



This report is produced by OCHA ROLAC. It is prepared in collaboration with OCHA teams located in various countries and the regional office in Panama. It covers the first period from 6 to 8 September 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 9 September 2017.

Highlights

- After battering several islands in the Caribbean, rendering Barbuda and St. Martins near uninhabitable with catastrophic damage, Irma is passing over Turks and Caicos, southern Bahamas, northern Dominican Republic and northern Haiti.
- Preliminary reports from affected areas suggest long-term humanitarian needs. The scope is expected to become clearer as access and communications are restored to the affected islands in the coming days.
- Irma is expected to remain a powerful category 4 or 5 hurricane over the next few days.
- There is continued risk of catastrophic damage from hurricane-force winds, storm surge and flooding in areas on Irma's trajectory.
- Several organizations are already pre-positioning teams and supplies to respond as quickly as possible.
- Hurricane Jose is on a tentative path back towards Barbuda, Antigua and Puerto Rico – the second hurricane in three days for these islands.



Damage in the Dominican Republic. FOTO: Ministerio de Obras Publicas y Comunicaciones

32 million

people in the Caribbean living in areas exposed to high-speed wind zones (excess of 60km/h)

Source: UNITAR UNOSAT population exposure map (07 Sep)

2 million

people in the Caribbean living in areas exposed to extreme high-speed wind zones (excess of 120km/h)

Source: UNITAR UNOSAT population exposure map (07 Sep)

13

people reported dead across affected territories.

3

hurricanes currently active in the Atlantic Ocean: Irma and Jose over the Caribbean, and Katia in the Gulf of Mexico

Note: (*) Total population of Caribbean is considering only the following countries and territories: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Saint Martin, Saint Barthelemy, Haiti, Montserrat, Sint Maarten, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands. These countries and territories are within the wind speeds zones of 60km/h, 90km/h and 120km/h according to the expected cyclone track released as of 7 September 2017 (09:00 UTC).

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report

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The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives

Overview

Anguilla

Total pop. 12,316; exposed pop. 12,316; 100% population estimated exposure to high-wind zones.

Authorities in Anguilla say the initial assessments show severe damage throughout the country. Homes, police stations, hospitals, schools, some emergency shelters and the fire station have all been damaged or destroyed. One person is reported dead. Approximately 90% of the electricity infrastructure was damaged. 90% of government buildings and business structures suffered damage. The airport runway and most roads leading to the airport have been cleared of debris. British troops supported refurbishment of two shelters damaged during the hurricane.

The Government of Antigua has issued a Tropical Storm Watch for Anguilla for Hurricane Jose.

Antigua and Barbuda

Total pop. 87,858; exposed pop. 87,858; 100% population exposure to high-wind zones.

After surveying the aftermath of Irma on Barbuda, the country's Prime Minister, Mr. Gaston Browne, stated that the entire island has been reduced to rubble. Water and phone services were knocked out and one fatality, an infant, has been confirmed. Damage to the lone airport in Barbuda will force supplies to be sent by boat and helicopter from Antigua. Initial estimates place the cost of rebuilding at US\$100 million. Fifty per cent of Barbuda's population has been rendered homeless.

Critical facilities including roads and communications systems were ravaged, with the recovery effort set to take months or years. Some residents are expected to be evacuated to the larger sister island of Antigua – where damage was less severe – as part of relief efforts and ahead of the prospective arrival of Hurricane Jose in the coming days.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has issued a Hurricane Watch for Hurricane Jose. The Prime Minister has stated plans to evacuate Barbuda before the arrival of Jose.

St Barthélemy and St Martin/Sint Maarten

Total pop. 87,020; exposed pop. 87,020; 100% population exposure to high-wind zones.

The French Government has confirmed that at least two people have died and two others were seriously injured after Irma passed St Barthélemy and St Martin on 6 September. Irma is estimated to have destroyed 95 per cent of the French part of St. Martin. Reports from Sint Maarten, the Dutch side, state that power and water supplies are completely out.

St. Kitts and Nevis

Total pop. 47,897; exposed pop. 47,897; 100% population exposure to high-wind zones.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Timothy Harris, reports that St. Kitts was spared the worst. There is significant damage to property and infrastructure, but the airport is scheduled to reopen on 7 September.

