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# Information Bulletin

## Dominica: Hurricane Maria

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Information Bulletin no. 2</b>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 25 September 2017
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<b>Red Cross Movement actors currently involved in the operation:</b> The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross Society, Columbian Red Cross Society, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Dominica Red Cross Society (DRCS), Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross-PIRAC (Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean), New Zealand Red Cross, Red Cross Society of Panama, Suriname Red Cross the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	
<b>N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation:</b> Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), United Nations system agencies (United National Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund [UNICEF], World Food Programme [WFP], Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO], the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [UN-OCHA], International Organization for Migration [IOM]), Directorate General (DG)-European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), Pan American Health Organization [PAHO], World Health Organization (WHO), government of affected countries, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/ Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), among others.	

*This bulletin is being issued for information only; it reflects the current situation and details available at this time.*

## The situation

Hurricane Maria impacted Dominica on 18 September 2017 as a Category 5 hurricane, with sustained winds of up to 250 km per hour, causing great devastation to the entire island; the storm impacted 100 per cent of Dominica’s 73,000 inhabitants (please see the annex for maps of damage to the island and Maria’s path).



**A Field Assessment Coordination Team meeting to discuss the situation in Dominica. Source: IFRC**



## Dominica

The **Dominica Red Cross Society** has conducted the following actions:

- The DRCS actively responded to the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and had mobilized emergency supplies for its response from Saint Martin.
- In preparation for the hurricane, the DRCS shared stay safe messages with the population through its social media platforms.

The **DRCS is coordinating closely with the government and other responding humanitarian organizations**

Damage and needs	Comments
<p><b>Damage:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant damage to housing stock (98% roof damage, 50% of housing frames are damaged)</li> <li>• 15 confirmed deaths, and 16 people are missing</li> <li>• Telecommunications system severely damaged with text messaging available through Digicel and Flow; however, the communication sector was partly up and running as of 22 September 2017,</li> <li>• Canefield Airport: Runway pavement clean with no apparent defects; Being utilized for emergency flights; no electrical power; Telecommunications are not operational but temporary communication in place; Roofs of air control tower, air terminal building and firehall station severely damaged</li> <li>• Douglas Charles Airport: Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority has received certification to operate during the daytime; Backup generators working and providing power to critical equipment. Meteorological station severely damaged and requires replacement; Telecommunication not operational; Roof of air control tower and air terminal building damaged</li> <li>• Port at Woodbridge is open and secure</li> <li>• 143 temporary collective centres are open; the number of people currently seeking shelter in them is unknown.</li> <li>• Road access: Roseau to Portsmouth the road is now accessible; North East – Road from Portsmouth to Marigot is open; North bound – Road from Portsmouth to Capucine is open; South bound – Road from Roseau to Soufriere is receiving attention.</li> <li>• Bridges: West Coast – Bailey bridges in Coulibistre and Macoutherie are down; vehicles will be able to pass once the water levels in the river are low.</li> <li>• The Princess Margaret Hospital is damaged; this is the country's main hospital with 800 beds and a trauma unit.</li> <li>• Many houses have lost their roofs, and damages to roads and bridges make access difficult.</li> <li>• The Dominican Red Crescent Society's headquarters' building is damaged, and a large amount of equipment was destroyed in the hurricane such as laptops</li> <li>• 100% agriculture is destroyed, and there is severe damage to farm housing, irrigation infrastructure, feeder roads, as well as crop and livestock production, in addition to forests reserves and coastal fishery.</li> <li>• There are disruptions to power and water supplies throughout the island<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• The meteorological station is also severely damaged, and telecommunication is not operational<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Needs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for water is critical, water pumping and purifying is among the most urgent actions.</li> <li>• The need for shelter is great, especially for shelter recovery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local capacities to meet mental health needs of the affected population need to be strengthened.</li> <li>• Before Maria struck the island, Dominica sent tarpaulins, water and other relief supplies to the Irma-impacted countries, which decreased its available local stock</li> <li>• Some areas are of particular concern due to their low housing stock, low income status of the affected communities and/or the communities' isolation due to damaged roads</li> <li>• DFID is committing 5 million British pounds (GBP) for the response in Dominica on top of the GBP 57 million already committed for the region</li> <li>• Curfew in place from 4:00pm to 8:00am daily</li> <li>• Relief efforts are being coordinated through the Community Disaster Committees or Village Councils with functioning Disaster Committees</li> <li>• Over 90 CDEMA personnel and specialists have been deployed on regional response teams to Dominica since 19 September 2017</li> <li>• CDEMA continues to monitor Amateur Radio communications to capture information from the Amateur Radio Association in Dominica</li> <li>• CDEMA Worked closely with the Community Disaster Communities or Village Councils with functioning Disaster Committees in the Scotts Head, Soufriere and Pointe Michel to provide disaster relief supplies<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> CDEMA Hurricane Maria Situation Report #3: As of 9:00pm AST on September 24, 2017

<sup>2</sup> European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Report- 25 September 2017

<sup>3</sup> IBID.

- Preliminary assessments and information from CDEMA highlight priority needs in terms of relief, shelter, telecommunications and access to affected areas.
- The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) identifies as a priority the need to maintain sanitary conditions, particularly in collective centres, to prevent the increase of vector and water-borne diseases, as well as skin related diseases.
- The affected communities are also in need of timely, accurate and trusted life-saving and life-enhancing information to reduce the factors contributing to their vulnerability and suffering and ultimately stay healthy and safe.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### French Red Cross actions:

- The French Red Cross' overseas branch in Martinique is sending 900 tarps and 1,500 blankets

### IFRC actions:

- Preliminary appeal was launched on 21 September for 1.6 million Swiss francs (CHF) to assist 1,000 families. The implementation period will be one year, and the proposed areas of intervention are Health and care, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion, Shelter Support including non-food items (NFIs), Restoring Family Links, disaster risk reduction and National Society Capacity building.
- Various meetings have been held, including briefings with DRCS, coordination meetings with government and international partners and preliminary discussions with CDEMA focal points. The possibility of support for mobile data collection to advance an ongoing Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) is being investigated.
- A [Dashboard](#) for Hurricane Maria has been developed
- The IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) will send 500 family kits from its warehouse in Panama, and they will arrive by mid-week; each kit contains the following: 2 tarpaulins, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, shelter tool kits, 2 long-lasting insecticide treated [mosquito] nets (LLITNs), 2 jerry cans, 1 bucket and 2 blankets.
- Participated in Health emergency operations centre (EOC) meeting to determine the areas of greatest need

Different regional and global surge tools have been deployed to Dominica, including:

- Head of Operations
- FACT team composed of:
  - Communications
  - Shelter
  - Health
  - Information management (IM)
  - Information technology and telecommunications (ITT)
  - Cash transfer programmer (CTP)
  - Logistics
- Emergency Response Units (ERUs)
  - Logistics
    - 1 team leader (TL)
    - 1 Logs
    - 1 Warehouse
    - 1 Systems
  - Base Camp
    - 1 TL for assessment
  - ITT
    - 1 TL for assessment
  - Relief
    - 1 TL for assessment

Additionally, 1 National Society /CDEMA Liaison has been deployed

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## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## Annex



