



THE CARIBBEAN: HURRICANES IRMA AND JOSE RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT #1 • 13 September 2017



IOM staff distributing NFIs in Fort Liberté, Haiti.
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Highlights

- The worst affected islands by Hurricanes Irma and Jose are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Martin, Sint Maarten, and the Turks and Caicos.
- Affected populations are mostly in need of WASH, food, shelter/NFIs, and health and infrastructure assistance. Needs for protection, logistics, and education have also been identified in some affected islands.

- IOM has deployed a surge team of six experts to support efforts led by various country offices in the affected region. The team has expertise in Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), displacement tracking, shelter management, gender-based violence risk reduction, and NFI/shelter operations. Based in the coordination hub in Barbados and at regional level in Panama, surge experts have already been deployed to the affected islands to conduct assessments.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) teams have been deployed to affected areas, including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Sint Maarten, and Turks and Caicos Islands to conduct initial assessments. As of 11 September 2017, IOM surge team experts are present in the regional coordination hub in Barbados and at regional level in Panama. IOM experts are currently deployed to Antigua and Barbuda, one of the most affected islands.

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Situation Overview (continued)

In coordination with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), IOM will collate and maintain updated information on displacement and human mobility figures. As the situation has not yet stabilized, there is still much fluidity in movements. Figures tracked under the displacement portfolio will include persons evacuated, internally displaced, residing in collective settings, sheltered in host families, and stranded migrants. In this line, human mobility generated by Irma and Jose hit a peak of more than two million persons, including people evacuated into safe areas in Cuba and across the Caribbean. Displacement tracking will place emphasis on people residing in temporary settings and those still on the move as evacuations and returns are still undergoing.

Anguilla

Total population*	13,555
Exposed population	13,555 (100%)
No. of fatalities	1
Humanitarian access	Clayton J Lloyd Intl. Airport serviceable for emergency flights. Sea ports remain closed.
Priority needs	Shelter, Protection, Food, WASH and Infrastructure (electricity)

After Hurricane Irma, about 90 per cent of electricity infrastructure was damaged. Utility restoration will begin through the installation of towers, poles and wires. Air traffic services resumed in Anguilla for emergency flights and most roads leading to the airport are now cleared of debris. Debris removal activities are ongoing in other main roads and critical infrastructure. Around 90 per cent of government buildings have been substantially damaged, and critical government functions, such as police stations and the National Emergency Operations Centre, have been temporarily affected. Also, main water supply systems were significantly damaged. Structural shelter assessments are ongoing for the damaged houses. The affected population in Antigua is facing a shortage of food, water, fuel and electricity in particular. Health care needs assessments are underway and relief distributions have been resumed.

Antigua and Barbuda

Total population*	81,799
Exposed population	81,799 (100%)
No. of fatalities	1
Humanitarian access	V.C. Bird Intl. Airport in Antigua reopened.
Priority needs	<i>Antigua: Shelter, WASH, Education and Health</i> <i>Barbuda: Shelter Repair, Infrastructure</i> (electricity), <i>Education and Health</i>

Hurricane Irma hit Antigua and Barbuda on 6 September 2017. Almost all critical facilities in Barbuda, including health facilities and ambulances, have been destroyed by Hurricane Irma. Medical services are no longer available on the island. A total of 1,084 buildings and houses (99% of the island's building structures), especially roofs, were visibly damaged. About 90 per cent of electricity infrastructure, including telephone lines, were also damaged. The impact of Hurricane Irma has significantly affected WASH infrastructure in Barbuda, which determined the decision for mandatory evacuation ahead of Hurricane Jose. Initial assessments revealed that about USD 200 million dollars are required to rehabilitate damaged or destroyed building structures.

A total of 1,413 Barbudans evacuated to Antigua and about 350 people are residing in two temporary shelters – the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Grounds and the National Technical Training Centre – as of 11 September. UNICEF also estimates that approximately 100 unaccompanied minors were evacuated from Barbuda to Antigua. Priority needs for Barbudans who have evacuated to Antigua include shelter, water, access to education and healthcare. According to UNICEF, a minimum of 5,000 litres of portable water is required for people in shelters in Antigua, with additional quantities for general sanitation and hygiene.

Support with telecommunications is required to restore electricity in Barbuda. Medium-to-long term recovery needs identified so far include building materials for reconstruction, equipment to clean the island, supplies for schools and hospitals, health kits, dignity kits, as well as seeds and other agricultural goods.

