The Caribbean: Hurricane Season
Situation Report No. 10 (as of 29 September 2017)

This report is produced by OCHA ROLAC in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the first period from 06 to 29 September, 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 6 October 2017.

Highlights

• At least 10 countries and 12 humanitarian organizations have provided vital supplies and resources to Dominica since Maria made landfall on 18 September.
• UN and partners launched a Flash Appeal for Dominica on 29 September to assist the country in recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria.
• Aid efforts have helped at least 11 health facilities and the two major hospitals in Dominica become operational.
• Six regional warehouses including the Windsor Park Sports Stadium have been identified for storage of relief goods in Dominica. More than 30 distribution centres have been determined by the Government across the country.
• Initial assessments indicate that the number of damaged and/or destroyed buildings in Dominica is between 17,000 and 20,000 units, which house 54,000 people - about 80 per cent of the total population.

$31.1 million required by the United Nations Flash Appeal to provide assistance in Dominica
65,000 people targeted for assistance by the United Nations Flash Appeal for Dominica in response to Hurricane Maria.
20,000 children affected by Hurricane Maria in Dominica
125,000 houses across Cuba reported as damaged from Hurricane Irma

Source: UN Flash Appeal – Dominica
Source: UN Flash Appeal - Dominica
Source: UNICEF
Source: UN Cuba Situation Report no. 15

Situation Overview

Humanitarian response efforts continue to be two-fold in the region, focusing on early recovery in the islands affected by category 5 hurricane Irma, while the emphasis on land and people devastated by yet another category 5 hurricane, Maria, is on urgent life-saving assistance, particularly in Dominica.

The double impact and divergent focus has evoked some complex concerns and challenges. The logistics cluster has highlighted that the hurricanes have damaged logistics infrastructure in the region and disrupted many regular services. In addition, aid agencies face constraints in ensuring that all in-kind donations are reaching the affected islands in a coordinated manner with a plan for receipt and onwards transport to affected communities.

There are concerns that there could be a surge of Dominicans to neighbouring islands.

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

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
Dominica, which has been in a state of emergency since 20 September with a daily curfew from 4 pm to 8 am is still coming to terms with aftermath of Maria. Electricity and a supply of running water has been restored in some of its critical service providing institutions such as public health centres. More than 1,900 people are in hurricane shelters in the capital, Roseau and several are staying with host families.

On 29 September, the United Nations and partners launched a flash appeal for US$31.1 million to provide urgent humanitarian assistance and support the early recovery of Dominica. The funds will not only be used to provide life-saving assistance to the targeted 65,000 Dominicans but aid the immediate restoration of primary and reproductive health services, most urgently needed water distribution infrastructure, and essential repairs of school infrastructure consistent with the New Way of Working.

The funds will provide immediate livelihoods assistance, as well as short-term sources of income for affected women and men through emergency removal and safe disposal of debris.

The appeal follows the $55.8 million Plan of Action for Cuba issued on 19 September and the $27 million Regional Response Plan (RRP), bringing the total amount required to address response to the aftermath of the two hurricanes to $113 million. The Plan of Action targets about 2 million people, the RRP will help 265,000, which brings the total number of people targeted by the various response plans to the hurricanes to more than 2.3 million people.

The Dominican Government has developed a strategy to ensure equity, transparency and accountability in the distribution of relief goods. The strategy outlines details of the ports of entry, warehouses for storage of aid, distribution centres, transport logistics and Government officials responsible for coordinating delivery of aid to people including vulnerable communities.

The Government intends to issue aid vouchers to affected people to ensure there is transparency and accountability. UN agencies will conduct market surveys to determine cash transfers modalities. UN entities and partners have stepped in to provide urgent food and water assistance.

Other islands in the Caribbean continue to address the effects of Irma. The Cuban Government continues to press on with early recovery efforts, while assessments are ongoing. Humanitarian partners in Antigua and Barbuda continue to work with the evacuated population of Barbuda. Efforts in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten, St Kitts and Nevis and Turks and Caicos are shifting focus to longer term solutions as the islands begin to return to normal activities.

The Central Emergency Response Fund allocations for Cuba, the RRP and Dominica are all being finalized.

**Funding**

As mentioned in the Situation Overview, the Flash Appeal for Dominica was launched on 29 September.

