



Hurricane Irma

Regional Humanitarian Situation Report No.2

11 September 2017

Highlights

Hurricane Irma has put the wellbeing of hundreds of thousands of children in the Caribbean in danger. Having caused large scale damage in parts of the Eastern Caribbean, the storm passed by the Dominican Republic and Haiti before slowly moving along the coast of Cuba for over 48 hours, fluctuating between a category 4 and 5 hurricane. With high winds, heavy rain and storm surges it has caused widespread damage to homes, schools, health centres and basic infrastructure across the region.

- Barbuda was evacuated in advance of Hurricane Jose. Fortunately, the hurricane turned north out to sea, and did not cause further damage to the Eastern Caribbean as feared
- Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Turks & Caicos islands (TCI) bore the brunt of Irma in the Eastern Caribbean
- Dominican Republic and Haiti report lower than anticipated damage, but assessments are still underway
- Widespread flooding is reported in Cuba. The current assessments indicate unfortunate death of 10 people and a vast majority of the island without power.
- UNICEF anticipates greatest needs being in WASH, child protection, nutrition, education and health.

Situation in numbers

+2.4 million estimated # of affected children

5.8 million estimated # of people affected people

+2.0 million people evacuated in Cuba to 1,134 shelters

35 deaths reported

132 schools potentially affected in Anguilla, Barbuda, BVI and TCI Islands;

ESTIMATED POPULATION IN NEED

Estimates calculated based on initial figures from UNICEF Country Offices. September 11, 2017

Country Office	Estimated number of affected people	Estimated number of children at risk
Cuba ^[1]	900,000	360,000
Dominican Republic ^[2]	178,700	62,500
ECA ^[3]	73,760	19,213
Haiti ^[4]	4,663,711	1,962,075
TOTAL	5,816,171	2,403,788

Estimated funding needs for UNICEF: \$15 million

1. Cuba: Initial estimates provided by OCHA.

2. DR: These estimates indicate the general population and children who are living in poverty and with high level of vulnerability to climate shock in the most affected provinces in the north (Samaná, Puerto Plata, Montecristi and María Trinidad Sánchez). Needs assessments are ongoing.

3. ECA: ECA Humanitarian Situation Report #4.

4. Haiti: Initial estimates provided by OCHA. After the conversation with the CO, we anticipate that the numbers of affected people will be significantly reduced

Situation Overview

Hurricane Irma has devastated large swathes of the Caribbean. Between Wednesday 6 and Sunday 10 September, the hurricane caused large scale damage to infrastructure across the Eastern Caribbean islands of Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands (BVI), St Maarten/St Martin (both Dutch and French sides of the island), US Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos, Cuba, and the Bahamas, before moving to Florida on Sunday. At least 25 people were confirmed dead by Sunday evening, and this number is expected to rise. Haiti and the Dominican Republic were spared the full force of Irma, though assessments are still underway to assess needs.

Widespread flooding is reported in Cuba, with much of the island without power or communication. Immediate emergency needs are reported in Turks and Caicos, especially Grand Turk, the island that houses the capital. UNICEF staff are on the ground, working in close coordination with each government and implementing partners, evaluating the most urgent needs for children and adolescents.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

- National response to the emergency is led by each National Government and their respective sectorial Ministries. UNICEF COs continue to actively participating in coordination meetings and providing technical assistance.
 - In Cuba, a CERF request is being prepared with focus on Education, WASH and Health. This will include early childhood development, education and recreation activities.
 - UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Office is fully engaged with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) response mechanism to conduct the first need rapid assessment.
 - UNICEF Dominican Republic, as a part of UNETE, has offered support to the Government and the WASH Group has been activated in the capital and in the northern region of the country.
- UNICEF LACRO has taken part in regional coordination meetings led by OCHA where sector actions and operation mechanisms for the response are being analyzed and agreed. OCHA has announced the intention to prepare a Regional Response Plan for some the countries affected by the Hurricane.
- UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Office is coordinating closely with all local authorities, including those of the affected British Overseas Territories which are considered under the Eastern Caribbean Multi-Country Programme (British Virgin Islands, Turks & Caicos Islands and Anguilla). The islands being part of the Kingdom of The Netherlands and part of France are receiving direct support from the government of The Netherlands and of France. Where requested, UNICEF LACRO is providing advice to the UNICEF NatComs.

