

HURRICANE MATTHEW

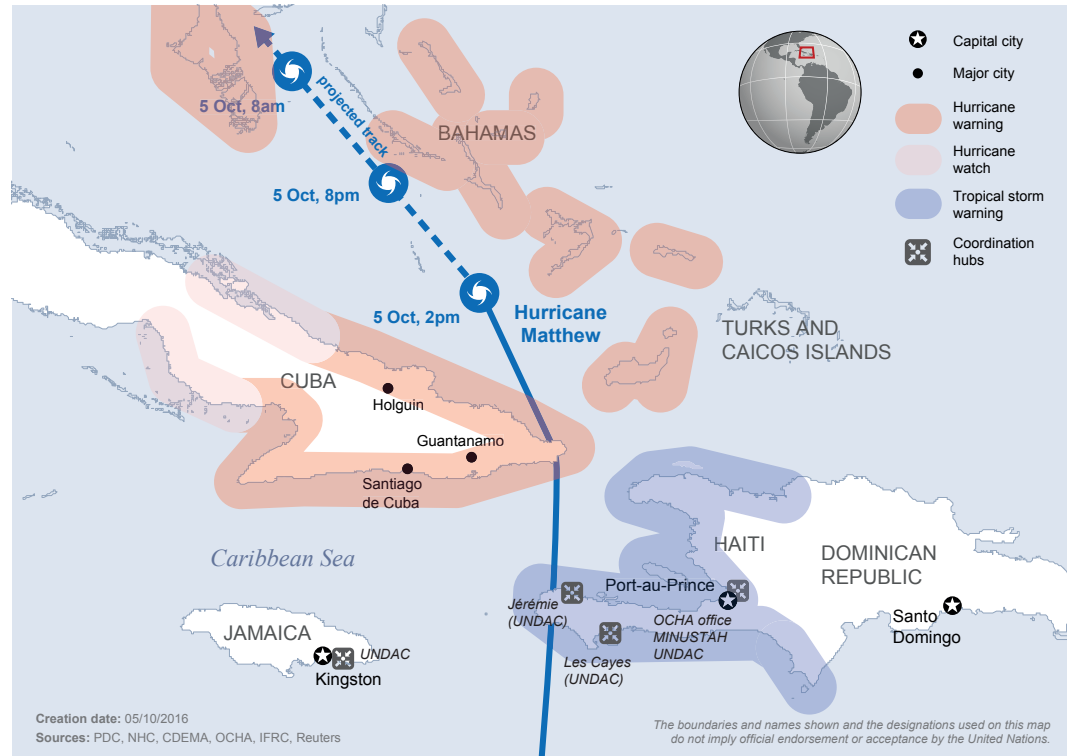
SITUATION REPORT No. 3
as of 5 October 2016 (1700 hours EST)



This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners and with inputs from official institutions. It covers the period from 4 to 5 October 2016 at 17:00 hours. The next report will be published on 6 October 2016.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Initial assessments are taking place today in **Haiti** over the affected areas in south-west, north-west and central departments.
- Cuba's preparedness measures included the evacuation of over **1 million people**. Homes, livelihoods and infrastructure have already been damaged.
- Damage assessment teams are being deployed to **Turks and Caicos** and the **Bahamas**.



HAITI

350,000
PEOPLE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE*

15,623
DISPLACED PEOPLE

152
SHELTERS

CUBA

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

HAITI

JAMAICA

1,300,000
PEOPLE EVACUATED*

*Numbers are for reference only and may have changed by the time this report was published. Check updates with other online sources for accurate numbers
Source: various official UN sources published on online humanitarian websites

* Source: Directorate of Civil Protection

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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

Overview

The full extent of the damage in Haiti following the passage of Hurricane Matthew will be assessed today, as the Government and the UN are planning initial assessments. Affected areas in south-west Haiti are effectively cut off, with communications disconnected and roads inaccessible due to flooding. Initial coordinated assessments are being organized in the south-west, north-west and central coast (Artibonite).

The eye of the hurricane made landfall over Cuba on Tuesday night. Matthew may intensify again over the Bahamas and its warm waters. Hurricane conditions will diminish in Cuba, continue over the south-eastern Bahamas, and then spread over the central Bahamas later today and north-western Bahamas tonight.

High waves combined with excessive rainfall, hurricane-force winds and a storm surge could cause extensive damage, including flooding and landslides, in southern and north-western Haiti, the south-western Dominican Republic and eastern Cuba. An additional high storm surge of 4 to 5 m in western Bahamas and 5 to 6 m in northern Bahamas might create dangerous conditions for the rather flat islands.