The Flash Appeal can be found at: https://reliefweb.int/report/dominica/dominica-flash-appeal-2017-hurricane-maria-september-december-2017

CDEMA has launched an online donation facility (September 15, 2017). Persons can make online donations (using credit cards) to the Hurricane Irma Relief campaign (visit www.cdema.org). Instructions are also available for those seeking to make donations via wire transfer

IFRC has launched an emergency appeal for CHF1,600,000 (US$1,655,629) to support the Dominica Red Cross Society in delivering 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.
The Regional Response Plan can be found at:

For additional guidance on the RRP, contact Amaia Lopez at OCHA ROLAC (lopez20@un.org)

Donations via the OCHA website have been activated by the Resource and Communications Section (RMCS) of the CERF at http://www.unocha.org/hurricane-irma

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

The focus of almost the entire humanitarian community in the region responding to the impact of Irma has moved to early recovery. On the other hand, the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria, particularly in Dominica has become the centre for urgent attention.

The Dominican Government has been in the forefront in leading assistance efforts. Dominica’s prime minister, Mr. Roosevelt Skerrit announced the Government had procured 350 tons of relief supplies and 165 tons of food in Barbados, which would arrive in Dominica this week. One of the shiploads will head towards Woodbridge Bay port in Roseau to cover communities in the south-west and south-east, while another will make its way to Portsmouth destined for communities in the north and north-east of the island.

He said credit lines has been opened with suppliers in Barbados to ensure a continuous flow of food into the country. In the distribution of food, impoverished communities will be prioritised, Mr. Skerrit assured in one of his daily messages.

The Government has rallied the private sector to restore telecommunications in parts of the island. Government workers have been involved in the clearing of debris to open some of the major roadways, blocked by landslides the island.

CDEMA’s Regional Response Mechanism remains active in providing support to countries affected by Irma, but will begin to gradually extract deployed teams in accordance to their regional coordination plans and standard operating procedures. Several humanitarian partners remain active on Irma-affected islands and are beginning to implement longer term recovery activities according to need.

Since 19 September, CDEMA has deployed more than 360 response personnel in the region to provide support for search and rescue, assessments and needs analyses, response coordination and relief operations through its various units and teams.

The regional agency continues to lead the response to Maria’s impact on Dominica. CDEMA is also working closely with humanitarian partners to address relief distribution, water supply, sanitation and shelter concerns. The Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT) has completed its assessments and the CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) will remain on the island until 5 October to continue assisting with relief distribution and security.

In terms of international cooperation, several foreign Governments such as Belize, Canada, Cuba, France, Jamaica, the Netherlands, St Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and Venezuela have deployed personnel and resources to Dominica to assist in a wide range of tasks, including supply delivery, medical support and security. European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) is also active in Dominica, providing support in several areas such as water purification, logistics and damage mapping.

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission has provided much needed relief via individual donations and supply shipments. Their relief efforts have raised food, infant formula, comfort kits, cleaning materials and other essential items as part of a series of public and private initiatives taking place across the OECS involving private sector organisations.

The main ports of entry are Douglas Charles Airport, Canefield Airport, Long House Portsmouth and Woodbridge Bay Port. Six regional warehouses including the Windsor Park Sports Stadium have been identified for storage of relief goods. More than 30 distribution centres have been determined by the Government across the country.

In the neighbouring Dominican Republic, the Government continues to respond to the effects of Maria with its own capacities, as only two provinces remain under a state of alert. As of 29 September, the number of sheltered people has decreased from more than 2,000 to 267 and people are returning home and the country resumes to normal activity.

In Cuba, national authorities continue to lead the response following Hurricane Irma, working closely with local governments in the hardest-hit provinces to ensure the provision of food and water supplies. The full restoration of water supply systems in these provinces remains a critical priority. Several foreign Governments have made their assistance available to Cuba, as have members of the international aid community such as the UN system, humanitarian partners and donors.
Most aid partners are focusing on long-term recovery efforts in Turks and Caicos. In its efforts to bring normalcy, UNICEF has supplied 48 school-in-a-box kits to help affected children access education.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) continues to collate figures on displacement caused by the hurricanes in the Caribbean on a regional portal: http://displacement.iom.int/caribbean-emergency-2017. The portal provides updates on the displacement situation at the country level for countries affected by the hurricanes. Additionally, there is information on numbers and locations of displacement populations for Antigua and Barbuda and Sint Maarten. The portal displays information regarding hurricane paths and exposed areas and the possibility for staff to provide real-time updates from the field.

- **Antigua and Barbuda:** The Government of Antigua & Barbuda is concerned that between 3,000 to 10,000 people may move from Dominica to host families and collective shelters on Antigua if support on Dominica is not rapidly scaled up. The capacity of Antigua to host further displacement is already strained and there is limited capacity to host further displacement. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda requests urgent scale up of support on Dominica.

