



This report is produced by OCHA ROLAC in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the first period from 06 to 08 September, 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 9 September 2017.

Highlights

- Irma is now a category 4 hurricane. Some fluctuations in intensity are likely to continue as it approaches Cuba and Florida.
- Barbuda and St. Martins remain the most gravely affected islands. There have been limited reports from the Turks and Caicos Islands but damage is expected to be critical.
- Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti were also affected by the storm's passage, but damage is reported to be localized and not nationwide.
- The number of dead and missing is expected to rise as communications and access are gradually restored across the Caribbean.
- Several organizations are deploying pre-positioned teams and supplies to begin recovery efforts and assessments as quickly as possible
- Hurricane Jose will skirt past Montserrat, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands between 9 September to 10 September with strong winds and bringing heavy rainfall.



Damage at Anguilla's airport / Photo: OECS

<p>32 million</p> <p>people in the inhabited parts of the Caribbean exposed to high speed wind zones (excess of 60km/h)</p> <p>Source: UNITAR UNOSAT population exposure map (07 Sep)</p>	<p>2 million</p> <p>people in the Caribbean living in areas exposed to extreme high-speed wind zones (excess of 120km/h)</p> <p>Source: UNITAR UNOSAT population exposure map (07 Sep)</p>	<p>1 million</p> <p>people reported evacuated in Cuba in advance of Irma's arrival on 8 September.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>people reported dead across affected territories.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>hurricanes currently active in the Atlantic Ocean: Irma and Jose over the Caribbean and Katia in the Gulf of Mexico</p>
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Situation Overview

Anguilla

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

Four deaths have been confirmed. The airport runway and most roads leading to the airport have been cleared of debris. Assistance was provided by the *RFA Mounts Bay* in making the airport runway serviceable for emergency flights.

British troops supported refurbishment of two shelters damaged during the hurricane.

+ 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

The UK is providing a twelve-member liaison and reconnaissance operating team. Four of the team members are to be deployed to the territory and eight will remain in Barbados to provide further military assistance,

Antigua and Barbuda

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

Fifty per cent of the population of Barbuda has been rendered homeless. Mandatory evacuations are currently taking place from Barbuda to Antigua ahead of Hurricane Jose's arrival. Some 800 people have been evacuated and another 800 people have been left on the island.

Critical facilities including roads and communications systems remain ravaged, with the recovery effort set to take months or years.

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 nine people have died, seven are missing and 112 are injured. One person is confirmed dead on the Dutch side of the island, St. Maarten. Irma is estimated to have destroyed 95 per cent of the French part of the St. Martin island. Emergency teams from both the French and Dutch governments have arrived to assist with the response.

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. The airport has reopened on 7 September, but there is significant damage to property and infrastructure, as well as repeated power failures. A hurricane warning and flash-flooding watch have been discontinued, and residents and visitors have been given the all-clear.

British Virgin Islands

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

Four people have been reported as killed and the National Emergency Operations Centre has been destroyed. A state of emergency has been declared. Ongoing assessments have reported severe and critical damage. Power is out across the Islands, communications are down, roads are blocked, and only one hospital is operational. There have been reports of looting and damage to a prison that has breached security. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) reports that the airport is still operational despite damage to the control tower. The RFA Mounts Bay has arrived and is providing security and assistance as it did in Anguilla.

United States Virgin Islands

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

Four people are confirmed to have died in the US Virgin Islands, and authorities in the United States are expecting the toll to rise. Authorities in the United States have declared a state of emergency. Preliminary reports cite extensive damage to homes and buildings, as well as destroyed schools. Many roads are inaccessible. 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

High-speed winds and rains have left more than a million people without power and tens of thousands without water. Reports from the island include flash flooding and hospitals forced to rely on generators. Three people have been confirmed dead, and rescuers are searching for the missing. Sea waves of up to 9m (30 ft) were reported. Several thousand people remain in emergency shelters.

Dominican Republic

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

No structural damage has been reported in Santo Domingo or Punta Cana, but the coastal resorts of Cabarete and Sosua were reported to have seen storm surges, and more than 5,000 people were evacuated across the country. There are reports of localised flooding, blocked roads, damage to buildings and fallen power cables in some coastal communities. Electricity supply and phone networks are down in some areas.

