

General EOC partner coordination meeting, 25/09/2019

Meeting minutes

Meeting Chaired by Gayle Outten-Moncur, NEMA

I. Key updates from NEMA

a. Situation update – overall figures

- NEMA briefed on the population figures in Abaco, focusing on the population that remains in Abaco and those that are in need. These figures (dated 19 September) have been discussed and endorsed by the local EOC management, and are based on the assessments that had been carried out by partners and coordinated with the EOC (see attached).
- NEMA also recalled that the EOC leadership in Abaco is managed by PS Jack Thompson, Mr Cargill and Administrator Duncombe. There are still gaps in filling key positions in the EOC but NEMA has identified the persons from within their ranks and currently looking at options for sending staff to reinforce the EOC.
- Reporting by organizations has greatly improved since they started to use the standard format requested by the EOC in Abaco, but there are still a lot of gaps in getting the full comprehensive picture and all organizations are kindly requested to collaborate on this through the right channels.

b. Creation of the new Ministry on Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction

- NEMA commented on the announcement of the creation of the new Ministry and mentioned that the Government is still teasing out the exact functioning and relationship with NEMA of this new Ministry. It is expected that the Ministry will focus more on higher-level policy decision-making and strategic guidance and that the operational level will not be impacted too much.
- For the time being, until further instructions and explanations are coming, partners are requested to continue to coordinate through the established structures.

c. NGO accreditation process

- Renee Davies, NEMA, informed all agencies that NEMA is receiving the requests for accreditations by the NGOs; and intends to respond to every single one of the NGOs separately but given that this is a new process, the response may take a little while. All efforts are made to reduce any time delays.
- NEMA clarified that for the medical teams who already received the acceptance by the Ministry of Health, they do not need to register again with NEMA.
- Organizations also asked about the process to get a legal status as NGOs in the country so that they can plan to establish a longer-term presence, as this process is not very clear at this point in time.
 - o **Action:** NEMA to provide information and guidance for NGOs wanting to establish presence on a longer term on how to proceed.

II. Coordination and information management

- Partner liaison: NEMA informed that in the absence of Aneesah Abdullah this week, Ms Renee Davies has taken the role of partner liaison by NEMA and will be the main focal point for overall partner interaction with NEMA.

- OCHA informed of its phase out and handover, mainly to NEMA of the coordination role it played in Nassau. Based on initial discussions and an agreed plan with the local EOC leadership in Abaco, the team there has already phased out over the weekend and handed over its tasks and activities to the local EOC management and the EOC coordination support teams from CDEMA and USAID. – OCHA is also phasing out its EOC coordination support provided in Grand Bahama jointly with CDEMA and the US Coastguard. In Nassau, the general partner coordination will be led directly by NEMA and the information management work supported by PDC as part of ESF 5.
- NEMA ESF 5 lead, Noelle Nicolls, informed partners that as we are moving into a next phase of the response, NEMA intends to strengthen coordination with partners even more, and ensure that all partners are closely linked up and plugged into their respective ESF leads from the EOC. This requires that partners constantly share and update the information that they are providing through the channels established for this. She also asked that for those organizations having public information/public affairs officers in country, that they link up with ESF 5. information managers of each organization
- Key information management tools that will continue to be used in the response as requested by NEMA:
 - o Contact list <https://t.ly/mDWGj> (organizations were requested to help in keeping the information up to date by deleting those contacts who are not anymore in country)
 - o 3 W – Who what where <http://bit.ly/BHS-3W> (login: DorianResponse, Password: dorianresponse)
 - It was clarified again that this is not the same as the accreditation process. The government has decided to use the 3W database up until a more permanent solution will have been designed. Until further notice, organizations are requested to report their activities on the 3W.
 - o Needs identification form <https://t.ly/RjRRV>
 - This form remains valid and is to be used.
 - o Meeting calendar
 - The calendar on the door of the main room in the NTA will continue to be used to book meeting rooms; and in order to replicate this on the online version, organizations are requested to send the meeting information to ocha-rolac@un.org
- Use of the NTA:
 - o NEMA informed that the NTA will be available for the foreseeable future as it is of great value to have organizations work together in one space.
- All agencies are asked to pass on the information to their teams in Abaco and Grand Bahama to participate in the relevant coordination meetings, led by the EOCs and the ESFs.

III. ESF updates and equivalent sector updates

- a. ESF1 (transportation), ESF7 (relief supplies) - equivalent Logistics, NFI - **WFP**
- WFP informed that they finished the set up of a mobile storage unit at NEMA Nassau , mainly for storing and processing unsolicited donations for their onward delivery. There will be continued sea transport service free to use for government ministries and the NGO community; more will be announced in the log meeting later during the day.

