



BAHAMAS: Hurricane Dorian

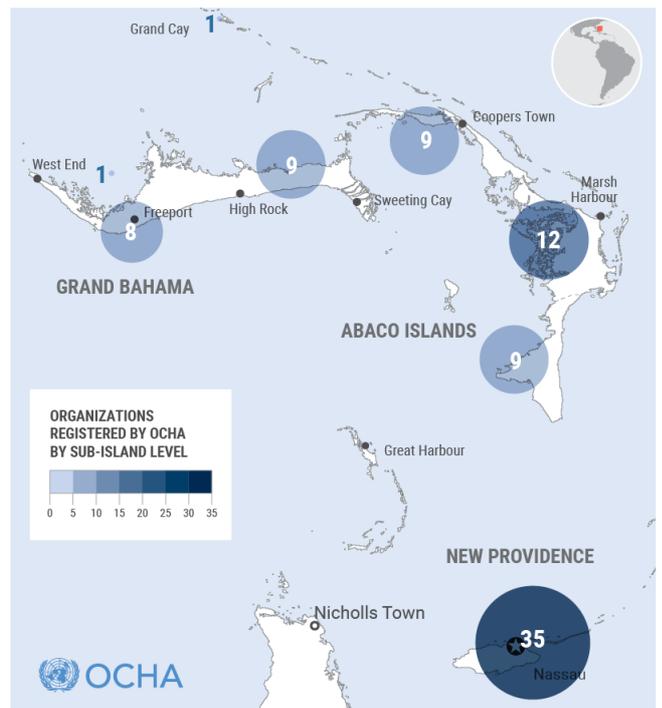
Situation Report No. 04

As of 15 September 2019

This report is produced by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) with contributions from the United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes, non-governmental organizations and humanitarian partners.

KEY POINTS

- As of 15 September, indications are that most people in need have received assistance delivered by the humanitarian community, the private sector and through individual initiatives.
- Authorities and humanitarian partners took steps to prepare for the potential effect of Tropical Storm Humberto with water, food and tarpaulins prepositioned.
- Arrivals of evacuees have plateaued with some 2,071 currently in 16 official shelters where they are receiving food, water and medical assistance. Further protection, psychosocial support and sanitation services are required.
- Access is gradually being restored to regular activity levels - all airports in Abaco are either operational or operational with limited capacity. In Grand Bahama, only one airport remains non-operational.
- Priorities in Abaco are identifying vulnerable groups in isolated areas, scaling up access to water and fuel according to the EOC. Debris removal continues apace in Abaco and Grand Bahama.
- Environmental risks are a key area of concern. The priorities are the assessment of exposed hazardous operations facilities to mitigate and prevent any cascading humanitarian and environmental impacts.



Source: OCHA Contact List Dashboard - <https://bit.ly/2IP46zM>
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

50

People dead, with more expected

53

Organizations responding

1.3k+

People still missing

2.1k

People sheltered across 10 shelters

10k

students ages (4-19) affected by Dorian

200k

Cooked meals distributed

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 15 September, most people affected by the Hurricane have received assistance delivered by the humanitarian community, the private sector and through individual initiatives. However, pockets of people, mostly in isolated areas, who have received only limited relief support remain.

Telecommunications have been restored in most of Grand Bahama and in the main towns on Abaco. Debris have been cleared on all but a handful of roads. Damage to Abaco's electricity infrastructure, notable in Marsh Harbour and other

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areas in the north, is extensive. Affected communities are relying on generators for power, which is increasing the demand for fuel, according to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Fixing water networks and restoring electricity to damaged buildings remain a challenge.

Two urgent priority actions signalled by the Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) on Abaco island are to identify and reach the most vulnerable groups of people that have only received limited assistance, and, increase access to food, water and fuel. In Grand Bahama, logistic support, debris removal and houses rehabilitation top the list of priority actions. Meanwhile Search and Recovery operations led by NEMA are ongoing. Concomitantly early recovery and reconstruction efforts have started in earnest in many of the affected areas.