Bahamas

Total population*	343,735
Exposed population	20,015 (5.82%)
No. of fatalities	4
Humanitarian access	Lynden Pindling Intl Airport reopened. All other airports remain closed.
Priority needs	WASH, Shelter, Protection and Health

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 Mayguana as well as the Bimini Island in the northwest. The exact scale of damages and needs has not been assessed, however, as of 12 September, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (GoCB) is conducting damage assessments. According to initial reports, affected populations in the Bahamas are in need of WASH, shelter, protection and health assistance.

British Virgin Islands

Total population*	28,063
Exposed population	28,063 (100%)
No. of fatalities	7
Humanitarian access	Terrance B. Lettsome Intl. Airport reopened. Airport traffic control tower compromised.
Priority needs	WASH, Food, NFIs, Security and Infrastructure (electricity)

The National Emergency Operations Centre has been destroyed and authorities have declared a state of emergency. Significant damages to water supply systems and electricity infrastructure have been reported. According to the British Virgin Islands Red Cross, about 80 per cent of buildings were destroyed, and houses in the north (90%) were structurally damaged. Medical services have also been affected due to the damaged utility lines, and existing health care facilities have security concerns.

The government of the United Kingdom started to deliver relief items including shelter, food and water through United Kingdom military troops present in the region.

Cuba

Total population*	11,247,925
Exposed population	11,247,925 (100%)
No. of fatalities	10
Humanitarian access	Jose Marti Intl. Airport in Havana reopened. All other airports remain closed.
Priority needs	Shelter Repair, NFIs, WASH and Food security/ Agriculture Recovery

More than two million people (18% of Cuba's population) were evacuated to centres specifically authorized by local governments and to the homes of family or friends, in compliance with guidelines provided by the Cuban Civil Defense General Staff. Despite authorities' prevention and preparedness efforts and guidance to the population, Hurricane Irma caused the loss of ten lives in Cuba; in Havana, Matanzas, Camagüey and Ciego de Ávila Provinces.

The 1,134 evacuation centres across the country were supported by 5,800 workers from the health sector. The Ministry of Education welcomed more than 50,000 people in 500 educational centres across the country. Evacuation plans included more than 12,500 tourists. A recovery phase has been decreed for 13 out of Cuba's 15 provinces. Due to the large extension of the affected areas, it has not been possible to quantify the damages in housing and data is not yet available in most of the provinces impacted by the hurricane. However, early estimations indicate that the number of affected houses is sizable due to extensive sea penetration and strong winds.

The gradual return of the population to their homes is guided by the Provincial and Municipal Defense Councils and depends on the severity of the registered damage. A significant number of people remain evacuated because they cannot return or because the conditions of their homes are inhabitable.

Dominican Republic

Total population*	12,533,097
Exposed population	12,469,932 (99.5%)
No. of fatalities	None reported
Humanitarian access	Las Americas Intl. Airport reopened
Priority needs	WASH and Shelter

Even though Hurricane Irma made no direct impact on the Dominican Republic, over 24,000 persons, including 7,500 tourists, were evacuated (10,700 in collective centres and over 13,000 with family and friends), 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 the hurricane but only about half of them (30) have been rehabilitated and resumed services. Twenty-eight (28) aqueducts remain non-functional – 23 are totally out of services and 5 are partially damaged – causing 422,761 people to have no access to safe water. As of 12 September, the Centre of Emergency Operations (COE) lifted alerts for all provinces.

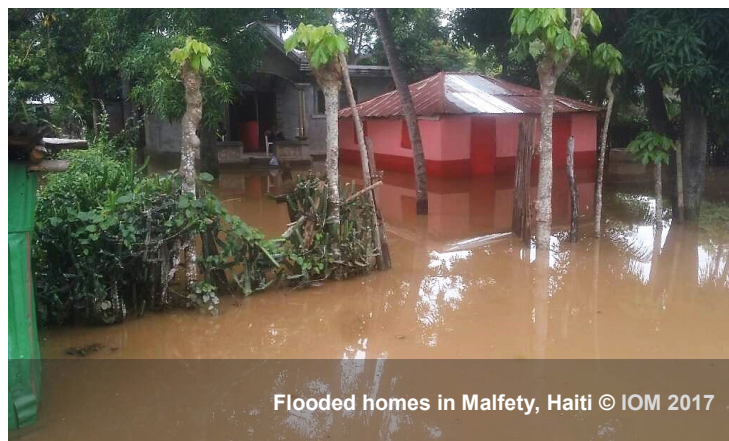
Haiti

Total population*	10,911,819
Exposed population	8,693,416 (79.67%)
No. of fatalities	1
No. of individuals assisted by IOM	1,622 (Total) 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. Flooding continues in 16 communes across the departments of Artibonite, Centre, North, North East and North West. According to the Directorate for Civil Protection (DPC), initially a total of 11,041 persons were accommodated in 67 emergency evacuation centres. As water levels have now regressed in some affected areas, displaced people have started to returning home. A total of 10,085 people found shelter in

emergency evacuation centres as of 8 September. Damages to some roofs and roads have been reported.

