



This report is produced by the UN in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the first period from 18 to 25 September, 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 28 September 2017.

Highlights

- Hurricane Maria destroyed Dominica's agriculture, compromising food security and livelihoods of 25 per cent of the country's workforce.
- Urgent needs in food, water, shelter and logistics have been identified for priority response.
- Despite tremendous access constraints, various aid organizations have swung into action to provide relief.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is conducting flights to Dominica from Antigua for humanitarian aid workers.
- The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) has launched an appeal for about \$1.65 million to provide urgent assistance to 5,000 people.



The aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Dominica / Source: Audrey Janvier/OCHA

56,890

Affected people

Source CDEMA

15 dead

Source: CDEMA

100%

crops destroyed

Source: Dominica Government

25%

of Dominica's workforce depend on agriculture

All 53

Health facilities have been affected

Source: PAHO

19,744

children affected by Maria

Source: UNICEF

Situation Overview

Category 5, Hurricane Maria pounded Dominica on 18 September destroying the country's power and water supply lines, agriculture, telecommunications, damaged health centres, bridges, blocked the roadways with landslides and brought life in the island to a stand-still.

Restoration of power, water supply and provision of food and shelter have been identified as priority areas for humanitarian response. Immediate food assistance is needed to support the affected population, especially in remote areas, before roads and markets open again, according to the World Food Programme (WFP).

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that Hurricane Maria has totally decimated Dominica's agricultural sector directly impacting income, food and nutrition security of a large percentage of the island's population. Agriculture not only employs 25 per cent of Dominica's work force, over the past five years, the sector contributed on average 15 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

+ For more information, see "background on the crisis" at the end of the report

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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

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports that urgent needs have been identified for 14,000 affected families, which include tarpaulins, food and water supplies, water purification and hygiene kits, blankets and medical supplies.

The entire country and critical health facilities have been impacted by the lack of power and running water. The blood bank is not operational. The Government of Canada has provided the use of vessels to support relief efforts and help with the transport of critical care patients.

Despite the enormous difficulties faced by the humanitarian community and movement restrictions in place because of the lack of power (which presents a security challenge), aid organizations have swung into action. Countries not only in the region such as Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Venezuela have responded but also the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency has rallied behind Dominica with relief supplies of food, medicine and much-needed generators.

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) led the initial response with supplies of food and non-food items. Spontaneous donations from private citizens have also begun arriving in shipments.

Members of the private sector such as Ericsson with support from the Luxembourg Government have stepped in to assist WFP in setting up emergency telecommunications networks in critical centres. The country's telecommunication system has been badly affected, making coordination of the relief effort and communication with affected communities difficult.

Military troops from various countries have arrived in the country and are providing support to the humanitarian community in distributing relief supplies.

Dominica is currently accessible via Canefield Airport, which is being used for emergency flights with temporary emergency telecommunications, and the sea port at Woodbridge. The supply of fuel for transport (vehicles and airplanes) is a huge constraint. In spite of the problems, UNHAS has begun operating flights to Dominica for aid workers, who are working under rather difficult conditions.

Lack of storage facilities for incoming supplies is another major concern. In response, WFP is setting up mobile storage units.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is supporting CDEMA on its initial response strategy and coordinating a flash appeal to fund the aid community's response to Dominica.

To support the Dominica Red Cross Society, deliver urgent assistance to 5,000 people for a year, the IFRC launched an appeal for about \$1.6 million.

Funding

IFRC has launched an emergency appeal for CHF1,6m (\$1,65m) to support the Dominica Red Cross Society to deliver assistance to some 5,000 people for a year. In the short-term, this response will focus on health, WASH, shelter and cash transfer programming while providing for disaster risk reduction activities over a longer term.

OCHA is working on the details of a flash appeal to fund the humanitarian community's response to Dominica.

UNDP has allocated \$50,000 in emergency funds to support assessments, coordination and recovery planning.

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

Humanitarian Response

CDEMA, which is leading the response has deployed more than 90 personnel and specialists to Dominica since September 19.

Various UN agencies and humanitarian partners have deployed teams to assess the situation in Dominica and have begun distributing aid. Military troops from several countries are supporting the aid response especially in the delivery of food, water, non-food items and shelter items.