Regional Humanitarian Actions

- The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) will deploy to Haiti and Bahamas, with Jamaica as regional focal point. A team of 10 people will be deployed to Haiti with a possibility of being reinforced by the CARICOM emergency unit (a pool of 45 people).
- The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit is on standby to source environmental specialists to support the emergency response in any of the affected countries on request.
- IFRC has deployed one expert to the Bahamas, activated a contingency plan and pre-positioned staff in Haiti and Jamaica. IFRC regional and global response teams have been placed on alert, and a plan of action is being drafted.
- The UK Department for International Development (DFID) has pre-deployed two people to Jamaica and four to Haiti.
- IFRC approved an international appeal for Haiti for 5 million CHF that will benefit 10,000 families in WASH and 3,500 families in health. A Field Assessment and Coordination team (FACT)(includes shelter, health and WASH specialists) was deployed to the field for assessment and coordination. An agreement between IFRC and Airbus is in place to use helicopters for assessment tasks. A Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) request is under way for Jamaica.
- World Vision will assist some 50,000 families in Haiti with NFIs, WASH and food security. It made non-food item (NFI) distributions in the open shelters in Port-au-Prince, and it will deploy technical specialists in WASH.
- The UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Panama is organizing charter flights from Panama to Haiti with supplies of water and sanitation, housing and non-food items. Partners have confirmed requests to ship 58 metric tons of supplies (WFP: 22; AECID: 10; UNICEF: 18; White Helmets: 8).

Haiti

Hurricane Matthew struck the south-western peninsula of Haiti. The damage has been gauged as severe in the departments of the south, particularly Grand'Anse, but the assessments have only tentatively begun due to threatening weather conditions.

Five people have died, six are wounded and one is missing.

The river floods began in the morning of 4 October and the Le Petit Goâve de la Digue bridge collapsed.

All telephone communication with Grand'Anse has been disconnected since the morning of 4 October, and it is very limited with Nippes department. Two portable satellites have been made available for the National Emergency Operations Centre (COUN) by Scouts to contact the areas where telephone communication was disconnected. The international airport of Port au Prince will stay closed until 6 October at 11:00 am. The airport is open for humanitarian flights.

Evacuations of hurricane-affected people continued until this morning in the departments of the south, and they began this afternoon in the departments of the far north. A total of 15,623 displaced people throughout the country have been placed in 152 shelters.

The government announced that presidential elections scheduled for Sunday 8 October will be postponed, the new date to be announced.

At the Jérémie wharf, 130 children were evacuated from the Lycée Fritz Pierre Louis. They included infants and 17 disabled children from an orphanage. Twenty-one disabled people were evacuated from Les Cayes.

The Haitian maritime and navigation agency (SEMANAH for its acronym in French) maintains a mercantile shipping ban in all coastal areas of the country. Vessels must stay in their home port or in sheltered waters until further notice.

A helicopter mission with the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team and Haitian civil protection was scheduled for this morning.

Health

According to PAHO/WHO, a cholera outbreak was recently reported in Randel by the departmental committee in charge of emergency coordination (five deaths in the community and one hospitalized death).

Health facilities were well prepared. However, there are still no communications with some, especially with a health facility in Cavaillon, where patients were transferred to another hospital. Hôpital de Immaculée Conception was evacuated.

PAHO/WHO in Haiti declared an emergency and deployed three experts (logistics and health coordination). They are coordinating the health response with EI COUN (NEOC) and MSPP (central and local levels).

WHO is working in health monitoring and epidemiological surveillance in the shelters.

The PAHO office in Haiti has activated its Preparedness and Response Plan for Emergencies and Disasters, as well as its Business Continuity Plan. The Situation Room has been established with designated staff, and the office building and equipment have been secured.

Two Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) are on standby, four are monitoring the situation and 11 are following EMT information through Virtual OSOCC.

Food Security

WFP has enough emergency food pre-positioned to feed up to 300,000 people for a month. An additional 34 MT of food can be shipped from Miami to strengthen the operation. WFP has deployed 12 logistics and programme specialists.

FAO will organize the delivery and replacement of seeds in Haiti following the assessments.

Shelter and non-food items

IOM has capacity and experience to lead the CCCM/Shelter Cluster and the Logistics Cluster, if needed. It expects to receive an airlift from OFDA with NFIs if the weather clears.

UNDP has 10,000 tarps pre-positioned for shelters, and it has offered to mobilize an early recovery expert.

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

OCHA Haiti is working on the digital platform haiti.humanitarianresponse.info as a one-stop source of data, information and actions by national and international entities.

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

Environment

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Haiti is leading a coordination group for rapid assessments in South department,. UNEP is also supporting the UN humanitarian system with environmental risk information to ensure that these dangers are assessed and any exposure of the population or emergency responders is minimized.

For more information, see OCHA Haiti Situation Report, to be issued today.

Dominican Republic

The effects of Hurricane Matthew continue to bring rain across most of the country. The effects of the storm persists, reaching villages in the border area...