The Government of Haiti lifted the alert throughout the national territory as of 9 September. The DPC is currently conducting preliminary assessments in the affected areas with support from national and international partners.



Flooded homes in Malfety, Haiti © IOM 2017

Sint Maarten

Total population*	42,083
Exposed population	42,083 (100%)
No. of fatalities	Unknown
Humanitarian access	Princess Juliana Intl. Airport serviceable for humanitarian purpose
Priority needs	Health, WASH, Food and Shelter

As of 11 September, the airport in Sint Maarten has been closed except for the use of military planes. The Dutch government has evacuated Dutch tourists, workers and students. A total of 392 military personnel and 40 tons of relief items (food, water and medical supplies) were dispatched to Sint Maarten by military aircrafts.

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 with functioning electricity and water.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Total population*	31,458
Exposed population	31,458 (100%)
No. of fatalities	None reported
Humanitarian access	Providenciales Intl. Airport reopened / All other airports remain closed
Priority needs	Assessment, WASH, Food and NFIs

CDEMA reported that Irma has damaged 70 per cent of houses on South Caicos, 70 per cent of the houses on Providenciales Island, and 50 per cent of the households on Grand Turk Island. Five Damage and Needs Assessment teams are being deployed by CDEMA to Turks and Caicos begin assessments. The specific impacts of Irma are still unknown. However, according to early reports, the people of Turks and Caicos are badly in need of emergency relief supplies including water and electricity. Also, serious damage to infrastructure, including 60 per cent of health facilities, was reported. The local authorities have undertaken plans to evacuate about 2,000 persons from South Caicos Island due to the level of infrastructure damage experienced on the island.

*All “total” and “exposed” population estimates from UNOSAT.

IOM RESPONSE

As a member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETE) and the Global lead for Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) for natural disasters, IOM has been participating in coordination meetings to map the capacity of the agencies to respond in the affected areas, including Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Cuba.

IOM surge teams have been deployed to the region to conduct initial assessments and coordinate rapid response. Comprised of six experts, the surge teams have expertise in Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Gender-based Violence (GBV) risk reduction, Information Management (IM) and Shelter/NFI Management and operations.

Based in the two coordination hubs in Barbados and Panama, experts of the surge team have begun

assessments in other affected islands as identified by the CDEMA and the UNDAC/OCHA, such as Antigua and Barbuda, while other deployments are being coordinated.

IOM is in discussions to potentially provide IOM secondment support with expertise in shelter management and displacement management.

Assessments

In **Haiti**, five multi-sectoral teams – composed of 15 experts on CCCM, Disaster Management, Logistics and Protection – were pre-deployed to northern Haiti, including Cap-Haitien, Gonaive, Gros Morne and Port de Paix. The multi-sectoral teams have supported the DPC in conducting preliminary assessments together with the IOM sub-offices in Jeremie, Les Cayes and Ouanaminthe. Additionally, IOM and other operational UN agencies are planning to conduct Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessments (MIRA) in the most affected areas. Equipped with a good operational presence and disaster management capacity in the country, IOM will manage information obtained from initial assessments in support of OCHA activities.

In the **Eastern Caribbean area**, the surge team has linked up with CDEMA, the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) in Antigua and UNDAC to conduct assessments and determine the needs of the affected populations and those of the authorities responsible for humanitarian assistance and coordination. The team is liaising with authorities and partners on the ground to gather and validate displacement data.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management and Displacement Tracking

IOM is the lead agency for the CCCM Working Group in **Haiti**. Three CCCM staff have been deployed to support the National Emergency Operations Centre (COUN), the Departmental Centres for Emergency Operation (COUD) and the DPC in the management, evaluation and closure of emergency evacuation centres.

At the regional level in **Panama** the CCCM sector has been reinforced to provide regional coordination support and ensure consistency of actions in line with CDEMA priorities. Information management capacity has been deployed to consolidate displacement data and produce timely reports to inform the humanitarian response.

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Camp Coordination and Camp Management and Displacement Tracking (continued)

In the **Eastern Caribbean area**, the surge team is identifying priority needs in evacuation centres, existing management capacities and providing technical expertise. The team is also tracking on-going evacuations from islands that have been devastated.

CCCM as a sector seeks the following objectives:

- To provide dignified living conditions in temporary sites and evacuation centres;
- To ensure that priority needs of affected and displaced persons are monitored and provided for; and
- To support mass evacuation and return operations carried out in orderly and dignified fashion.

