

**HEALTH RESPONSE DOMINICA**  
**TROPICAL STORM ERIKA**  
**SITUATION REPORT N°5**



**2 September 2015**

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Out of 52 health facilities on the island, 3 are not operational and 3 are not accessible from the outside. The other 46 health facilities, including 3 hospitals, are operational.
- 410 people are staying in eight different shelters across five communities.
- Total of 639 evacuated from Petite Savanne and Dubique
- The NEOC has confirmed 14 deaths and 25 reported missing
- Most of the country lacks access to water, and there are concerns over water borne diseases. Three unconfirmed cases of gastroenteritis have been reported.
- The Government of Dominica has declared nine Special Disaster Areas including: Petite Savanne, Pichelin, Good Hope, Bath Estate, Dubique, Campbell, Coulibistrie, San Sauveur and Petite Soufriere.
- Port LSS has been set up and is functional, and airport LSS is expected to be operational.

As of 2 September, the Government of Dominica has declared nine Special Disaster Areas, including: Petite Savanne, Pichelin, Good Hope, Bath Estate, Dubique, Campbell, Coulibistrie, San Sauveur and Petite Soufriere. The National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) has reported two additional deaths, bringing the total to 14 deaths and 25 reported missing. The biggest public health challenge is the lack of access to water for most of the country, posing a public health threat for the affected population. Public health messages remain a priority, and public advisory regarding water, waste and sanitation safety is being disseminated. The Ministry of Health (MOH) has activated its Emergency Response Plan and Health Emergency Operations Center (EOC).



## **ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

Out of 52 health facilities on the island, 3 are not operational and 3 are not accessible from the outside. The other 46 health facilities, including 3 hospitals, are operational. Following actions are being taken for healthcare:

- 5 nurses have arrived from British Virgin Islands and have been assigned to different districts
- 5 nurses have arrived from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- 21 medical personnel including: epidemiologist, bioengineers, nurses and doctors, and 1 ton of supplies arrived from Cuba
- Medical supplies have been sent to Boetia via roadway
- British vessel arrived with medical supplies including sterile dressing packs

## **SURVEILLANCE**

According to the MOH post-disaster surveillance data, 66 patients were seen from healthcare centers, most frequently from Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) in Roseau and St. Joseph Health Center in St. Joseph city. Patients are mainly from Petite Savanne and Coulibistrie, and most common injuries being reported are lacerations and fractures.

Unconfirmed cases of gastroenteritis are being reported from health facilities. Most of the population currently does not have access to clean water, increasing the risk for water borne diseases. Actions are being taken to address the issue, including intensified vector control activities to prevent vector-borne diseases. Public health messages remain a priority, and public advisory regarding water, waste and sanitation safety is being disseminated.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

The Dominica Water and Sewage Company Limited (DOWASCO) reported that most of the island is still without access to water. There was irreversible damage to water systems, and limited road access continues to pose a challenge in restoring water coverage.

PAHO/WHO water and sanitation engineer has been deployed from Barbados with supplies registered by the SUMA-LSS system.

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

Mental health response is currently under way on the island by two mental health teams: one appointed by the Prime Minister and one by the MOH. These two teams will be consolidated to implement an organized mental health response.

On Friday 4 September, the MOH will train approximately 35 persons to provide mental health support and counseling to communities. UNICEF will provide psychosocial support for children during the emergency.

## **SHELTERS**

Approximately 410 people are staying in eight different shelters across five communities in Dominica. Total of 639 people have been evacuated from Petite Savanne and Dubique.

The Prime Minister has requested a medical team to be present at shelters to assess any health needs for arrivals. Counseling services are available on site, which will be integrated into medical services.



## COORDINATION

PAHO/WHO is working with the Ministry of Health to coordinate the health response, and a meeting was held to take decisions on offers of medical assistance from neighboring countries. Heart to Heart, an NGO from Missouri, USA has offered assistance to MOH and met with the PMH medical director in order to discuss aid and logistics.

Port LSS has been set up and is functional, and airport LSS is expected to be operational.

