

HURRICANE MATTHEW

Situation Report No. 1

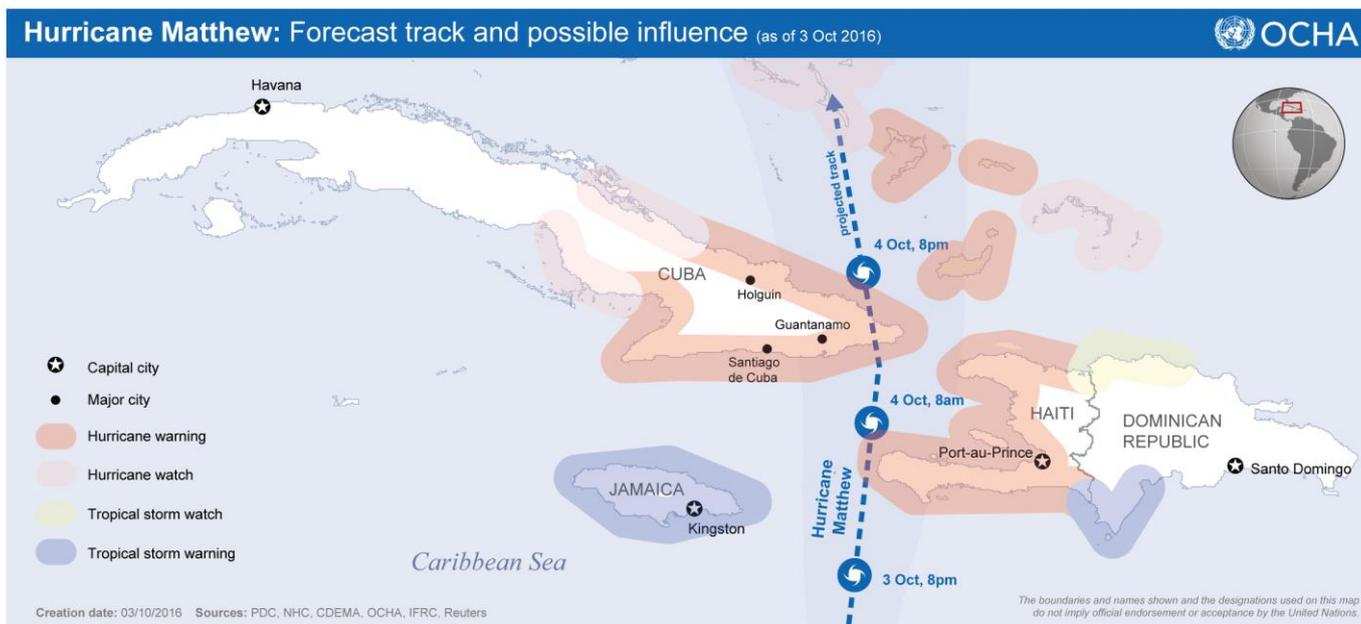
as of 3 October 2016 (1700 hours EST)



This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners and with inputs from official institutions. It covers the period from 2 to 3 October 2016 at 1700 hours EST. The next report will be published on 4 October 2016 at 1700.

Highlights

- Hurricane conditions are expected to reach Haiti by Monday evening 3 October or early morning Tuesday 4 October.
- High waves combined with excessive rainfall, hurricane-force winds and storm surges could cause extensive damage, primarily in coastal areas.
- United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams have arrived in Jamaica and Haiti and are supporting national efforts.
- The National Emergency Operations Centres (COE) are active in countries including Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica. They remain on alert.



300,000

People in Haiti to be immediately assisted. Half of the population is expected to be affected.

Source: Directorate of Civil Protection

601,241

People in shelters (Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Cuba)

340,000

People in 1,300 emergency shelters in Haiti

251,795

People in some 218 shelters in Cuba, most of them with families or friends

900

People in shelters in Jamaica

73,000

People affected in Colombia

Overview

As of 1100 EST on 3 October, Category 4 Hurricane Matthew was some 330 km south-east from Kingston (Jamaica) and 440 km south-west from Port-au-Prince (Haiti) in the Caribbean Sea, moving north-west at 9 km/h, with maximum sustained winds of 220 km/h, according to the National Hurricane Center (NOAA). Hurricane-force winds extend outwards up to 55 km from the centre and tropical-storm-force winds extend outwards up to 295 km.

