

Humanitarian Needs

The immediate needs identified by the Government of Dominica include:

- Bottled water
- Supplies for babies
- Hygiene supplies for senior citizens
- First aid kits
- Blankets and cots

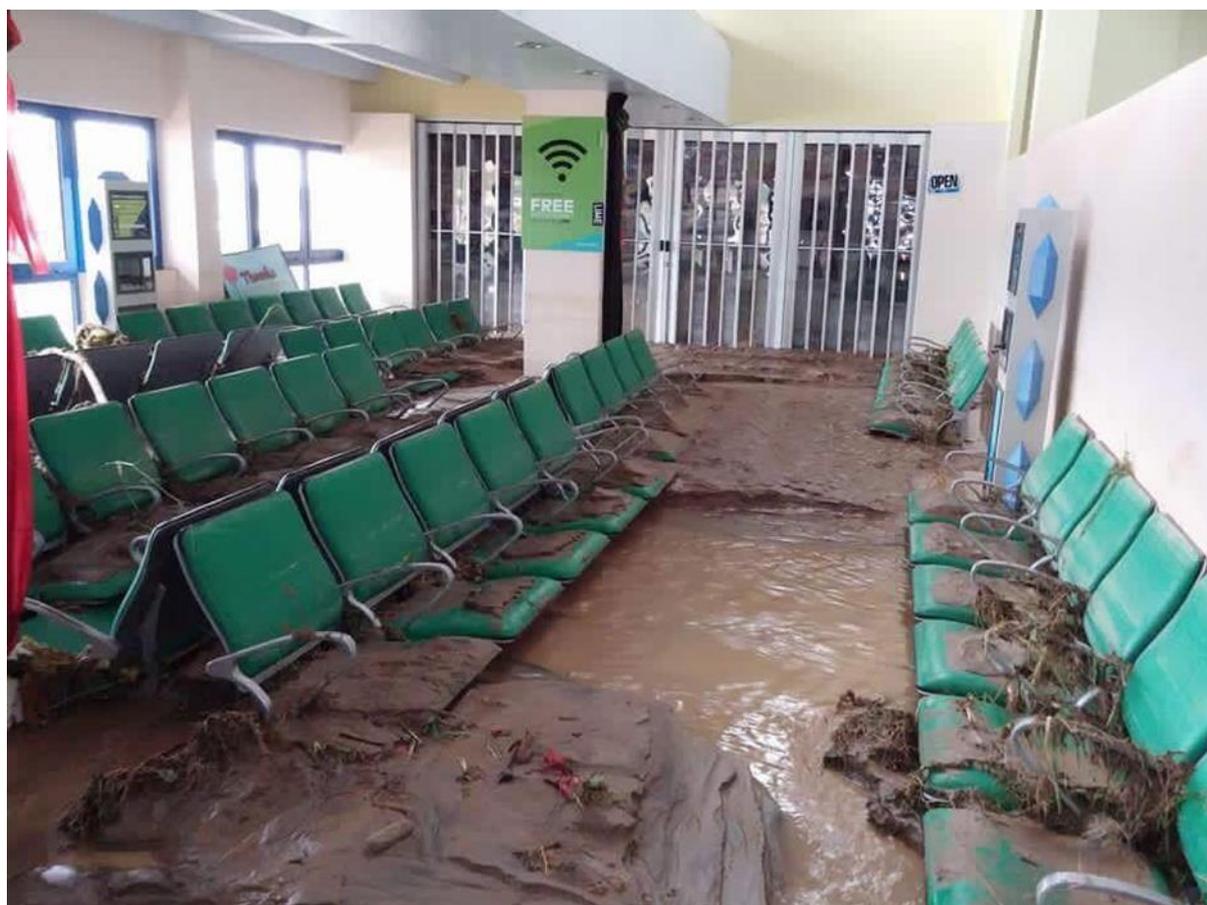


Figure 2 - Commercial flights into the main Douglas-Charles Airport have not resumed on account of the severe impact of flood waters on the airport. Pictured is inside the departure lounge

Inter-Agency Collaboration, Coordination, Cluster Leadership and Key Partnerships

The UN system's response is being co-ordinated under the Regional Response Mechanism (under the leadership of CDEMA) which met on August 31 to discuss the latest situation. The Agency is waiting sectoral assessments to better coordinate the short and medium term requirements.

UNICEF Response

Contact was made with the Ministry of Education to get a status report on the sector, especially as it related to the scheduled September 7 start of school. The opening of schools has now been deferred to September 21, 2015. The Ministry reported that an initial assessment revealed of its 75 primary and secondary schools, 2 are either unreachable or damaged, with one suffering very extensive damage and will need to be rebuilt.

Additionally UNICEF informed the Ministry that persons trained in the physio-social Return-to-Happiness programme are on standby in St Lucia for deployment to Dominica as necessary

UNICEF collaborated with CDEMA and the Barbados Coast Guard to dispatch 503 boxes of adult hygiene kits, 100 boxes of infant hygiene kits as well as 4,000 water purification tablets to the flood-ravaged areas on August 29.



Figure 3: UNICEF Staff in Action - supplies being readied for shipment

Programme Commitments:

Nutrition: The nutritional needs of children are being assessed. However CDEMA reports that Government is satisfied that since the supply chain into their island has not been broken, the needs of children and the general population can be met on island. However there remains a challenge in getting supplies to affected populations in remote communities.

Health: PAHO is conducting an assessment of the health situation. There is immediate concerns about mosquito-borne diseases and leptospirosis.

WASH: UNICEF has supplied water purification tablets and has a supply of oral rehydration salts on stand-by.

Child Protection: UNICEF is still assessing the need for protective services. Additionally a team of trainers are on standby to implement the psycho-social Return to Happiness Programme

Education: An assessment of schools started on August 31. Government has identified a need for 1,000 exercise books, 480 pens and 480 pencils. UNICEF stands ready to supply school-in-box kits based on the needs identified ahead of the scheduled September 7 start of the new school year

Next steps

- Discuss area of intervention in the education sector with the Ministry of Education in Dominica.
- The next SitRep will be on September 2nd

For further information, please contact

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