

HURRICANE DORIAN

Situation Report No. 14

17 September 2019 – 11:00 EDT

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tropical Storm Humberto passed north of Great Abaco this past weekend producing only limited rain on the island. The Bahamian government underwent preparedness efforts including moving those in tent shelters into safer facilities. Due to the weather, logistical efforts for humanitarian delivery were slowed but contingency plans were put into effect.
- As of September 15, approximately 1,906 people are in 10 shelters in New Providence. Sir Kendall Isaac's gym is housing 1,068 individuals, well over its 700 capacity. Additionally, 66 people are located in 2 shelters on Grand Bahama. One shelter is open on Abaco and Eleuthera, each with 10 or less individuals.
- The number of missing and deaths remains at 1,300 missing and 50 deaths respectively .
- As of September 16, all of the health clinics on the islands have been assessed. In Grand Bahama 4 out of the 12 health clinics are reported fully operational, 4 are non-operational, and 3 have been destroyed. In Abaco 7 out of the 8 clinics are operational, while one suffered severe damage and is non-operational
- A syndromic surveillance system continues to be operational in hospitals and shelters. The Ministry of Health continues to strengthen epidemiological surveillance capacity with daily visits to shelters and clinics.



Figure 1. Repairs to the roof at Coopers Town Community Clinic, Abaco



Figure 2. EMT coordination between PAHO and Bahamas Ministry of Health

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Affected

>76,000¹



Deaths

50^{3,4}



Damaged

9 Health Facilities²



Missing

1,300⁴



Evacuated

6,854 (New Providence)³



4,000 (USA)⁵

Sources

1. UN News September 5
2. PAHO Bahamas Situation Report 15.
3. NEMA daily update September 15
4. CDEMA Situation Report 11
5. International Medical Corps Sit Rep #8

SITUATION OVERVIEW i,ii,iii,iv

Providing immediate and long-term shelter solutions for Internally Displaced persons (IDPs) remains a priority for the Bahamian government. As of September 15, the population at shelters are approximately 1,906 people in 10 shelters in New Providence. Sir Kendall Isaac's gym in New Providence is housing 1,068 individuals, well over its 700 capacity. Additionally, 66 people are located in 2 shelters in Grand Bahama and another three in one shelter on Abaco. Figures regarding those sheltered on Eleuthera indicate 10 people are in one shelter.

The death toll has remained at 50 (42 on Grand Abaco and 8 on Grand Bahama) but is still likely to increase as more areas become accessible and search and rescue operations continue.

Between September 5 and 13, an estimated total of 6,854 people were evacuated from Abaco and Grand Bahama to New Providence. International Medical Corps (IMC) reports that 4,000 people were evacuated to the United States.

On the 11th of September, the Department of Social Services and NEMA established a registry of missing people; an initial estimate of 2,500 people had been reported missing, but that number lowered significantly to 1,300 on the 13th of September after a cross-referencing of registered individuals in shelters.

The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that the majority of needs of the impacted population are being met by local and international relief efforts. While the Government of the Bahamas prides itself in continuously providing support to those affected, response efforts are now focusing on ensuring access to appropriate shelters, restoration for services and debris removal from search and rescue and needs assessment; indicating a shift towards early recovery.

Abaco:

- NEMA reports logistical challenges continue in delivering humanitarian aid on the ground.
- Abaco residents are being provided food through multiple organizations. In Abaco, WFP staff have been performing food security assessments to address immediate food security needs and gaps in the affected communities
- Fuel for generators and water remain the biggest needs for the island
- While more detailed assessments are needed, the majority of hospitals and clinics in Abaco are reported to be operational with the exception of Man o War Cay and Green Turtle Cay Clinic whose operational status is unknown. Hope Town clinic is reported non-operational by PAHO assessments.

