

HURRICANE DORIAN

Situation Report No. 7

6 September 2019 – 09:00 EDT

HIGHLIGHTS

- WASH and food security remain critical needs on the islands affected. Management of dead bodies is expected to be a rising issue and hospital morgue capacity is also needed.
- At least 2,000 people continue to be various shelters in Great Abaco and Grand Bahama islands. The 800 that were seeking shelter at the Marsh Harbour Clinic (Abaco) have been relocated to a nearby high school.
- Cleaning operations and support is being provided for Rand Memorial Hospital (Grand Bahama) and Marsh Harbour Clinic (Abaco) including providing back-up generators and rotation of medical staff
- An EMT Medical Information and Coordination Cell (CICOM) has been established at the Ministry of Health in coordination with PAHO and EMT teams are in the process of arriving and deploying to affected areas.
- Due to the floodwaters and potential sewage contamination, the risk of diarrheal and waterborne diseases remains high. Additionally, other water borne infections such as leptospirosis could be a concern in the near future.

Figure 1: Neighborhood of makeshift houses that are home to many Haitian immigrants appeared reduced to piles of plywood and rubble (The Mudd). NYT



Figure 2: PAHO/WHO Response Team

AFFECTED

 **>76,000**
People ¹

 **20-30**
Deaths ²

 **3**
islands
(Abaco, Grand Bahama
& New Providence)

DAMAGED

 **13,000**
homes ²

SHELTERS

 **27**

>2,000
People

DEPLOYED

 **14** PAHO staff

1.UN News, September 5
2.PAHO Bahamas Situation Report 7. and
ECHO Daily Flash

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5 hurricane, made landfall at Elbow Cay, Abaco at 12:40 EST September 1st and landfall in mainland Abaco at 14:00 EST. The hurricane had devastating effects, especially on the islands of Grand Bahama and Abaco, as they had prolonged exposure to extreme hurricane force winds, storm surges, flooding and intense rainfall. Due to floodwaters and potential contamination with sewage and lack of safe water, the risk remains high of diarrheal and waterborne diseases. While the initial death count is at 20, news sources and others report higher numbers, and is expected to rise as more areas become accessible and search and rescue operations begin. It is also important to note that due to intermittent communication capacity, there is fragmented information available regarding the status of the hospitals. Therefore; information regarding operational status and damages reported might change daily as assessments are underway.

BAHAMASⁱⁱⁱ

Abaco island:

- According to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) aerial reconnaissance, damages appear to be concentrated to the central and northern part of the island. Almost 60% of homes in northern Abaco were destroyed or severely damaged.
- Sandy Point and the southern end of the island had no major impact and less than 1% of the houses were damaged. Power outages remains but cellular communication has been established in Sandy Point. Floodwaters continue to recede, but most roads are still blocked by debris and floods.
- The National EOC reports there is a shortage of drinking water on the island. Food security also remains as a critical issue.
- Medical staff and technicians have been deployed to Marsh Harbour Clinic to rotate and relieve health staff. Food and medical supplies are reported to be reaching the clinic. The morgue capacity has been exceeded with 16 bodies currently in storage. Additional refrigeration capacity is required.
- There is still no information available about the other health clinics. Armed looting has been reported in Abaco, raising security concerns of the health staff. Additional security forces are being deployed by the government to Abaco and Grand Bahama to maintain order

Grand Bahama:

- From aerial reconnaissance, the East end of Grand Bahama was severely impacted with approximately 90% of catastrophic damage to housing and buildings. Freeport city and West Grand Bahama appearing to have minimal damage. There is an island wide power outage due to the main power plant flooding. Additionally, there are reports of oil spillage from damaged oil tanks at the South riding point refinery.
- Rand Memorial Hospital is reported to have fuel for the generator for five days. While Rand Hospital is still flooded, cleaning operations are in progress to remove sewage contamination. The roof appears intact likely indicating that the flooding was attributed to the storm surge. A more detailed list of updates of other hospitals in the area can be found at the end of this document.
- Food security in East Grand Bahama is a growing concern

NEEDS

Preliminary needs include safe water, food, sanitary and hygiene measures. An additional 500 body bags has been requested by the Ministry of Health for Abaco as fatality numbers will likely increase. More information will be provided after a formal needs assessment is performed on both islands. However, it is vital that a comprehensive assessment of the 3 severely impacted health facilities (Marsh Harbour Clinic, Sandy Point Clinic, and Rand Memorial Hospital) be carried out as soon as possible.

A supplies/needs list was shared by the Government of the Bahamas indicating the need for a large amount of WASH supplies, shelter supplies, non-perishable food items, and first aid items.

