

HURRICANE DORIAN

Situation Report No. 8



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

7 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.
- According to CDEMA, Search and Rescue continues to be a priority and is being coordinated by the Royal Bahamas Defence Force with assistance from the US/UK military and other SAR partners.
- Evacuation efforts are underway in Abaco and Grand Bahama
- 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: Logistics Support System (LSS) has been set up by PAHO

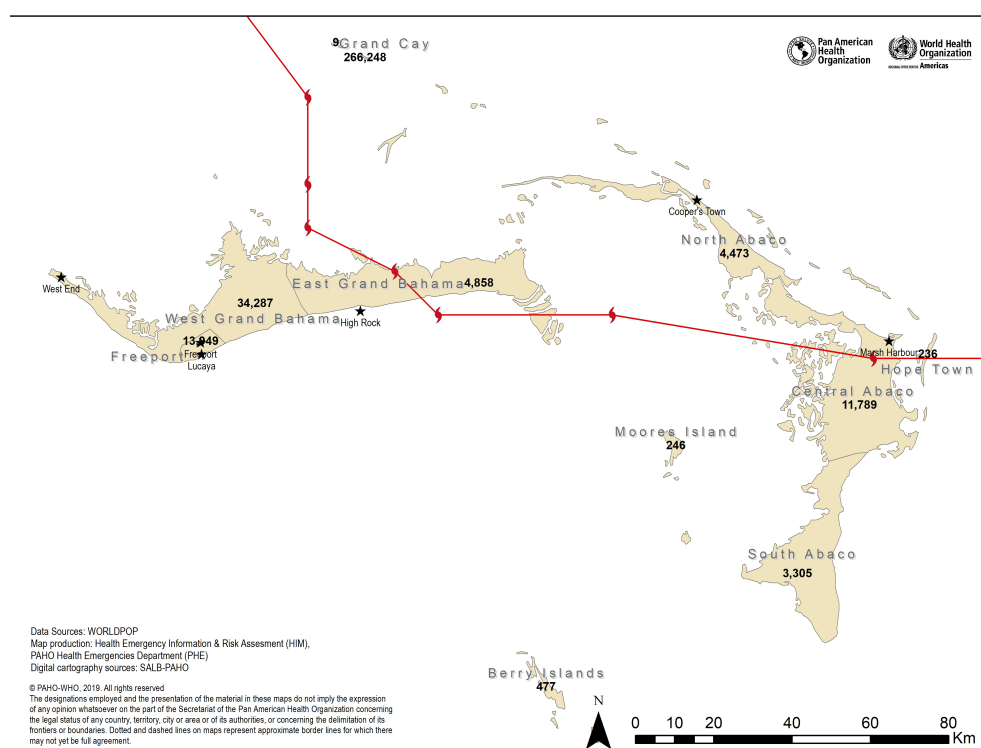


Figure 2. Estimated population in the islands affected

AFFECTED



>76,000

People ¹



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 8

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. The death count has been rising daily with 30 confirmed deaths from the Bahamian government as of September 6th; while news sources and others report higher numbers, the fatality number 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:

- NEMA is providing evacuation support to residents of Abaco free of charge. So far reports suggest at least 200 people have been evacuated from Abaco and Grand Bahama, with priority being given to women and children, and the disabled.
- A freezer container is being used as a morgue however it is expected to exceed capacity soon as the death toll increases.
- Marsh Harbour Clinic has been providing services to approximately 200-300 patients daily. Team Rubicon assessment indicates that the building infrastructure is intact. There is still no potable water and an assessment of medical equipment is needed in addition to medical stocks.
- Cooper's Town has no power and the Ministry of Health reports structural damage to the roof.

Grand Bahama:

- According to CDEMA, approximately 800 people are in various shelters in Grand Bahama.
- Rand Memorial Hospital has currently 27 patients hospitalized. The hospital's ICU is compromised, and the surgical room is non-operational. Sanitization measures and minor repairs are needed for the hospital to be fully operational. Food is being provided to the patients from a hotel.
- Other facility assessments are ongoing.

New Providence:

- Resources are under strain at Princess Margaret hospital due to the influx of patients from Abaco and Grand Bahama

NEEDS

Preliminary needs include safe water, food, sanitary and hygiene measures. An additional 500 body bags have 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. In the coming days and weeks, risk communication, health promotion, and mental and psychosocial support activities will also need to be planned and executed

An updated 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. Medical supplies and equipment need to be restocked at the affected hospitals. Additionally, with a constant increase in fatality counts as bodies are being found, the Ministry of Health has requested a need for a forensic pathologist for identification of bodies.

PRIORITY CONCERNS

- Restoring access to essential health services and continued medical care delivery
- Ensuring the quality of water in affected communities and health facilities to restore access to safe water
- Restoring proper hygiene and sanitation and adequate waste management and vector control in affected communities and health facilities
- Increasing epidemiological surveillance to support early detection and timely management of disease outbreaks.

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 and COM WDC)
- Incident Manager (PHE Belize)
- Coordination (PHE Barbados)
- Health Services (HSS WDC)

Coordination: UN coordination system is on the ground and the Ministry of Health and PAHO are co-leading the Health Cluster. A health partners meeting to discuss collaboration and specific needs and gaps for the short, medium and long term was hosted at the Ministry of Health with PAHO support. The Ministry of Health, PAHO, Public Health Authority, and the Dutch army met regarding the deployment of Dutch Naval assets to assist in emergency repair of health facilities, transportation and water desalination. The ship is expected to arrive to the Bahamas on the 11th of September.

Logistics: A Logistics Support System (LSS) has been set up by PAHO and operating at Odyssey Aviation, Nassau.

PAHO, through the UNHRD warehouse in Panama, has sent its first shipment of supplies to Nassau, including Aquatabs, Trauma Kits A+B, water bladders, and body bags.

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.

REPORTS ON HEALTH CARE FACILITIES (NO NEW UPDATES) ⁱⁱ:

District	Service	Operational status	Status Update	Needs
Grand Bahamas	Rand Memorial Hospital	Partially operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICU compromised Electrical problems have been solved. The generator is working intermittently The freezer is functioning Surgical room is not operational Patients are being provided food from a Hotel Currently there are 27 patients hospitalized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplies need to be restocked Electricity needs to be restored Biomedical equipment was damaged Surgical patients need to be referred An in depth sanitization is a priority
	Eight Mile Rock	Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generator is working Facility is fully staffed 	
	East End Clinic (High Rock, Freetown, McLean, Pelican)	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment is still pending 	
	Freeport Community Clinic	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assesment is still pending 	
	East Sunrise	Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified for surgical services Main maternity clinic Grand Bahama 	
	Hawksbill Clinic	Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment is ongoing 	
	Pearce Plaza	Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is used as an outpatient clinic 	
	West End Clinic	Non - Operational –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The physical structure is intact Equipment was being moved back in today. (Status update needed) 	
	Okyanos (private)	Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water and power needed. Once restored can offer relief medical services to the surrounding area. 	
	No Information: Sweeting's Cay, Grand Cay – still waiting			
Abaco	Marsh Harbour	Partially operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clinic sustained some damage from the overcrowding previously reported. The generator is working and no potable water The morgue is currently working According to Rubicon (EMT) the building infrastructure is intact Medical services provided to 200-300 patients per day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of medical equipment Medicine and medical supplies need to be replenished (antibiotics and tetanus vaccines)
	Cooper's Town	Non-operational	MoH reported structural damage to the roof, no power and there is a need for basic health care	
	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 7

ⁱⁱ PAHO Country Office Situation Report 8, September 6