Haiti

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

Reports from the northern port town of Cap-Haïtien so far suggest Haiti has been spared the worst. Heavy rains thrashed the north coast and several areas lost power. Port-au-Prince and the south of Haiti have been spared damage. There are concerns regarding cholera in Haiti.

Bahamas

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

The eye of the storm moved on to the southern Bahamas during the late hours of 7 September, passing just north of Great Inagua island. The US National Hurricane Center warned that storm surges could lift sea water levels in south-eastern and central Bahamas by 4.5 to 6m (15 to 20 ft) above normal.. Airports remain closed. Officials warn that there could be delays in disaster relief while some government agencies are cut off from communications.

Turks and Caicos

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

Power is currently down in Grand Turk. Initial assessments have reported damage to police stations and shelters in South Caicos. The airport and the sea port are closed. Power and internet are down. Despite being pummeled with winds measuring more than 280 km/h (175mph), the Director of Tourism, Mr. Ramon Andrews, has reportedly said there has been no loss of life on the territory and that all visitors are safe and accounted for.

Cuba

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

A hurricane warning is currently in place in Cuba. Early reports estimate that more than a million people have been evacuated. Tourists are being evacuated and residents of coastal towns told to move inland. As the storm hit the warmer waters off Cuba, wind speeds increased to 248 km/h (155mph), according to an advisory by the US National Weather Service. As of 8 September Friday afternoon, all travel and transport on the island is suspended, schools and businesses have shuttered up.

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

Humanitarian Response

CDEMA continues to monitor the system and provide updates. The agency's Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) and Regional Coordination Center (RCC) are fully active.

The CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU), Disaster Assessment and Coordination (CDAC) team and Operational Support Team (COST) are also on standby.

CDEMA is sending a COST team into Antigua to conduct assessments. The team will then move to Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands to do the same.

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.



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.
- The communications system has been affected in British Virgin Islands.
- Puerto Rico reported that major parts of the island have suffered a power outage, and may take weeks to restore service.
- Anguilla: There are no air traffic services. Some small aircraft flights have arrived bringing aid relief. The airport's runway is in good condition apart from some gouges. A backup generator has blown away. There are no fire services in the airport. The fences around the airport have been blown away; and there are no runway lights.
- Antigua and Barbuda: The V.C. Bird International Airport has re-opened.

- Bahamas: all airports are closed
- Cuba: Holguin, Santiago, Camagüey and Cayo Cocos airports closed until further notice. The airports in Havana and Varadero will remain open unless forced to close due to winds.
- Dominican Republic: Airports have resumed normal operations.
- St. Barthelemy and St Martin/St Maarten: major damages to airports.
- Puerto Rico: San Juan Airport is open.
- St Kitts and Nevis: Robert L. Bradshaw Airport on St Kitts is projected to open on 8 September by midday. The Newcastle airport in Nevis is open.
- Turks and Caicos Islands airports: Status unknown
- In Haiti, the Port-au-Prince airport is reported as working. If the Cap-Haïtien airport is operational, it would be used as the entry point for logistics. The capacity for storage at Cap-Haïtien has been expanded.

Response:

