



This report is produced by OCHA ROLAC in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the first period from 06 to 25 September, 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 28 September 2017.

## Highlights

- The initial response to Hurricane Maria in Dominica is underway as humanitarian organizations arrive to deliver critical aid and carry out assessments throughout the rest of the island.
- Although access to Dominica is gradually being restored, internal access along key roads is limited and hindering the delivery of crucial aid to cut-off communities.
- Authorities in the Dominican Republic are using national contingency plans to address the needs caused by Maria in the areas exposed to the worst of the storm's path.
- The aid community in the Caribbean must now support the emergency response to Maria and continue providing support in recovery to the islands affected by Irma.



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

**56,000**

people in Dominica who require urgent support with shelter and water (80 per cent of the population)

**19,774**

Children under 18 in Dominica affected by Maria

**All 53**

health facilities in Dominica affected by Maria

**1.5 million**

people without a clean water supply in the Dominican Republic after Maria's passage.

**11,000**

people displaced in the Dominican Republic by Maria

## Situation Overview

Caribbean countries and the aid community continue to support local authorities in their response to the aftermath of two category 5 hurricanes that hit the region within three weeks.

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.

Humanitarian response teams are arriving in Dominica to work closely with local authorities to provide much-needed relief to the beleaguered island in the wake of Hurricane Maria. In spite of the difficulties and challenges regarding access, communications, power supply and food, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is leading response efforts on the ground, with support from foreign governments, UN agencies and humanitarian partners.

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

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**Coordination Saves Lives**

With 15 confirmed deaths and virtually the entire population of 73,000 people affected by Maria, the needs in Dominica are critical. The country's entire agricultural production was wiped out, creating not only an immediate concern with food security, but concern over livelihoods and Dominica's economic activities in exporting agricultural goods. Power and water supplies have been disrupted throughout the country as well.

Reports from CDEMA indicate a wide range of immediate needs, including food, water, water purification kits, construction material, electric generators, fuel, hygiene kits and home 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 telecommunications infrastructure within Dominica was badly damaged by Maria; communications are being slowly restored and text messaging is available through Digicel and Flow.

Maria also made landfall on St Kitts and Nevis, Guadeloupe and the British Virgin Islands. The reported damage in St Kitts and Nevis includes blocked roads, downed power lines, and damage to the agriculture industries. The damage in St Kitts alone is estimated to be worth EC\$34.5 million (approximately US\$12,8 m) and reports from Nevis cite serious damage to housing stock. In Guadeloupe, one death was reported, as well as damage to electric supply and telecommunications. Minor damages from rain and storm surge were reported from Tortola in the British Virgin Islands, causing minor landslides, but no injuries or deaths.

In the Dominican Republic, Maria produced heavy rainfall and winds over parts of the country. As of 25 September, 23 provinces remain under alert as more than 2,000 people remain sheltered. Authorities in the Dominican Republic are increasing their response in the most affected areas.

Throughout the rest of the Caribbean that was previously affected by Hurricane Irma, several humanitarian organizations are beginning to rotate their emergency response personnel, deploying longer term support as emergency response activities shift to disaster recovery.

