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Caribbean Hurricanes

Regional Humanitarian Situation Report No.7

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Highlights

UNICEF remains one of the key actors supporting humanitarian response efforts across the hurricane-affected countries in the East Caribbean, through a combination of service delivery, technical assistance, communication and advocacy with a two-track approach: immediate humanitarian relief to affected populations and long-term recovery and resilience support. Specifically:

- With UNICEF support some 12,000 children in the affected countries of Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Dominica and the Turks & Caicos Islands are now back in school.
- 2,741 children have benefitted from the 'Return to Happiness' programme across Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, and the Turks and Caicos Islands; an additional 8,541 children have accessed recreational and play activities in community spaces.
- To date, more than 16,600 people on average have been able to access safe drinking water on a regular basis with UNICEF support, through household water treatment and treated water distributions in Dominica, where WASH needs remain highest. In addition, a total of 7,471 children are benefitting through access to functional sanitary facilities in schools and temporary learning spaces.
- In support of the Government of Dominica recovery efforts, UNICEF is developing a new partnership with WFP which aims to reach 6,000 vulnerable children through a non-conditional cash transfer programme.
- In Haiti, UNICEF has supported the restoration of the water system in the North West, benefiting approximately 4,000 persons.
- In Cuba, UNICEF is ready to begin distribution of critical education and WASH supplies in support of the government response at the national and local levels, for the benefit of 34,000 children.
- Overall, the humanitarian response across the region has been hampered by recent heavy rains, insufficient stocks of building materials and ongoing logistical constraints linked to both telecommunications and the transportation of humanitarian relief.

Funding Requirements by CO (as defined in the Regional HAC for a period of 3 months)				
Country Office	Requirements (US\$)	Funds received (US\$)	Funding gap (
			US\$	%
Cuba	8,130,000	3,384,000	4,146,000	58
ECA*	9,770,000	4,653,000	5,117,000	52
Haiti	2,500,000	1,300,000	1,200,000	48
Regional	500,000	428,000	72,000	14
Total (**)	20,900,000	9,765,000	11,135,000	53

* ECA CO includes the following countries: Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Dominica and Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI).
 ** Dominican Republic has identified immediate humanitarian gaps and will require additional US\$150,000 not reflected in the UNICEF HAC.

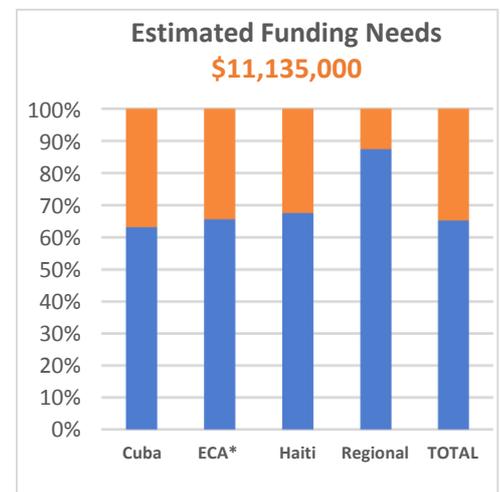
Situation in Numbers

+357,000 estimated # children in need of immediate assistance in Cuba, ECA, Haiti and Dominican Republic.

39,000 children in need of immediate assistance in ECA, with **20,000** children affected by Hurricane Maria in Dominica.

2,900 people still remain in temporary shelters in Dominica.

2,264 educational facilities remain damaged in Cuba.



Situation Overview

A month after the devastating impact of the two category 5 hurricanes that affected the region, UNICEF remains a key actor supporting humanitarian response efforts across the hurricane-affected countries in the East Caribbean through a combination of service delivery, technical assistance, communication and advocacy with a two-track approach: immediate humanitarian relief to affected populations and long-term recovery and resilience support. Priority efforts continue to focus on supporting national authorities in the areas of WASH, education (including ECD), child protection and communication for development (C4D). Efforts are also ongoing through a new partnership with WFP which aims to reach 6,000 vulnerable children through a non-conditional cash transfer programme in Dominica.