Grand Bahama:

- NEMA continues to work with partners to set up food distribution centers throughout the island. There are currently 70 food distribution points across the island with more than 25,000 meals provided daily. WFP has been aiding in the distribution of at least 10,000 ready-made meals and coordinating with other partners in Grand Bahama for ensuring food security
- Operations are being coordinated centrally out of Freeport's Emergency Operations Centre.
- Telecommunications have been restored in most of Grand Bahama.
- According to PAHO's assessments, the 4 clinics in Grand Bahama with operational or partially operational capacity (including Rand Memorial) are concentrated in the western part of the island. Three clinics (High Rock, Mclean, Pelican Point) have been reported destroyed. Free Town, Freeport Community Clinic, West End, Sweeting's Cay and Grand Cay Clinics are reportedly non-operational.

CONTEXT

Hurricane Dorian made initial landfall on September 1st, 2019 at Elbow Cay, Abaco at 12:40 EDT as a powerful Category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of 185 mph. The hurricane then moved to Grand Bahama and made a second landfall at 23:00 EDT at near same intensity, where it then stalled over the island for over two days. 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

HEALTH SITUATION

The Ministry of Health conduct daily visits to shelters and screens incoming evacuees. Syndromic surveillance continues in shelters and health clinics in Abaco, New Providence, and Grand Bahama. The Department of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) has conducted assessments for the environmental health and food safety among growing concerns about overcrowding at some shelters and certain environmental conditions. DEHS made recommendations on daily waste and trash management and food safety for

shelters. Current access to water in North Abaco 60% of water is provided by relief actors, residents of southern Abaco are able to access water through main water pipes, with relief supplies accounting for around 10% of current access. In Grand Bahama, 60% of the water access is from piped water. Various Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) in the country report receiving small pockets of patients, with main pathologies include skin infections, exacerbated chronic conditions, minor trauma, puncture wounds and lacerations and many in need of mental and psychosocial support. The Ministry of Health is drafting a 120-day action plan to address, short medium and long-term needs and actions for the health sector.

Abaco:

Heart to Heart International (EMT) reported one case of acute watery diarrhea at The Farm on 12-14 September and identified WASH and environmental health as risk to disease prevention. One case of acute respiratory infection and two cases of skin disease were identified in Coopers Town by Humanity First.

Grand Bahama:

One diarrheal case was reported over the weekend. Overall, the situation is improving, as water and food supplies begin to be more reliable. Freeport informed of a need of laboratory supplies for sample collection and shipment from the laboratory at Princess Margaret Hospital.

New Providence:

On September 14, Team Rubicon conducted health assessments of 7 shelters in Nassau and concluded that a consistent health need across all sites was ensuring access to mental health and psychosocial support. Laboratory samples for suspected scabies at a shelter were tested and no presence of mites or eggs were found. As further suspect cases present, samples will be taken before treating the case and family members.

Eleuthera:

New York city Medics report that Central Clinic District is running low on certain supplies including hypertension medications, diabetic medications, wound care and assorted antibiotics. On the 12th of September, one case of bloody diarrhea was reported along with cases of acute respiratory infections and skin disease.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The destruction left behind by the hurricane impacted water and health infrastructure. Water safety, sanitation and hygiene remain primary concerns, as the deteriorated sanitary conditions and lack of access to safe water in the affected communities pose a risk of waterborne and vector-borne disease transmission. Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, and malaria, and the rodent borne leptospirosis are of particular concern. Ensuring access to health facilities and medical care to the affected communities in the islands remains a priority as the hurricane impacted hospitals and clinics and created a shortage of healthcare staff. The operational status of health facilities in both islands is being assessed. Information regarding status and damages reported are display in the table of reported health care facilities at the end of this situation report.

NEEDS

Needs continue to include safe water, food, and sanitary and hygiene measures. Additionally, due to the large number of displaced persons, life-saving medications for those with chronic conditions are needed. While many have received humanitarian assistance, identifying vulnerable and isolated communities in the affected areas for outreach and access to health services, medical care, and support remains a challenge. Debris removal, waste management, and identifying storage and management strategies on the islands remain a priority as well as in the shelters. The damage on electrical infrastructure on the islands has increased demand for fuel for generators. Mental health and psychosocial support are also urgently needed. On Abaco, EMTs have been the main source of information regarding health pathologies, as some begin to end their mission to the islands, it is important to continue strengthening the surveillance systems in place through regular Ministry of Health communication channels so that there is a timely and effective system for monitoring and identifying health threats.