- **Dominica:** Coordination with local government representatives in Roseau gathered information regarding 20 hurricane shelters known to be damaged, mostly with damaged roofs. As yet, there is no information on the status of the remaining 123 hurricane shelters (143 were identified prior to the hurricane’s impact). There are 1,955 people in hurricane shelters in Roseau and the surroundings. There are many people staying with host families, and these are facing increasing pressure. People who have lost their homes are arriving in Roseau, and the government has commenced registration processes.

Response:

- **Antigua and Barbuda:** DTM site assessments have been completed in six displacement sites hosting around 300 people. Information on numbers and locations of displacement populations for Antigua and Barbuda (available on DTM Portal http://displacement.iom.int/caribbean-emergency-2017). Majority of needs are being met, however the displaced Barbadians are in need of information regarding returns.

- **Dominica:** Per a strategy endorsed by the Government of Dominica, an initial focus of the response should be supporting as many people to return as possible, which will also relieve pressure on these collective centres. At the same time, collective centres should be upgraded and consolidated where necessary to support the residual displaced population who cannot yet return. The Government of Dominica approved the roll out of IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix, which will help to identify location, population and conditions in the collective centres. Two DTM specialists are en route to Dominica, and will recruit and train enumerators in order to rapidly commence assessments.

- **Sint Maarten:** The process to close the last remaining evacuation centre, the National Institute for Professional Advancement (NIPA) (out of the 10 centres set up, stocked and manned with IOM trained managers) began this week. Of the 65 persons remaining inside, those able to return home with IOM emergency shelter assistance will be accompanied by social workers and community councils, scheduled for 28 September. Patients and wounded that were sheltered on site are being referred to appropriate care. Those not yet able to find a durable shelter solution are being transferred to St Peter’s Church while the Little League temporary site is being set up. The Red Cross has assigned personnel to clean up, install sleeping cots and receive arrivals as of 28 September. As NIPA is a school it is imperative that closure is completed, structures are cleaned and prepared to receive students as of Monday. Little League temporary site: This temporary site will accommodate 30 people from the NIPA site. The Dutch Red Cross has committed personnel to receive and provide health care if needed. Another temporary site is being prepared to house people currently sheltered with friends or relatives who cannot stay longer in such arrangements and whose houses are totally destroyed. Festival Village’s capacity is expected to be around 300 persons.

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Early Recovery

Needs:

- **Cuba**: Approximately 125,000 houses from Havana to Guantánamo are reported damaged. Of these damaged homes, 33 per cent are in Villa Clara province. The natural forests of Jobo Rosado, Topes de Collantes, and Banao were also significantly affected.

- **Dominica**: Initial assessments indicate that the number of damaged and/or destroyed buildings is between 17,000 and 20,000 units which house 54,000 people - approximately 80 per cent of the total population. There is an urgent need to finish clearing all roads of debris and disaster waste. Approximately 75 per cent of trees on the island are reported to be blown down or otherwise stripped of foliage. UN Environment’s disaster waste management activities are targeting 36,722 people.

Response:

- **Antigua and Barbuda**: The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross is in receipt of 500 debit cards for a Government-approved Cash Transfer Programme to begin on 30 September.

- **Dominica**: UNDP’s response strategy will target 54,000 people, focusing on families who have lost homes and livelihoods and communities who require the restoration of basic services, public infrastructure and the local economy. Debris management of housing and public infrastructure will also be addressed.

UN Environment will deploy two experts to support the Government and local responders in waste management activities, including the appropriate management of hazardous waste.

UNDP recovery partners will assess structural damage across the island to measure the level of damage sustained by building in order to properly program house repairs and reconstruction. Communities will receive training on construction techniques, recovery plans as well as tools and equipment to assist in rebuilding their homes. Additionally, the response strategy will provide short-term employment opportunities to ensure that affected families are direct participants in their own recovery while helping restore normal economic activity.

UNDP will also support the rehabilitation of basic services such as electricity, water supply and security and the restoration of local markets and enterprises to revive economic activity.

National authorities will be supported to build back better and disaster risk reduction to better resist the shocks of future crises.

- **St Kitts and Nevis**: The St Kitts and Nevis Red Cross and IFRC are working in the northern part of St Kitts (Districts 6, 7 and 8) to define the level of damage of the houses and address the needs of the population. St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross is coordinating with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to support the distribution of 100 rolls of plastic sheeting in St Kitts and Nevis donated by USAID/OFDA. The St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross will distribute additional Hygiene kits, Kitchen sets and blankets to the population based on the assessments results.