Summary Analysis by CO

Cuba

Irma made landfall in Cuba as a Category 5 hurricane on Friday evening, and did not leave until Sunday morning, causing the unfortunate loss of 10 human lives and widespread damage as per the latest assessments. Serious flooding is reported on much of the island, including Havana, Guantanamo and Holguin. Services and telecommunication have been lost in large parts of the island, including Caletones. Power outages and severe damage is reported in the coastal community of Yumuri. 78 medical brigades were deployed and 43 hospitals and polyclinics are providing essential health services with special focus on protecting pregnant women. The scale of damage and number of affected children and families is unknown. Three thermos-electrics are affected, which may in turn affect water and pumping systems. Over 2 million people have been evacuated to 1,134 shelters or to houses of neighbours and relatives. In the capital Havana it is estimated that 23,000 people have been affected of which 14,000 have been evacuated. The principal hospital of Hermanos Ameijeiras has reported flooding, but with no major damage. It is estimated that 900,000 people have been directly affected across 22 municipalities, in 13 provinces of the island.

UNICEF CO Response

- A draft CERF request was prepared prior to the hurricane strike and is being updated considering the scale of the damage caused by Irma, with a focus on Education, Health and WASH. This will include specific supplies to support early childhood development, education and recreation activities.

Gaps and needs

- The difficulty in communicating with Cuba means the scale of damage is currently uncertain.
- There is no clear specific analysis for children yet. However, the damage to schools and the lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services may put the lives of many children at risk in the country.

Dominican Republic (DR)

The damage to Dominican Republic was far less than initially feared and no fatalities have been reported thus far. At the same time however the hurricane 'Irma' triggered temporary displacements of population in the north of the country. Schools classes (public and private) have restarted on Monday 11 September. Although the damage hasn't been large, the situation for children requires continuous monitoring, especially with regards to basic water and sanitation services for children.

UNICEF CO Response

- UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, will participate in evaluation missions to the field that have been programmed under the framework of UNETE.
- UNICEF, jointly with the UN agencies and COE (National Emergency Committee), has initiated the field assessment in the most affected provinces: Samaná, Puerto Plata, Montecristi and Maria Trinidad Sánchez.
- UNICEF partner organisations and volunteers of have offered assistance to work with UNICEF in the prevention of violence against children, especially sexual and gender based violence, in Puerto Plata, Samaná and Monte Cristi, which are the communities affected by the emergency and related displacements of population.

Eastern Caribbean Area (ECA)

Clean up efforts continue in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands, which all sustained severe damage during the passage of Hurricane Irma. Nearly all of the 1,600 residents of Barbuda, were successfully evacuated to Antigua before Hurricane Jose and are in temporary shelter in a stadium. In St Kitts and Nevis there are reports of damage to healthcare facilities. Telecommunications are disrupted in many of the islands including Barbados. The logistics of moving assessment and response teams, as well as supplies, to the multiple islands affected across the northern Leeward Island chain has been a major challenge. There are concerns for lack of safe and clean water.