- Humanitarian regional partners have supplies available and pre-positioned in the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Panama. Their current inventory is available at www.unhcr.org and is being updated real-time.
- UNHRD informs that the best way to send supplies is by air. The depot is prepared to respond and estimates that it will take 24-48 hours to prepare a charter flight.
- The WFP flight from Dubai containing 68 tonnes of food and non-food items (NFIs) has been postponed to 8 September due to inclement weather. The possibility of sending a second flight is being evaluated, pending assessments from the ground.
- WFP has dispatched a part of the contingency stock from Port-au-Prince (PAP) to its warehouses in Cap Haitian and Gonaives. With this stock strategically positioned, WFP will be able to distribute emergency food assistance to 40,000 people in Cap Haitian and to 40,000 people in Gonaives if needed.
- WFP has 6,000mt of storage capacity in Cap Haitian and an additional 6,000mt storage capacity in Gonaives, on top of 15,000mt in Port-au-Prince and 2,500mt in Jeremie. In addition, WFP is working to expand its warehouse capacity in Cap Haitian and to have a helicopter landing pad.
- WFP has 26 trucks in Haiti (14 in PAP, 8 in Gonaives and 4 in Cap Haitian), and standby agreements with external contractors to augment transport capacities if needed.
- IFRC has activated an agreement with Airbus to make 1 helicopter available for assessments in Antigua and Barbuda
- DHL, the global logistics company, is offering to provide logistics support. Most of the airports in affected areas are able to support the size of DHL's aircraft. DHL is currently looking at its warehouse in Santo Domingo for storage and distribution.
- WFP's Emergency Telecommunications Cluster is in discussions with CDEMA to explore potential IT and telecommunication support in Barbuda and Anguilla where 90 per cent of utilities were destroyed and 90 per cent of roads are inaccessible.

Contact person at UNHRD in Panama: Francisco Quesada (francisco.quesada@wfp.org) and contact person for Telecommunications at WFP: Gabriela Alvarado (gabriela.alvarado@wfp.org)



Damages and Needs:

- PAHO has reported damage to health care facilities on five islands - Anguilla, St. Barthelemy, St. Martin/Maarten, St. Kitts and Nevis.
- Puerto Rico has reported that 42 affected health facilities are now operating on the emergency generators.
- Princess Margaret and Doctors Hospital in Bahamas have reported a shortage of blood supplies and that it is making efforts to address it.
- There is a concern that the number of cholera cases could increase in Haiti. All cholera suspected cases must be confirmed by the Ministry of Health MSPP. WHO and UNICEF are to avoid alerting on diarrhoea cases. Only one zone 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 Operating 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.
- PAHO/WHO is mobilizing epidemiologists to the affected areas in Haiti and are offering seven emergency medical teams to be deployed to affected islands. Additionally, they are carrying out evaluations with Government personnel. Staff have been pre-deployed to the Turks and Caicos Islands and to the Bahamas. Three staff members have been stationed in Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla and in St Kitts/Nevis. The Washington office has been assisting and supporting with monitoring and providing updates and 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..
- 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.
- 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.
- Key health messages have already been developed jointly by the Dominican Red Cross and the Ministry of Health.
- Search and rescue operations, first aid and psychosocial support provided by the Dominican Red Cross are on-going in Nagua, Santiago, Bajo Yuna and the east regions. Teams are on standby to provide support to vulnerable communities
- IFRC has set its health response roster on standby. The roster is composed of IFRC regional staff located in different countries, including staff from the Zika Caribbean project.
- Save The Children has an emergency health unit in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic who are en route to affected areas to carry out evaluations and deliver primary care.

Contact person at PAHO/WHO in Washington: **Ciro Ugarte** (ugarteci@paho.org) and 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.
- There is concern that the contamination and salinization of clean water supplies on affected islands will present major health needs.

Response:

- ADRA International has a stock of family and community water filters in Port au Prince, Haiti, as well as hygiene kits.
- UNICEF assessment teams are currently being deployed to Antigua, equipped with water purification tablets to help provide clean drinking water. In the Dominican Republic, UNICEF is already receiving requests for help from Ministries. The first shipment of water purification tablets is en route to Cuba, a report is expected on 8 September. UNICEF is working on WASH proposals in Cuba as it is expecting a volume of requests for help similar to Hurricane Matthew in 2016.
- In Haiti, UNICEF has deployed a large team in northern Haiti, comprised mostly of staff that had worked during Hurricane Matthew.
- For the Turks and Caicos Islands, UNICEF has deployed two staff on standby in Jamaica.
- United Nations Volunteers are in contact with PAHO to procure WATSAN specialists for deployment.
- 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.

