

Eye of the Hurricane Irma over Barbuda- NASA photo

Eastern Caribbean Humanitarian Situation Report #1



Highlights

Hurricane Irma, a powerful **Category 5 hurricane** packing winds in excess of 185 miles per hour, impacted several eastern Caribbean countries on 6 September 2017. Irma's wide band swept over *Antigua & Barbuda, Anguilla, Montserrat and St Kitts & Nevis with Barbuda and Anguilla most heavily affected. Turks & Caicos and British Virgin Islands* are being impacted at time of this update.

- While Regional Rapid Assessment Teams are being organized, governments have reported:
 - **Widespread devastation in Anguilla** with many homes and critical facilities reported damaged, including most schools, the hospital and the police station. Three of the four shelters were also damaged. Communication with the island is limited and the airport is not functional with its air traffic control tower damaged.
 - **Impact in Barbuda is severe** as the eye of the hurricane passed five miles north of the 35 square mile island. Ninety per cent of all buildings are reported as destroyed or severely damaged. Telecommunication systems in the island are down and power supply remains off across the island. One fatality is reported.
 - Minimal infrastructural damage was reported in **Dominica**.
 - **Antigua, Montserrat and St Kitts** issued the *all clear signal* by 11 a.m.
- According to all reports received **severe damage is expected in Turks and Caicos and British Virgin Islands** if Irma follows the forecasted trajectory. Hurricane Jose is predicted to follow a similar trajectory as Irma in the next few days.
- UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Area Office is **fully engaged with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)** Response mechanism as well as with national partners to conduct rapid assessments of the impact of this powerful hurricane to determine UNICEF and other partners' response.

6 September 2017

19,200*

of children at risk of potential impact

73,800*

of people at risk

132*

of schools potentially affected

*Estimates for Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Turks & Caicos Islands