Military forces from Canada, France, and the Netherlands are supporting the delivery of food and water to affected people while troops from Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago support the security of vital access points such as airports and seaports. PAHO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), WFP, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and IFRC have deployed personnel and resources in Dominica. Staff from more UN agencies and humanitarian partners are expected to arrive in the coming days.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Response:

- On 21 September, IOM surge capacity was deployed to Dominica and conducted initial assessments on damages and needs with the support of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).
- On 22 September, IOM published a map and list of the emergency shelter locations on Dominica, drawn from a list available on the media as part of emergency preparedness before Maria on 5 September 2017. Teams will work to verify and update the list in the hurricane's aftermath.
- IOM in close coordination with the Government focal point for Shelter are conducting in-land assessment of shelters on 25 September and in coastal areas with PAHO.
- DTM Site assessments that are starting today by boat and by road together with PAHO, based on the previously published lists of evacuation centers. Lack of access into the interior and coastal communities beyond Roseau and Melville have hampered assessments and remains a concern, particularly for Portsmouth and communities in the interior and on the eastern coast.
- Mapping of priority areas for distributions by helicopter and by road.

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Food Security

Needs:

- All crops grown in the island were destroyed both annual and perennial. FAO says, according to the information received from the Director of Agriculture the following crops were the most affected:

Annual Crops: Tubers (sweet potatoes, white potatoes and yam) Vegetable (Cucumbers, lettuce, green beans, carrots, cabbages, onions, beans and tomatoes)

Perennial Crops: Banana, coconuts, citrus fruits, mangoes, guavas, papaya, avocado, coffee and cocoa.

- The crops mentioned are both used for export and internal consumption. The most important crops for export are banana and tubers and to less extent some vegetables.
- There has been severe damage to farm housing, irrigation infrastructure, feeder roads, as well as crop and livestock production in addition to forests reserves and coastal fishery.
- Immediate food assistance is needed to support the affected population, especially in remote locations, before roads and markets open again.
- Loss of unconfirmed numbers of cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, pigs and other livestock.
- There has been severe damage to farm housing, irrigation infrastructure, feeder roads, as well as crop and livestock production in addition to forests reserves and coastal fishery.
- Agricultural tools and infrastructure such as pruning shears, spades, forks, mattock, hoes, cutlasses and files, greenhouse, etc. have been also reported lost, damage and or/destroyed.

Response:

- WFP has dispatched High Energy Biscuits pre-positioned on nearby islands to cover an initial three days for roughly 9,000 people.
- WFP has deployed food security staff on assessments and they are liaising with authorities on further assistance that might be needed.
- A FAO expert will participate in a Damage Assessment Needs Analysis (DANA) led by CDEMA.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Some of the main roads and bridges are either fully or partly damaged, making food deliveries difficult, helicopters and boats needed.
- Many feeder and farm roads are impassable resulting in loss of available food for both consumption and marketing

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**Health****Needs:**

- Delivery of essential healthcare services to affected population, including continuation of care
- Supply chain system for medicines and supplies required as most health items have been destroyed or rendered unusable by the hurricane
- Restoration of regular supply of food, electricity, and running and drinking water for all 53 hospitals and health centers
- Cold chain will need to be restored to ensure the medium- and long-term cold chain for some medicines, vaccines, and supplies
- Emergency repairs to key health facilities
- Restoration of the disease surveillance systems

Response:

- Five PAHO experts are on the ground, deployed to support health coordination, logistics, vector control, public health & disaster response, and surveillance; three additional experts will arrive on 27 September for public health, humanitarian supply management, and logistics. Over 6,500 children and adolescents, mainly in Antigua and Barbuda and Turks and Caicos are beginning to benefit from UNICEF's response in psychosocial support.
- PAHO, with the support of DFID, delivered the following emergency medicines and supplies to Princess Margaret Hospital with logistical support from the British and Dutch armed forces and the coast guard of Barbados:
 - Two generators to help power Princess Margaret Hospital;
 - 10,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts;
 - Over 300 boxes of boxes of antibiotics, 100 boxes of anti-inflammatory drugs, as well as insulin, antidiabetic drugs, antacids, sutures, bandages, and painkillers
- PAHO coordinated with the Dutch military and the Dominican Republic to evacuate 9 trauma patients from Princess Margaret Hospital; plans are in place to evacuate additional high-risk patients

Gaps & Constraints:

- Assessments are needed for the remaining 49 health centres
- Security and access to health facilities
- Ensure continuity of the care of patients that require dialysis and those with chronic diseases

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Needs:

- Early findings from IOM assessments indicate that migrants needed to be evacuated. The migrants included 200 Nigerians, 2 Botswanans and 2 Ghanaians. In addition, there was a report of 5 stranded Panamanians. The majority of the migrants showed willingness to return to their home countries and IOM secured the list of their names and travel document details.
- According to UNICEF, 19,774 children under 18 in Dominica were affected by Maria.

Response:

- The migrants from Nigeria, Botswana and Ghana were evacuated, while the Panamanians have received assistance.