Estimated Population in Need of Humanitarian Assistance (Estimates calculated based on initial figures from UNICEF Country Offices, 27 September 2017)

Start of humanitarian response: 9 September 2017

Country Office	People in need of immediate assistance	Children in need of immediate assistance	People to be reached	Children to be reached
Cuba ¹	930,000	176,700	560,315	142,557
ECA ²	143,006	38,987	143,006	38,987
Dominican Republic ³	49,500	16,000	23,000	7,150
Haiti ⁴	300,000	126,000	300,000	126,000
TOTAL	1,422,506	357,037	1,026,321	314,694

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

- Following the recent dissolution of the temporary emergency coordination mechanism under the leadership of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in the hurricane-affected territories, the UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Area Office is directly coordinating its response with Governments, as well as with other UN agencies, including OCHA, PAHO, UNDP, IOM, WFP and UN Women.
- UNICEF is actively engaged in regular Government and UN coordination mechanisms in the areas of education, child protection, shelter and WASH, mainly in Dominica, but also in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) and the British Virgin Islands (BVI). UNICEF also contributes to the national Post-Disaster Needs Assessments currently being conducted in Dominica.
- UNICEF LACRO is actively engaged and participating in the regional humanitarian coordination mechanism (REDLAC), including through the provision of inputs for regional reporting and updates.
- UNICEF LACRO continues to maintain the sectoral leadership in the areas of WASH, education and protection.

Summary Analysis by CO

Eastern Caribbean Islands (ECA)

The five ECA countries are: Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Dominica and the Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI)

Since the beginning of the emergency response in the Eastern Caribbean Area, government efforts have focused on restoring basic infrastructure and social services for affected populations. Yet much remains to be done: close to 80 per cent of the people in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Dominica still do not have electricity; land/mobile line coverage is yet to be restored; and, some 3,400 people - 2,900 of whom are in Dominica alone - remain in temporary emergency shelters. To get a better understanding of the situation and recovery needs, comprehensive a post-disaster needs assessment is being conducted in Dominica, while both Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands are conducting damage and loss assessments led by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Overall, the restoration of schools and other social service buildings, particularly in the BVI, but also in Dominica and other locations, have been hampered by recent heavy rains, insufficient stocks of building materials and ongoing logistical constraints linked to both telecommunications and transportation of humanitarian relief. In the case of the BVI, a recovery plan has been endorsed by the Government; it is estimated that US\$3.3 billion is required for recovery.

Anguilla

Significant progress has been made to reopen schools and all children in Anguilla have now returned to school. A team from the UN ECLAC is in Anguilla this week to conduct an assessment of the damage and loss sustained by the island in terms of damage to buildings, infrastructure and loss of income from tourism.

UNICEF Response

¹ Cuba. Estimates provided by OCHA and Cuba CO. Plan of Action, 18 September.

² ECA. Estimates including Dominica, which was severely affected by Hurricane Maria.

³ DR. Estimates provided by DR CO. Due to Category 4 Hurricane Maria, the country suffered heavy rains and winds causing flooding in Montecristi and Duarte.

⁴ Haiti. Estimates provided by Haiti CO.

- UNICEF efforts continue to focus primarily on the areas of child protection and education. Training of Trainers for the 'Return to Happiness' (RTH) programme concluded on 20 October 2017, with 27 trainees receiving certificates, kits and t-shirts and are ready to support the roll-out in schools. The trainees conducted their first session with students from the six primary schools in Anguilla.
- UNICEF is developing an ECD emergency response strategy which will be supported through the distribution of ECD supply kits that have already arrived in Anguilla.

Antigua & Barbuda

The integration of Barbudan children into the school system in Antigua is gathering pace and all children are now reported to be back in school. Following Hurricane Maria, Antigua also received close to 200 school-aged children from Dominica, and their integration into Antiguan schools is also gaining momentum. Significant communication and programmatic gaps have been identified in the government's approach to social protection. Coordination of efforts remains a challenge towards ensuring a comprehensive and systemic social protection approach.

UNICEF Response

- In partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association, 21 children and adolescents from Barbuda received a recreational package, and are building their resilience through sports for development.
- UNICEF has been asked by the government to take on leadership of a working group on basic services and child protection.

British Virgin Islands (BVI)

Electricity coverage across the island remains low at only 20%. Schools have begun opening in a phased approach as of 5 October, and to date only around a quarter of school-aged children are reported to be back in school. All schools are scheduled to reopen on 6 November. Overall, the restoration of schools and other social service buildings, particularly in the BVI, have been hampered by recent heavy rains, insufficient stocks of building materials and persisting logistical constraints linked to telecommunications and transportation of humanitarian relief. A recovery plan has been endorsed by the Government; it is estimated that US\$3.3 billion is required for recovery.

UNICEF Response

- UNICEF finalized a small-scale agreement with ADRA, which aims to benefit 2,700 students. A component was added for the distribution of 2,000 mosquito nets from UNICEF to households with children who are on the DFID-funded Red Cross/Catholic Relief Services cash transfer programme. The mosquito nets will complement the package to be given to the households in the next three months.
- UNICEF is actively participating in ongoing education sector coordination meetings with key partners to ensure schools are able to receive students as planned.
- Phase 1 of the distribution of tents and education supplies is completed across all four islands in the BVI. Phase 2 is expected to take place during the week of 30 October 2017, in time for the resumption of school.