## Funding

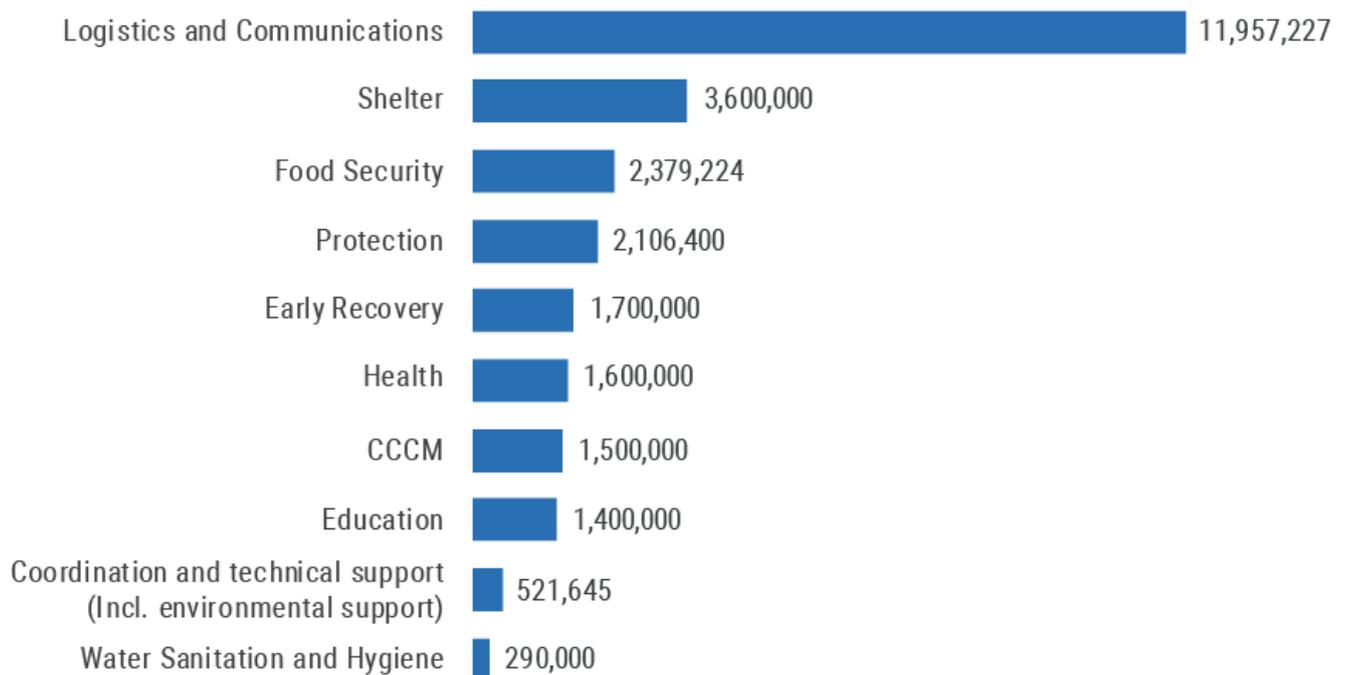
In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility segregated portfolio company (CCRIF SPC), a multi-country risk pool (first of its kind in the world) has announced it will pay \$19.2 million to Dominica within 14 days since Maria struck the island country.

This payout brings the total CCRIF payouts since the start of the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season to about US\$50.7 million and CCRIF's payouts since its inception in 2007 to approximately US\$120 million. CCRIF has paid out to Antigua and Barbuda (about \$6.7m), Anguilla (about \$6.6m), St.Kitts and Nevis (about \$2.3m), Turks and Caicos (\$14.8m), Haiti (\$162,000) and Bahamas (\$397,598).

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.

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.

### Funding required per sector (in US\$)



For additional guidance on the RRP, contact Amaia Lopez at OCHA ROLAC ([lopez20@un.org](mailto: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>

The Regional Response Plan can be found at:

[http://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Hurricane\\_Irma\\_Regional\\_Response\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Hurricane_Irma_Regional_Response_Plan.pdf)

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)

## Humanitarian Response

CDEMA continues to lead the response to Maria's impact on Dominica - they have deployed more than 90 personnel and specialists on regional response teams to Dominica since 19 September. The Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) remains active in support of the affected countries. CDEMA distributed relief supplies to Salisbury and Colihaut in Dominica and is working closely with local authorities and village councils to provide relief supplies.

CDEMA Rapid Needs Assessment Teams (RNAT) and CARICOM Disaster and Assessment Coordination (CDAC) team have finished their assessments in Dominica.

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. The Governments of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have both dispatched emergency relief supplies to Dominica.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have deployed personnel and resources in Dominica. Staff from more UN agencies and humanitarian partners are expected to arrive in the coming days.

In the Dominican Republic, the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is responding to the effects of Maria with local resources, activating their national contingency plans to assist the people in areas where Maria caused the most damage. The NEOC has been active in addressing health, shelter, WASH, protection, food security and logistics concerns and remain in contact with the UN country team, who are monitoring the situation. The UN country team is prepared to provide assistance should the Government request it. At present, the Government is responding to Maria with its own resources.