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Needs:

- According to CDEMA at least 80 per cent of the population (56,000) requires urgent support with shelter.
- An estimated 98 per cent of roofs are damaged or destroyed and an estimated 50 per cent of building frames are damaged.
- Damage on the east coast of the island and remote rural areas is significantly worse.
- Most urgent needs are corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheeting and tarpaulins.

Response:

- IOM surge capacity deployed to Dominica on 21 September with the support of UNHAS reports substantial and widespread damage to houses on the island, as confirmed by the first CDEMA situation report.
- Two IOM experts on shelter solutions have arrived to Dominica to start assessments and provide coordination inputs for pipeline. On 23 and 24 September IOM met with relevant government authorities and shelter actors to support the planning and implementation of shelter response and further aid activities. This will inform the usage of the \$100,000 that IOM has released from own funds to scale up Shelter response in Dominica.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access is a major issue with many roads blocked, landslides, washed-out river valleys and destroyed bridges.

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Needs:

- WASH supplies and vector control needs still to be determined
- Water quality testing and control measures needed
- Access to potable drinking water

Response:

- PAHO delivered 6 water quality testing kits and 70,000 Aquatab tablets and water
- PAHO has deployed a WASH advisor to support in assessments
- UNICEF's pre-positioned emergency supplies in Barbados comprising 191 boxes ORS, 640 boxes water purification tablets were dispatched via the Barbados Defense Force on Wednesday, 20 September 2017 to be rapidly distributed in coordination with national authorities in the most affected communities.

- UNICEF deployed a WASH specialist to Dominica on 21 September but he returned on 24 September. A four-person WASH team deployed by the regional office will arrive on 26 September.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited means to transport water
- Identify location and quantities of aquatabs and chlorine
- Establish distribution points of the purification tabs
- Need to prepare messages for population about hygiene
- Need to identify points where people are collecting water

Contact person at UNICEF in Panama: Douglas Reimer (dreimer@unicef.org)



Emergency Telecommunications

Needs:

- Telecommunications system severely damaged with text messaging available through Digicel and Flow.

Response:

- WFP has sent an emergency telecommunication team with support from telecommunications experts from Ericsson response team and the Government of Luxembourg. The team has secured connectivity at the Emergency Response Center, the hospital, Canefield airport, as well as the fire brigades for Dominica, France and Venezuela,
- Additional equipment is being sent Dominica to expand network to nearby government and humanitarian buildings in Roseau
- A team will travel on 26 September to Melville airport to set up connectivity at the premise as per urgent request.

Constraints:

- There has been disruption of power supplies islandwide, including airports, hospitals and other key infrastructure.
- Telecommunication system has been badly affected, making coordination of the relief effort and communication with affected communities difficult. Key infrastructure, such as airports has also been affected.



Logistics

The road connecting Melville Hall and Roseau has been cleared as of 25 September, linking the main airport to the capital, and facilitating access to the interior. Normal ferry services to St Lucia, Martinique and Guadeloupe are operational.

Needs:

- Access to conduct assessments and provide urgent support is a major issue with many roads blocked, landslides, washed-out river valleys and destroyed bridges.

Response:

- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is conducting flights to Dominica from Antigua for humanitarian aid workers.
- WFP has deployed a civil military logistics officer to assist the coordination with military actors for movement of humanitarian aid with vessels and aircraft deployed to the area
- WFP has shipped two mobile storage units (10x24m) and other logistics support equipment to establish one or more common storage area(s) in Dominica

- A logistics officer has deployed to Dominica to set up the hub and support on logistics coordination and information management.
- Logistics Coordination and Information Management is ongoing on Antigua and Barbados with humanitarian actors in support of the response, including mapping access constraints on Dominica.

Constraints:

- Access constraints, due to damaged road, bridges and other infrastructure.
- Fuel availability, especially for air operations

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General Coordination

The National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) is coordinating response, with the support of CDEMA and UNDAC/OCHA. Coordination meetings are held at the NEOC and sector specific groups are also meeting (health, shelter).

Daily coordination meetings with international partners are held at 4 pm in the NEOC.

Regional partner coordination meetings are held by CDEMA in Barbados to consolidate information on assessments, needs and gaps. CDEMA situation reports can be found on <http://cdema.org/>

Visualization of damage mapped from social media and open source photos: <https://arcg.is/1XzCz>

Information about international response and inputs to this report can be sent to hurricanemaria2017@undac.org

Latest news and updates

<http://www.unocha.org/hurricane-season-2017>

Background on the crisis

Category 5, Hurricane Maria made landfall in Dominica on 18 September directly affecting the lives of at least 80 per cent of the population. The hurricane, the strongest on record to strike Dominica, destroyed entire crops, disrupted power and water supplies. All the health centres in the island have been affected. Landslides have blocked roadways making it difficult for aid workers to access affected people in remote corners of the island.