Fuel and water remain the biggest needs in Abaco – the Bahamas Water and Sewerage Corporation (WSC) has deemed the water in Abaco as unsafe for potable or domestic use. Current access to water in South Abaco is mostly through piped water, with relief supplies accounting for around 10 per cent of current access. In North Abaco, water supplied by relief actors still accounts for around 60 per cent. Just over half of the water access in Grand Bahama is from piped water. Fuel is needed for pumps for wells.

With relief efforts in the Bahamas well underway, authorities and relief agencies focused efforts of the past 48 hours on preparation for the potential impact of Tropical Storm Humberto, set to pass near Abaco on 14-15 September. This included ensuring water, food and some tarpaulins prepositioning in remote areas where aid delivery had been slower to reach. A tropical storm warning is in effect for north-western Bahamas. At 12 PM on 15 September, reports indicated that the tropical storm passed east of the Bahamas producing only limited rain on Abaco. The storm brought about a slowdown in relief distribution.

The Royal Bahamas Police Force places the current death toll at 50, with more expected as search and rescue efforts advance in harder-to-reach areas where populations are more dispersed. Search and rescue efforts are still cross-checking Department of Social Services' missing people records against registries of people sheltered and displaced people. The number of missing persons remains at 1,300.

The number of people evacuating from affected island has stabilized according to NEMA. Authorities have opened 13 shelters in New Providence currently housing some 2,078 people. The Sir Kendal Isaacs Gym is hosting 1,068 people, well over its 700-person capacity. The Grants Town SDA shelter has been deactivated. A few shelters remain open in Abaco and Grand Bahama, with six Grand Bahama shelters hosting 71 people and a single shelter in Abaco with three people. There are some people sheltered in Eleuthera, but exact figures have not yet been determined. Efforts are underway to provide necessary services at the shelters.

Access is gradually being restored to regular activity levels, although sea conditions brought on by tropical storm Humberto prompted the suspension of relief shipping until the system clears the area. The Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority (BCAA) maintains a Temporary Flight Restriction in effect for Grand Bahama and Abaco. All airports in Abaco are either operational or operational with limited capacity, including Leonard M. Thompson International Airport. The BCAA approved more than 900 flights to Abaco and Grand Bahama on 9-10 September, many of which have been for relief activities. In Grand Bahama, only Deep-Water Cay Airport remains non-operational. All three of Abaco's seaports are operational as are their four marinas and docks.

Bahamas flagship carrier Bahamasair discontinued relief operations from Odyssey's terminal while continuing servicing flights from the domestic terminal at Lynden Pindling International Airport. Daily commercial flights into Freeport, Grand Bahama and Marsh Harbour, Abaco resumed on 14 and 15 September respectively at discounted fares. On September 12th the NGO flight request desk at the Odyssey Aviation terminal was discontinued. Private operators TIA and EA will continue to service charter flights to/from Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay out and Freeport respectively from Odyssey Aviation. Regarding cargo, Bahamas Fast Ferries reserves two TEUs of space per sailing for relief items.

Hospitals and clinics in Abaco are mostly functional, with the exception of the Hope Town Clinic and two clinics (Man o War Cay Clinic and Green Turtle Cay Clinic) whose operational status is unknown. In Grand Bahama, the following clinics are non-operational: West End Community Clinic, Freeport Community Centre, Free Town Clinic, High Rock Community Clinic, Pelican Point Clinic, McCleans Town Community Clinic and Sweeting's Cay Clinic. The hospitals and clinics in Grand Bahama with full or limited operational capacity are concentrated in the western part of the island, including Rand Memorial Hospital.

Daily Civil-Military Coordination meetings have taken place in Nassau since Saturday 7 September, to help facilitate logistic support of national and foreign contingents as well as prioritizing their relief actions. The Dutch vessel Johan de Witt operating under the European Union auspices, arrived in Abaco with some 236 Dutch, French and German military personnel to support transportation, relief distribution and health assistance. The two vessels also have underwater surveillance capacities, two helicopters and around 40 ground vehicle that will support relief actors in accessing hard-to-reach and remote populations across storm-damaged roads. The European team has started repairing the damaged bridge linking central and northern parts of the island and supported rehabilitation of medical facilities. British vessel

Mounts Bay, which departed on the 10 September, distributed more than 25,000 litres of water, around 1,000 shelter kits as well as performed engineering tasks during its deployment, mostly on northern Abaco.