### Camp Coordination and Camp Management

#### Needs:

- The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is collating 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 also displays information regarding hurricane paths and exposed areas. Furthermore, the platform provides the possibility for staff to provide real-time updates from the field.
- **Antigua and Barbuda:** DTM site assessments were resumed. Information on numbers and locations of displacement populations for Antigua and Barbuda (available on DTM Portal <http://displacement.iom.int/caribbean-emergency-2017> ). DTM site profiles will be published later this week with information on needs and vulnerabilities of additional sites. Majority of needs are being met, however, the displaced Barbadians are in need of information regarding returns. The Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross has completed registration of the Barbadians displaced to Antigua and the final review of the list of registered persons is underway. At least one shelter will close on 1 October 2017; planning is being undertaken to determine where the displaced people can be housed. A staff member has been identified to be deployed for the remainder of the emergency as coordination focal point.
- **Dominica:** 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.
- **Dominican Republic:** As of 21 September, the NEOC reports 3,713 persons in collective centres and a total of 9,900 were displaced due to Maria. On 22 of September, this number increased to a total 18,000 displaced and 10,000 in collective centers.
- **Guadeloupe:** No official record of IDPs in Guadeloupe, but IFRC estimates this to be between 300 and 1,000.

#### Response:

- IOM has deployed staff to Barbados to support regional coordination and displacement reporting, as well as liaising with coordinating partners on the ground.
- **Antigua and Barbuda:** IOM will be supporting the Antiguan government with shelter management training along with partners UN Women and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) on 27 and 28 September. The training will focus on overall shelter management for 30-40 Government representatives and volunteers who are

currently supporting this activity and will include topics such as roles and responsibilities, information management, gender based violence issues as well as referral mechanisms, coordinating and monitoring services and community participation. IOM will be supporting the Antiguan Government with shelter management training along with partners UN Women and UNFPA on the 27 and 28 September. Hiring of IOM staff for emergency coordination is also in process.

- **Dominica:** 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. (<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/hurricane-irma-response/document/dominica-emergency-shelters-overview-20170921> ) IOMs surge capacity coordinated DTM Site assessments that are starting today by boat and by road together with PAHO, based on the previously published lists of evacuation centers. Initial activities in Dominica in the coming days will include: (i) systematic collection of information on collective centres using IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix; (ii) mapping of priority areas for distributions by helicopter and by road.
- **Sint Maarten:** Festival Village is identified as temporary housing solution for persons whose homes were destroyed and are currently residing with host families, but the capacity is estimated to be only for 300 persons approximately. NIPA planned closure continues as planned, those who can re occupy their homes with minimal assistance that is currently available will be assisted to return, health patients will be referred and those with no immediate solution will be relocated to Festival Village. Rotation of the one IOM staff present in the island will happen during the course of the week.

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## Early Recovery

### Needs:

- **Dominica:** According to UNICEF, urgent needs identified for 14,000 affected families include the following relief items: tarpaulins, food and water supplies, water purification and hygiene kits, blankets and medical supplies.

### Response:

- UNDP's Emergency Response Advisor in Barbados, deployed shortly after Hurricane Irma, will be tasked to Dominica this week and another Emergency Response Advisor will be tasked to the British Virgin Islands.
- **Antigua and Barbuda:** UNICEF, WFP, The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross, UNFPA and DFID are exploring plans to facilitate cash transfers for affected families.
- **Cuba:** A UNDP shipment of more than 6,000 tarpaulins and 2,000 mattresses is arriving within the week to assist early recovery efforts.  
**Dominica:** UNDP has allocated US\$50,000 in emergency funds to support assessments, coordination and recovery planning.

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## Education

### Needs:

- **Cuba:** Authorities have encouraged the return of children to school, however, the high number of damaged schools and schools used as evacuation centres hinders this effort, with 537 early childhood centres and boarding schools not being able to resume.
- **Dominica:** Students from Antigua returned to school on 11 September, while those in Barbuda will return in two phases – senior students on 18 September and junior students on 2 October. They will be accommodated at a school in Antigua. UNICEF will also ensure that all preschool age children and girls, have access to quality education and care opportunities in safe and secure learning environments that promote the protection and well-being of learners.

- **Dominican Republic:** The Ministry of Education suspended school activity across the country from 20 September to 25 September as a preemptive measure ahead of Maria's arrival.