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Education

Needs:

- **Antigua and Barbuda**: Some 240 of 250 children from Barbuda are attending both public and private primary schools, including children with special needs.

- **Cuba**: Schools are still being used as evacuation centres. Infrastructure in many of the educational centres in Villa Clara, Sancti Spíritus, Ciego de Ávila, and Camagüey provinces are in the process of recovery, however, damage has prevented the use of those spaces and delayed the return of students. The primary level of education is the most affected.
Response:

- UNICEF has provided technical support to Ministries of Education and Ministries dealing with children’s affairs to draw up response plans, that the immediate response is delivered, schools return and there is capacity for psycho-social support.

- **Anguilla**: UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education to plan the resumption of school on 2 October and is ensuring quality education by providing essential teaching and learning materials. UNICEF supported the training of trainers and a sports program for children in the 11-15 age group under the Return to Happiness initiative with partners.

- **Antigua and Barbuda**: Children from Barbuda attending schools in Antigua will be reached with psychosocial support through the schools they attend. These sessions will be facilitated by 10 external facilitators from St. Lucia that UNICEF has supported to ensure that those who work with children provide urgent psychosocial support. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education to establish an additional class for early learners. Plans are underway to convert existing space to accommodate children (aged 3-5) from Barbuda.

  The full roll out for the UNICEF-supported Return to Happiness (RTH) will start on 3 October, through the Ministry of Education under a partnership agreement with OECS Commission. On 4-5 October, all school counsellors from Antigua and Barbuda will participate in a RTH training of trainers workshop for spotting children with psycho-social needs in school.

- **British Virgin Islands**: A UNICEF supported an 11 member national RTH facilitation team was activated on 25 September to facilitate the multi-island roll-out of training in psycho social support for teachers, getting recreational activities organized across the British Virgin Islands.

  On 6 November, all children and adolescents will return to school. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education for setting up 10 temporary learning and protection spaces and the start of psychosocial, educational and WASH activities with the age group 3-8 years on 5 October.

- **Cuba**: The Provincial Department of Education in Havana reported that students from the most damaged schools have been relocated to ensure they do not fall behind. Twenty-seven schools have not yet resumed their activities. In Villa Clara Province, where more than 400 schools were damaged, the school year resumed in some multi-year centers thanks to community efforts in repairing school facilities with their own resources.

  According to the United Nations Action Plan in Cuba, UNICEF is prioritizing actions to allow the immediate establishment of temporary learning spaces, which will also offer psychosocial support to 69,786 girls and 72,771 children. UNICEF is also distributing educational and recreational material and is supporting the refurbishment of the roofs of over 80 schools. Additionally, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is supporting psychosocial support activities for children and adolescents in the 27 most affected municipalities.

- **Turks and Caicos**: A UNICEF freight arrived with a total of 48 school-in-a-box kits, 96 recreation kits, 2,000 mosquito nets and tarpaulins. The distribution list and logistics is being coordinated with Ministry of Education and Social Service Department.

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**Food Security Needs:**

- **Hurricane Irma affected several islands in the Caribbean leading to a need for immediate food assistance to vulnerable community for the initial few weeks until markets are back functioning, which were further delayed due to disruption in the supply due to Hurricane Maria.**

- **Dominica**: The country was badly affected by Hurricane Maria, with loss of agricultural assets, fisheries, livestock, and key infrastructure. Due to the scale of the damage, immediate food assistance is needed until market can resupply and further food assistance need in the early recovery period.
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- **Cuba**: The concentration of damage to poultry production is in the Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila and Villa Clara provinces, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. Coffee production has also been affected in the mountainous regions in Cienfuegos, Sancti Spíritus and Villa Clara with a loss of nearly 80 tons.

**Response:**

- **Antigua and Barbuda**: FAO has deployed an expert has to Barbuda to support the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), currently ongoing, with the objective to define a strategy for agricultural livelihoods recovery.

- **Cuba**: Repair to poultry farms are near 50 per cent completion. Both the FAO and WFP have mobilized resources to assist the Cuban Government in restoring the production of food and distribute food supplies to affected municipalities. WFP has begun the distribution of rice and beans to 647,000 people, covering 20 days, in coordination with local institutions of the 22 most affected municipalities in Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Matanzas, Sancti Spíritus, and Villa Clara Provinces. A FAO expert has been deployed to Cuba to assist with resource mobilization as part of the FSN component of the Cuba Action Plan, and as part of a comprehensive FAO response aimed at restoring agricultural production.

