



THE CARIBBEAN: HURRICANES IRMA, MARIA & JOSE RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 20 September 2017



Remnants from destroyed homes in Esmeralda, Cuba.
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Highlights

■ As part of the UN-coordinated Regional Response Plan for the Caribbean Region after Hurricanes Irma and José, IOM is appealing for a total of USD 4.95 million to provide humanitarian relief, manage human mobility and facilitate a fast resilience-focused recovery in the form of technical expertise and knowledge transfer to government authorities. Humanitarian needs are expected to increase in the region, given Hurricane Maria's latest impact.

■ Dominica, Guadeloupe, Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos, and the United States Virgin Islands are anticipated to be the locations most affected by Hurricane Maria.

■ Prior to the arrival of Hurricane Maria, IOM surge team supported the government of Sint Maarten to prepare evacuation centres by assisting coordination-related activities including: dissemination of early warning messages to the public and prepositioning basic relief items, such as food and water, in all evacuation centres across Sint Maarten. Additionally, IOM trained over 50 Red Cross and K1 Britannia Foundation volunteers on basic evacuation centre management.

■ Hurricane Maria (Category 5) has passed through the already storm-battered Leeward Islands, and moves towards Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas. An estimated 16.4 million people will be exposed to the hurricane, including populations previously affected by Hurricanes Irma and José.

■ From 15 to 18 September, IOM surge team conducted the first site assessment on the needs of populations displaced from Barbuda to Antigua. Initial findings suggest that basic needs have been met but there are still gaps in the provision of health services, education, psychosocial support and information on returns.

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Situation Overview*

As of 20 September, IOM surge team members are present in the regional coordination hub in Panama and the two most affected Leeward Islands - Antigua and Sint Maarten. While conducting assessments on the needs of affected populations, the surge team also supports local authorities and humanitarian actors to adequately implement preparedness and response activities through technical expertise and training. As soon as humanitarian access is secured, the surge team will continue to assess the impact of Hurricane Maria in close coordination with the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)/ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

IOM continues to collate and maintain updated information on displacement and human mobility figures in close coordination with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Movements are exacerbated by the arrival of Hurricane Maria. Figures tracked under the displacement portfolio include persons evacuated, internally displaced, residing in collective settings, sheltered in host families, and stranded migrants. The latest available predictions of path and intensity as well as estimated displacement and exposure figures are available at IOM's geoportal: <http://displacement.iom.int/caribbean-emergency-2017>.

Anguilla

Total population*	13,555
Exposed population	13,555 (100%)
No. of fatalities	1
Humanitarian access	Clayton J Lloyd Intl. Airport closed until 20 Sept. Conditions of seaports unknown.
Priority needs	Education, Food, Health, Infrastructure (electricity), Shelter/NFIs, and WASH

After Hurricane Irma, Anguilla suffered from significant damages of core infrastructure and facilities. About 90 per cent of electricity infrastructure, 90 per cent of government buildings, and all schools and main water supply systems were damaged. Utility restoration is ongoing to resume the provision of water and electricity services. Debris removal activities have been completed for most of the primary and secondary roads. While sectoral needs assessment is still ongoing, the CDEMA stated that the affected population in Anguilla is facing a shortage of food, medical supplies, cleaning equipment and various non-food items, such as

baby kits, first aid kits, generators, mosquito repellents, tarpaulins and water containers. The Government of Anguilla aims to restore all critical functions, including education, health and tourism, within the next six months.

Antigua and Barbuda

Total population*	81,799
Exposed population	81,799 (100%)
Displaced population	1,423 (evacuees from Barbuda to Antigua—of these, 420 IDPs in collective centres in Antigua (source: IOM as of 20 Sept 2017))
No. of fatalities	1
Humanitarian access	Antigua: V.C. Bird Intl. will be closed until 10am, 20 Sept. Barbuda: Barbuda Codrington Airport closed and reopening date unknown. Conditions of seaports unknown for both islands.
Priority needs	Antigua: Education, Protection, Health, CCCM, and Shelter Barbuda: Education, CCCM, Health, Shelter, and Infrastructure (electricity).

According to the first IOM assessments conducted on four collective centres in **Antigua**, while the overall basic needs of displaced Barbudans have been met, an inadequate amount of food and supplies were provided in some sites. In the last few days, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross (ABRC) has supported the registration of people in collective centres and those affected by the hurricane. Government bodies and public organizations have provided the evacuees with education, dignity kits, psychosocial support, and shelter. However, there are still gaps in the provision of education, health services and protection. In particular, there is a need for focused psychosocial support, information on returns, garbage management, presence of police or security guards, and medical supplies such as stretchers and gurneys.