UNICEF CO Response

- Focus of UNICEF response in Eastern Caribbean is on Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos islands.
- Prepositioned UNICEF stocks have been immediately made available for distribution to children and families evacuated from Barbuda. The supplies included tents, school-in-a-box and recreation kits for 300 to 400 children.
- UNICEF's psycho-social programme "Return to Happiness" for children evacuated from Barbuda will start up in Antigua on Wednesday (Sep 13). This activity will be implemented in partnership with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Commission and the Ministries of Social Transformation and Education in Antigua and Barbuda.
- Tarpaulins for shelters, blankets, jerry cans, water purification tablets, and large water collapsible containers are being mobilized from the Panama pre-positioned stocks to Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) where the impact of the Irma is reported to be significant given the low-lying islands.
- A flight with supplies is planned this week to TCI. The UNICEF focus on TCI was agreed with the CDEMA coordinated response, also taking into consideration efforts of the UK Government and planned provision of similar supplies to Anguilla and British Virgin Islands (BVI).
- The northern liaison unit of two UNICEF East Caribbean Area Office (ECA) staff has been established in Antigua. This unit will liaise with the CDEMA hub for a coordinated rapid and efficient deployment and supply receipt and distribution to all affected northern islands focusing on Anguilla, Barbuda and British Virgin Islands. A Supply Division Logistics specialist will join the unit to provide support and facilitate local sourcing of supplies to help reinvigorate the economies of impacted countries.
- Two UNICEF ECA Specialists were deployed to TCI via Kingston, Jamaica which is the sub-regional staging point for assistance to TCI and the Bahamas. They will arrive in Providenciales early this week as part of CDEMA's northern Caribbean rapid assessment and response team.
- Education section identified possible candidates to support ECA emergency education and ECD response and have prepared a profile shared with CO for rapid deployment. The RO also provided technical support and tools for the preparation of the ECD response plan.
- A media team from UNICEF headquarters and the regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean is in the field in Antigua starting from 10 September and will also be deployed to TCI and other islands.
- Joint Action Planning with the UN System in Barbados has been started for the next stage of humanitarian response and recovery.

Gaps and Needs

- To date there is no detailed time-frame for the return of the evacuated people from the island of Barbuda that have been evacuated to Antigua. Most of the people are staying with family or friends, while an estimated 300 people are staying in shelters.
- The geographical spread of the islands and still problematic access to the most affected areas is still hampering assessments

Haiti

Damage to Haiti from Irma was lower than originally anticipated. The most exposed areas were the three northern departments of Nord-Ouest, Nord and Nord-Est, and to a certain extent Centre and Artibonite, which are prone to flooding. The red alert has been issued for the whole territory following the passage of hurricane Irma as it led to flooding, falling of

trees, and damage on buildings and agriculture. Heavy rains stopped early in the morning of Friday 8th September and the meteorological situation resumed to normal.

- Emergency response coordination fora (COUN and COUD) were activated at national and departmental level on September 6th
- The DPC (Division of Civil Protection) ensure the coordination to conduct rapid assessments and multi-sectoral teams and contingency stocks were on standby in the Northern departments.
- Contingency agreements, signed ahead of the cyclonic season, were activated with OXFAM and ACF.
- According to the DPC, 22 communes in the departments of North East, North West, North, Centre, Artibonite and West have been partially flooded. 9,748 people were evacuated to 55 temporary shelter in these departments and many more were evacuated to host families.
- School activities are resuming starting on Monday 11 September.

UNICEF CO Response

- Water-trucking and provision of water tanks, water purification tablets and water containers for the population in shelters. In Ouanaminthe, six handwashing points were installed. Door-to-door sensitization was undertaken by community mobilizers in Ouanaminthe, Malfety, and Ferrier.
- For temporary shelters, UNICEF's aim is to ensure gender segregated sanitation and washing facilities, with cleaning materials and family hygiene kits.
- Improved surveillance and rapid response to cholera alerts, focusing on access to sustainable water and sanitation in the most affected areas, as well as through strengthening community-based surveillance.
- Schools used as temporary shelters are currently been cleaned and disinfected to resumed schooling activities.
- Contingency stocks of schools' kits will be distributed shortly to the schools affected by the floods.

Gaps and needs

- Rapid assessments are underway to understand better the needs and number of children who may need assistance.
- As the hurricane season is still ongoing, the replenishment of the contingency stocks which have been used to respond to specific needs in in the affected areas should be reconstitute and it is important to remember that there is still a significant shortfall in funding for the ongoing Humanitarian Response Plan.
- Initial assessments indicate that several water systems have been damaged by the Hurricane and should be fixed to resume access to water to the concerned communities.
- Several schools have been damaged and rehabilitation work would be required and reequipped with benches and tables.
- Monitoring and care for the unaccompanied children and affected families.