- Priorities include: managing unsolicited donations; working in Freeport to assist with storage and logistics for NEMA, supporting the Govt in clarifying the financial value of donations received (and partners will be informed of any amended process to be followed)
- **Next meeting: today, Wednesday 4pm, NTA , room A**
 - b. ESF2 (communications) – sector equivalent ITC – **phased out**
 - c. ESF3 (public works and transport) – sector equivalent: early recovery **UNDP**
 - i. debris removal/ waste management (treated as part of ESF3 in the EOC) – **UNDP**
- UNDP informed of the arrival of Tim Walsh as the environment and debris management expert (timw88@gmail.com) . He will focus on providing support to develop a general strategy for the debris management.
 - ii. WASH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (treated as part of ESF 3 in the EOC) – **UNICEF**
- UNICEF informed that the WASH coordinator will arrive later today and the next coordination meeting is **to take place today, 3pm in the NTA – and then every Wednesday in principle, at 3pm.**
 - iii. Livelihoods (treated as part of ESF 3 in the EOC) – **UNDP/FAO**
- UNDP informed that the first livelihood coordination meeting took place already and more updates will soon be available.
- **Action:** UNDP to inform on next steps and how partners can engage.
 - d. ESF 4 – International Assistance – **NEMA/ OCHA**
- N/A
 - e. ESF 5 – information management, public information – **NEMA; PDC ; OCHA**
- Covered already under previous agenda item
 - f. ESF 6 – Mass care and shelter services
 - i. sector equivalent: collective centers/emergency shelters: **IOM**
- IOM is working very closely with the Ministry of Social Services. Currently, there are **1586 people in government-approved shelters in New Providence, which is a reduction of 4.5% compared to one day earlier. IOM is finalizing** questionnaire for the second round of DTM in the shelters, to understand not only the profile but also the intentions of people. Also starting to track the movement of people, especially the movement back to Abaco. IOM is providing technical advice to the Govt on the planning of the site in Spring City/ Abaco with a view to making it a safe place.
- Coordination meetings taking place 2x a week.
- NEMA informed that 3 shelters currently in use will need to be deactivated in the first week of October and that this will be brought to the shelter sector.

ii. sector equivalent: Shelter – **IFRC**

- The shelter coordinator / IFRC had to step out of the meeting at this time.

g. ESF 8 Health – sector equivalent: health, including mental health – **PAHO**

- Last partner meeting was yesterday, the next one will be **next Friday: 8:30 in the MoH**
- Mental health is also being covered in the meetings.
- 4 EMTs still on the ground; and in process of extending their timeframes
- MoH receives many offers of volunteers and PAHO is currently supporting the MoH in clarifying their support needs and communicating on this.
- On Surveillance: noting specific to report; in fact the daily reporting cycle is moving back to a weekly basis.
- A vector control team is on the ground with the Department of environmental health services
- The Public hospital authority informed that its priority for now is the rebuilding of the hospital in Grand Bahama and a go-fund-me page was opened: <https://www.rebuildourhospitals.org/> with so far some USD 25000 collected of a target of USD 1m
- The Public hospital authority also informed that it received a donation of 4 ambulances and will send them to Gr Bahama and Abaco . Public service announcements were also broadcasted with a focus on the shelters in English and Creole on public waste disposal, hand washing. .

h. ESF 9 - USAR - **Phased out**

i. ESF 10 – HazMat

j. ESF 11 – Food – **WFP**

- WFP mentioned that the food sector is active both in Nassau and Abaco. A lot of work currently ongoing in Abaco, to assess the food assistance situation and identify any pockets of lack of delivery.
- Upcoming priorities are the mapping out of food distribution sites (map will be shared) and develop a longer term distribution plan .
- Next food coordination meeting in Abaco, today right after the general coordination meeting.

k. Education – **UNICEF**

- Next coordination meeting: 1 October, 10am in the Ministry of Education

l. Protection - **UNHCR**

- Protection working group meetings took place already; and the working group is still seeking the appropriate government counterparts. NEMA informed that this should be primarily Min of Social Services and Min of Education.
- A Child protection WG and a Gender Based Violence WG will also be established.

IV. AOB

- USAID informed that the shuttle bus between NEMA and the NTA will be discontinued.

V. Next Meeting

- The next meeting should be on Wednesday 2 October but NEMA will confirm,