- **Dominica**: To address the immediate food needs on Hurricane Maria affected Dominica, WFP has dispatched high energy biscuits (HEBs) pre-positioned on nearby islands to cover an initial three days for roughly 20,000 people. Over 4,000 people have been reached with distributions already, which is done jointly with water distribution. WFP has also deployed food security staff on assessments to Dominica and they are liaising with authorities on further assistance that might be needed. The WFP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean has also met with local authorities to discuss the further response.

  FAO deployed an expert to conduct the agricultural rapid needs assessment, in coordination with CDEMA. On the basis of the assessment, timely, effective and coordinated emergency response is vital to protect, rehabilitate and support the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population by sustainably restoring and maintaining their agricultural, livestock and fishery production capacity. The detailed response strategy will be reflected in the Flash Appeal.

- **St Kitts and Nevis**: A FAO expert will be deployed to support the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA).

- **Sint Maarten**: Distribution of HEBs and other food are ongoing in response to Hurricane Irma in partnership with local authorities and NGOs.

- **Turks and Caicos**: The distribution of HEBs are being finalized in the ongoing response to Hurricane Irma in partnership with local authorities.

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**Health**

**Needs:**

- **Cuba**: Although no epidemic outbreaks have been reported as a result of Irma, the Ministry of Health reports damage to health facilities throughout affected provinces. Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Havana and Villa Clara all report damage to more than 100 health facilities. In coordination with the Ministry of Health, demands for first-line medications have been identified, including oral rehydration salts, emergency kits, doxycycline, water treatment tablets, tests to determine levels of residual chlorine, calcium hypochlorite for disinfection, and tests for the diagnosis of cholera, malaria and E. coli as well as medical supplies and equipment, medical and non-medical furniture, and surface cleaning kits.

- **Dominica**: Repairing damaged health facilities is crucial in managing emergency patients, quick diagnosis and treatment of diseases, and reestablish treatment of non-communicable diseases. Eleven health facilities including two hospitals (Princess Margaret and Portsmouth Hospital) are reportedly functioning out of 21 that were assessed and information was available. Assessments of the remaining health facilities on the island are ongoing as access improves.
Response:

- PAHO continues to work on islands in the Caribbean that were impacted by Hurricane Irma and Maria. PAHO is coordinating with regional, sub regional and national partners to ensure efficient and quick delivery of expertise and supplies, with a focus on Anguilla, Antigua, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, and Turks and Caicos Islands. A logistical hub has been established in Antigua, in addition to Barbados and Panama. Further situation reports will address the ongoing responses on other islands.

- **Anguilla:** UNICEF has supported a training of trainers and an 11-member national team to support identifying children with psycho-social needs and organizing a “return to happiness” and normalcy events for children.

- **Antigua and Barbuda:** The Canadian Red Cross and IFRC have donated US $50,000 worth of medical equipment to the Hannah Thomas Hospital in Barbuda. The equipment includes a Complete Consultation room as well as a Full Emergency Room.

- **Cuba:** Community level health promotion activities are taking place in affected areas to reduce risk of waterborne and vector-borne disease. PAHO has deployed an emergency health specialist and is working with the Ministry of Health to define the distribution of relief equipment and supplies provided by Global Links. PAHO is also in the process of purchasing more medical and water treatment supplies. UNFPA is supporting the rehabilitation of sexual and reproductive health services to restore the operational capacity of reproductive health services, including maternal care services and the provision of obstetric and neonatal care for health institutions in 22 municipalities affected by Irma.

- **Dominica:** The functionality of Princess Margaret Hospital has improved with restored access to water and electricity. The hospital currently has capacity for 130 patients. The dialysis machine is restored and currently functional. The refrigerator is running, guaranteeing the cold chain at the hospital. The laboratory and hematology machine is functional. There remains debris and rubbish that needs to be cleaned at the hospital. There is a shift in trauma patients to those related to rehabilitation efforts. A field hospital has been established in the Roseau Stadium where medical teams from Venezuela and Cuba are providing emergency services.

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has provided medical supplies to the Princess Margaret Hospital and is working with the Ministry of Health to issue public health messaging targeting both the general public and people in shelters to promote hygiene, sanitation and general health.

PAHO collaborated with the Royal Dutch armed forces and the Dominican Republic to secure the evacuation of nine trauma patients from Princess Margaret Hospital to the Dominican Republic initially, followed by eight more patients. Repatriation of the patients that were medically evacuated is being coordinated.

Distribution of medicines and supplies that arrived has begun to parts of the island, including Portsmouth Hospital and Health Centers in Roseau. With the support of the Royal Netherlands Navy, PAHO is delivering emergency medicines, water and supplies to six villages in the areas surrounding Roseau. Further planning for distribution of water, tarps and food is ongoing for other parts of the island. To support logistics, PAHO has installed the Supply Management System (SUMA) in Dominica. PAHO sent three all-terrain trucks to distribute and deliver supplies.