US air assets were stood down on 13 September due to tropical storm Humbert. Flights resumed on 15 September and will concentrate on hard to access areas. The Jamaican Defence Forces (JDF) continue to provide support to the ongoing tasks and building of MSU in Marsh Harbour. Trinidad and Tobago Defence Forces (TTDF) continue to support the RBDF in Grand Bahama with relief operations (food distribution, clearance of debris, repairing of public buildings). The Dominican Republic Defence Forces will arrive with a team tomorrow to support on the ongoing operations. The 'Almirante Didiez Burgos' vessel with aid supplies is expected to arrive on Friday 20 September.

Environmental risks are a key area of concern. The priorities are the assessment of exposed hazardous operations facilities to mitigate and prevent any cascading humanitarian and environmental impacts; and a comprehensive strategy for disaster waste management to deal with building debris, fallen trees but also hazardous waste. Further to reports of a leak at the BPL Marsh Harbour power sub-station, on 12th September the UN Environment Joint Unit surveyed the facility and followed up with BPL, the Royal Defence Force and DEHS. There is limited, windblown spill on the ground. An estimated amount of 100 to 200 k gallons of diesel fuel are currently located in the tank containment area. While this is contained, it is exposed to rain and wind with significant risk of overflow and/or wind spill. On 13th September, the Dutch Army has begun site inspection.

Based on a request from Bahamas' Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Secretary-General of CARICOM and in consultation with NEMA, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Regional Security System (RSS), the Royal Bahamas Defence Force and the Royal Bahamas Police Force, 60 security personnel are being mobilized to affected areas for further security support.

The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, visited the Bahamas on 13 and 14 September to express deep solidarity with the Government and people of the archipelago as well as assessing what else the United Nations might be able to do to support Government-led relief operations and recovery. The Secretary-General met with Prime Minister Hibert Minnis to discuss support and the way forward in terms of reconstruction. He visited a shelter, the Sir Kendal Isaacs Gym in New Providence, where he met people displaced from Abaco as well as member of social services providing support. Mr. Guterres then flew to Abaco with a government delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs where they were briefed by NEMA staff and UN personnel supporting the EOC.

GENERAL COORDINATION

The response to Hurricane Dorian's catastrophic trail of destruction is being led by the Government of the Bahamas, through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and in coordination with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) with international organizations and agencies complementing those efforts.

NEMA is leading the coordination of the emergency response, with support from CDEMA and OCHA, from its Nassau-based National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). Through the NEOC, NEMA is in close coordination with NGOs, donors and UN agencies. NEMA has installed its Emergency Support Functions (ESF) humanitarian coordination structure, composed of 15 ESFs with their own lead ministries or departments to align response functions between relevant stakeholders. The regional and international humanitarian community has designated focal points for each of the relevant Emergency Support Functions to strengthen support and coordination efforts.

Two EOCs have been set up by NEMA in Marsh Harbour and Freeport with the support of OCHA and USAID to coordinate relief operations or more than 30 organizations. CDEMA deployed three members of the CARICOM Operational Support Team (COST) on 14 September to further support the local Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) set up in Abaco and Grand Bahama.

OCHA is present in Nassau, Marsh Harbour and Freeport, supporting the NEOC and EOC as well as general coordination between NEMA, CDEMA, UN agencies, NGOs and donors and facilitate civil-military coordination, among other activities. Some 53 organizations and nearly 240 humanitarian staff have registered with OCHA. Most registered staff are working in the areas of Logistics, Coordination, Health and Food Security, with Nassau hosting the largest presence. Most reported activities are centred around Health, Water and Sanitation, Coordination, Shelter, Protection and Early Recovery. Two thirds of reported activities remain in progress.

NEMA has opened its EOC Partners Coordination Offices in the National Training Agency on 9 September to strengthen international partners' coordination with ESFs.

CDEMA and OCHA co-chair daily partners meetings to guide coordination among regional and international actors. Meetings are held at the national Training Centre. CDEMA will CDEMA has identified personnel for the CDAC teams.

