

SITUATION REPORT

IOM Bahamas Launches New Social Media Channels

IOM Bahamas has officially launched Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram pages that will be updated daily with plans, progress, and advocacy messages. Jan-Willem Wegdam, Head of Office also invites everyone to leave messages, comments, and likes. IOM is committed to being accessible and responsive to everyone. Soon IOM Bahamas will add a WhatsApp number.

The IOM Bahamas social media channels are:

Facebook @IOMBahama

Instagram @IOMBahamas

Twitter @IOMTheBahamas

LinkedIn – IOM The Bahamas



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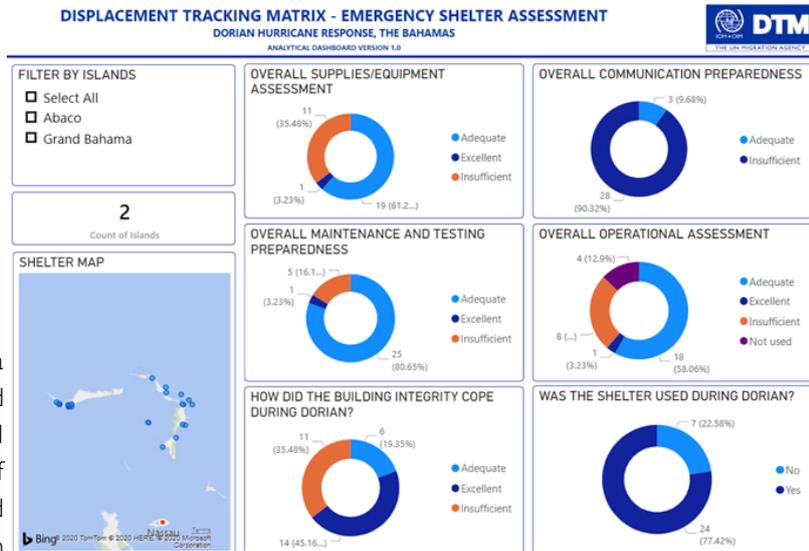
IOM partners with CORE for Dorian Home Repair Program (DHR)

IOM Bahamas has continued its partnership with CORE. After a first phase where more than 23,000m³ of debris were cleared from private homes, streets, yards and public spaces, the IOM contribution will now support up to 40 families with the repair of their homes. Mathew Chandi, CORE's Project Manager explained the unique character of the partnership, "CORE's project with IOM in The Bahamas has both a community scale component (debris removal) and an individual scale component (home repairs). The home repair project is now in the preparation phase and the first beneficiaries, locations, and their vulnerabilities have been identified. Progress of the re-construction is currently hindered by the closures related to COVID, shortage of building materials and breaking down of supply chains. As the country continues to ease it's restrictions IOM and CORE anticipate that progress will be made quickly.



Assessment of preparedness of emergency shelters on Grand Bahama and the Abaco Islands for 2020 Hurricane Season.

In May 2020, IOM released a comprehensive assessment of the preparedness of emergency shelters on Grand Bahama and Abaco Islands for the 2020 Hurricane Season, to assist the government of The Bahamas and the communities with the preparation for the 2020 hurricane season. The outcome of the assessment, which is based on a three-week field survey of two IOM experts in Nassau, Grand Bahama and the Abaco Islands in March 2020, is a detailed overview of the current condition of 34 emergency shelters, their operational effectiveness during Dorian, and the suitability of each shelter for the 2020 hurricane season. The report makes recommendation to which actions need to be taken, and the related costs, to ensure the islands are well prepared for the 2020 season. The Experts recommended: increasing shelter capacity and standards, developing a national mass evacuation plan, conducting emergency scenario planning and community evacuation drills, improving emergency communications, training of at least 100 emergency shelter managers and re-stocking of the emergency supplies and equipment.



Shetler Assessment Dashboard. IOM, 2020

IOM Repairs Elite Sports Academy sheltering Dorian Evacuees

IOM Bahamas began repairs to the Bahamas Elite Sports Academy who accepted 16 young migrant children who were displaced because of Hurricane Dorian. CEO, Rodney Curry and Principal Peter Gilcud both expressed their gratitude to IOM. Peter Gilcud can be quoted in a video interview with IOM communications assistant Dawrin Thompson as saying "IOM has done a wonderful thing in assisting our school. Because of IOM we can begin serving much needed meals from our newly repair kitchen to vulnerable

migrant students.” The Bahamas Elite Sports Academy has assisted countless young people with local and international sports scholarships. Many of the students who complete their schooling at the academy graduate and immediately find scholarship opportunities to further their learning. IOM follows up with the school often.



Elite Academy CEO, Rodney Curry (Left) and Principal Peter Gilcud (Right)

IOM and IsraAid launch #BahamasKind Campaign

IOM, in collaboration with IsraAid, with funding from Church World Services, have developed the #BahamasKind campaign. The campaign intends to foster increased community solidarity, encourage compassion and empathy, and reduce xenophobia and stigmas of Haitian migrants in The Bahamas. Eight activities proposed will maximize the project's effective reach, with an expected outcome of improving intra-communal trust, sensitizing communities, and enhancing cooperation. These activities include but are not limited to weekly journalistic talks with influencers on prime media channels, online activation, and physical activation of the Bahamian population. Additionally, wall paintings on kindness subjects will be posted in schools and public squares, further solidifying the message of kindness in The Bahamas.



Bahamas Kind



Bahamas Kind Logo [Left] (IOM, 2020) IsraAid Logo [Right]

IOM Bahamas COVID-19 Response

IOM Bahamas is working closely with the Ministry of Health surveillance unit in developing a comprehensive risk assessment to determine risks of Hurricanes and transmittable diseases like COVID-19 in the informal settlements in New Providence, Abaco, Exuma, Long Island, and Eleuthera. The Ministry of Health trusts that this project can help to mitigate the impact risks of a COVID19 outbreak or natural disaster in the informal

communities. Through this assessment, IOM can help develop a report that outlines the risks and needs of vulnerable migrants as relates to COVID preparedness. The migrant communities in the informal settlements in The Bahamas constitute a considerable, vulnerable, but inadequately documented section of the population. With the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the coming 2020 Hurricane season, it is essential to gather more field data to determine the risks, awareness, capacity, and needs of this population. Additionally, IOM has provided the Ministry of Health translations of key COVID infographics to Haitian creole.



Key COVID-19 Flyer translation to Haitian Creole by IOM Bahamas Protection Officer Louby Georges.

People Displaced in The Bahamas

Eight months since the passing of Hurricane Dorian over Abaco and Grand Bahama, shelters on the island of New Providence still hold many displaced residents. As of March 1st 2020, approximately 240 persons were still residing in the Poinciana Inn, and the Bahamas Academy Gymnasium. More than 3,000 persons are in individual rental accommodations or living with host-families. Elite Academy is housing 16 displaced youths, while in 3 of the children's homes on the island there are still 45 displaced children. 750 families (2,250 persons) are receiving rental assistance from the BDHA (Bahamas Disaster Housing Association). In Abaco 25 persons are residing in Beracka Church, 25 in New Mission church and 77 in Sandbank, Treasure Cay. According to a local NGO approximately 700 displaced persons from Abaco are staying with Host families and rental homes in the island of Eleuthera and adjacent Spanish Wells. In Florida an initial 400 persons were registered as displaced with the consulate General. IOM is continuing to monitor these cases, and will provide updates in subsequent sitreps.