

# HURRICANE MATTHEW

SITUATION REPORT No. 2  
as of 4 October 2016 (1700 hours EST)



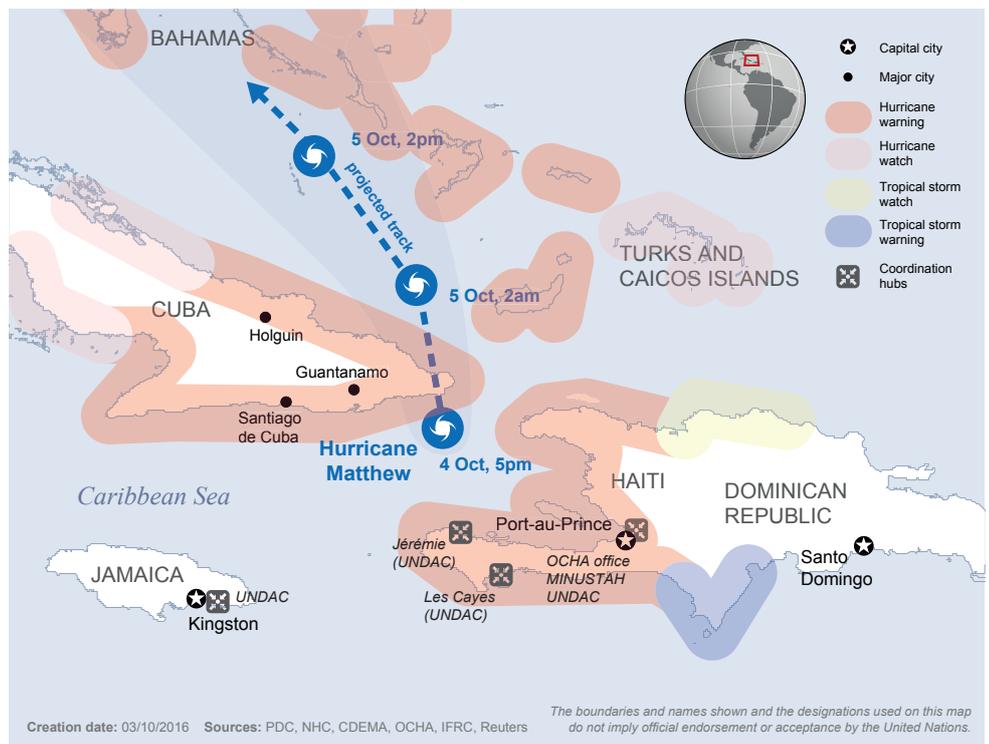
# OCHA



This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners and with inputs from official institutions. It covers the period from 3 to 4 October 2016 at 17:00 hours. The next report will be published on 5 October 2016.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **In Haiti**, torrential rains, floods and strong winds are reported. The Government has issued a Red alert and officially requested the assistance of the UN and its support mechanisms. Evacuations have begun. The main bridge connecting Port-au-Prince with southern departments has collapsed.
- **In Cuba**, the Government activated the "cyclonic alarm" in six provinces of the east for Hurricane Matthew, which is expected to hit the area this evening.
- UN agencies, NGOs and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are prepared to bring relief to potentially affected countries. They have mobilized experts to support national humanitarian teams and pre-positioned stocks.
- OCHA and United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams are preparing initial rapid assessments in Haiti and Jamaica.



Creation date: 03/10/2016 Sources: PDC, NHC, CDEMA, OCHA, IFRC, Reuters  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

### HAITI

 **350,000**  
PEOPLE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE\*

 **1,300**  
EMERGENCY SHELTERS

\* Source: Directorate of Civil Protection

### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

 **17,751**  
PEOPLE EVACUATED TO RELATIVES' HOMES

### CUBA

 **319,000**  
PEOPLE EVACUATED AS A PRECAUTION

### COLOMBIA

 **99,000**  
PEOPLE AFFECTED

[www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org)

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives

## Overview

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As of 1100 EST on Tuesday 4 October, Matthew is located 18.9° N and 74.3° W, some 60 km north-east of Tiburon (Haiti) and 145 km south of the eastern tip of Cuba. It is moving north at 17 km/h, with maximum sustained winds of 230 km/h, according to the National Hurricane Center (NOAA). Hurricane warnings are still in effect for Haiti and Cuba (provinces of Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, Holguín, Granma and Las Tunas).