The Government of Antigua has issued a Tropical Storm Watch for St. Kitts and Nevis for Hurricane Jose.

British Virgin Islands

Total pop. 27,248; exposed pop. 27,248; 100% population exposure to high-wind zones.

Significant damage has been reported from the British Virgin Islands, where critical facilities, homes and businesses have been devastated. Initial assessments forecast that extensive humanitarian assistance will be needed. Four people have been confirmed killed.

United States Virgin Islands

Total pop. 93,173; exposed pop. 93,173; 100% population exposure to high-wind zones.

Authorities in the United States have declared a state of emergency in the US Virgin Islands. Preliminary reports cite extensive damage to homes and buildings, and of land stripped of vegetation. A public-health emergency has also been declared in the US Virgin Islands.

Puerto Rico

Total pop. 3,651,232; exposed pop. 3,651,232; 100% population exposure to high-wind zones.

Irma made landfall on Puerto Rico on 6 September and left the island the next day, leaving at least three dead. Damage is extensive, but Puerto Rico was spared the eye of the storm as it passed along the northern coast.

More than two thirds of homes in Puerto Rico are without electricity, and 17 per cent are without water, officials have said. Damage assessments are ongoing.

Dominican Republic

Total pop. 10,470,773; exposed pop. 10,454,596; 99.85% population exposure to high-wind zones.

Irma is expected to affect the Dominican Republic in the next 48 to 72 hours. The National Emergency Operations Center has declared 17 provinces on red alert, mainly along the northern coast, recommending evacuation protocols to shelters traditionally used for flood response. The US National Hurricane Center is warning that the north of the Dominican Republic may expect 25cm (10in) of rain.

Haiti

Total pop. 10,596,666; exposed pop. 9,830,946; 92.77% population exposure to high-wind zones.

On 7 September, Haiti reported that rainfall has begun and the rivers that flow into the country from the Dominican Republic are now overflowing. According to Haiti's National Emergency Operations Centre, evacuations along the northern coast are under way as relief supplies are pre-positioned for deployment. The US National Hurricane Center is warning that the north of Haiti may expect 25cm (10in) of rain.

Bahamas

Total pop. 343,735; exposed pop. 20,015; 5.82% population exposure to high-wind zones.

As the southern islands of the Bahamas brace for Irma's arrival during the evening of 7 September, the Government evacuated more than 1,000 people from Mayaguana, Inagua, Crooked Island, Acklins, Long Cay and Ragged Island to Nassau on New Providence island. Forecasts show storm surges that could lift sea-water levels in south-eastern and central Bahamas by 4.5 to 6m (15 to 20 ft) above normal. The National Emergency Operations Centre has been activated, and reconnaissance activities with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management System are being planned for 12 September, after Irma passes.

Turks and Caicos

Total pop. 45,020; exposed pop. 45,020; 100% population exposure to high-wind zones.

Authorities have issued a hurricane warning for the Turks and Caicos islands as they brace for Irma's arrival during the evening of 7 September. The country's placement directly in the storm's path could result in devastation similar to Barbuda and St. Martin/St Maarten. Forecasts show storm surges that could lift sea-water levels in the Turks and Caicos Islands by 4.5 to 6m (15 to 20 ft) above normal. The National Emergency Operations Centre has been moved to an alternate site that has been activated.

Cuba

Total pop. 11,266,280; exposed pop. 6,834,579; 60.66% population exposure to high-wind zones.

A Hurricane Watch is currently in place in Cuba. The Government has declared a state of alert in provinces expected to be most affected, including Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Granma, Guantánamo, Holguín, Las Tunas, Santiago de Cuba and Villa Clara.

[Population and exposure estimates from UNOSAT. Estimates from International Federation of the Red Cross available at <https://goo.gl/mkF83A>]

Humanitarian Response

The United Kingdom Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel, *Mounts Bay*, is close to Anguilla and has relief supplies on board, including water and logistical materials, as well as the ability to produce clean water. Anguilla is the first priority for *Mounts Bay*. However, if the ship attempts to reach the British Virgin Islands before the weekend, it may be unable to reach safe harbour before the arrival of Hurricane Jose.