The Emergency Operations Center (COE) remains on alert in 31 provinces, including the National District, for possible urban and rural flash floods, overflowing rivers and streams, and landslides.

Four people are reported dead in Santo Domingo Province. The 28 people who were caught on rooftops and trees have been rescued in Guanuma, La Victoria, Palmarejo and Villa Altigracia sectors.

Some 25,384 people were evacuated as a preventive measure in the 20 provinces on red alert. A total of 1,522 people remain in 27 official shelters in 14 provinces.

The Police and Military Commission is patrolling the roads. The Defense Ministry deployed units to provinces under alert; the army has pre-positioned search-and-rescue boats in Barahona, Azua and Pedernales; and the air force has positioned search-and-rescue teams in the Air Command North.

UNEP ROLAC has developed a rapid desk assessment of environmental risks in the affected areas of the Dominican Republic to inform assessments on the ground.

Health

The Ministry of Public Health is in session. It has activated a situation room and ordered the activation of hospital emergency plans. The Red Cross has activated specialized teams in water and sanitation, psychosocial support, reestablishment of family contact, emergency health and epidemic control.

Sources: OCHA Dominican Republic, COE Government of Dominican Republic, UNDAC, PAHO, UNETE Situation Report

Bahamas, and Turks and Caicos

Turks and Caicos has requested assistance with its post-hurricane rapid damage assessment.

The National and Health EOC has been activated. Evacuation flights to the two most vulnerable islands were initiated on 3 October with additional evacuation flights planned. Response teams will be ready to deploy when the “all clear” has been given.

In Turks and Caicos, all schools and Government businesses have been closed until further notice. Shelters opened on Monday on a staggered basis. The NEOC and district EOCs were activated. All response agencies remain on alert.

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

IFRC has deployed one expert to the Bahamas.

Health

Health facilities have been equipped with medical and fuel supplies, generators have been checked, and satellite phones have been tested and distributed to the 10 identified locations.

PAHO/WHO has pre-positioned three experts (WASH/damage and needs assessments and health coordination) in the Bahamas to assist with post-disaster assessment and response, and to support the Ministry of Health with technical expertise in its EOC operations.

PAHO has declared an emergency situation for the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos. A business-continuity plan for EOC operations has been activated at a safe location. The development of a pre-assessment model to project/predict post-hurricane need of resources has been initiated. Three experts have been identified to support Turks and Caicos for post-hurricane rapid assessment.

Sources: UNDAC, PAHO/WHO

Cuba

Some 1,079,000 people (944,000 in relatives' and neighbours' houses) have been evacuated to official shelters. Of these people, 317,000 have been evacuated to designated protective shelters.. Those unable to evacuate are being closely monitored.

The hurricane's centre impacted at 8:30 a.m. (local time) on 4 October in a zone near Punta Caleta, south coast of Guantámo Province, with a category 4 in the Saffir-Simpson scale and maximum sustained winds of 220 km/h. Strong storm surges on both eastern coasts, with coastal floods in the south eastern coast were reported.

On 4 October, the Senior Command of the Civil Defense issued a Cyclonic Alert Phase for floods for the coastline of the municipalities in the north of the central provinces of Ciego de Ávila, Sancti Spiritus and Villa Clara.

On the afternoon of 4 October, Imías and Baracoa in Guantánamo Province were cut off.

Holguín Province reported fallen trees and electric power towers, and damaged roofs from the strong winds in the Frank País municipality.

Reservoirs in the eastern provinces have the capacity to absorb the heavy rains; the required verifications were performed in case the locks need to be opened.

Three communities of the coastal municipality of Guamá (Santiago de Cuba) were cut off from land communication due to sea penetration.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The population of at least six provinces are expected to have problems accessing potable water. The storage of potable water and extended water pumping was recommended in the provinces of Camagüey, Las Tunas, Holguín, Granma, Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo.

Water tanks have been mobilized in the eastern provinces to ensure safe water distribution, especially in Guantánamo, where river overflows are expected to affect the quality of the potable water.

Food Security

Farmers from Ciego de Ávila sent 400 tons of plantain, 2,000 boxes of papayas and 40 tons of avocados to the zones threatened by the hurricane.

Education

Since the start of the Cyclonic Alarm Phase, national authorities have temporarily suspended teaching activities in education institutions in Camagüey, Las Tunas, Holguín, Granma, Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo. Several schools were occupied as evacuation centres, and teachers are taking care of the sheltered population. This disruption in the academic year has affected 1,025,911 boys, girls and teenagers under 18 years old in the six eastern provinces.

United Nations agencies response

MINCEX has taken measures to activate the mechanism to immediately distribute 9,000 tarps pre-positioned by UNDP. UNDP has activated institutional mechanisms to offer support in the early recovery phase and is in contact with national institutions.

PAHO is in close contact with the Director of the Disaster Emergency Response MINSAP, ensuring a link with the Civil Defense.