RESPONSE ACTIONS

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has pledged health sector infrastructure and public health support. PAHO is acting quickly with the support of the Ministry of Health to assess needs and damage assessments.

An Incident Management System has been established in the country office. The PAHO's Disaster Response Team include 14 staff pre and post-deployment:

- Logistics (PHE Barbados)
- Infrastructure assessment (PHE Barbados)
- WASH (CPC Barbados)
- SUMA (PHE Barbados)
- EMT coordinator (PHE WDC)
- Civil and military coordination (PHE Barbados)
- Information management (PHE Barbados)
- Epidemiological surveillance (2 X PHE WDC)
- Communications and media (2X PHE WDC)
- Incident Manager (PHE Belize)
- Coordination (PHE Barbados)
- Health Services (HSS WDC)

UN coordination system is on the ground and the Ministry of Health and PAHO are co-leading the Health Cluster. A logistics hub will be established with the support of the WFP to manage inflow of relief assistance.

PAHO, through the UNHRD warehouse in Panama, has sent its first shipment of supplies to Nassau, including Aquatabs, 7 Italian Trauma Kits A+B, water bladders and body bags due to arrive this morning with generators, telecommunication and office equipment from WFP.

EMTs: A Medical Information and Coordination Cell (CICOM) has been set up within the Ministry of Health to coordinate the clinical care response to Hurricane Dorian. PAHO has deployed an EMT coordinator to join the CICOM in Nassau, and PAHO's EMT secretariat is supporting CICOM in verifying the registered EMTs and coordination with the health logisticians to support incoming teams and in-country transportation.

Team Rubicon (EMT type 1, mobile) has been accepted by the Ministry and deployed to provide support to Abaco while Samaritan's Purse (Type 2) with inpatient surgical capacity has arrived in Nassau and will deploy their mobile hospital to Grand Bahama for a duration of 3 months. Humanity First (EMT type 1, fixed) is expected to arrive today and be deployed to Marsh Harbour.

Pledged funds:

- PAHO is expected to launch a funding appeal in the coming days.
- CDEMA Participating states and regional institutions from the Caribbean have pledged monetary, deployment, and supply support. The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has allocated almost \$1 million USD for the Government of Bahamas including USD 200,000 to the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) for both humanitarian assistance, and an immediate response loan to assist with clean-up and short term recovery.ⁱⁱⁱ CDB has also ready to scale up assistance to provide mental health and psychosocial support as part of a joint project with PAHO established prior to the hurricane season.
- CERF through OCHA will provide an immediate US \$1 million for urgent life-saving activities

REPORTS ON HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ⁱⁱ:

| District | Service | Operational status | Status Update | Needs |
|---------------|---|-----------------------|--|---|
| Grand Bahamas | Rand Memorial Hospital | Partially operational | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backup power restored by existing generators (fuel for 5 days) on sight with limited electricity Water tank with 180,000 L Dialysis ward is used for medical and surgical patients Two cleaning companies are working on sight, and A&E, Radiology, Dialysis, and Administration Departments available for occupation and treatment Sewage contamination in the building due to flooding persist, but is being cleaned 3 ambulances are available | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity needs to be restored Biomedical equipment was damaged Surgical room is not operational, and surgical patients need to be referred |
| | Eight Mile Rock | Operational | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generator is working | |
| | East End Clinic (High Rock, Freetown, McLean, Pelican) | Unknown | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment delayed due to blocked roads Significant damage is suspected Staff evacuated prior to storm | |
| | Freeport Community Clinic | Unknown | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinic was damaged and flooded Inoperability is suspected | |
| | East Sunrise | Operational | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified for surgical services | |
| | Hawksbill Clinic | Unknown | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment is ongoing | |
| | West End Clinic | Operational (pending) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The physical structure is intact The clinic is expected to be functional today | |
| | No Information: Sweeting's Cay, Grand Cay | | | |
| Abaco | Marsh Harbour | Partially operational | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical patients were evacuated to Princess Margaret Hospital on September 3 800 people who were sheltered moved to Abaco High School Medical staff rotations to maintain coverage Medical supplies are being replenished | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The health facility needs to be cleaned for surgical services |
| | Cooper's Town | Unknown | | |
| | Fox Town | Unknown | | |
| | No Information: Crossing Rock, Green Turtle Cay, Hope Town, Man o war Cay, Moore's Island, Sandy Point, Spring City | | | |

ⁱ CDEMA Situation Report 6

ⁱⁱ PAHO Country Office Situation Report 7

ⁱⁱⁱ Caribbean Development Bank Press Release September 5, 2019