The UK is providing a twelve (12) man liaison and reconnaissance operating team to Anguilla, four to be deployed to the territory and 8 to remain in Barbados to provide further military assistance

The National Emergency Operations Centers (COE) are active in several Caribbean countries and remain on alert in the different ports and marinas to prevent human and material losses. Humanitarian regional partners are monitoring the situation and are in contact with their sub-offices in the Caribbean.

UNICEF's Rapid Response Roster has been activated, and staff are scheduled to mobilize from Barbados with the first assessment teams. Four additional technical staff (Education and Child Protection) are on standby to accompany

additional CDEMA assessment missions to islands. The Eastern Caribbean Area Office is still working with governments of affected countries, other United Nations agencies, partner organizations and the regional emergency response mechanism to offer the required assistance, but it has already pre-positioned emergency supplies in Antigua to be rapidly distributed to the most affected islands.

UNDP has activated its crisis preparedness and response plans across the region and deployed experts to support the immediate response and early recovery actions. Twelve additional specialists are on standby to accompany governments and relevant partners in needs assessments and early recovery planning.

The UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean is partnering with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide dignity kits. UN Women will also provide technical and financial support on economic initiatives to support women and their families and to address safety and security concerns.

In addition to the dignity/hygiene kits, UNFPA can provide life-saving reproductive health commodities such as emergency reproductive health kits. UNFPA can also offer technical guidance on the prevention of gender-based violence and sexual violence in affected communities.

PAHO is deploying surge capacity with expertise in water, sanitation and hygiene, health and disaster assessment to support Ministries of Health and enable delivery of essential health services.

The FAO Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean will work with governments of affected States to assess the impact on fisheries and agriculture, and to pave the way for recovery of livelihoods and adequate food and nutrition.

In Haiti, eight teams of volunteers from the Haitian Red Cross Society (North, North-East, North-West, Upper and Lower Artibonite, Upper and Lower Central Plateau, and West) have been deployed to support the authorities to sensitize communities on the contingency plan, and to make the population aware of the measures to be taken, including the voluntary evacuation of populations at risk.

Cuban Red Cross volunteers have initiated prevention-and-evacuation actions according to the response plan. These actions are being conducted in coordination with Cuban authorities. In the Dominican Republic, mandatory evacuations conducted by the Civil Defence Corps are being closely supported by the National Red Cross Society. Sensitization actions are being undertaken in temporary collective centres with the support of the Civil Defence Corps. The Norwegian Red Cross has deployed a delegate to Cuba.

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) offers fast deployment (it has a pool of experts who can be mobilized quickly) and online volunteering for remote support. For inquires, contact Francisco Roquette: francisco.roquette@unv.org



Logistics and Telecommunications

Damages and Needs:

- Anguilla reported extensive damage to critical services including the airport with 90 per cent of utilities (electricity, mobile, cable) reported damaged and 90 per cent of roads impassable.
- Sint Maarten's airport and harbour have been closed. The priority is fixing the airport and getting assistance and material to the island.
- The communications system has been impacted in the British Virgin Islands.
- Puerto Rico reported that major parts of the island have suffered a power outage, and may take weeks to restore service.
- Dutch Saint Martin airport closed.
- Antigua airport re-opens on 7 September .

Response:

- Telecommunications Regional Response Unit (RRU) in Panama is ready to deploy and provide a range of support, including high frequency (HF), very high frequency (VHF) and satellite communications.
- National headquarters geographic information system (GIS) team of the American Red Cross is providing Surge Information Management Support (SIMS) Remote Coordination for IFRC, and is working to prepare Very Small Aperture Terminal satellite communications system (VSAT) capability for deployment to the field.
- The global Logistics Cluster had airlift capacity into Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and a flight landed on 7 September from Dubai.

- Humanitarian regional partners have supplies available in the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Panama.
- UNHRD informs that the best way to send supplies is by air. It is prepared, and it will take 24-48 hours to prepare a charter flight.
- The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) has reported that it has stocks of relief supplies in Madrid, Spain, and is ready to mobilize if required, to complement UNHRD's efforts in Panama.