CCCM activities will include but are not limited to:

- Tracking numbers and needs of persons evacuated and remaining in temporary sites through the DTM roll-out;
- Coordinating assistance at temporary sites;
- Improving living conditions in temporary sites;
- Reducing GBV risks in evacuation centres/temporary sites;
- Facilitating evacuation and return movements, including monitoring of post-return; and
- Providing technical capacity support to local authorities in displacement management and durable solutions.



Damaged houses in Barbuda © IOM 2017

Shelter / NFI and Logistics

IOM has recently begun to preposition contingency stocks in **Panama** – making it the third location of its global warehouses. Existing stocks are limited and will be dispatched as soon as specific needs are identified in the affected locations. In addition, items are prepositioned in

Haiti and can be moved in response to needs, and will be replenished later. These items include over 500 shelter box tents, 500 toolkits, and 5,000 hygiene kits. Immediate funding or logistics support from deployed Foreign Assets (navy support) are required to mobilize contingency stocks from warehouses in Haiti to the sub-Bahamian region and the eastern Caribbean area to respond to urgent requests from local authorities.

In **Haiti**, IOM is the lead agency for the Shelter/NFI Working Group. Prior to the Hurricane's arrival, the country office coordinated with partners to activate the Shelter/NFI pipeline by ensuring access to airports, transport, and warehousing and maintaining stand-by agreements with truck companies. On 10 September, IOM, in collaboration with the COUD, DPC, World Food Programme (WFP) and the local authorities, distributed core NFIs to a total of 1,550 individuals (292 families) sheltered in the emergency evacuation centres in Ouanaminthe. Following the distributions, the emergency evacuation centres were closed. A final distribution is scheduled to take place in the North East department to assist 105 households residing in the last active emergency evacuation centre in Malfety, Fort Liberté. Existing stocks are low but replenishment is expected to arrive on 11 September to cover 10,000 households.



Contingency stocks prepositioned in IOM warehouses in Haiti

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In **Cuba** CCCM/shelter/NFI activities fall under the Shelter and Early Recovery sector co-led by UNDP/IOM and UNESCO. This agreement follows from in-country sectoral support arrangements and from previous emergency responses (2016 Hurricane Matthew Response). IOM planned interventions under this sector will prioritize the assistance for people who were evacuated to temporary shelters and into host families. IOM will distribute basic shelter NFIs to improve their living conditions and provide

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Shelter / NFI and Logistics (continued)

housing roofs. The distribution methodology, post monitoring and items to be distributed will take into consideration existing needs, women participation and accountability to affected populations. Items provided can also be used at a later stage in repairs and transition to recovery.

In the **Eastern and Bahamian sub-region** affected areas, IOM intends to carry out the following shelter and NFI activities:

- Shipping of stocks prepositioned in Panama and Haiti-based stocks to targeted islands;
- Shelter and NFI distribution combining mobilized regional stocks and locally procured items;
- Training of local partners in distribution, shelter repair and post monitoring;
- Clean up and recovery activities;
- Mainstreaming protection, GBV response and communicating with communities to inform the response based on evolving needs;
- Support the self-construction and rehabilitation of damaged houses through provision of the technical assistance, materials and tools;
- Support the initiatives on construction of temporal houses through technical assistance, training and facilitating the materials. Encourage local employment through skilled and non-skilled workers; and
- Cash-based interventions (CBI) in tandem with market assessments where feasible, and in coordination with CBI from other sectors.

Protection

IOM and the DPC are co-leads of the Protection Working Group in **Haiti**. On 7 September, IOM's Protection Team evacuated 72 children from an orphanage at risk of flooding in collaboration with the Cap-Haitian Advancement Action Committee (CAPAC) and the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (IBESR). Pre-positioned information leaflets and bracelets with information on the free hotline are made available on the ground to advise and refer suspected cases of human trafficking and smuggling. Through the 840 hotline services, IOM's Protection Team continues to assist the affected population with 1) sensitization on the risk of human trafficking and family separation in times of crisis; and 2) referrals of people at risk, such as pregnant women, to emergency shelters or other protection services.

In the **eastern Caribbean area** and other affected areas IOM, through the deployed GBV response capacity and technical expertise, will:

- Strengthen the capacities on emergency GBV guidelines to mitigate and reduce the risk of sexual violence and other violence against girls and women in the evacuation/collective centres;
- Advocate for protection spaces in temporary and collective sites such as women friendly spaces, site improvements with GBV focus and response programmes for vulnerable cases; and
- Address the risk of counter-trafficking of children and girls in the affected areas through adequate monitoring and information management (DTM).



Evacuation of children in Ouanaminthe, Haiti.

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