Regional Actions include:

- UNICEF Regional Office is supporting the work on an Interagency Regional Action Plan for various countries in the Caribbean.
- UNICEF Regional Office has been communicating with all the country offices affected to provide technical assistance, tools and reference materials for the response's preparation.
 - Education: Review of the first draft of the CERF for Cuba and updated the references for the Education-ECD supplies required. Have identified possible surge capacity to support ECA emergency education and ECD response and have prepared a profile list shared with CO for rapid deployment. The RO also provided technical support and tools for the preparation of the ECD response plan.
 - Health & Nutrition: Providing technical assistance to COs to highlight the importance of nutrition as part of the response, with particular emphasis on infants, young children, pregnant and lactating women. Via the Regional Group for Nutrition Resilience (GRIN-LAC), the RO has been in contact with National Nutrition in Emergency focal points, with a particular emphasis of UNICEF's standpoint with regards to protect breastfeeding and avoid donations of infant formula milk, ensuring adequate complementary feeding and support maternal nutrition. At their request, specific support has been offered to the Ministry of Health in Antigua and Barbuda with regards to nutrition in emergencies. GRIN-LAC offered remote support if needed.
 - WASH and Health: Inputting into the CERF in Cuba and the HAC for Eastern Caribbean.
 - Gender: sharing sector-specific gender guidance for inclusion in on-going assessments in ECA CO and other places as needed.
 - Child Protection: Technical assistance has been given to Eastern Caribbean and Cuba to support the use of tools used to guarantee the protection of children in shelters. At the same time support has been given in the development of the CERF for Cuba and in identifying possible people to fill human resource needs in ECA.
- Human Resources: Communications Specialist has been deployed to ECA. Human Resources Specialist has been deployed to Haiti. An Operations Specialist is being deployed from Nicaragua to Haiti. Human Resources Specialist has been deployed to Regional Office from Brazil Country Office. Supply Assistant is being deployed to Eastern Caribbean on Wednesday from Bolivia Country Office. A Logistics Specialist has been identified to support ECA, and deployment is being arranged. Regional Office ICT Specialist has been deployed to Eastern Caribbean as part of a pre-arranged mission. Coordination support for the liaison unit in Antigua is being identified.

- **Supply & Logistics:** Two requests to send supplies have been made, one by air and one by sea. UNHRD has organised a charter flight to Antigua and another chartered ship towards various Caribbean islands. Meanwhile, ECA has requested blankets, tarpaulins, water purification tables, Jerry cans and water tanks to the value of \$250,000 (including freight) to send to Turks and Caicos Islands. Confirmation of receipt of the school-in-a-box, ECD and recreation kits is still outstanding in ECA. Water tablets are being sent to Cuba via two commercial flights with Copa Airlines.
- **Communications and Media:** A statement from Regional Director in support of victims of Hurricane Irma in Cuba has been shared. A video of children talking about their experience of the hurricane has been produced and shared by the Eastern Caribbean CO. A blog by Haiti Chief of Communications has been disseminated. Three international media interviews have been coordinated for Haiti and Cuba.
- **Communication to engage communities (C4D):**
 - Results from U-Report needs assessment polls, so far 13,000 U-Reporters were registered, have been shared with COs. UNICEF has responded to an additional 1,600 individual questions via U-Report. Now that the hurricane has past these questions include 'what illnesses might come now?', 'are more hurricanes coming?' and 'what will happen now?'. A poll to identify where U-Reporters look to find information in emergencies is currently live, in order to understand how best to communicate with affected communities.
 - Needs for the promotion of healthy behaviors have been identified in nutrition and WASH
- **Fundraising:** Activities are taking place in various Country Offices in the region and UNICEF National Committees. Fundraising team is investigating the possibility of support from Avianca for sending supplies.

Next Sit-Rep: 15/09/2017

More details can also be found at:

Results from: Have you been affected by the Hurricane in Bahamas? <http://ureport.in/poll/2252/>

Results from: Affected people in the Dominican Republic tell us what their needs are: <http://ureport.in/poll/2246/>

**Who to
contact for
further
information:**

REGIONAL OFFICE
Marita Perceval
Regional Director
mperceval@unicef.org

CUBA CO
Maria Machicado
Representative
mmachicado@unicef.org

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CO
Rosa Elcarte
Representative
relcarte@unicef.org

REGIONAL OFFICE
Douglas Reimer
Regional Advisor Emergencies
dreimer@unicef.org

ECA CO
Khin-Sandy Lwin
Representative
klwin@unicef.org

HAITI CO
Mark Vicent
Representative
mvicent@unicef.org