Hurricane conditions are expected to reach Haiti and Jamaica during the night of Monday 3 October or early morning on Tuesday 4 October. Of primary concern are potentially catastrophic impacts on Haiti, including wave heights of greater than 16 metres off its southern peninsula and storm surges of 7 to 10 feet on the south coast. Matthew is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 15 to 25 inches over southern Haiti, with possible isolated maximum amounts of 40 inches. High waves combined with excessive rainfall, hurricane-force winds and storm surges could cause extensive damage including flooding and landslides. Across eastern Jamaica, rainfall may produce life-threatening flash floods and mudslides.

No major assistance has been requested of the international community in Barbados, Colombia, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadine, or Venezuela where national authorities have managed the response.

Regional Humanitarian Actions

- The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) has shared an Operational Scenario and Plan with Member States, including projections for impact assessment based on current population data. Regional response teams are on alert and ready to deploy if assistance is requested. This includes the CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU), the CARICOM Disaster Assessment and Coordination (CDAC) team and the CARICOM Operational Support Team (COST). At the time of writing, CDEMA has not received an official request for support from Haiti.
- UNDAC teams have arrived in Jamaica and Haiti. They are supporting national preparedness efforts, including readiness to deploy needs assessments and information management.
- The Emergency and Disaster Working Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) members are all on standby. The organizations are prepared to support the countries at their request. The regional logistic cluster and telecommunications group are meeting tomorrow to review the actions and strategy for the following days. Any members interested in sending stocks should contact UNHRD.
- The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is preparing an appeal and a Plan of Action for Haiti and a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund for Jamaica. It is waiting for the assessments of Saint Vincent and Grenadines to know if support is needed.

National Humanitarian Actions

The National Emergency Operations Centres (COE) are active in several Caribbean countries. They remain on alert in ports and marinas to prevent human and material losses.

Haiti

Up to 5 million people are vulnerable to the impacts of Hurricane Matthew. In the next 24 hours, strong winds and heavy rain are expected in south-west Haiti. The peak is expected at noon on Tuesday. Storm surges up to 10 metres with landslides are also expected. The airports of Port-au-Prince and Cap Haitien are closed from 1800 EST on 3 October until 6 p.m. on 5 October. Vehicle movements are restricted as well until 5 October. Schools are closed nationwide on 3 and 4 October.

1,300 emergency shelters have been opened across the country, enough to shelter up to 340,000 people. Many evacuation centres have roof sheets that might not sustain the strong winds expected (140 miles per hour).

The southern town of Les Cayes (population 70,000) is reporting flooding. Haitian Government officials stated that near 2,000 residents of the La Savane neighbourhood in Les Cayes refused to leave their homes near the coast, despite living just a few kilometres from where the eye of the hurricane is forecast to touch ground (Reuters). The body of a fisherman lost at sea last Saturday was found Sunday afternoon in the mouth of Ozanana (commune of Saint Jean du Sud). Five-hundred people were evacuated to Jérémie (Haiti Libre).

The Government has activated emergency plans, the National Emergency Center (COUN) and regional centres (COUD). However, these entities do not have any generator capacity or satellite phones. This will affect communication with affected areas, as communication means are expected to break down for 36 hours.

There is concern as to whether elections can be held on Sunday 9 October, should people be in shelters. Civil unrest is feared in the affected areas based on previous experiences (in 2008, riots erupted in reaction to the insufficient response to a tropical storm).

The UNDAC team in Port-au-Prince will focus on assessment, coordination and communication. An aerial reconnaissance mission is planned for Wednesday 5 October. If needed, a Flash Appeal may be issued by the end of the week. UN agencies and the Government have pre-positioned stocks, but they might be overstretched by needs.

World Vision has mobilized personnel prior to the storm. It has pre-positioned emergency supplies to assist up to 15,000 families with items including tarps, water containers, hygiene kits and blankets. It is also mobilizing with plans to provide relief for approximately 250,000 people, depending on the impact of the storm.

Once the hurricane passes, anticipated challenges include debris and road clearing, communication and availability of fuel.

OCHA Haiti has a digital platform on haiti.humanitarianresponse.info as a one-stop source of data, information and actions by national and international entities. The Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDAC team plan to conduct an aerial assessment as soon as weather conditions allow.