The hurricane is expected to turn to the north-west by Wednesday, meaning it is expected to move over the south-eastern and central Bahamas on Tuesday night and early Wednesday. The north-western Bahamas will most likely be affected on Wednesday night. A hurricane warning has been issued for south-eastern Bahamas (Inaguas, Mayaguana, Acklins, Crooked Island, Long Cay and Ragged Island), central Bahamas (Long Island, Exuma, Rum Cay, San Salvador and Cat Island) and north-western Bahamas (Abacos, Andros Island, Berry Islands, Bimini, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama Island and New Providence).

Hurricane conditions are now present in south-western Haiti and will reach Cuba later today. Tropical storms will affect Dominican Republic and Turks & Caicos today. Of primary concern are potentially catastrophic impacts in Haiti, including wave heights of greater than 16 metres off its southern peninsula and a storm surge of 7 to 10 feet on the south coast. Matthew is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 15 to 25 inches over southern Haiti and south-western Dominican Republic, with possible isolated maximum amounts of 40 inches. High waves combined with excessive rainfall, hurricane-force winds and storm surges could cause extensive damage, including flooding and landslides in southern and north-western Haiti, the south-western Dominican Republic and eastern Cuba. An additional high storm surge of 4 to 5 m in western Bahamas and 5 to 6 m in northern Bahamas might create dangerous conditions for the flat islands.

The Government of Jamaica has discontinued the tropical-storm warning.

## Regional Humanitarian Actions

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- The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) continues dialogue with international and national partners, mainly OCHA and ECHO, to integrate its support with other actors. It is evaluating possible logistics support for the Bahamas and mobilizing funds to support Haiti.
- UN agencies and international NGOs are prepared to bring relief to affected countries. They have mobilized experts to support national humanitarian teams and pre-positioned stocks, such as non-food items (NFIs).
- The regional Logistics Group, led by the World Food Programme, has been activated. Additional regional cluster capacity is on standby.
- The PAHO/WHO Regional Response Team has been activated and mobilized to four countries to support technical activities.
- IFRC is preparing an emergency appeal for Haiti and distributing materials to control epidemics (Zika, chikungunya, dengue) and psychosocial support materials (flyers, posters, brochures, etc.).
- Plan International has US\$250,000 for the hurricane response during the first phase. This can include actions in health, WASH, NFIs, child protection and education in emergencies.

## National Humanitarian Actions

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The National Emergency Operations Centres (COE) are active in several Caribbean countries. They remain on alert in ports and marinas to prevent human and material losses.

### Haiti

The Government officially requested the assistance of the UN system and its support mechanisms, as well as the assistance of the bilateral and multilateral partners and non-governmental organizations.

The airport is scheduled to be closed until Wednesday morning, depending on situation development. Schools have been closed. All vehicle movements are restricted to 6 a.m. on Wednesday 5 October.

Torrential rains are reported, especially in the departments of Grand'Anse, Nippes, Sud and Sud-Est. There are reports that the towns of Jérémie, Miragoane, Les Cayes and Jacmel have been affected. All four departments are experiencing strong winds and heavy rains, with trees falling and heavy flooding affecting many households and agricultural fields. The hurricane's centre is located 50 km south of Grand'Anse department, 80 km south-east of Les Cayes and 230 km south-east of Port-au-Prince.

In the South, the sea remains agitated, especially around the coastal municipalities. Assessments are yet possible due to dangerous weather conditions.

In Port-au-Prince, winds and rain are intensifying. The Digicel mobile network is interrupted in many affected areas, especially in Les Cayes and Jeremie. A general breakdown of communication is anticipated.