Dominica

Dominica continues to be the country most severely affected by Hurricane Maria. As per latest sources from OCHA⁵, aerial assessments estimate that more than 16,000 homes, or approximately 62% of homes, remain heavily damaged or destroyed. UNICEF supported the Post-Disaster Needs Assessments in all ECD, primary and secondary schools; these revealed that 67 school facilities are significantly damaged, 43 are partially damaged and only 17 schools have suffered minor damages. 20 primary schools have already opened across the country.

UNICEF Response

- In support of the Government of Dominica recovery efforts, UNICEF is developing a new partnership with WFP, which aims to reach 6,000 vulnerable children through a non-conditional cash transfer programme.
- UNICEF supported 'back to school' activities with WASH interventions, including; school assessments; quick repairs of installations; delivery, transport and installation of water tanks; and, drinking water trucked to schools. Seven schools have full drinking water access while work is ongoing in the remaining 13 establishments.
- An average of 1,490 people benefit daily from UNICEF drinking water distributions in 29 settlements.

Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

All 15 schools across the country are open, many fully open at all grade levels, with others partially open to only higher grade levels. Approximately 3,600 children (90%) are back to school. 70% of people across the country re-gained access to electricity, according to Fortis TCI: 80% in Provo, 100% in Middle and North Caicos, and 40% in Grand Turk. However, the reality may be lower as residents in informal settlements do not yet have their electricity restored.

UNICEF Response

- 54 people - primarily from the education and social development sectors - concluded their training in RTH methodology.
- 195 children have been reached by RTH activities, with at least one session: 25 in Grand Turk, 60 in Provo, and 110 in South Caicos (100% in South Caicos).

⁵ Source: OCHA, Dominica: Humanitarian Presence (as of 20 Oct 2017)

- In Provo, more teachers in each primary school will be trained so that by the first week of December each child should have had at least two days of RTH.
- In South Caicos, RTH sessions with students commenced on 23 October 2017, and will continue over the next 3 weeks.
- For North Caicos, Lisa McClean Trotman, C4D Specialist, UNICEF ECA, is coordinating with Social Development that some of the trained facilitators visit North Caicos to ensure that sessions are done with the children there.

Cuba

In Cuba, the Government continues to respond to the humanitarian needs generated by Irma's passage over the country in 11 affected provinces. Cuba has engaged its national level contingencies to address the damage to housing, health and educational structures, access to clean water, full restoration of electricity, and support for the agricultural sector.

UNICEF Response

- UNICEF efforts are focused on supporting the government response at the national and local levels, focusing on WASH and education actions for children.
- UNICEF just received education materials for schools and early childhood learning centers in the affected municipalities of Villa Clara and Sancti Spiritus provinces. 218 ECD kits, 595 school in a box kits, and 265 recreational kits will benefit approximately 34,700 (17,000 girls and 17,700 boys).
- UNICEF is also supporting the restoration of safe water services in the affected areas and will begin distribution of 170,000 aqua-tabs, targeting households in Esmeralda, Minas and Sierra de Cubitas municipalities.
- Significant funding gaps remain, particularly for the WASH sector; these gaps require \$5.7 million.

Haiti

Following Hurricane Irma, the Government of Haiti published an inter-ministry evaluation report. It confirmed that the North-East, North-West, Centre and Artibonite departments were the most affected, with 10,085 persons hosted in temporary shelters over a few days. The 'centre d'operation d'urgence nationale' was deactivated following Hurricane Maria's passage, which had a lesser impact. The sectors most affected were agriculture, transport and communication, with sanitation risks due to flooding and damaged water systems. Diarrhoea-related disease, such as cholera, are under control in the affected areas due to the increased surveillance and response activated by UNICEF Haiti. People in shelters - mostly schools - returned back home quickly and schools have reopened with UNICEF support.

UNICEF Response

- All 84 children pre-emptively evacuated were able to return to the centers they were originally in. UNICEF continues to support IBESR to monitor the situation of these children and to facilitate family reunification whenever feasible. This process hinges mainly on the capacity to develop longer-term family preservation activities to ensure longer-term reunification and thereby avoid the re-institutionalization of children.
- Prepositioned plumpy-nut stock continues to be used by health structures managed by the MoH with support from FONDEFH (local NGO) and MDM-Canada. UNICEF Haiti is supporting the MoH to monitor the use of RUTF following the two hurricanes, and the results will soon be released.
- To prevent the possible spread of cholera in the Artibonite department, an increased number of cholera response and community engagement teams helped reinforce field surveillance, immediate response and awareness actions and social mobilization in communities, with 22 teams active in this department only.
- In Artibonite, Nord-East and West departments (impacted by localized flash floods during Irma), 5 water networks were damaged and are still in need of rehabilitation to supply safe water to 12,500 people. UNICEF Haiti supported the quick repair of the Jean Rabel system in the North West, benefiting some 4,000 persons.
- The Ministry of Education reported 25 schools affected by the hurricane, hampering the education of around 10,000 children in the North East region. UNICEF, with partner Plan International, has prepared the distribution of school kits for 6,000 children to replace materials lost due to the hurricane.