As road access improves, PAHO will continue to carry out assessments of other facilities in the country. In other areas of the island, Portsmouth Hospital is reportedly functioning. In the Marigot Health District, MSF reported that 2 of 5 health centers in Marigot district are functional. There is one ambulance available in the district. PAHO medication shipment is being sent to the Portsmouth Hospital.

UNFPA is supporting sexual and reproductive health (SRH) interventions, as well as gender-based violence (GBV) support, particularly providing aspects of healthcare and psychosocial care services in each one of the affected areas.

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**Protection**

**Needs:**
- **Antigua and Barbuda:** Antigua faces a migration challenge, where there are already a number of people from Dominica who migrated following previous natural disasters. Antigua expects to have an additional 10,000 people, with 6,000 anticipated to stay with host families. As such, there is a concern about the provision of services, particularly given the accommodation that needs to be made for Barbudans.

- **Dominica:** According to UNICEF, the potential for child abuse and in particular SGBV is high - protection issues therefore have a high priority and need to be included in the management of shelters/ community CFS, and PS support to majority of children with links to return to school activities.

**Response:**
- UNICEF Return to Happiness activities have started across the Eastern Caribbean, including sports activities with West Indies Cricket Board as a platform to talk about child protection.

- UNFPA currently has support staff in the form of an SRH specialist and a GBV specialist in Antigua, and two other SRH and GBV specialists are coming on board to address regional concerns. Additionally, UNICEF is sending a child protection expert in the next few days.

- **Dominica:** On 26 September, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women and the Directorate for Gender Affairs in Antigua collaborated for the provision of 250 dignity kits to be distributed to women and girls. The kits include: sanitary pads, underwear, soap, hand sanitizer and body lotion, toothpaste and toothbrush, towels, condoms, combs, deodorant. The kits will be distributed through the Government of Dominica, Bureau for Gender Affairs. On 27 September, UNFPA, UN Women and DGS were notified that the kits had reached Dominica and were to be distributed during the course of the day.

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**Shelter**

**Needs:**
- **Sint Maarten:** Shelter gaps remain unknown, although it is estimated that there are sufficient tarpaulins in country to address the most urgent needs, and the response is therefore shifting to the transitional phase. UNDAC through the NOCC (National Operations Coordination Center) has sought to assist Emergency Support Function (ESF) sectors to collate data and produce analysis. Coordination between ESF 7, Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial. Planning, Environment and Infrastructure (VROMI), Dutch Red Cross and IOM is informing transition planning and strategy. Transitional shelter materials are in the pipeline from the Dutch Red Cross and have been given authorization to be delivered to those who need it. Construction or re-construction work requires prior approval and issuance of permits from VROMI in relation to permits. Hurricane affected nonresidents or irregular migrants will not be permitted to reconstruct or rebuild, but can be assisted with emergency items. Needs and damage assessments will be carried out house to house is being organized, using an ESF 7 and VROMI questionnaire with inputs from the Red Cross and IOM. IOM is seeking to integrate questions related to the country of origin, migratory status, access to assistance, and intentions related to return or other durable solutions of the affected people.

**Response:**
- **Antigua and Barbuda:** 250 shelterbox tents and toolboxes have arrived from Haiti to Antigua. They will be used as shelter for clean-up teams in Barbuda, assisting the return and rebuilding process. Emergency focal point for Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) region has deployed to Antigua to provide technical support on these activities.

- **Sint Maarten:** IOM contingency stock pre-positioned in Panama arrived in Sint Maarten on 27 September. 995 shelter grade tarps and 1,000 30m long ropes were delivered by a UNHAS chartered flight. Half of the cargo is planned to assist health facilities with temporary roofing and half to assist persons identified through community
councils residing with relatives and friends that can return home with this kind assistance, as well as some of those sheltered at NIPA in the same category.

- **Dominica**: OFDA/USAID have informed that 4,000 plastic sheeting (400 rolls) are arriving in Dominica shortly and asked the assistant local government commissioner to identify distribution locations. IFRC plans to distribute NFI to 1,000 households.

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### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**Needs:**

- **Cuba**: The damage caused by Irma to water pumping systems in the Ciego de Ávila and Sancti Spiritus provinces remain. In Villa Clara, there are still limitations to access to water.

- **Dominica**: Although water access has been improved by national authorities and shipments of water supplies continue to arrive, sanitation and hygiene has been identified as a problem in some areas with contaminated river water. Access to clean water must be restored to all parts of the island quickly.

