000 Swiss francs (\$508,181.50) from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to reach 5,000 families.
- ECHO has activated the European Civil Protection Mechanism EUCPM (EU experts on different specialized fields including search and rescue, WASH, relief and in-kind support) available upon national or UN request. Additionally, they have made Copernicus Emergency Mapping services available and are looking into emergency funding tools.

Sector information

LOGISTICS

- ICAO information indicates that Sandy Point Airport on the southern tip of Abaco is open. Airstrip conditions are otherwise still being verified for use to land in Abaco, if possible. NEMA indicates the airport does not have internet or communications.
- Per the Prime Minister of Bahamas, Treasure Cay airport runway is still functional – but the road to the airport is underwater.
- According to NEMA, the Marsh Harbor airport is also clear, but there is no viable road access - transportation of resources is not currently possible via ground transportation.
- The Royal Bahamas Defence Force and the Royal Bahamas Police Force are set to take food, water and supplies to Abaco and Grand Bahama via boat.
- WFP reports that as a result of discussions with CDEMA, they will equip two logistics hubs, one for each island, with mobile storage units, generators, prefab offices and lighting. They also indicate that other equipment would need to be purchased in Nassau. UNHRD in Panama will also contribute to providing supplies. WFP says this will arrive late this weekend or early next weekend.

EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- WFP reports they will provide VSats for communication and are providing USATs from Panama to support communication for the RNAT.
- ITU will provide emergency telecoms equipment based on needs identified.

HEALTH

- Health Minister Duane Sands reports that the Government is airlifting 25 doctors, nurses and other health workers to Abaco and hoped to bring in mental health workers soon.
- Preliminary reports from Grand Bahama indicates that the RAND hospital is flooded, but some parts of the hospital are still operational. Power is down and the hospital's generator is damaged. The evacuation of patients to New Providence is being evaluated.
- Some 70 patients were medically evacuated on 2 September.
- PAHO indicates that it is making seven additional deployments and have fielded multiple offers for deployment Eastern Caribbean nations. EMT monitoring on stand-by are encouraged to register with the Ministry of Health. International EMTs are advised not to mobilize until formal acceptance from the Bahamas Ministry of Health.
- UNFPA will provide RNAT and PDNA support, with sexual and gender-based health assessments as a priority.

- CARPHA is on stand-by to provide technical support for vector control, food safety and environmental safety, and risk communication.

EARLY RECOVERY

- IFRC says that more than 13,000 homes (approximately 45 per cent of homes in Grand Bahama and Abaco) are believed to be severely damaged or destroyed (*subject to post-impact verification*).
- According to CDEMA, approximately 60 per cent of homes in Marsh Harbor are damaged.
- UNDP can support assessments with a post disaster needs assessment facilitator who is currently on standby. UNDP has specialists for debris management, early recovery, recovery planning and gender and recovery on standby and is mobilizing a Cash-for-Work specialist.

SHELTER

- There are 449 people recorded in nine shelters in Great Abaco and 346 people in 17 shelters in Grand Bahama.
- IOM is set to provide an emergency coordinator.

FOOD SECURITY

- WFP estimates that more than 60,000 people in northwest Bahamas will need food support (45,700 in Grand Bahama, 14,500 in Abaco).
- The RFA *Mounts Bay* delivered food to Abaco on 3 September.
- Additional food will be provided by NEMA on 4 September.
- FAO is set to provide assessment experts in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

WASH

- IFRC estimates that some 62,000 people will need access to clean drinking water.
- Given the reported level of flooding, NEMA confirms that water supply and water pumps are a critical priority.
- UNICEF is contributing a WASH emergency response team.

EDUCATION

- UNICEF Jamaica will provide up to 400 emergency recreation kits.

Useful links - <https://bit.ly/2kprPGi>

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 are beginning to deploy to Abaco and Grand Bahama to evaluate the scope of the damage and needs of the people affected.

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