#### Response:

- UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) Education team is working with UNICEF headquarters to identify a consultant to be part of the Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) mission for Eastern Caribbean countries. The Education Regional Group has convened and shared information about presence and response actions in the affected countries.
- Over 6,500 children and adolescents, mainly in Antigua and Barbuda and Turks and Caicos are beginning to benefit from UNICEF's response in educational materials.

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



## Food Security

#### Needs:

- **Dominica:** The entire population of Dominica was affected by Hurricane Maria with most agriculture destroyed; 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 location, 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.

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

- **Dominican Republic:** National authorities have performed damage assessments of Maria's impact on the national agricultural production and will present a report on their findings in the coming days.

#### Response:

- **Dominica:** WFP has dispatched High Energy Biscuits pre-positioned on nearby islands to cover an initial 3 days for roughly 9,000 people. Additionally, WFP has deployed food security staff on assessments and they are liaising with authorities on further assistance that might be needed.
- **Turks and Caicos:** HEB distributions are ongoing in response to Hurricane Irma in partnership with local authorities.

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## Health

#### Needs:

- **Dominica:** According to PAHO, delivery of essential healthcare services to affected population, including continuation of care is a priority need. A supply chain system for medicines and supplies is urgently required as most health items have been destroyed or rendered unusable by the hurricane. The regular supply of food, electricity, and running and drinking water for all 53 hospitals and health centres must all be restored. The cold chain will need to be restored to ensure the medium- and long-term cold chain for some medicines, vaccines, and supplies. Key health facilities require emergency repairs. Disease surveillance systems must be put in place. Furthermore, there will be a need to strengthen local capacities to meet mental health needs of the affected population as in all affected islands. Assessments are still needed for 49 health centres. The continuity of care of patients that require dialysis and those with chronic diseases is also a priority.

**Response:**

- UNICEF is advocating for Governments of affected countries to reinstate and operationalize affected health care services for infants, young children and pregnant women from affected populations. Additionally, they are advocating to address the concern that the nutrition situation may rapidly deteriorate (outbreaks of diarrhea followed by a rise of acute malnutrition cases) if no preventive actions are taken to protect and support infant and young child feeding practices (e.g. evaluate current practices, provide safe places and skilled support to breastfeeding mothers, ensure the suitability of the general food rations for feeding infants 6-24 months).
- 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.
- **Dominica:** 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 25 September for public health, humanitarian supply management, and logistics. 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 also coordinated with the Dutch military and the Dominican Republic to evacuate nine trauma patients from Princess Margaret Hospital; plans are in place to evacuate additional high-risk patients.
- **Dominican Republic:** National health authorities sent out emergency broadcasts on prevention prior to Maria's arrival and are stepping up the epidemiological surveillance in areas still experiencing rainfall. Healthcare personnel are active in official shelters. Provincial health centers were stocked with pre-positioned supplies as a precautionary measure.

Contact person at PAHO/WHO in Washington: **Ciro Ugarte** ([ugarteci@paho.org](mailto:ugarteci@paho.org)) and contact email for PAHO EOC: [eoc@paho.org](mailto:eoc@paho.org) and EMT: [emt@paho.org](mailto:emt@paho.org)

**Needs:**

- **Dominica:** 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). Early findings indicated that there was a need to evacuate of migrants including 200 Nigerians, two Botswanans and two Ghanaians. In addition, there was a report of five 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.
- **Dominican Republic:** The COE working group on shelter has been providing directives for protection and dignified treatment for all civil defense shelter volunteers in order to quickly identify any instances of violence against women, children/adolescents and/or differently abled.
- **Sint Maarten:** Among the vulnerable categories, persons residing in Sint Maarten in an irregular status were singled out as possibly not benefiting from state- driven assistance. This refers to schemes that were interrupted or are activated after the state of emergency such as insurance claims, reconstruction schemes for land owners and proprietors, among others. The relief assistance and emergency shelter support is being offered to all without distinction.