**Response:**

- **Antigua and Barbuda**: In coordination with the Barbados Defense Force, UNICEF provided tents and other emergency supplies including water purification tablets, oral rehydration salts and family hygiene kits.

- **Cuba**: In Havana, water supply services have returned to normal. Water treatment supplies such as hypochlorite and aluminum sulphate have stabilized the water supply in affected provinces, according to the Ministry of Industry.

  UNICEF has delivered more than 2,700,000 water purifying tablets and will deliver 3,700,000 more to authorities for distribution and is prioritizing the prevention of waterborne illnesses in the communities and schools most affected by Hurricane Irma. Within the UN Action Plan for Cuba, the UNDP is focused on restoring safe access to water in affected municipalities in Villa Clara while PAHO will support the monitoring of water quality and epidemiological surveillance in 27 municipalities across Cuba.

- **Dominica**: The Dominica Water and Sewage Company (DOWASCO) reported that water has been restored to Cottage, Cochrane, Portsmouth, Ville Case, and Campbell. Further repairs are ongoing with plans to be finished this week and next. However, there are parts of the island with storage tanks or pipes that were severely damaged, with repairs further complicated by landslides and fallen trees.

  The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) deployed two WASH experts from St. Lucia to assist with training on water purification and water testing capacities.

  Two UNICEF water tanks were delivered on 27 September which will enable water trucking to communities with no access to safe water. Five rigid Tuff tanks and 50 hygiene kits will arrive on 28 September to be used for water trucking. First mapping of the water network functionality (44 systems nationwide considered damaged). Solid domestic waste management is a priority as the removal of the debris is very slow.

  UNICEF dispatched emergency supplies comprising 191 boxes rehydration tablets, 640 boxes (30,000) water purification tablets, 100 family hygiene kits and five tents via the Barbados Defense Force to be rapidly distributed in coordination with national authorities in the most affected communities.

  UNICEF’s response team on the field has been enhanced with two additional emergency and communications specialists. They will focus on overall coordination, WASH and supply issues as well as logistical arrangements to facilitate delivery of urgent support.

  IFRC has set up water treatment equipment with a capacity of 5,000 litres per day to be distributed.
• **Dominican Republic**: UNICEF is looking to distribute 3,000 hygiene kits for children and cleaning kits for families, 5,000 plastic drums with water and 100 water tanks as well as educational material for the prevention of diarrhea/cholera and Zika, the preparation of oral rehydration solution and the use of chlorine for water purification in emergency. An estimated 5,000 children will be benefited in the Montecristi, El Seybo and Duarte provinces.

• **Haiti**: As there is an ongoing outbreak of cholera in Artibonite, UNICEF’s cholera response partners are ensuring that people have access to quality water, with the installation of a chlorination point, while the repairs are underway.

• **Turks and Caicos**: In coordination with UNICEF, the British Army and Mission of Hope, 10 water tanks (5,000L each) were distributed in the hardest hit island of Grand Turk.

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

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### Emergency Telecommunications

**Needs:**

- Due to the devastating effects of the two hurricanes, the existing telecommunication infrastructure on many islands is severely affected if not completely destroyed. This makes it difficult for humanitarian and government responders to act quickly by not being able to share the needs to the wider community. Together with our partners, the Emergency Telecommunications cluster (ETC) is identifying those telecommunication gaps, mainly on Dominica and Barbuda (Antigua).

- There are communication gaps between the humanitarian responders and affected communities on both islands.

**Response:**

- WFP, lead of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is coordinating response efforts of humanitarian Information and Communications Technology (ICT) responders.

- In Dominica the ETC members - Ericsson Response, Government of Luxembourg and WFP - set up Internet connectivity for humanitarians at seven sites – the Government’s Emergency Operation Centre (EOC), Canefield Airport, Dominica Hospital and Dominica, French and Venezuela Fire Brigades, Douglas-Charles Airp ort and office a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) - Catholic Relief Services (CRS) – providing access to over 600 responders.

- As Dominica is the worst-hit islands, the ETC is planning to set up internet connectivity at other locations as requested by the humanitarian community.

- The ETC is conducting needs assessment to provide services for communities in two locations: Antigua (for citizens evacuated from Barbuda) and in Dominica. The ETC is working with various actors present on the ground, including humanitarian organisations, local radio broadcaster and Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to identify the most urgent needs and the most suitable solutions to enable the affected populations to communicate.

