



DOMINICA: HURRICANE RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT NO. 15 / 31 AUGUST 2018



Team Leader Jan-Willem Wegdam speaking at an IOM press conference in Newtown in August, 2018.

Highlights

- With the next general election due within a year, the political climate in Dominica has shifted slightly and subtle campaign efforts can be observed from all political parties. Radio shows, community meetings and the like are more popular and some reconstruction efforts in specific communities have been attributed to political affiliation.
- One year after Hurricane Maria, some of the humanitarian actors on the island are finishing their projects and closing offices. The government and the humanitarian agencies continue to meet monthly.
- Earlier in 2018, a US\$115 million contract was signed between the Government of Dominica and the World Bank to assist with recovery in the housing and agriculture sectors. Approximately US\$40 million are expected to be allocated for an owner driven resilient housing construction program; up to 1,700 families should receive subsidies for rebuilding houses up to the Dominica Housing Standards (Building Code).
- Despite being in the most active part of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, the public information campaign on disaster preparedness has downscaled significantly; the reason for this remains unclear. Construction and rehabilitation of emergency shelters remain in the construction and planning stages, awaiting confirmation of funding.
- 659 households, or 1,953 individuals of the most vulnerable affected population groups, have been assisted with the reparation of 651 roofs and the construction of eight core houses in the communities of Coulibistrie, Mero, Mahuat, Woodfordhill, Marigot, Dublanc, Wesley, Calibishie and St. Joseph, among others. The recovery assistance is funded by DFID, ECHO and Australia Aid, in addition to in-kind contribution by China Aid distributed through UNDP.
- To date, 4,333 individuals have attended IOM community sessions; 85,022 individuals were reached by radio, Facebook and local media. Messages focused around IOM giving assistance to the most vulnerable unable to self-repair, donor recognition, how to contact IOM, and Build Back Better information for self-repair.
- In collaboration with the Youth Development Division and Habitat for Humanity, IOM has concluded two out of five certificate training workshops in basic carpentry on the West Coast and in the Roseau area. Over 100 individuals have registered for sessions in 5 communities and 43 individuals including 15 females have been trained so far.

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Situation Overview

As the first anniversary of Hurricane Maria approaches, progress can be observed with the rehabilitation of the social fabric of the society, some livelihoods have been restored and food security is no longer under direct threat. Economic and infrastructural restoration though, continues at a slow pace.

No update has been received since the last report in July 2018 regarding the status of IDPs living in collective shelters. The government has not provided further information on the planned transfer of these individuals to better housing solutions.

Housing repair needs of families who are fostering children and of families with specific disability concerns were identified and assessed; repair work has already started. However, given the size of those projects, IOM seeks to collaborate with the government to provide appropriate material and labour support.

Representatives from ECHO conducted a monitoring visit this month to check on the quality and progress of the IOM roof repair program.



IOM Community Engagement Officer and representatives from ECHO visiting a beneficiary as a part of the ECHO monitoring visit.

IOM RESPONSE



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- IOM continues to support the Government of Dominica to assist with the coordination and management of emergency shelters. The shelter subcommittee of the National Emergency Planning Organization (NEPO) has been tasked to identify and prepare such centers. With USAID / OFDA funding, IOM will soon commence retrofitting 12 previously identified emergency shelters around Dominica.
- The USAID / OFDA program also includes training for shelter managers, development of the emergency shelter policy, prepositioning of non-food items and amateur radio training and equipment.



Shelter

- Nearly 100 individuals are working with IOM in Dominica on the repair and construction of houses with the goal of assisting as many vulnerable families as possible by the end of September 2018.
- A total of seven out of the 40 skilled migrant workers contracted from Trinidad, Guyana, Jamaica and St Vincent in partnership with Habitat for Humanity remain on the island. In addition, IOM employs more than 10 contractor teams and 30 daily workers.
- To date, 651 roofs have been repaired and eight t-shelters (core houses) were constructed and handed over to nearly 1,953 individuals in Woodford Hill, Wesley, Coulibistrie, Marigot, Morne Rchette, Colihaut, Calibishie, St. Joseph, Dublanc, Mahuat, Mero, Salisbury and Bioche.
- Stakeholder engagement has intensified in local and other media. Promotion via radio, social media and print is ongoing for the Carpentry Training, inviting people to register. IOM is visible in the communities, to the extent that political leaders of the communities are sharing information with IOM to ensure that there are no overlaps in assistance, and that the most vulnerable receive solutions. PR is focused right now on speaking about IOM's achievements, the ongoing needs, and plans.
- As the roofing program winds down, IOM is working on finalizing the completion assessments and repairing leaks and faults in order for certificates to be distributed to beneficiary households. To that end, 284 beneficiary families were assessed for completion by the end of August 2018.

- An increased media interest has been generated in August by the announcement of the Basic Carpentry training workshops as well as with IOM approaching the targets for roof repairs. These topics have allowed IOM to highlight again its commitment to Building Back Better and outlining what this implies in practical terms. In total, 85,022 individuals have been reached via media, in Dominica and the diaspora communities.
- The IOM Dominica Facebook page is serving as a useful medium for community engagement. Posts during August focused on raising awareness on families who have been assisted with the assistance of the donors, highlighting the achievement of the 500+ milestone, and also reiterating the fact that assistance will be provided to as many individuals as possible but that limits in numbers do exist. Facebook is also being used to promote the Basic Carpentry courses to people interested in working in carpentry and to people who want to self-repair. The Facebook page was shared and messages regarding the Dominica Housing Standard "Building Codes" were reinforced. In total, 17,487 people were reached through Facebook, and the page now has 359 followers.
- Due to the high number of special needs cases, including foster families, people living with disabilities, and families with Down Syndrome, these may be outside of scope of current projects. IOM is engaging with the government to explore the possibility to collaborate on this topic.



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- The proposal for establishing a small business development/ support center in Roseau has been completed and submitted. IOM is now waiting for the confirmation of funding from the identified donor. The plans were established in collaboration with the Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT) initiative and the Ministry of Commerce, Enterprise and Small Business Development.