CDEMA is standing down the CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) while facilitating the deployment of two CARICOM Disaster Assessment and Coordination (CDAC) teams to support damage and human needs assessments in Grand Bahama This deployment will be supported by agriculture, tourism, education and health sectors for detailed damage sector assessments and are set to arrive on 17 September.

Useful links for partners, including contact list, ESF/sector lead contacts and 3W: <http://bit.ly/BHSUsefullinks>

Or simply scan the following QR Code:



FUNDING

NEMA established the Bahamas Disaster Relief Fund to receive cash donations via NEMA and cheques and wire transfer via the RBC Royal Bank (Bahamas). Instructions available here: <https://bit.ly/2m9K82V>

Several countries, both within and outside the region, have provided, or have pledged to provide, relief contributions:

Country	Amount (US\$)	Destinated activities or organization
Canada	\$379,000	Support for humanitarian partners after needs assessments are completed
India	\$1,000,000	Relief allocation for Bahamas
Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States member state disbursements)	\$100,000 (each)	Support for recovery efforts.
People's Republic of China	\$100,000	Relief efforts
Switzerland	\$506,000	IFRC
Switzerland	\$202,000	WFP
Republic of Korea	\$200,000	Contributions to restoring damages and relief efforts.
Trinidad and Tobago	\$500,000	Relief expenses, including medical supplies.
United Arab Emirates	\$250,000	Immediate humanitarian assistance.
United Kingdom	\$1,800,000	Delivery of aid aboard RFA Mounts Bay, support for CDEMA
United Kingdom (UK Department for International Development - DFID)	\$308,490	Support for deployment of CDEMA response teams
United States of America	\$1,000,000	Food For Peace (FFP) program to WFP
United States of America	\$1,800,000	Relief supplies and logistics support
United States of America	\$3,800,000	Additional funding to support USAID partners to provide humanitarian assistance for affected communities.

Groups such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) have made allocations directly to The Bahamas, while international organizations have released funds to support life-saving operations:

Organization	Amount (US\$)	Activities or organization
American Red Cross	\$2,000,000	Support for people affected by Dorian
Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)	\$10,900,000	Relief allocation for Bahamas.
Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)	\$200,000	Emergency response grant to NEMA and Bahamas
CERF	\$1,000,000	Urgent life-saving efforts.

ECHO	\$550,675	Allocation for urgent needs such as shelter, water, hygiene and food.
IOM	\$140,000	Operational disbursement for temporary shelter and the distribution of shelter kits.
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	\$100,000,000	Emergency loan to support humanitarian efforts and reconstruction.
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	\$200,000	Emergency donation.
UNDP	\$200,000	Coordination of recovery efforts in collaboration with the Government.
WFP	\$5,400,000	Limited Emergency Operation.

Additionally, PAHO and IFRC have launched appeals for critical short-term assistance and supplies:

Organization	Appeal (US\$)	Destinated activities
IFRC	\$3,240,000 (requested)	Short- and mid-term shelter assistance and relief supplies.
PAHO	\$3,500,000 (requested)	Short-term healthcare needs over six months, including water and vector control needs.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Early Recovery

Needs:

- Debris removal and waste management are top priorities in both islands, including quantification and sorting, asset mapping, identification of storage sites and management strategies.
- Securing of damaged structures and safe demolition.
- Building Damage Assessments and quantification of the impact on infrastructure.
- Rehabilitation of key government buildings.
- Support for the repair of damaged buildings, ensuring building-back-better principle.

Response:

- The Bahamas Power and Light Company (BPLC) began repairs in Abaco on 11-12 September to restore power in southern Abaco.
- NEMA is coordinating with response partners to support BPLC with the procurement and transport of additional equipment, including high-capacity generators.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Debris and waste management equipment is required - details are available through the Ministry of Environment and Housing.
- Financial resources to support debris and waste on-site sorting through community engagement and local contractors are required.

Education

Needs:

- Educational staff require strengthened technical capacity to provide school-based psychosocial support services to affected children in schools.
- Urgent systematic and phased approach in assessing and reconstructing schools and the provision of needed equipment and furniture, including teaching and learning materials.