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. In Haiti, FAO have already deployed personnel for rapid assessments.
- WFP launched an IR EMOP (Immediate response emergency operation) in Haiti, which will be used to procure 64 mt of high energy biscuits (HEBs) to reach 80,000 persons for 4 days and to deploy key staff to disaster-affected areas.
- WFP has a contingency food stock of 3,300 mt pre-positioned to rapidly cover the needs of up to 150,000 people for a month in the event of an emergency.
- To support the Cuban Government’s response, WFP confirmed the availability of a contingency food stock of 1,600 mt, pre-positioned in Havana, Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba to cover the food needs of at least 275,000 people for one month.

Contact person at FAO in Panama: Marco Minelli (Marco.Minelli@fao.org) and at WFP in Panama: Sofianne Essayem (sofianne.essayem@wfp.org)



Protection

Response:

- UNICEF is coordinating to move personnel for prevention of child violence. A child protection specialist is being deployed to northern Haiti to assist. UNICEF in Cuba is forecasting a need for protection and education in prospective funding plans.
- 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.
- UNICEF has started the roll-out of the psychosocial support for the most affected children and adolescents, between age 6 to 14, through the "Return to Happiness" programme.
- UN Women has surged personnel from New York on standby to deploy to Haiti and Barbados, in coordination with the regional office and are actively working to raise awareness of protection issues via social media.
- WFP assessments in Haiti are incorporating gender based points of inquiry.
- Plan International in the Dominican Republic and Haiti are reviewing childhood and gender-based violence protection contingencies.
- An IOM specialist in camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) and gender-based violence (GBV) is being mobilized to Anguilla via Barbados.

Contact person at UN Women in Panama: Alma Perez (alma.perez@unwomen.org) and at UNFPA in Panama: Jayne Adams (adams@unfpa.org)



Temporary Shelters and Non Food Items

Response:

- An IOM specialist in CCCM and GBV is being mobilized to Anguilla via Barbados, and another shelter specialist is being sent to Panama to help with regional operations.
- Some 25 shelters are in operation in the Bahamas, one of them for people with special needs.

- For shelters, UNICEF will ensure adequate gender segregated sanitation and bathing facilities, with cleaning supply materials and family hygiene kits. Immediate requirements of shelter materials such as tarpaulins and blankets are being mobilized based on specific requests from partners on the ground.
- American Red Cross (ARC) Haiti Team is pre-positioned in northern Haiti and prepared to conduct rapid damage assessments and early-relief operations; US\$ 600,000-worth of (NFI stock is in country and available for distribution.

Contact person at OIM in Panama: Luz Tantaruna (ltantaruna@iom.int) and 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 right 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.
- In the Dominican Republic, some schools are currently being occupied as shelters despite national legal measures in place against this practice.

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.
- Save the Children is preparing to coordinate a response in St. Martin/St. Maarten with UNICEF. In Haiti, French-speaking support is being mobilized by request as they are anticipating education needs in northern Haiti. In the Dominican Republic, a specialist is being deployed to support early childhood related activities.

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 (COUD) 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.
- UN Environment has teams on standby in the Dominican Republic and Haiti that are currently working to update information.

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

Funding

The UN resource mobilization strategy, at present, will be carried out through a Humanitarian Response Plan that will focus on supporting CDEMA, national governments, and vulnerable populations.

Donations via the OCHA website have been activated by the Resource and Communications Section (RMCS) of the CERF at <http://www.unocha.org/hurricane-irma>

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.

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 that 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.

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.

General Coordination

CDEMA is coordinating initial assessments in eastern Caribbean. Preliminary assessment with the support of agency counterparts was conducted on 8 September in Barbuda. Assessment teams are being organized for Turks and Caicos.

OCHA is working with CDEMA to analyse needs assessments as they come in from affected areas.

Satellite imagery of assessed damage is available at <http://www.unitar.org/unosat/maps>

OCHA has shared an assessment tool that can be shared with any responder that looks at hurricane impact, displacement, response and needs: <https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/#YICq>

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 toward the Caribbean islands. Irma made landfall on northeast Caribbean islands during the early hours of 6 September, affecting Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, US Virgin Islands, St Barthélemy, St. Martin and other islands in the eastern Caribbean Sea. Since then, thousands of people have been evacuated from at-risk areas and different level of impact reported from the affected areas.

For further information, please contact:

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