**Response:**

- All of the countries affected by Irma have received UNICEF support on gender and emergencies guidance for inclusion in assessments as well as materials to conduct a GBViE assessment for children.
- To support the return to normalcy for children in Anguilla, Barbuda & Antigua, the British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos, UNICEF has been working with partners on the ground to identify and respond to the most immediate needs.
- **Antigua and Barbuda:** IOM will be supporting the Antiguan government with shelter management training along with partners, UN Women and UNFPA on 27 and 28 September. The training will focus on overall shelter management for 30-40 government representatives and volunteers who are currently supporting this activity and will include gender based violence issues as well as referral mechanisms, coordinating and monitoring

services and community participation. For protection of children, UNICEF is following up on shelter assessments as well as the “Return to Happiness” programme.

- **Dominica:** The immediate needs for evacuation of 200 Nigerians, two Botswanans, two Ghanaians and five stranded Panamanians have been resolved. The Nigerians, Botswanans and Ghanaians are confirmed to have left the islands, as facilitated by IOM, while the Panamanians have received assistance.

UNICEF has sent key messages on health, child protection and WASH to the national Child Protection Focal Point, who will ensure that these messages are disseminated to reach both adults and children. UNICEF is also using C4D strategies and tools to guarantee that all the children and adolescents living in the affected areas can be protected, healthy and have access to education and participation spaces. UNICEF ECA has shared C4D assessments questions with UNICEF team member deployed into Dominica to ascertain affected population information and other needs.

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## Shelter

### Needs:

- **Dominica:** 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. CDEMA reports that at least 80 per cent of the population (56,000) requires urgent support with shelter and water. 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 and in rural areas is significantly worse. Damage in Roseau (on the west coast) is reportedly more moderate although CDEMA reports flooding. The most urgent shelter needs are corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheeting and tarpaulins. Access is a major issue with many roads blocked, landslides, washed-out river valleys and destroyed bridges.
- **Dominican Republic:** According to the NEOC, there are some 2,275 people currently in shelters as of 25 September.
- **Sint Maarten:** Dutch Defense personnel continue to conduct engineering assessments and critical infrastructure repairs. Partial assessments estimate that in some areas up to 40 per cent of wrecked houses could be irreparably damaged and 60 needing thorough renovation. The population expressed the desire not leave their houses even if damaged to move into temporary housing for fear of losing their belongings. Most expressed the need to receive materials to repair their damaged homes while a more durable solution is identified.

### Response:

- A UNICEF is collaborating with IOM to undertake an audit of all shelters to ensure that the shelters meet basic humanitarian standards.
- Antigua and Barbuda: Some 250 shelterboxes (tents and shelter materials) will be brought in by IOM incoming from Haiti, arriving on 25 September to Antigua. They will be used to as shelter for cleanup teams in Barbuda. Emergency focal point for LAC region will deploy to Antigua to provide technical support on these activities.
- Dominica: 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 US\$100,000 that IOM has released from own funds to scale up shelter response in Dominica.
- Dominican Republic: Civil protection activated some 64 shelters in the most affected provinces and is guaranteeing the proper food supply and accommodations.
- Sint Maarten: The arrival of IOMs pre-positioned stock of 1,000 ropes and tarpaulins for health facilities as requested by PAHO and also critical shelter needs, has been postponed to 25 September due to technical problems on the flight. These tarpaulins will add to an additional 2,000 that are being sent by CRS. IOM continues to input in the shelter-to-housing strategy for the island. These will be targeted to roofing needs for health facilities as requested by PAHO and also critical shelter needs identified by Sector coordinator. IOM continues to work closely with the UNDP early recovery advisor on the ground along with local Government and the Dutch Housing Delegation from the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Affairs to draft a shelter to housing

strategy that includes also Social, Business and Governance aspects. Migration management aspects are considered in it given the large segment of the population estimated to be in an irregular status.

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## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs:

- A UNICEF health, nutrition and WASH poll was sent to U-Reporters affected by Irma on 14 September. Whilst 80 per cent of respondents said they felt confident about making their water safe to drink, and 84 per cent said they were aware that mosquitoes brought disease, just 48 per cent of U-Reporters who are pregnant, breastfeeding or with a child under 5 said they had access to a health provider.
- **Cuba:** More than 2,770 water supply systems remain affected, mainly due to the lack of electricity. Thirteen per cent of electric power service remains to be restored, directly affecting water pumping and the intensity with which water is supplied to the population. Coastal flooding, damage to sanitation facilities, and the flooding of rivers has contaminated cisterns limiting access to safe, potable water.
- **Dominica:** With water supply and sanitation systems disrupted, people are becoming desperate for drinking water.