Response:

- With technical support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Education began registering the 10,000 students (4-19 years old) affected by Dorian into new schools on 12 September, a process expected to last until mid-October. Registered children will also be able to access multiple services from other ministries, including medical screening, uniforms, lunch assistance, referrals for counselling services and referrals for enrollment in social, sporting and extracurricular activities. The registration process launched at the Thomas A Robinson National Stadium in Nassau and will be gradually rolled out elsewhere in Bahamas in coming weeks.
- UNICEF is also providing technical support to the establishment of a secure central data management system to be used by all relevant Government partners.
- UNICEF kickstarted a series of training-of-trainers in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to equip more than 250 school counsellors and teachers across Bahamas with the required skills and knowledge to provide psychosocial support and recreational activities to children evacuees and children in host communities. The first phase of the training is targeting New Providence and will later extend to Grand Bahamas, Andros and Eleuthera.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a lack of clear figures on affected population in general and an information gap on the scope of damage and loss.
- Destruction of school infrastructure, equipment and school records in Grand Bahama and Abaco.

Food Security

Response:

- World Central Kitchen distributed 190,000 cooked meals as of 14 September and were expecting to reach 200,000 by 15th September.
- There are more than 70 food distribution points across Grand Bahama receiving food daily, with more than 25,000 daily meals provided by the Royal Caribbean Cruise line, World Central Kitchen and Barbeque for Relief.
- In Abaco Island, a team of 10 WFP staff continue to perform food security assessments and analyses and address immediate food security needs of the affected communities where gaps are identified.
- As of 13 September, WFP have distributed 10,000 ready-made meals.
- On 11 September, WFP and partner Samaritan's Purse delivered 600 MREs to Little Harbour, Cherokee Sand, Bahama Palms Shores, and Crossing Rocks (Abaco Island).

Health

Needs:

- Increased health staff, from the Caribbean, for integration into national teams to allow for rotation and rest.
- Continued ramp up of syndromic surveillance especially from Abaco
- Delivery of medical care to the shelters, particularly psychosocial support.
- Appropriate deployment of EMTs according to needs on the ground.
- Monitoring of water quality in affected locations.
- Rehabilitation of Rand Memorial hospital, including mold removal.
- Deployed Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) report skin infections, exacerbated chronic conditions, puncture wounds and lacerations.
- Given the volume of displaced people, there is a need for life-saving medications for people with chronic conditions.
- Limited or no SRH information and services in the shelters, including on HIV/STIs treatment and prevention and condoms.
- No privacy/confidentiality in shelters for adequate service delivery.

Response:

- The Ministry of Health is conducting daily visits to strengthen epidemiological surveillance capacity.
- The Ministry of Health identified the Coopers Town Clinic in Abaco as a high priority health center, as it is running on a generator and has no access to water.
- Samaritan's Purse set up a Tier 2 facility in Freeport, with a team of surgeons, physicians, nurses, pharmaceutical staff, and biotech engineers to provide medical care for up to 100 outpatient cases per day. There is bed space available for as many as 40 inpatients. The hospital can provide up to 10 surgeries per day and is complete with an obstetrics ward with delivery room.
- PAHO has completed rapid assessments for five health care facilities (four clinics and one hospital)
- Seven international EMTs are on the ground and supporting healthcare delivery to affected populations in Abaco, Grand Bahama, Eleuthera & New Providence.
- PAHO is undertaking coordinated assessments with the Ministry of Health and the Dutch military in Abaco.
- Medical evacuations continue with support from the Dutch military, who are also supporting cleaning of healthcare facilities and the transportation of medical supplies.
- PAHO continues supporting the Ministry of Health to collate and analyse daily syndromic surveillance from shelters, EMTs, and event-based surveillance from operational clinics.
- No unusual patterns of communicable conditions have been reported.
- Request for no unsolicited donations.
- UNFPA deployed a Sexual and Reproductive Health Advisor to provide support to the Government in coordinating the implementation of the MISP for RH in emergencies.
- UNFPA is providing technical assistance to design the approach for SRH service provision in the shelters and develop a package of SRH services and referral mechanisms for specialized care.
- UNFPA will support the establishment of a monitoring system to ensure data collection of SRH services provided at the shelter and flow of information to the health management information system.
- UNFPA will coordinate with the organizations providing health services in the shelters, awareness sessions on HIV and STI prevention and family planning and condom distribution.
- UNFPA will coordinate with the Department of Gender Affairs and Ministry of Health the health response to GBV cases.
- UNFPA to support comprehensive in-depth health assessments in the two affected islands in coordination with the Ministry of Health, PAHO and other actors.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The status of 4 health care facilities still unknown.
- Gaps in the monitoring of water quality.
- Undocumented migrants may be reluctant to go to health centres or shelters.
- Availability of SRH services in health facilities is still unknown with the exception of Rand Memorial Hospital in Grand Bahama.