WFP is in contact with its regional office to access foods with high nutritional value.

FAO maintains contact with its global headquarters and is in discussions with counterparts to offer a rapid response.

Health

Epidemiological and assistance facilities are ready in the possible affected areas. Physicians have been instructed to stay in their communities and to provide emergency attention. The Ministry of Health, under the leadership of Civil Defense, has established a control centre at a provincial and national level. Essential medicines, chloride for drinkable water and other supplies have been pre-positioned in potentially affected areas.

According to PAHO/WHO, the needs of vulnerable people (pregnant women, children and elderly) have been addressed. Hospitals have made more beds available for priority patients.

Thirty Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) have been deployed to areas of potential risk.

A coordination mechanism has been established to assess the response and needs. One expert from PAHO (Health Coordination) is on standby.

Coordination

The United Nations Resident Coordinator maintains close communication with the Ministry of Exterior Commerce and Foreign Investment and the Civil Defense.

The United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) met again to exchange information and coordinate the response.

Representatives of international NGOs and UN agencies met to share information on the impact of the hurricane and possible response.

OCHA has deployed one expert to support the UN Resident Coordinator/Country Team in Cuba to support the development of a response plan.

Sources: *Defensa Civil, La Prensa.*

Jamaica

The Meteorological Service has discontinued the tropical-storm warning for Jamaica. The island is no longer under threat of tropical-storm-force winds.

Airports have reopened, and the Tourism Emergency Operations Centre, located at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, has been deactivated.

The public transportation system has resumed service, and ministries, departments and agencies re-opened.

Schools, which were closed for two days, are expected to reopen today, with the exception of three that were used as hurricane shelters. As of yesterday, the three schools (Mandeville Primary and Junior High, Manchioneal and Annotto Bay primary schools) were still housing evacuees. The Education Ministry is working with parish coordinators to explore the possibility of relocating them to community centres while they repair their homes.

THE National Works Agency has reopened Marcus Garvey Drive in Kingston to vehicular traffic.

Matthew is no longer considered a threat to Jamaica, but the island could continue to experience isolated showers and thunderstorms, especially over eastern parishes. Residents are advised to remain alert should periodic outbreaks of showers cause localized flooding.

According to PAHO, 900 people are in shelters. All hospitals remain open for emergencies only, and they have adequate water, food and fuel to last for at least three days. Health emergency transportation, laboratory and blood-transfusion services remain available, and adequate blood products have been distributed to hospitals. The Ministry of Health has aired several public service messages related to water quality, access to medications and preparedness for pregnant women. It has systems in place to monitor public health before, during and after the hurricane. This includes water quality, sanitation, food safety and disease surveillance.

The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response (ODPEM) has identified the following possible needs: hygiene kits for adults and children, water storage containers, drinking water, tarpaulins and plastic sheeting, portable sanitary facilities and roofing materials.

The UNEP subregional office for the Caribbean in Kingston has been monitoring the situation and is in touch with the authorities.

Sources: ODPEM, UNEP and NEOC Jamaica,

If you have any relevant information, please e-mail: UNDAC_jamaica@undac.org

Coordination

- OCHA ROLAC is in contact with the UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams for the Bahamas, Jamaica, Dominican Republic and Cuba, as well as with OCHA Haiti.
- UNDAC teams are supporting coordination in Haiti, Jamaica and will deploy with CDEMA to the Bahamas.
- OCHA ROLAC continues its contact with regional humanitarian partners (REDLAC) to share information about deployments and pre-positioning of stocks at the regional logistic hub.
- REDLAC meetings on Hurricane Matthew are held daily in Panama. Regional deployments and resources mobilized to countries are being identified. Partners are encouraged to send information about their staff and/or equipment deployments to: ocha-rolac@un.org

Funding

- USAID/OFDA strengthened representation in Bahamas and Jamaica, and it has a team in Haiti. It is providing an initial \$100,000 to the Bahamas Red Cross (BRC) to respond to the anticipated needs of hurricane-affected people, \$100,000 through the Jamaica Red Cross to support the distribution of relief commodities, and \$1.3 million to Haiti (\$300,000 for immediate relief efforts, and USAID/FFP committed \$1 million to NGO partner CARE to address immediate hurricane-related needs).
- The European Commission (ECHO) is ready for deployment. It is providing 255,000 EUR (\$285,000) to fund initial humanitarian assistance for those most affected in Haiti.
- The Caribbean Development Bank has made US\$200,000 available to Bahamas and Haiti under its Emergency Response Grant.

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.

Inquiries from the private sector for offers of in-kind and pro-bono services can be directed to pss@un.org. Commercial offers are directed to www.ungm.org for more information.

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To find updated information online please visit: www.reliefweb.int www.unocha.org/hurricane-matthew

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