In **Barbuda**, about 200 house structures are still standing but with substantial damages. The Department of Environment (DoE) has cleared school grounds to utilize them as temporary shelter sites. The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) initiated clean-up activities in Barbuda together with 50 Barbudan volunteers. The DoE is planning to implement clean-up activities across the island and is in immediate need of approximately 600 tents

Antigua and Barbuda (continued)

and cleaning tools. As almost all (99%) buildings and houses were severely damaged, the DoE is also setting up a plan to build shelters.

Bahamas

Total population*	343,735
Exposed population	20,015 (5.82%)
Displaced population	MICAL ¹ : 1,500 Ragged Island: 1,200 Bimini Island: 365 (Source: Govt of the Bahamas as of 13 Sept 2017)
No. of fatalities	4
Humanitarian access	Lynden Pindling Intl. Airport is open. All other airports remain closed.
Priority needs	Shelter and Infrastructure (roads and electricity)

While most populated areas in the Bahamas were spared a direct hit from Irma, the hurricane significantly affected islands in the south, including Acklins, Crooked Island, Inagua and Mayaguana, and Ragged Island as well as the Bimini Island in the northwest.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (GoCB) completed damage assessments on 14 September. The initial findings indicate 1) sustained damages to roads, cemetery, and houses in Acklins; 2) major damages to the dock at Landrail Point in Crooked Island; 3) severe damages to houses and buildings (90%), electricity infrastructure as well as public buildings such as schools and health facilities in Ragged Island; 4) a significant disruption of electricity services and damages to houses/businesses in Bimini; and 5) structural damages of some homes and 28 affected households (100 individuals) in Grand Bahama.

The GoCB started to boost its pace towards early recovery by restoring damaged roads. Also, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and humanitarian partners have provided core relief supplies to the populations on the affected islands.

British Virgin Islands

Total population*	28,063
Exposed population	28,063 (100%)
Displaced population	279 (Source: CDEMA as of 18 Sept 2017)
No. of fatalities	7
Humanitarian access	Terrance B. Lettsome Intl. Airport closed until 20 Sept. Port Purcell Seaport is serviceable for humanitarian purposes.
Priority needs	Food, Health, Infrastructure (electricity), WASH, and Tele-communications

The CDEMA reported widespread damages to houses, businesses, infrastructure, marine sector and vessels, especially in the southern part of the island. About 60-80 per cent of buildings and houses were reportedly destroyed or damaged throughout the island. Significant damages to core infrastructure have been reported including piped water facility, electricity infrastructure, roads and fibre optic cables. A prison building was severely compromised, with roof and security fencing damaged. 142 prisoners attempted to escape and 112 have been recaptured. Repair work and recapturing efforts are currently being executed.

Prior to Hurricane Maria, a total of 11 emergency shelters were operating throughout the territory, accommodating 279 persons. While a number of pledges have been made, the quantity of received relief items is significantly lower than expected. The most needed items include baby food, generators, satellite phones, water purification tablets and medical supplies. The Government of the British Virgin Islands has established an official Irma relief account to raise relief funds.

Shelter is one of the biggest need identified as there is severe damage to houses. About 50 per cent of residents across the British Virgin Islands are currently not in their own homes, many of whom are lodging with friends, relatives or in emergency centres.

¹ Mayaguana, Inagua, Crooked Island, Acklins, and Long Cay

Cuba

Total population*	11,247,925
Exposed population	11,247,925 (100%)
Displaced population	230,000 (Source: OCHA as of 16 September 2017)
No. of fatalities	10
Humanitarian access	Jose Marti Intl. Airport in Havana is open. All other airports remain closed.
Priority needs	Education, Health, Shelter Repair/NFIs, WASH, and Food Security/Agriculture Recovery

A total of 2,151,080 people (over 19% of the total Cuban population) were severely affected by Hurricane Irma in the 33 most affected municipalities. Over 1.7 million people were initially evacuated to community/government-run shelters and host families. Of these, 26,000 evacuees are still remaining in the evacuation shelters and an undetermined number of IDPs are with host families. Out of 15 provinces, 13 were directly impacted and the aftermath is especially severe in the northern part of the country, including Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Sancti Spiritus and Villa Clara provinces.

Damage and needs assessments are currently being conducted by national authorities throughout the country. Significant damages have been reported to almost all sectors, including 210,000 to 220,000 houses, electric infrastructure, WASH facilities, over 75,000 hectares of land, about 70 per cent of health facilities and 2,186 schools.