The Electricity of Haiti announced that the water flow of the Péligre dam has been increased. Local residents downstream of the Artibonite River, especially those living near Saint-Marc and Grande Saline, are on alert for potential flooding.

Many coastal towns are partly flooded by sea; 11 towns on the south are already reported flooded on the southern coast.

National elections are scheduled to be held on Sunday 9 October (27 candidates), further adding to the challenge and reducing disaster response assets from MINUSTAH and the police.

UNDAC and OCHA will deploy coordination hubs in Jeremie and Les Cayes. USAID/OFDA has a support module deployed and additional support is being provided by TSF.

The Haiti Red Cross Society is reinforcing its presence to prepare 3,000 volunteers in Grand Anse, southern district and Nippes. The American Red Cross has three teams in North, South and West.

The European Commission is providing 255,000 EUR (\$285,000) to fund initial humanitarian assistance for those most affected people in Haiti.

## Health

An outbreak of cholera was recently reported in Randel by the departmental committee in charge of the coordination of emergency (five deaths in the community and one hospitalized death). PAHO/WHO in Haiti declared an emergency and deployed four experts in logistics, health coordination and Emergency Medical Teams.

## Food Security

WFP has enough emergency food pre-positioned to feed up to 300,000 people for a month.

Stockpiled at key locations across Haiti, these supplies can reach remote areas swiftly, even if roads are washed out or blocked. High-energy biscuits will be flown from Dubai to Miami for deployment.

## Shelter and non-food items

IOM issued alerts concerning the 55,000 IDPs in temporary shelters in the Port-au-Prince area. IOM is on standby with camp coordination and shelter capacity and to airlift NFIs, weather permitting.

Relief agencies have pre-deployed stocks in the southern district, Grand' Anse, as well as other districts. Needs may well exceed available relief supplies.

If you have any relevant information, please e-mail: [undac\\_haiti@undac.org](mailto:undac_haiti@undac.org)

Sources: OCHA Haiti, CDEMA, Haiti Libre, redhum.org, REDLAC members, Ministère de la planification et de la coopération externe.

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## Dominican Republic

The National Emergency Operation Center (COE) issued a Red Alert in 19 provinces, a Yellow Alert in six provinces, and six more in prevention of urban and rural flooding and landslides. Schools were closed in 10 provinces. Four people have been killed (one adult, three children) in Santo Domingo Province. A total of 202 houses have been affected, two were destroyed, and 17,751 people were evacuated to relatives' and friends'

houses in the province. There are 794 people in official shelters (51 in Pedernales Province, 450 in San Juan de la Maguana Province, 118 in Santiago Rodriguez Province and 176 in Peravia Province).

The Civil Aviation suspended operations until tomorrow (5 October), except for aircraft engaged in search-and-rescue efforts. The Ministry of Health reinforced emergency health care in provincial and municipalities committees.

The Water and Sanitation Group, chaired by the Ministry of Health, is taking preventive action in the provinces under Red Alert. Equipment and technical human resources from the Dominican Red Cross, Oxfam were mobilizing to Pedernales, Elias Piñas, San José de Ocoa and Djajabón provinces.

Water-treatment plants have been pre-positioned in Pedernales, Elias Pina, Djajabon and San Jose de Ocoa. Water trucks are available for emergency water supply to affected people.

FAO is gathering information from its food security project in San Juan, Monstecristi, Elias Piña and Dajabon. IOM has advised that so far, no movements are registered on the border provinces of Jimani and Dajabon.

Sources: OCHA Dominican Republic, COE Government of Dominican Republic, UNDAC, IOM

## Jamaica

The country is now expected to be outside the range of hurricane-force winds associated with Hurricane Matthew. The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management reports that the National Emergency Operations Centre has scaled down activities to Level 1 Activation. The Office of Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management is also recommending a return to routine operations where possible.

No estimations of damages are yet available, but the Kingston area stayed dry and quiet overnight.