Sources: OCHA Haiti, CDEMA

If you have any information relevant to the response, please e-mail (with subject): undac_haiti@undac.org

Dominican Republic

The Emergency Operations Center (COE) raised to 31 the number of provinces under alert, 15 at the red (highest) level (probable impact on human health, livelihoods and infrastructure). It issued a level-red alert for 15 provinces (Azua, San José de Ocoa, San Juan de la Maguana, Pedernales, Barahona, Independencia, Dajabón, Monte Cristi, Bahoruco, Elías Piña, San Cristobal, Peravia, Santiago Rodriguez, Puerto Plata and Valverde).

Nine provinces remain under yellow alert (Monte Plata, Espaillat, Duarte and María Trinidad Sánchez, Santiago de los Caballeros, Sánchez Ramírez, Monseñor Noel, La Vega, Gran Santo Domingo). A green-level alert was issued for seven provinces (Hermanas Mirabal, Samaná, El Seibo, Hato Mayor, La Romana, San Pedro de Macoris and La Altagracia).

It is prohibited to use beaches or practice water sports along all coasts. All ships must remain docked due to winds and tides throughout the Dominican coast. A total of 8,180 people have moved to relatives' homes, and 366 people are officially sheltered.

The Ministry of Defense has activated Phase III of its Flash Plan: quartering troops, deploying units to provinces under alert. ERD reinforced provinces under red and yellow alerts with the deployment of the Humanitarian Emergency Unit. The Dominican Republic Army has pre-positioned search-and-rescue boats in Azua, Barahona and Pedernales. The Dominican Republic Air Force pre-positioned search-and-rescue teams at the North Air Command. The Ministry of Public Works and Communications (MOPC) continues cleaning scuppers, filters, collectors, sewers, ditches, curbs and solid-waste collection in the provinces under alert. The Emergency Committee and the Crisis Room remain in permanent session. The MOPC has also pre-positioned teams and contractors to help with the contingencies. Through the Vulnerable Housing programme, and in coordination with community leaders, they identify vulnerable zones near rivers, creeks and streams, such as Los Girasoles, Villa Elena, Callejón Puerto Rico and the three entrances to the multi-family housing buildings.

The Military and Police Commission is maintaining safety with day-and-night patrols to avoid traffic jams and prevent accidents in the provinces under alert. The buses of the Directorate of the Metropolitan Bus Office (OMSA) are prepared to support preventive evacuations.

The Civil Defense ordered the activation of Emergency Committees at provincial and municipal levels. Water rescue teams have also been pre-positioned.

The Ministry of Public Health activated its health situation room and remains in permanent session, ordering the activation of hospital contingency plans.

The Dominican Red Cross ordered the activation of specialized teams in water and sanitation, psychosocial support, re-establishment of family contact, health in emergencies and epidemic control.

Sources: OCHA Dominican Republic, COE Government of Dominican Republic and El Nuevo Diario

Jamaica

On 2 October, the Government officially communicated that it welcomes assistance from the UN and other humanitarian partners. The UNDAC team is supporting a coordinated approach to assessments. As of 1700 local time, the hurricane warning has been downgraded to Tropical Storm warning.

Many streets flooded overnight throughout the country's south-east. Flooding has been reported in the coastal town of Port Royal, where officials were urging residents to seek refuge in Government shelters.

More than 700 people are in shelters in the eastern parish of St. Thomas. Another 200 people were reportedly being housed at Salvation Army shelters in Kingston.

Authorities urge citizens to comply with evacuation notices and advise that transportation would be in place to take people to shelters. The Government arranged to have buses available to move residents who are willing to go to the shelter at the National Arena in Kingston. The airports in Kingston and Montego Bay were closed as of 1500 local time 3 October. Caribbean Airlines has cancelled several flights. The Jamaican Defense Force is on standby.

Sources: NationNews, Associated Press, The Jamaica Observer, CDEMA

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

Bahamas

Matthew is expected to bring six to eight feet of storm surges, severe thunderstorms and several inches of rain as it moves through the Bahamas. National authorities are urging residents to continue to monitor the progress of the storm and be prepared.