Dominica

Total population*	71,293
Exposed population	71,293 (100%)
Displaced population	Unknown
No. of fatalities	Unknown
Humanitarian access	Douglas-Charles Airport closed until 6pm, 19 Sept.
Priority needs	Unknown

Over 18 and 19 September, Hurricane Maria left a trail of destruction as it smashed into Dominica with 160 mph

winds. Early reports suggest that Dominica is one of the most severely affected countries by the Hurricane. Although the exact scale of damages and needs has not been identified, the Prime Minister of Dominica, Roosevelt Skerrit, declared there was widespread devastation in the country, affecting over 73,000 people, and has appealed for help on the media. On 20 September, surge capacity from IOM was deployed to Dominica to conduct initial assessments on damages with the support of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).



The passage of Hurricane Maria across Dominica (source: <https://weather.com>)

Dominican Republic

Total population*	12,522,097
Exposed population	12,469,932 (99.6%)
Displaced population	1,572 (Source: PAHO as of 11 Sept 2017)
No. of fatalities	None reported
Humanitarian access	Las Americas Intl. Airport is open.
Priority needs	WASH and Shelter

Although Hurricane Irma made no direct impact on the Dominican Republic, over 24,000 persons, including 7,500 tourists, were evacuated at the peak of the emergency, and 2,683 houses were affected, of which 114 were destroyed. According to the National Institute of Drinking Water and Sewerage (INAPA), a total of 58 aqueducts were affected by

Dominican Republic (continued)

the hurricane and rehabilitation works are ongoing.

Hurricane Maria is expected to pass through the northeast of the country on Thursday, 21 September. The government has been preparing for its arrival. Army and police forces have been mobilized along with prepositioning relief items.

Guadeloupe

Total population*	400,186
Exposed population	400,186 (100%)
Displaced population	Estimated 300-1000 (Source: IFRC as of 19 Sept 2017)
No. of fatalities	2
Humanitarian access	All airports closed until 6pm, 19 September. Conditions of seaports unknown.
Priority needs	Unknown

Approximately 130 cubic metres of humanitarian commodities have arrived to the island. As of 19 September, around 150 IFRC volunteers and staff are also in place. An evacuee reception centre at the airport hosts between 300 and 1,000 people per day. Official reports state that at least two people died in Guadeloupe after the passage of Hurricane Maria.

Haiti

Total population*	10,911,819
Exposed population	8,693,416 (79.7%)
Displaced population	500 (Source: Gov of Haiti as of 13 Sept 2017)
No. of fatalities	1
No. of Individuals assisted by IOM	Total: 1,622 1,550 (NFIs) 72 (Protection—evacuation)
Humanitarian access	No reported damage
Priority needs	Shelter Repair and Food Security/Agriculture Recovery

Hurricane Irma passed through Haiti on Thursday, 7 September. While Haiti as a whole was spared a direct hit, the northern part of the country has been significantly affected by heavy rains, winds, flooding and the consequent agricultural losses. A total of 3,838 families have been reportedly affected by the hurricane in the northern departments and substantial damages have been registered in several health facilities. According to the IFRC, the overall sanitary conditions have been deteriorated and affected populations still suffer from limited access to potable water in the aftermath of the hurricane. Consequently, a significant risk of water-borne and vector-borne diseases is present in Haiti, including dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and leptospirosis.

Puerto Rico

Total population*	3,583,073
Exposed population	3,583,073 (100%)
Displaced population	154 (Source: PAHO as of 11 Sept 2017)
No. of fatalities	Unknown
Humanitarian access	All airports in San Juan, Aguadilla, Ponce, and Mayaguez are closed as of 20 Sept.
Priority needs	Unknown

Hurricane Maria is expected to pass through Puerto Rico during the night of 20 September. The National Weather Service announced early warning and preparedness messages to the public and the government is preparing to execute emergency plans. The hurricane is expected to provoke strong winds, flooding rain, surge and tornadoes that will affect a total of 1,103,745 families as well as substantially damage core infrastructure and facilities.