Contact person at UNHRD in Panama: Francisco Quesada (francisco.quesada@wfp.org)

Contact person for telecommunications at WFP: Gabriela Alvarado (gabriela.alvarado@wfp.org)



Damages and Needs:

- Two hospitals report damaged roofs and floods in Anguilla and St. Maarten.
- Princess Margaret and Doctors Hospital in Bahamas reported a shortage of blood supplies.
- Forty-two hospitals on the island of Puerto Rico are without electricity, and generators are being sent to support.
- There is a concern that the number of cholera cases could increase in Haiti. All suspected cholera cases must be confirmed by the Ministry of Health MSPP + WHO + UNICEF to avoid alerting on diarrhoea cases. Only one zone in the administrative subdivision of Artibonite has been identified as a high-risk area for an increase in cholera cases.

Response:

- PAHO/WHO Regional CICOM (Information and Coordination Medical Cells for Emergency Medical Teams - EMT-) has been activated for possible deployments. The Disaster Task Force and the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) have also been activated in PAHO Headquarters in Washington.
- PAHO/WHO has donated three satellite phones and loaned two laptops and a printer to the Ministry of Health EOC in the Bahamas, and it will donate 40,000 water purification tablets.
- In the Dominican Republic, specialized health teams from the National Society of Red Cross, Epidemic Control for Volunteers and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion are being mobilized to the affected areas.
- Eight Dominican Red Cross ambulances were deployed to support the affected areas of the Dominican Republic.
- Key health messages have been developed jointly by the Dominican Red Cross and the Ministry of Health.
- UNICEF stated that 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, between age 6 to 14, through the "Return to Happiness" programme.
- PAHO/WHO have pre-deployed staff to the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahamas. Three staff members have been stationed in Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla and St. Kitts/Nevis. The Washington office has been assisting and supporting with monitoring and providing updates, and it has been in contact with the countries' Ministries of Health and Disaster Coordinators. Teams are on standby, and the areas of focus include coordination, logistics, water and sanitation, damage assessment and information management. A need for health engineers has been reported.

Contact person at PAHO/WHO in Washington: **Ciro Ugarte** (ugarteci@paho.org)

Contact email for PAHO EOC: eoc@paho.org and EMT: emt@paho.org



Water, sanitation and hygiene

Damages and Needs:

- In Puerto Rico, 17 per cent of the population is reported to be without access to potable water.

Response:

- ADRA International has a stock of family and community water filters in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as well as hygiene kits.
- 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.

Contact person at UNICEF in Panama: Douglas Reimer (dreimer@unicef.org)

**Food security****Response:**

- FAO has received a request from CDEMA for rapid needs assessments. It has sent two specialists in fisheries and agriculture who will arrive in Barbados on 7 September.
- WFP has mobilized 4 staff members to Gonaïves and Port-au-Prince to support the response in Haiti. The team includes experts on nutrition, gender and assessments.
- On 6 September, WFP sent a flight from Dubai to Port-au-Prince with high-energy biscuits.
- A food-security consortium operates in the north-west department of Haiti due to recent drought conditions, and it could support response. This includes WFP, FAO, Plan International and Oxfam.

Contact person at FAO in Panama: Marco Minelli (Marco.Minelli@fao.org)

Contact person at WFP in Panama: Sofianne Essayem (sofianne.essayem@wfp.org)

**Protection****Response:**

- UNICEF is 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 are prevented and addressed.
- UNICEF has disseminated integrated key preparedness messages mainly through radio partnerships, the U-Report Global tool, and via Facebook Messenger, Viber and other social media channels. Communication materials have been pre-positioned on child protection, and youth volunteers have been mobilized and are prepared for engaging with communities at risk in the Dominican Republic.

Contact person at UN Women in Panama: Alma Perez (alma.perez@unwomen.org)

Contact person at UNFPA in Panama: Jayne Adams (adams@unfpa.org)

**Temporary Shelters and Non-Food Items****Response:**

- Twenty-five shelters are in operation on the Bahamas, one of them for people with special needs.
- The American Red Cross Haiti Team is pre-positioned in northern Haiti and is prepared to conduct rapid damage assessments and early-relief operations. Stocks of non-food items totaling \$600,000 is in country and available for distribution.