UNICEF Funding Needs

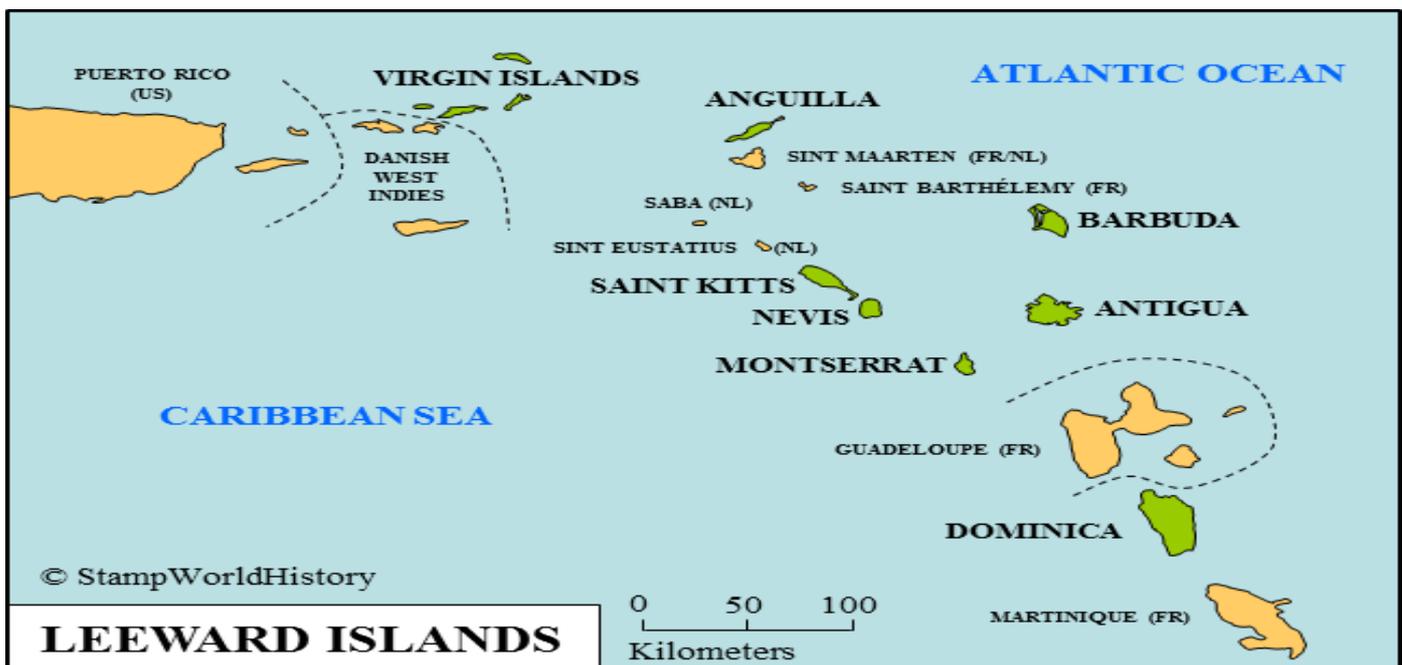
US\$ 1 Million



Impact of Hurricane Irma in British Virgin Islands

UNICEF's Response with Partners

- UNICEF's pre-positioned emergency supplies in Barbados and Antigua will be rapidly distributed in coordination with national authorities in the most affected communities. The first response supplies include tents, water purification tablets and hygiene kits for displaced families. Other supplies such as tarpaulins, blankets and potable water containers are available for immediate shipment from the Panama regional stocks.
- UNICEF has disseminated radio PSAs to local radio stations with key messages. UNICEF will utilize traditional as well as social media platforms for dissemination of key messages in health, child protection and WASH. Texts and "whatsapp" platforms as well as UReporters will also be used to reach adults and children with critical care messages followed through by partners on the ground to ensure actual reach.
- As an integral part of emergency programming for children's safety, trained facilitators are in place in every country to provide psychosocial support for the most affected/impacted children and adolescents, ages 6 through 14 years, through the "Return to Happiness" programme. In the event that national facilitators are themselves coping with the disaster, teams from non-impact countries are ready to be deployed to support the implementation of the programme.
- UNICEF is also ready to provide support for monitoring and reporting on any serious concerns for children and women, especially within shelters, as well as to provide guidance for strengthening child protection mechanisms within communities with large scale displacement. This is to ensure that violence, exploitation and abuse is prevented and addressed.



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Pending the completion of the joint sub-regional rapid assessments being organized by CDEMA, estimated numbers based on information available are being used for the planning of immediate and second phase responses:

Estimated Population at Risk of potential Hurricane impact <i>Estimates based on latest Population and Housing Census</i>			
Start of humanitarian response: 06 September 2017			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Population at Risk	73,760	36,482	37,278
Anguilla	13,555	6,698	6,857
Barbuda	1,595	837	758
British Virgin Islands	28,054	13,820	14,234
Turks & Caicos Islands	30,556	15,127	15,429
Children Under 18 at Risk	19,213	9,677	9,536
Anguilla	3,778	1,908	1,870
Barbuda	541	280	261
British Virgin Islands	7,367	3,767	3,600
Turks & Caicos Islands	7,527	3,722	3,805
Children Under Five at Risk	5,810	2,999	2,811
Anguilla	1,058	546	512
Barbuda	174	88	86
British Virgin Islands	2,134	1,126	1,008
Turks & Caicos Islands	2,444	1,239	1,205

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The national response to the emergency is led by each national government and their respective sectorial ministries.

At Subregional level a development partners group is already established and functional, led by the UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean and CDEMA. UNICEF technical team with the following human resource areas are geared for rapid assessments:

- WASH Specialist
- Education Specialists
- Protection Specialists
- C4D Specialists

Humanitarian Strategy

Eastern Caribbean countries have made remarkable strides toward guarantee children and adolescents rights, including access to basic education, health and protection services. However, the impact of Hurricane Irma jeopardizes all of these advances and created an extremely vulnerable situation for the most of the population,

especially for children and adolescents in the affected countries. UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Area Office has been working with national and regional authorities, and is recognized as an honest broker facilitating partnerships to provide direct support to sectorial ministries and communities. The main support priorities for UNICEF at this moment are:

- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion
- Protection for the most vulnerable children and adolescents
- Psychosocial support to the most affected children and adolescents
- Re-establish the education system, including Early Childhood Development services, as the main protective environment
- Participation and engagement of families and children and adolescents in the recovery efforts.