Protection

Needs:

- Dorian further strained existing community-based and protection support systems for some 10,000 girls and boys.
- These 10,000 children require support to address key protection concerns such as family separation, psychological distress, and other concerns
- Identifying and reaching displaced children in host settings.

- Addressing child protection concerns of children in affected households that have not moved from Abaco or Grand Bahama
- Support for children and their families/caregivers in local integration.
- Improvement of the registration of affected people with Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD) factors such as disability and other relevant factors.
- PTSD treatment, psychosocial support and psychological first aid services for affected population in all shelters.
- Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and risk mitigation strategies, including referral pathway, standard operating procedures (SOPs), awareness-raising and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) dissemination for the affected population, particularly women and girls and other at-risk groups.
- Capacity building and training on Gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE) prevention and response for front line workers and other relevant actors participating in the emergency response.
- Strengthen Government capacities on shelter management and so that GBV risks are identified, mitigated and prevented.
- Development and dissemination of shelter guidelines for shelter managers and volunteers and the signing of Code of Conduct.
- Dignity kits for all affected population, particularly women, girls, elderly, people with disabilities.
- Mechanisms to mitigate frictions and disputes among the people staying in the shelters.
- Given the large number of humanitarian actors, donors, I/NGOs, government, the private sector and national military forces as well as foreigner military forces, it is important to have in place measures for protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

Response:

- According to UNHCR, the Protection Cluster convened its first meeting on 12 September and is already identifying key protection concerns and potential activities for a draft CERF document currently in development.
- UNICEF is supporting the documentation and provision of child protection services to 1,200 children in Government shelters to support the Ministry of Social Services and their efforts to address the situation caused by the relocation of children to New Providence.
- The Government of Jamaica provided 120 recreation kits to benefit some 6,000 children.
- Since 12 September, UNICEF has supported the training-for-trainers on psychosocial support, including on the use of the donated kits.
- UNFPA is supporting the Department of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Social Services to develop and implement a GBV prevention and risk mitigation strategy.
- UNFPA conducted focus group discussions (FGD) and key informant interviews in the remaining shelters in Nassau and identified the GBV risks and needs of the affected population, in particular women and girls.
- UNFPA is identifying potential partners for the provision of psychosocial support and psychological first aid and other needs raised by women and adolescents in the focus group discussions.
- UNFPA GBV Coordinator is arriving in Nassau on 16 September and will lead GBV prevention and response and PSEA activities.
- The first batch of UNFPA dignity kits (1,450) have arrived in Nassau and will be distributed in the shelters on 16 September. Additional dignity kits and reproductive health kits are scheduled to arrive during the week.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The massive relocation of people, including children, from Abaco and Grand Bahama to New Providence is placing an additional strain on social service and protection systems, including their workforces, in addressing emerging child protection needs.

Shelter

Needs:

- Amid growing concerns of overcrowding in certain shelters and the resultant environment conditions, the Department of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) is conducting environmental health and food safety assessments.
- Shelter occupancy is increasing, prompting growing WASH needs and more health staff and medical supplies in some areas, as well as interpreters for migrants.