- The public transportation system resumed a limited service today.
- All shelters will begin scaling down operations today, depending on conditions in their respected areas.
- All ministries, departments and agencies will reopen today.
- Businesses are encouraged to follow through on their Business Continuity Plans.
- The Minister of Education will advise when schools will resume.
- The Jamaica Customs Agency, Bank of Jamaica and Norman Manley international Airport will resume services today.

The Mayor of Mandeville, Brenda Ramsay, said 107 residents, including 22 street people, were in shelters across the parish yesterday. She said that more than 70 shelters had been activated. Some residents have decided to seek accommodation in shelters because of leaking roofs in their homes. ODPEM will continue to monitor the situation.

Seven UNDAC team members (including two experts on maps and one Information Assistant) are deployed in the capital, Kingston. PAHO/WHO is mobilizing a four-expert team to Jamaica. It reports about 83 potential chemical risks in flooded areas and 227 in potential landslip areas. (Source: ODPEM)

Sources: [NEOC Jamaica](#)

If you have any relevant information, please e-mail: [UNDAC\\_jamaica@undac.org](mailto:UNDAC_jamaica@undac.org)

## Bahamas

Emergencies mechanisms in south Bahamas have been fully activated. Evacuation of the elderly and people with disabilities is ongoing in south Bahamas. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) continues to hold pre-strike meetings with its stakeholders to update their operational plan, and it has commenced discussions with the CDEMA CU on possible support from the RRM if needed. NEMA is working closely with the National Meteorological Services to monitor the situation.

PAHO/WHO in the Bahamas declared an emergency for 15 days. Three experts have been deployed (WASH, health coordination, damage and needs assessment) and are assessing clinics.

Sources: UNDAC, PAHO/WHO

## Cuba

The Government activated the “cyclonic alarm” in six provinces of the east. The hurricane is expected to hit the zone today with strong winds and rains. Provinces under alert are Camagüey, Las Tunas, Holguín, Granma, Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo.

Some 900,000 people are being evacuated in east Cuba. More than 317,000 people have already been sheltered in designated protection centres.

The Head of State has asked the population to contribute to all prevention efforts and to remain calm, following all local indications from Civil Defense. Multiple messages from Civil Defense are being broadcasted constantly through local and national media and featured in national print media.

OCHA is deploying one expert to support the UN Resident Coordinator/Country Team in Cuba, to be based in Havana.

Sources: *Defensa Civil, La Prensa, UN system*

## Colombia

The National Risk Management Unit (UNGRD) has made available machinery to clean and remove debris in roads and houses, as well as 13 tanker trucks to distribute potable water to the affected municipalities. The National Crisis Room works with the SNGRD to prepare damage assessment and needs analysis. Restriction remains for access to beaches and ships along the Caribbean coast of Colombia due to strong winds. There are 99,000 people affected (18,000 families, according to UNGRD). The most affected departments are Magdalena, Magdalena, Bolívar, Atlántico, Guajira and Sucre. No deaths or injuries have been reported.

Sources: *UNGRD*

## Turks and Caicos

All schools and Government businesses have been closed until further notice. Shelters opened from 3 October on a staggered basis as needed. The NEOC and district EOCs were activated. All response agencies remain on alert.

The Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies will continue to monitor the situation and update its operational plans. A press conference was held to inform the public of the current status of the hurricane and the national preparedness and response plans.

## Coordination

- OCHA Haiti is working on the digital platform [haiti.humanitarianresponse.info](http://haiti.humanitarianresponse.info) as one-stop source of data, information and actions by national and international entities.
- OCHA ROLAC continues its contact with regional humanitarian partners (REDLAC) to share information about deployments and pre-positioning of stocks at the regional logistic hub.
- A REDLAC meeting was held on Tuesday 4 October in Panama. Regional deployments and resources mobilized to countries are being identified. Partners are encouraged to send information about their staff/equipment deployments to: [ocha-rolac@un.org](mailto:ocha-rolac@un.org)

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org).

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