Crooked Island, Acklins, Long Cay, Ragged Island and Exuma will be the first group of islands to be affected on Tuesday. The storm warning comes as the country prepares to mark the first anniversary of Hurricane Joaquin, which ripped through the central and southern Bahamas on 1 October 2015, destroying homes and buildings and causing heavy flooding.

NEMA Director Captain Stephen Russell said the agency is prepared for the storm, and he is pleased with the state of readiness in New Providence and the Family Islands.

Extensive-to-severe flooding is expected, as Matthew is forecast to produce rainfall amounts of 8 to 12 inches over the south-east Bahamas, with isolated maximum amounts of 15 inches. Matthew is also expected to produce rainfall amounts of 2 to 5 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 8 inches over the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Small craft operators throughout the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands should seek safe harbor for their vessels.

Sources: NEMA.

Cuba

The country is preparing for the hurricane's arrival, which is forecast to touch ground in the west of the country by Tuesday 4 October. The effects of the rains are beginning to show, mainly in Santiago de Cuba Province. Some six provinces are under cyclone alarm phase (Camagüey, Las Tunas, Holguín, Granma, Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo). Authorities expect Matthew to arrive with more strength than Hurricane Sandy (2012) and with a similar pattern.

Preparedness measures are in place, comprising cleaning and clearing of the lower zones; deploying the network of amateur radio operators; distribution and sale of basic basket products to the population; protection of products in warehouses; sanitation of cities and pruning of trees. Other measures include the evacuation of animals to safe and higher ground, prioritizing the sale of products to the population, and guaranteeing stores and shelters remain open.

In Santiago de Cuba, shelters have opened and volunteers are being mobilized.

The train system between Havana and the provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Granma y Guantánamo has been cancelled since 2 October. Some services continue to operate with the necessary precautions. Flights were cancelled to possibly affected areas, as informed by the Cuban Civil Aviation Corporation.

President Raúl Castro, along with some ministers and senior officials (transportation, energy and mines, construction, communications, agriculture and interior commerce, hydraulic resources, public health and armed forces) moved to Santiago de Cuba Province on 1 October to guide, help and control compliance with the precautionary measures.

In Santiago de Cuba, sea penetration has cut off the communities of Uvero, La Magdalena and La Plata in the Guamá municipality, Southern mountain range of Sierra Maestra. A total of 251,795 people were evacuated—85,965 of them are in family houses, 9,741 in neighbours' houses, 5,979 in doctors' offices, 18,531 in other enabled structures and 8,093 in engineering works. A total of 218 centres for evacuees have been enabled in nine municipalities of the province with necessary resources, including medical services.

The UN and partners are supporting government efforts.

Sources: *Granma, Radio Angulo, UN, Juventud Rebelde and ACN.*

Colombia

To date, Hurricane Matthew has affected 73,000 people, especially those in the municipalities of Aracataca, Fundación and Zona Bananera y Algarrobo. As part of the national response, the National Unit for Disaster and Risk Management authorized the first delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance (5,000 food kits, 5,000 blankets, 5,000 hammocks) for affected families in the department of Magdalena.

Damage assessment and needs analysis continue in the rest of the departments. Relevant procedures are now under way, such as the activation of the Machinery Bank and the use of water pumps to evacuate water.

The departments that will continue to suffer from the effects of the hurricane are La Guajira, Magdalena, Cesar, Bolívar and Atlántico. Alert mechanisms remain for the risk of flash floods, floods and landslides in some zones.

Source: *UNGRD*

Turks and Caicos

All response agencies and district commissioners are on alert. The Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies is constantly monitoring the situation and updating its operational plans. A British Guard Ship, *RFA Wave Knight*, is standing ready to support.

Source: *CDEMA, Situation report 4*

Coordination

- OCHA ROLAC is in contact with the UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Cuba and OCHA Haiti.
- The UNDAC system is on alert in the event that more international assistance is required. The teams deployed to Jamaica and Haiti have arrived.
- 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.
- An ad-hoc REDLAC meeting on Hurricane Matthew was held on Monday 3 October in Panama to identify regional deployments and resources mobilized to countries. The next REDLAC meeting is at 9:30 Panama time in WFP. Partners are encouraged to send information about their staff/equipment deployments to: ocha-rolac@un.org

To find updated information online, please visit:

http://redhum.org/emergencia_detail/huracan-matthew-septiembre-2016

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/haiti/>

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