HURRICANE DORIAN
Situation Report No. 4
2 September 2019 – 16:00 EDT

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hurricane Dorian has become the **strongest hurricane** in modern records for the Northwestern Bahamas and tied for **strongest hurricane on record to make landfall**
- Hurricane Dorian made landfall on Great Abaco at 14:00 EST, September 1st as a powerful Category 5 hurricane with windspeeds 185mph (295km/h) with wind gusts at 200mph
- Storm surges have been recorded on Abaco of 18-23 feet. The hurricane has stalled over Grand Bahama which resulted in devastating effects with the islands having prolonged exposure to hurricane force winds, storm surges, flooding and intense rainfall
- The PAHO Disaster Response Team has been activated; pre-deploying 2 colleagues arriving Saturday in Nassau. An additional 5 members will be deployed today and tomorrow to support CO. Areas include logistics, civil and military coordination, information management, surveillance, and coordination

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

| **73,000** | Residents at risk and 21,000 homes in Grand Bahama and Abaco |
| **400-500** | People sheltering at Marsh Harbour Clinic |
| **5** | Confirmed fatalities |
| **6** | Hospitals with emergency services are under Hurricane Warning in the Bahamas |

Hurricane Dorian’s path and Health Centers in Northwestern Bahamas
**SITUATION OVERVIEW**

Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5 hurricane made landfall at Elbow Cay, Abaco at 12:40 EST with landfall in mainland Abaco at 14:00 EST. The eyewall of the storm has stalled over Grand Bahama and the storm weakening slightly into a Category 4 with sustained winds of 145mph. Storm surges have been recorded on Abaco of 18-23 feet. The slow movement of the hurricane will result in devastating effects with the islands having prolonged exposure to hurricane force winds, storm surges, flooding and intense rainfall.

**BAHAMAS**

**Abaco island:**
- As of today, it is not safe to land in Abaco, two attempts by the US Army were unsuccessful with communications severed and only limited through a satellite phone. No electricity is reported on the island.
- Significant structural damage is expected in Abaco with at least 450 persons confirmed to be displaced from their dwellings. Many more displaced persons are expected.
- Presently there are 5 confirmed fatalities and the Ministry of Health informed the are 15 injured people, of which 7 are in critical condition. At least 5 critical patients are been transported to the PM Hospital by the Royal Bahamas Defense Forces and making the attempt to transport another 25 patients.
- Additionally, there are report of disinterred bodies (floating caskets)
- The Marsh Harbour Hospital is operating with 4 physicians and an unspecified number of nurses and serving as shelter for over 450 persons and for the health personnel. There are no reports of the situation of the other health care facilities
- There is no prepositioned food but there is an MOU with a local supermarket that will be able to provide as necessary.
- 3 warehouses or available as needed, 1 in New Providence, 1 Grand Bahama and 3rd in another island

**Grand Bahama:**
- The storm has stalled on top of the island with a very slow easterly movement of 1 mile/hour, with sustained strong winds of 165 mph, rain and sea surges of over 20 ft.
- A similar situation is expected on Grand Bahama as in Abaco Island. Still waiting reports as the storm is currently passing through
- As of this morning the island has 60% of telecommunication services running and about 90% cable services operational

**New Providence:**
- Government and health facilities are closed today and maybe tomorrow. The Princes Margaret Hospital is operating only for emergency services
- Flash flooding was reported in some areas
- Linden Pindling airport in Nassau is operating normally
- Health personnel from New Providence and other unaffected Family Islands (FI) are on stand-by to be deployed to Abaco and Grand Bahamas to replace exhausted health care professionals. As a result, a number of health clinics in these other FI will remain closed.

**RESPONSE ACTIONS**

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has pledged health sector infrastructure and public health support. PAHO Disaster Response Team has been activated and will be deployed in the coming days to support CO. Areas include logistics, civil and military coordination, information management, epidemiological surveillance, and coordination. Additional persons from the Caribbean on standby such as doctors, nurses, pathologist if needed, mental-psychosocial experts are ready, and environmental health expert.

The Panama Regional Warehouse remains on standby. As new information emerges from the field and needs assessments, new possible deployments and may be considered by Health Authorities.

**Planning and emergency response:**
- The Ministry of Health informed the health sector (medical teams) will be a priority for deployment once there is clearance to travel
- The MoH health is coordinating the conformation of 10 EMT to be deployed as soon as possible. As for now identified volunteers include: 3 emergency physician, one orthopedic surgeon, one pediatrician and 70 nurses that are available to travel. Demands in Grand Bahama may be greater so the need of additional medical teams may be expected. PAHO informed that may be able to support in providing this support once is officially requested by the MoH.
- Considerations are given ed as a possible scenario the total or partial evacuation of the island depending on the actual situation as the information is available and the results of the first assessment is ready
- MoH with the Public Hospital Authority and the Princess Margaret Hospital have prepared a list of medical supplies
(pharmaceuticals, surgical supplies and others) available in their warehouses that will fulfill the needs for 2 months on regular situations and ready to be packed and be distributed. They will provide a detailed list with quantities tomorrow. They stressed the need of surgical supplies in Marsh Harbour Hospital. A similar amount of stock medical supplies is in a warehouse in Grand Bahama which as of this moment have no reported damages.

- MoH is drafting a plan of teams’ replacement with 12-hour shifts for Marsh Harbour composed of 4 physicians and 8 nurses per shift. The MoH is willing to closes some clinics in New Providence so the health professionals can be available to be deployed to the affected areas.

- Mental teams are being also prepared: 2-3 teams composed of 3-5 professionals with clerks and administrative personnel also ready to be deployed.

- The MoH indicates that international assistances will be accepted in this opportunity. A one-page form for international assistance/donations is been prepared that will be revised and approved by NEMA and Ministry of Health. For the deployment of medical personnel, documentation (names, certifications, qualifications) must be sent for review and approval by CMO, MoH.

- Assistance have been offered from the University of Miami, being coordinated directly with the US Embassy.

- Anticipated needs include water supply, WASH functions but more information will be available once a needs assessment has been conducted.

- PAHO stressed the concern for diarrheal diseases including cholera and leptospirosis, considering the flooding. Additionally, highlights were given about the particularly vulnerable immigrant population in Abaco island, of which until now there is no information on their current situation or whereabouts.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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