Contact person at OIM in Panama: Luz Tantaruna (ltantaruna@iom.int)

Contact person at IFRC Regional Office for the Americas in Panama: Inigo Barrena (ci.barrena@ifrc.org)

**Education**

Damages and Needs:

- Hurricane Irma has hit at the start of the school year and is affecting school facilities.
- All schools in the Bahamas have been ordered closed by the Government.
- The Ministry of Education in the Dominican Republic has suspended classes throughout the national territory on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 September.

Response:

- UNICEF is planning to strengthen the capacity of caregivers to provide care, learning and development in homes, early childhood development (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.

Contact person at UNICEF in Panama: Douglas Reimer (dreimer@unicef.org)

**Early Recovery****Damages and Needs:**

- Livelihoods, housing and infrastructure in St. Marteen and Anguilla have been badly affected according to preliminary reports.
- In the Dominican Republic and Haiti, it is foreseen that the hurricane will critically damage people's livelihoods, directly affecting women, men and children, and impacting income-generating activities, such as agriculture, fisheries and small and medium enterprises.

Response:

- UNDP has deployed crisis response experts to Haiti and Jamaica. Two experts are on their way to Cuba. Others are ready to travel to the Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos and the Bahamas upon national authorities' request/need.
- Early recovery clusters (or similar) are being activated as needed in coordination with relevant authorities and UN Resident Coordinators.
- Experts on debris/waste management, emergency employment and cash for work, livelihoods revitalization, core government functions and post-disaster needs assessments are on standby and ready to be deployed.
- UNDP has requested the activation of satellite imagery via EU's Copernicus platform, which is available to share with Governments and partners.
- In Haiti, nine UNDP staff are supporting the departmental-level crisis coordination mechanism in communities that will be impacted. Risk vulnerability maps are available for relevant partners and have been shared with the National Crisis Coordination mechanism, MINUSTAH police and armed forces.

Contact person at UNDP in New York: Ugo Blanco (ugo.blanco@undp.org)

Funding

IFRC has mobilized 300,000 Swiss francs (\$315,600) for the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and 60,000 Swiss francs (\$63,200) to the national Red Cross Societies in Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis.

The Canadian Red Cross Society has launched an appeal for donations in Canada.

ECHO and DFID have pre-positioned staff in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica to ensure they will have deeper access to the affected regions.

UNDP has allocated \$300,000 from its core resources to support assessments, coordination and elaboration of recovery frameworks in affected countries.

The UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean has made an immediate funding requirement of \$1 million for the sectors of WASH (\$290,000), child protection (\$370,000), education (\$200,000), communication for development (\$30,000), media and external communication (\$30,000) and logistics and coordination (\$80,000).

The possibility of requesting CERF funds is being considered. For inquiries contact: Wendy Cue, Head of OCHA Regional Office, cue@un.org

General Coordination

A team of eight people has been pre-positioned in Barbados (three UNDAC, one ROLAC, two IHP, two MapAction) in order to coordinate with the UN Resident Coordinator and to plan for possible deployments to affected countries.

In Haiti, the OCHA Field Coordination Support Section (FCSS) is deploying a seven-person UNDAC team to Haiti to support coordination at the national level, and assessment and information management in the north of the country.

FCSS is mobilizing a nine-person team (seven UNDAC, two MapAction) to pre-position in Jamaica.

The humanitarian contact list for Hurricane Irma is available on Humanitarian ID. Deploying teams are encouraged to register at: <https://humanitarian.id>

Background on the crisis

Hurricane Irma became a category 5 on Tuesday 5 September as it headed towards the Caribbean islands. Irma made landfall on north-east Caribbean islands during the early hours of 6 September, affecting Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, St Barthélemy, St. Martin, the Virgin Islands and other islands in the eastern Caribbean Sea. Since then, thousands of people have been evacuated from at-risk areas, and varying levels of impact have been reported from the affected areas.

For further information, please contact:

Wendy Cue, Head of OCHA Regional Office, cue@un.org Tel: (+507) 317 1748 Cell: (+507) 6679-1861

To find updated information online, please visit: www.reliefweb.int and www.redhum.org

To provide inputs to this report, please send information to: hurricaneirma@undac.org and ocha-rolac@un.org

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int