Saint Barthélemy

Total population*	9,427
Exposed population	9,427 (100%)
Displaced population	Unknown
No. of fatalities	Unknown
Humanitarian access	Conditions of Saint Barthélemy Airport are unknown
Priority needs	Unknown

Saint Barthélemy (continued)

While the specific extent of damages and needs is unknown, IFRC's early findings indicate that about 70 per cent of buildings in the main city were affected, 72 per cent of which are houses.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Total population*	46,398
Exposed population	46,398 (100%)
Displaced population	Unknown
No. of fatalities	None reported
Humanitarian access	Robert L. Bradshaw Intl. Airport closed until 4pm, 20 Sept.
Priority needs	Unknown

The National Red Cross Society and IFRC were deployed on 19 September to assess damage to houses and needs of affected populations. The lack of information remains a challenge; however, the Red Cross continues to coordinate interventions with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Saint Martin

Total population*	35,107
Exposed population	35,107 (100%)
Displaced population	Unknown
No. of fatalities	Unknown
Humanitarian access	Conditions of Grand-Case Espérance Airport are unknown
Priority needs	Food, WASH, and Telecommunications

A Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) continues to conduct assessments on the priority needs of affected populations. According to the CDEMA, satellite overview suggests damages to about 28 per cent of building structures on the main island by Hurricane Irma as of 15 September. The lack of information remains a challenge.

Sint Maarten

Total population*	42,083
Exposed population	42,083 (100%)
Displaced population	5,000 (Source: PAHO as of 11 Sept 2017)
No. of fatalities	Unknown
No. of individuals assisted by IOM	Direct beneficiaries: 50 (capacity building on collective centre management) Indirect beneficiaries: 219 evacuees
Humanitarian access	Princess Juliana Intl. Airport closed until 4pm, 20 Sept.
Priority needs	Food, Health, Shelter, WASH, and Early Recover

According to initial assessments conducted by the Netherlands and Sint Maarten Red Cross Societies on 12 September, about 91 per cent of buildings were damaged by Hurricane Irma. Of these, 40 per cent of houses are severely damaged and 60 per cent are repairable. About 5,000 individuals need temporary shelter and 3,000 houses require immediate repairs for occupation. Additionally, hospitals and pharmacies have been substantially damaged and maintain only 30 per cent of capacity.

Prior to the arrival of Hurricane Maria, the IOM surge team supported the government of Sint Maarten to disseminate early warning messages to the public and preposition basic relief items, such as food and water, in all evacuation centres across the island. The existing evacuation centres can accommodate a total of 2,140 people. Of these, 10 were pre-stocked with a capacity for sheltering 1,800 people. During the peak hours of the storm, 219 persons were sheltered with dedicated site managers. The Dutch Marines provided the affected populations with security, logistics and supplies to last for 36 hours. As of 19 September, an estimated 150 people remain in the evacuation centres as people return home to repair and reconstruct. Additionally, Sint Maarten has a large number of irregular migrants - mostly Dominicans and some Haitians - many of whom were residing in self-constructed huts. As most of the huts were totally destroyed by Hurricane Irma, their whereabouts are unknown. IOM is in discussions with the Red Cross and Emergency Support Function (ESF) 7 in charge of shelter to identify an adequate type of assistance tailored to their needs, such as improved access to assistance including cash-based interventions (CBIs) and options for durable solutions.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Total population*	31,458
Exposed population	31,458 (100%)
Displaced population	60 (Source: CDEMA, UNDAC as of 13 Sept 2017)
No. of fatalities	None reported
Humanitarian access	South Caicos Airport and Providenciales Seaport are open. Grand Turks Airport and Providenciales Intl. Airport are serviceable only in fair weather conditions. Conditions of Grand Turk Seaport unknown
Priority needs	WASH, Food, Shelter/NFIs, and Infrastructure (electricity)

Damage and needs assessments are being conducted by the CDEMA surge team in Turks and Caicos. While the full extent of damages has not been verified in some islands, early reports suggest substantial damages to houses, government buildings, health facilities as well as water and electricity infrastructure on South Caicos, Providenciales Island and Grand Turk Island. According to the UNITAR-UNOSAT analysis based on Pleiades satellite images, about 2,447 (27%) and 400 (51%) potentially damaged structures were identified in Providenciales and Cockburn islands, respectively. Preliminary assessments identified that the priority needs are food, water, tarpaulins and generators.

United States Virgin Islands

Total population*	106,405
Exposed population	106,405 (100%)
Displaced population	Unknown
No. of fatalities	Unknown
Humanitarian access	All airports in Saint Croix and Saint Thomas are closed as of 20 Sept.
Priority needs	Shelter, Health, and Infrastructure (electricity)

Emergency response and early recovery efforts are led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in partnership with territorial, local, private sector and voluntary agencies. On 14 September, about 582,000 meals and 380,000 litres of water were dispatched by FEMA to the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). Arrangements have been made to send other core relief items such as cots, diapers,

baby formula and temporary roofing materials. Generators have been installed in critical facilities, such as shelters, hospitals, emergency service buildings and water treatment plants, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Power Planning and Response Team. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is also coordinating the transportation of people for evacuation together with local authorities and federal responders. Additionally, Health and Human Services (HHS) medical personnel have been deployed to evacuate dialysis patients and provide medical assistance at local hospitals.