Gaps and Needs

- For child protection, lessons learnt from this experience highlight the need to develop capacity to absorb sudden increases in children in areas exposed to natural disasters for a minimum of 420 children/day (an average 60 children over 7 days) – which represents an estimated \$42,000 for the Northeast. This capacity (NFI, food, etc.) existed in pre-Hurricane Mathew preparedness plans but was not available this year due to funding constraints.
- \$120,000 is needed to restore access to safe water for the population of La Chapelle in Artibonite department (approximately 14,100 persons), which is located close to communes currently facing a cholera outbreak; an additional \$40,000 is needed to support DINEPA repairs to 3 other water systems.
- To maintain the same level of strong cholera field surveillance and quick response in the Artibonite and Centre department, \$1 million is required for the end of the year.
- Contingency partner (ACF and OXFAM) costs for the implementation of immediate needs assessment and first response according to their contingency agreement with the CO, amount to \$60,000. A new PCA must be signed to ensure immediate response capacity in the event of another natural disaster.

- In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, schools have also lost equipment, notably students' benches. \$40,000 is required to replace around 300 school benches and other furniture.
- Contingency stock replenishment is required, amounting to approximately \$100,000.
- Strengthening nutrition capacity in the North and Northeast departments to address the management of acute malnutrition is underway with co-funding from UNICEF and Food for Peace/USAID. There are no additional needs at this point of time. The nutrition situation will be closely monitored in the coming months through programmatic and screening data, and MSPP capacity to respond will be expanded if additional needs arise.
- An assessment of financial needs is ongoing to determine the overall amount of financial support required to support UNICEF Haiti's response.

Dominican Republic (DR)

UNICEF Response

UNICEF is working with World Vision International on a community assistance programme which aims to benefit 7,500 children.

- UNICEF is supporting efforts to: distribute hygiene kits for 1,500 children in the affected areas; provide health promotion materials to prevent diarrhea/cholera, zika, dengue and chikungunya; and, provide ORS and chlorine for water purification.
- UNICEF is also coordinating with the Ministry of Education for the inclusion of basic schooling items for students and recreational materials for schools, to benefit 2,200 children.

Regional Actions:

- UNICEF LACRO continues to provide technical assistance across all relevant programme areas for affected COs.
- To date, a total of 56 surge deployments have been supported, of which 25 have already completed and another 25 are still on the ground.
- The LACRO HR team supports the training and development of staff in the area of crisis response management. The continuous monitoring and tracking of staff in emergency situations resulted in a limited number of vacancies to fill and immediate action in forecasting needs.
- Supply and logistics have been key to the emergency response in the region given extensive infrastructure damage and disruption to key services. UNICEF LACRO, in collaboration with Supply Division, has provided strong support towards the procurement and distribution of substantial amounts of educational, WASH and protection supplies so far.
- Communication efforts have focused on the development of a number of key communication and visibility products aimed at raising awareness on the situation of children in the affected regions, and in support of advocacy and fundraising efforts, including:
 - A series of interviews in [media](#) with the Regional Director and Emergency Regional Advisor were facilitated, [multi-media pieces](#), blogs on UNICEF response and social media assets have been published, including documentation of the [visit of the UN Secretary General to Antigua and Dominica](#).
 - [A Regional Impact Video](#) with images that show the impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the affected countries was produced.
- Active fundraising efforts continue to target both private and public donors.

Funding Needs by Sector

Funding Requirements (as defined in Regional HAC a period of 3 months)					
Sector	Cuba (US\$)	ECA (US\$)	Haiti (US\$)	Regional Office (US\$)	TOTAL (US\$)
WASH	6,130,000	2,990,000	1,350,000	-	10,470,000
Education (*)	2,000,000	3,800,000	600,000	-	6,400,000
Child Protection	-	1,680,000	500,000	-	2,180,000
Cross-cutting/coordination	-	100,000	50,000	500,000	650,000
Social protection: cash transfers		\$1,200,000			1,200,000
TOTAL	8,130,000	9,770,000	2,500,000	500,000	20,900,000

* Including Early Childhood assistance.

Next Sit-Rep: 21 Nov 2017

For more information:

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Photos: <https://we.tl/e5WwiaODk9>

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