### Response:

- UNICEF is advocating for governments of affected countries, especially in Eastern Caribbean to consider provision of mosquito nets and repellent to the affected populations. UNICEF is also advocating to be vigilant for outbreaks of related diseases of water not treated for human consumption. Surveillance and monitoring of appropriate use of chlorine supplies being distributed to families.
- Over 6,500 children and adolescents, mainly in Antigua and Barbuda and Turks and Caicos are beginning to benefit from UNICEF's response in WASH.
- Once the repair stage begins in Irma-affected Caribbean islands, UNICEF will provide material and technical support to the Ministries of Education for the hygienic cleaning of all affected schools, especially those used as shelters to enable quick return to regular education. For schools with interrupted water supply, UNICEF will support the installation of 1,000 litre water tanks.
- **Cuba:** UNICEF has distributed three million chlorine purifying tablets to the authorities to cover the population of approximately 44,000 people for 21 days. Additionally, UNICEF has started the purchasing process of 3.7 million additional chlorine purifying tablets to cover the population of Camajuaní (60,000 people).
- **Dominica:** Initial UNICEF supplies arrived in the island on 23 September. UNICEF staff in Dominica is coordinating with the Government and CDEMA for distributions to the affected populations. Items shipped include 30,000 water purification tablets, 191 boxes of oral rehydration salts, 392 family hygiene and dignity kits and five large tents. A second shipment of 200 family tents, WASH items, hygiene kits, mosquito nets and tarpaulins are on its way.

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## Emergency Telecommunications

### Needs:

- **Dominica:** There has been disruption of power supplies island wide, 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.

### Response:

- In WFP has teams based in Antigua for humanitarian coordination and onwards deployment to required areas in coordination with the governments; a second team deployed to Sint Maarten to set up internet connectivity at the humanitarian hub; and a team arrived in Dominica to assess the need for emergency telecommunications support and setup services. The team in Barbuda is conducting a telecom assessment following a request from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.
- **Dominica:** 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 main 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 & 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.



## Logistics

### Needs:

- **Dominica:** Douglas-Charles Airport is open and has received certification to operate daytime. It can receive cargo jets up to B727 or C130 or similar. Canefield Airport is open and both rotary and fixed-wing aircraft have been able to land. Debris cover significant parts of the west side of the runway. Woodbridge Bay Port is open and secured. Internally, a collapsed bridge in Coulibistre is hindering access to the northwest. Access to conduct assessments and provide urgent support is a major issue with many roads blocked, landslides, washed-out river valleys and destroyed bridges. Fuel availability is another constraint especially for air operations.

### Response:

- **Dominica:** The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is conducting daily flights to Dominica 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. The Government of Canada has provided the use of vessels to support relief efforts and help with the transport of critical care patients.
- **Dominican Republic:** National authorities have set up 57 collection centres throughout the country to respond to the effects of Maria. The Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Public Works have both deployed resources and personnel to support the collection centers.
- For more information on Logistics Cluster response to Hurricane Irma, visit the following page: <http://www.logcluster.org/sector/irma17>
- For more information on the distribution of relief items throughout the Caribbean, visit the Caribbean Hurricane Relief Tracking Matrix - <https://tinyurl.com/yaso24ml>

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## General Coordination

UNDAC personnel is currently in Dominica to support the Government in coordinating aid from international actors and strengthen assistance in parts of the island where access remains a challenge. MapAction staff are also on the ground with UNDAC.

The NEOC in Dominica 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). 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](mailto: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. Dominica has already been affected, and more islands are bracing for damage.

#### For further information, please contact:

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To find updated information online please visit: [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int) and <http://www.redhum.org>

To provide inputs to this report, please send information to: [hurricaneirma@undac.org](mailto:hurricaneirma@undac.org) and [ocha-rolac@un.org](mailto:ocha-rolac@un.org)

To be added or deleted from this Sit Rep mailing list, please e-mail: [ocha-rolac@un.org](mailto:ocha-rolac@un.org)