As of 20 September, a hurricane warning is in effect for USVI and Hurricane Maria is expected to hit USVI in the afternoon. The National Weather Service announced early warning and preparedness messages to the public and the government is preparing to execute emergency plans. The hurricane is anticipated to provoke strong winds, flooding rain, surge and tornadoes that may result in significant damages to houses, roads, bridges, docks and piers as well as telecommunications failures.

*All “total” and “exposed” population estimates are from official census data and NOAA/GDACs respectively. In this document, the exposed population refers to the number of population exposed to at least one of the three hurricanes: Irma, Jose or Maria.

IOM RESPONSE

Assessments

IOM activated the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and conducted the first site assessment in **Antigua** together with the Ministry of Social Transformation and UNICEF. From 15 to 18 September, IOM surge team visited a total of four sites hosting evacuees from Barbuda and conducted site profiling. Site profiles are available at: <http://displacement.iom.int/caribbean-emergency-2017>.

According to IOM’s initial findings, while most basic needs have been fulfilled, in some collective centres, an inadequate amount of food and NFIs were provided. There are gaps in terms of providing education, health care, protection and information on returns. In particular, the following needs have been identified during the site assessments: focused psychosocial support, information on returns, garbage management, presence of police or security guards, and medical supplies such as stretchers and gurneys.

The assessment was temporarily halted on 19 September due to the arrival of Hurricane Maria, but was soon resumed the next day as weather conditions improve. The surge team with DTM expertise continues to visit affected

IOM RESPONSE

Assessments (continued)

sites and compile available information in close cooperation with the government.

Further assessments will be coordinated with the CDEMA targeting the Leeward Islands and the eastern Caribbean region.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management and Displacement Tracking

In **Barbuda**, the Department of Environment (DoE) is planning to implement clean-up activities across the island and needs immediate support for about 600 tents and cleaning tools. IOM will support the government as required through the provision of technical expertise.

Prior to the arrival of Hurricane Maria, the IOM CCCM expert deployed to **Sint Maarten** provided coordination-related support to the government in disseminating early messages to the public and prepositioning core relief items, including food and water, across all evacuation centres in the island. Identified centres have a capacity to accommodate a total of 2,140 people. Among these, 10 centres were pre-stocked with food and water with a capacity for sheltering 1,800 people. These sites were manned by volunteers from Red Cross and K1 Britannia Foundation trained by IOM as well as the Dutch Marine personnel to provide security and logistics assistance.

As the storm effects diminish in Sint Marteen, people are returning home. Prepositioned tarpaulins are being handed out to returning families along with food rations and bottled water as most have got damaged roofs in their homes. Shelter repair assistance is needed urgently. IOM and shelter actors will advise ESF 7 on avenues and options based on the local context and destruction levels.



IOM provided training on basic evacuation centre management in Sint Maarten © IOM 2017

Sint Maarten has a large number of irregular migrants - mostly Dominicans and some Haitians - many of whom resided in self-constructed huts. As most of the huts were totally destroyed by Hurricane Irma, their whereabouts are unknown. IOM is in discussions with the Red Cross and ESF 7 to identify an adequate type of assistance tailored to their needs, such as improved access to assistance through cash-based interventions (CBIs) and options for durable solutions.

Shelter / NFIs and Logistics

The Department of Environment of the Government of **Antigua and Barbuda** requires 250 sets of tents, toolkits and hygiene kits. In response, IOM is closely coordinating with WFP and Shelter Box to bring the items to the island on 21 September if weather conditions allow. IOM has also trained shelter managers on the codes of conduct and identified additional needs for training security guards onsite.

Additionally, IOM continues to seek logistical support from Foreign Assets deployed in the region to mobilize prepositioned contingency stocks – 500 shelter box tents, 500 toolkits and 5,000 hygiene kits – from warehouses in Haiti to Antigua.

In **Cuba**, IOM is planning to provide displaced people in evacuation centres with essential NFIs as well as tools/materials to repair damaged roofs to boost early recovery efforts. The initial intervention will be supported with USD 100,000 through IOM's Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (MEFM).



Family in Havana, Cuba cleaning up after the hurricanes © IOM 2017

Protection

IOM has deployed a thematic expert to **Antigua** to provide protection response wherever needed. IOM and the Family and Social Services Division of the Ministry of Social Transportation have started to conduct site assessments and safety audits in collective centres where distribution of core relief items take place. Additionally, IOM provided support to the Directorate of Gender Affairs together with UNICEF by facilitating training for shelter managers on preventing child abuse and assisting people with special needs.