WASH: NEMA has stated that the provision of water to North Abaco and Marsh Harbour is a priority along with providing water to isolated communities. Currently, water is being produced using reverse osmosis and treatment, however water storage and transport to areas with limited access remain a challenge. As such, re-establishing electrical capacity and power to well fields in Abaco and Grand Bahama is needed, as is continuously assessing the quality of the public water systems as they come back online. Additional needs include intensified health and hygiene promotion, particularly ongoing messaging for WASH and environmental health for disease prevention and the distribution of hygiene kits

Shelters: With an increasing number of people arriving in various shelters, many of which are already at capacity and overcrowded in Nassau, food safety, WASH, and general hygiene measures need to be strengthened. Promotion of hand washing practices and placement of hand sanitizers is needed. While syndromic surveillance systems are in place, health staff and medical supplies are still required in areas, including Haitian-creole to English interpreters. Ensuring access to health clinics and pharmacies from

shelters, and characterization of the evacuee destinations is also needed so that health care services can be planned and monitored for ongoing surveillance.

PRIORITY CONCERNS

- Restoring access to essential health services and continued medical care delivery
- Ensuring water quality in affected communities and in health facilities to restore access to safe water
- Mass causality management including identification and storage of dead bodies.
- Restoring proper hygiene and sanitation and adequate waste management and vector control in affected communities and health facilities
- Ensuring quality donations and management of incoming supplies and donations as many are arriving directly to Freeport and Abaco.
- Increasing epidemiological surveillance to support early detection and timely management of disease outbreaks

RESPONSE ACTIONS

PAHO/WHO

Through the deployment of members of the PAHO's Disaster Response Team, PAHO supports technical cooperation with the Bahamian government for response and recovery efforts. As of September 16, 2019, PAHO has deployed and a total of 20 staff members, including those pre-deployed before the hurricane, and is currently providing additional support in the areas of entomology, mental health support in shelters, and information management. All clinics in Grand Bahama and Abaco have been initially assessed. Their information can be found in the relevant section below.

Coordination: A UN coordination system is on the ground and the Ministry of Health and PAHO are co-leading the Health Cluster. Two emergency operations centers (EOCs) have been set up by NEMA in Marsh Harbour and Freeport with the support of OCHA and USAID to coordinate relief operations for more than 30 organizations. According to OCHA, there are over 200 humanitarian actors in the Bahamas, with operations focused on central and north Abaco, and Freeport, Grand Bahama.

Logistics: PAHO, through the UNHRD warehouse in Panama, has sent 2 shipments including a trauma kit with capacity to provide healthcare for 100 trauma patients for 10 days, 3 water tanks with capacity of 5,000L, Aquatabs to purify over 8 million liters of water, 500 impregnated mosquito nets, 2 tents and a total of 368 body bags. PAHO's Revolving Fund has been informed and is taking action regarding the requested diphtheria and hepatitis A vaccines. Additionally, PAHO is coordinating with the laboratory at Princess Margaret Hospital to deliver supplies to be sent to Freeport for sample collection and shipment.

WASH and health infrastructure assessments continue to be carried out. The Dutch Military, in coordination with PAHO, is re-establishing water supply to Marsh Harbour Clinic, government complex, and airport (Abaco). Two public water supply systems were reinstated in Sandy Point and Crossing Rock. The piped water was deemed safe. A detailed assessment of other eight water supply systems on Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay is being carried out by the Water and Sewage Cooperation. Bottled drinking water, treatment plants, bladders, jerry cans, treatment tablets and hygiene kits are being delivered and shipped to Abaco.