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### Logistics

**Needs:**

- Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria have damaged logistics infrastructure in the region and a disruption of many regular services. In addition, not all in-kind donations are reaching the affected islands in a coordinated manner with a plan for receipt and onwards transport to affected communities.
Feedback received from humanitarian actors regionally regarding transport gaps requirements, resulted in about 128 metric tons of cargo to be moved between mainly Antigua to Dominica and Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. The sector lead is compiling the needs to find the best way to address the gaps and mobilize the resources required to be able to offer solutions to partners.

Users have expressed their interest in sea transport between the islands for larger loads of cargo. This includes the possibility to mobilize cargo also within Dominica by coastal vessel options. WFP will look into this and assess feasibility.

**Response:**

- A logistics coordination and information management staff has been deployed to Antigua and Barbados for liaison with regional and national authorities and humanitarian actors in support of the response. A concept of operation can be found on [http://www.logcluster.org/sector/irma17](http://www.logcluster.org/sector/irma17)

- **Dominica:** The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Commission, in conjunction with the Government of Saint Lucia, have arranged for daily helicopter flights to Dominica (two to three flights per day) with supplies funded by the Saint Lucian Government from a CDEMA approved staging post in Vieux Fort.

  In support of the Government of Dominica, WFP is augmenting existing storage capacity with the provision of three Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) to service humanitarian operations in the West and North-eastern part of the country;

  A Logistics Coordinator, Civil-Military Coordination Officer and two MSUs specialist are on site, to support the Government-led response with logistics coordination, facilitation of the use of military assets and the transferring of technical capacities to government counterparts in the construction and maintenance of the MSUs. WFP has coordinated with militaries in the region for support to humanitarian actors for transport. A Dutch military vessel has done two rotations from Sint Maarten and Antigua to Dominica.

  UNHAS aircraft continues to provide regular rotations from Antigua to Dominica. The air asset is primarily used for the transportation of humanitarian responders and some light cargo. WFP also has mobilised and made available free-to-use helicopter lift capacity of 1.5 MT that will be used to support assessments and distribution activities in hard to reach locations. UNHAS request forms and user's guide to be found at [http://www.logcluster.org/sector/irma17](http://www.logcluster.org/sector/irma17) (for cargo and passenger services). Please ensure all requests are channeled through this website, to ensure appropriate actions.

- **Turks and Caicos:** The logistics hub and support equipment on Turks and Caicos island have been handed over to local authorities for continued support of the operation and the WFP has left the island.

Contact person at UNHRD in Panama: Francisco Garrido ([francisco.garrido@wfp.org](mailto:francisco.garrido@wfp.org)) and contact person for Telecommunications at WFP: Gabriela Alvarado ([gabriela.alvarado@wfp.org](mailto:gabriela.alvarado@wfp.org))

**General Coordination**

CDEMA’s Coordinating Unit continues to lead the response in its participating states, supported by OCHA and humanitarian partners. The UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS are leading the coordination of the United Nations in responding to both Irma and Maria.

According to the Dominican Government strategy announced on 27 September, the Prime Minister, Mr. Roosevelt Skerrit is Chairman of the National Emergency Planning Organization (NEPO) and will provide national direction and control in the distribution of relief goods in Dominica.

UNDAC personnel deployed to Dominica at CDEMA’s request are supporting the Government of Dominica in coordinating aid from international actors, military support and humanitarian partners, as well as supporting information management. MapAction staff are also on the ground with UNDAC. OCHA/UNDAC are working with the NEOC in facilitating assessments, the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the transition to recovery-oriented activities. Coordination meetings are held at the NEOC and sector specific groups are also meeting...
Regional partner coordination meetings are held by CDEMA 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

OCHA continues to work in close coordination with CDEMA in the field and at its headquarters in Barbados. In the field, the OCHA and UNDAC continue to coordinate actions with partners to ensure effective communication and coordination.

Satellite imagery of assessed damage is available at http://www.unitar.org/unosat/maps

OCHA has shared an assessment tool that can be shared with any responder that looks at hurricane impact, displacement, response and needs: https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/#YICq

Humanitarian Contact List for Hurricane Irma is available on Humanitarian ID: Deploying teams are encouraged to register at https://humanitarian.id

Background on the crisis

Hurricane Irma became a category 5 on Tuesday 5 September as it headed toward the Caribbean islands. Irma made landfall on northeast Caribbean islands during the early hours of 6 September, affecting Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten, St. Martin, the Virgin Islands and other islands in the eastern Caribbean Sea. Since then, thousands of people have been evacuated from at-risk areas and different level of impact reported from the affected areas.

Hurricane Maria is the second category 5 to make landfall in the Caribbean in less than two weeks, generating severe humanitarian needs for all of Dominica.