UNICEF Response plan

WASH

UNICEF will ensure that a minimum of 10 litres of safe drinking water per day is available for affected populations in shelters through the provision of 1,000 litre water tanks, water purification tablets and 10 litre water containers. For shelters, UNICEF will ensure adequate gender segregated sanitation and bathing facilities, with cleaning supply materials and family hygiene kits.

UNICEF will provide material and technical support to the Ministry 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.

Education

The hurricane has hit right at the start of the school year affecting school facilities. Education plays a key role during emergency situations, so UNICEF and partner will mobilize all the possible resources in order to accelerate the return to schools for the affected child populations.

To support the early resumption of students' schooling in the short term, will necessitate some clean-up of the school spaces to eliminate debris and other associated with flooding as well as temporary repairs to make classrooms in the affected schools functional. At the same time, the teachers and other support personnel will need adequate pedagogical and recreational resources to support students in their learning and ensure continued recreational as part of wider efforts to guarantee the right to education for all children and adolescents.

UNICEF will ensure also that all preschool age children and girls, access quality education and care opportunities in safe and secure learning environments that promote the protection and well-being of learners is established.

To do so, UNICEF will strength the capacity of caregivers to provide care, learning and development in homes, ECD centres and alternative community spaces in emergencies. ECD kits will be provided to re-start regular services for children to return to a routine of normalcy.

Child Protection

As an integral part of programming for children's safety, trained facilitators are in place in every country to provide psychosocial activities for the most affected/impacted children and adolescents, ages 6 through 14 years, through the "Return to Happiness" programme. In the event that national facilitators are themselves affected, teams from non-impact countries are ready to be deployed to implement/support the implementation of the programme as part of the response/early recovery phase in impacted countries.

UNICEF will provide support for monitoring and reporting on any serious concerns for children and women, especially within shelters, as well as to provide guidance for strengthening child protection mechanisms within communities with large scale displacement. This is to ensure that violence, exploitation and abuse is prevented and addressed.

Public service announcements which provide tips to caregivers about how to best protect their children before, during and after a disaster are already with all national radio and television stations. UNICEF will ensure the

regular airing of this information. These messages are also being circulated to the population *via* all of the social media channels.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

UNICEF will utilize C4D strategies and tools to guarantee that all children and adolescent living in the affected areas can be protected, healthy and access to education and participation spaces. To do so, UNICEF will adapt key messages for mothers and caregivers with special focus on children under five, regarding nutrition, hygiene and protection. At the same time, UNICEF will work with communities, with a focus on children, on the importance of proper handwashing as well as other basic hygiene practices to prevent the spread of water borne diseases.

These initiatives will be done in a participatory way and considering the specificities of the affected area. UNICEF will also disseminate messages for adults on keeping children safe for all forms of violence, especially sexual violence, during the emergency.

Logistics and coordination

UNICEF has a commitment with the most affected children and adolescents. Supplies are considered under each section proposal. However, considering the level of impact of the countries and the logistical complexities of reaching multiple islands and countries, UNICEF will take extra measures to reach the most affected populations and to participate in all the assessment and recovery phases.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF's main media message in the Eastern Caribbean sub region is that emergency situation protocols remain in place and we are in constant contact with governments, other United Nations agencies and the regional emergency response mechanism to offer the required assistance and support.

Funding

Appeal Sector	Immediate Funding Requirements
WASH	US\$290,000
Child Protection	US\$370,000
Education	US\$200,000
C4D	US\$30,000
Media and external communication	US\$30,000
Logistics and coordination	US\$80,000
Total	US\$1,000,000

Next SitRep: 07/09/2017

Who to contact for further information:

Khin-Sandi Lwin
Representative
Office for the Eastern Caribbean
Tel: 246 467-6151
Mobile: 246 836-9951
Email: klwin@unicef.org

Unai Sacona
Education Manager / OIC
Programme,
Office for the Eastern Caribbean
Tel: 246 467-9958
Mobile : 246 836-9958
Email: usacona@unicef.org

Patrick Knight
Communication Specialist,
Office for the Eastern Caribbean
Tel: 246 467-9961
Fax: 246 836-9961
Email: pknight@unicef.org