Response:

- In Abaco, shelter partners developed a strategy for dealing with distribution of Tarps allocating operational areas. It is considered that sufficient tarps are in situ to cover the needs.
- Some 5,000 USAID shelter kits, which include nails, rope, wires and other tools have arrived in country.
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and IOM are leading shelter coordination and management support for the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Renewal
- Mixed agency teams have been mobilised to deploy IOM's displacement tracking matrix to create profiles and identify the status of shelters housing internally displaced people (IDP's) in Nassau.
- IOM expects to submit a list of recommendations to Government counterparts of the mass care and shelter Emergency Support Function (ESF-6).
- Local and international humanitarian groups are working alongside UN agencies to identify gaps in shelter coordination and management and are working together with ESF-6 to find solutions to the same.
- ESF-6 partners/Cluster partners along with local, private sector entities have taken the initiative to identify buildings with potential of becoming evacuation centres. The locations of said buildings will be forwarded to the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development and the Public Works Department.
- Samaritan's Purse has 2,143 (20' x100') tarps in country and will distribute to Abaco and Grand Bahamas.
- IFRC and Shelterbox are making arrangements to set up a base camp in Abaco. IFRC will be distributing 1000 shelter tool kits in Abaco and 500 in Grand Bahama.
- DG ECHO's humanitarian experts are assessing the humanitarian situation of evacuees housed in displacement centres.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Dorian contaminated aquifers and damaged pumping stations on Abaco and Grand Bahama, causing significant damage to water distribution systems
- Families currently have limited access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and solid waste management.
- Restoration of electrical infrastructure and power to well fields in Abaco and Grand Bahama.
- With the limited amount of water available, children and their families have limited access to sanitation and bathing facilities posing significant risk to health.

Response:

- BSC is currently addressing the extent of the damage to water extraction and distribution networks and testing water quality in wells.
- UNICEF has had two WASH officers based in Nassau since 5 September providing humanitarian assistance and WASH sector coordination support to NEMA through BSC, the main Government partner WSC.
- Based on the immediate needs assessments for Abaco and Grand Bahamas, the WASH sector coordination group has provided Information Management support for the NGOs that have been deploying and implementing equipment for safe drinking water production, intermediate storage and distribution to beneficiaries to share locations of operations and identify gaps in services.

- UPS airlifted supplies from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to Bahamas, with a total of 50 metric tons, including water buckets and hygiene kits for 10,000 people and four 10,000-liter water bladders

Gaps & Constraints:

- Blocked roads are impeding BSC from accessing infrastructure.
- Full damage assessments and accurate number of people in need in Abaco and Grand Bahamas are not yet available for accurate response planning and targeting of population in need.
- While deployments of safe drinking water production equipment have been rapid through NGOs, overall coordination for this has been difficult to monitor with identified gaps emerging for communities, especially in eastern Grand Bahamas.
- Distribution of safe water from the production points is constrained due to limited transportation options to in need communities by road.
- The priority to date has been focused on safe drinking water provision, with limited attention placed on solid waste management.

Emergency Telecommunications

Response:

- WFP is continuing to establish data connectivity across the affected areas, working closely with the NEMA Emergency Support Function (ESF) on Communications.
- WFP and Standby partners Ericsson Response have been working closely with NetHope, Télécoms Sans Frontières TSF, and Vodafone Foundation to extend needed connectivity while mobile networks have been progressively restored.
- ECHO's satellite communications team from Luxembourg are supporting the emergency operations centre in Freeport, Grand Bahama.
- Mobile telecommunications carrier ALIV's network coverage in Grand Bahama is now at 80 per cent, with network usage at approximately 140 per cent. BTC, another mobile telecommunications carrier, reports 41 per cent coverage restored.
- ALIV's towers at Treasure Cay and Blackwood in Abaco have been restored. Coverage is now at 99 per cent, although the network usage is at 27 per cent following the evacuations. BTC coverage is back to 18 per cent.

Logistics

Response:

- WFP has established four mobile storage units (MSUs), with three at Marsh Harbour Port and one at Marsh Harbour Airport, three prefabricated offices at Marsh Harbour Port, three generators between Marsh Harbour Port and Airport, and satellite telecommunications across Abaco Island.
- Authorities are establishing a temporary Air Control Tower in Marsh Harbour.

Constraints:

- NEMA acknowledges that the catastrophic impact to Abaco has made logistics for humanitarian relief delivery more challenging in Abaco than in Grand Bahama.
- There are four Grand Bahama seaports with unknown operational status.

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