Surveillance: Daily syndromic and event-based surveillance have been established at shelters and hospitals. PAHO epidemiologists continue conducting field visits to assess risk of disease transmission and investigate rumors or signals. All shelters in Grand Bahama, New Providence and Eleuthera, all operational health facilities in Grand Bahama and Abaco, and all EMTs in the country have been providing daily reports from syndromic surveillance systems. Clinics in New Providence and Eleuthera that treat evacuees report weekly syndromic surveillance data. None have reported clusters of communicable diseases or unusual events or deaths.

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. The table below shows the operational status of the seven EMT teams.

Current status on EMTs^v:

Team	Operation Status	Location
Samaritan's Purse	Operational and providing support to Rand Hospital. Provided services to an additional 135 new outpatients and 4 new admissions. Performed 1 surgery	Grand Bahama, near Rand Hospital
Heart to Heart International	Operational and assisting in distribution of water. Reports no water, fuel, or sanitation in Treasure Cay. Exploring medium to long term support with the Ministry of health for South Abaco. Patients seen are mostly in need for chronic care. Requested for 1-2 month mobile EMT support around Marsh Harbour, Elbow Cay, Hope Town and south Abaco	Treasure Cay, Assembly Church, The Farm
Team Rubicon	Operational in shelters with physician and nurse teams. Established that there is a consistent need for access to mental health and psychosocial support. Mission to end September 16	Nassau.
Humanity First	Provided services for chronic illness and pain management.	Coopers Town
International Medical Corps	Setting up a Type 1 fixed site near High Rock Clinic with mobile capacity to East Grand Bahama and ambulatory outpatient support to Freeport clinic Mental health specialist deployed with outreach team from Rand Memorial Hospital to do house visits and conduct support groups.	East Grand Bahama
New York city Medics	Delivered 40 hygiene kits. Team is demobilizing from Eleuthera and exploring deployment to Grand Cay	North Eleuthera
AmeriCares	Team Deployed to Enoch Backford Stadium and Kendal Isaacs Gym shelters and provided service to 22 outpatients for moderate trauma and respiratory infections.	Nassau, New Providence

Reports on health care facilities ^{iv}: updated on September 16, 2019

Island	Clinic	Rapid assessment y/n	Comments #
Abaco	Marsh Harbour	Y	Operational
	Cooper's Town	Y	Operational, generator power, no access to water
	Fox Town	Y	Operational, generator powered, building intact, some roof damage; sewerage and water functional
	Green Turtle Cay	Y	Operational ; intact infrastructure with no serious damage; running on generator
	Hope Town	Y	Non- Operational, severe damage to clinic; according to Dutch Military, services are being offered from beach house by volunteer nurse
	Man o War Cay	Y	Operational; Structurally intact, small and elderly population, no sick and wounded
	Moore's Island	Y	Operational; some roof leakage, no running water, electricity working
	Sandy Point	Y	Operational; In good condition; no physical damage to infrastructure; electricity from generator
Grand Bahama	Rand Memorial Hospital	Y	Partially operational: ER, pharmacy, laboratory, radiology, some inpatient. HR, water and electricity supply OK. Equipment assessment needed
	Eight Mile Rock	Y	Operational, HR, water, electricity OK
	High Rock	Y	Destroyed
	Free Town	Y	Non operational
	McLean	Y	Destroyed
	Pelican Point	Y	Destroyed
	Freeport Community	Y	Non operational
	Hawksbill	Y	Operational, HR, water and electricity. Equipment assessment needed
	Pearce Plaza Specialty	Y	Operational. HR, water and electricity. Equipment assessment needed
	West End	Y	Operational, Limited capacity
	Sweeting's Cay	N	Non operational
	Grand Cay	N	Non operational

HR, Supplies, Equipment, Water, Electricity

ⁱ CDEMA Situation Report #13

ⁱⁱ NEMA Morning Briefing #6- September 13, Daily update September 15

ⁱⁱⁱ OCHA Situation Report #4, September 15

^{iv} PAHO Country Office Situation Report 15 and 16, September 13 and 16

^v CICOM Daily Update on activity for September 14