HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Health reports shelters in Nassau are at full capacity and need staff for family medicine. According to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), six shelters in New Providence have been activated with a total of 1,675 people reported in the facilities.
- Five EMTs have been activated with Samaritan Purse (EMT Type 2) located near Rand Memorial Hospital expected to be fully operational today.
- The total number of people evacuated from Abaco and Grand Bahama is still being accounted for as many have found private means of transport. According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) approximately 3,500 people have been evacuated to New Providence and others to Florida. It is estimated 4,000 residents are still on Abaco.
- A syndromic surveillance system is operational in hospitals and shelters. The Ministry of Health continues to strengthen epidemiological surveillance capacity.
- The water on Abaco has been deemed not safe for potable or domestic use by the Water and Sanitation Corporation.
- Environmental conditions continue to be an issue. Smells from animal carcasses and cadavers under the rubble in Abaco and Grand Bahama is a mounting concern. There is a significant risk of waterborne and vector-borne disease transmission due to the deteriorated sanitary conditions (i.e. floodwaters and potential sewage contamination) and the lack of access to safe water in the affected communities. Increase in mosquito and rodent vectors are expected in the medium term.

AFFECTED

- People: >76,000
- Deaths: 43-45

DAMAGED

- Homes: 13,000
- Health Facilities: 5

SHELTERS

- People: >2,000 total
  Abaco: 449
  Grand Bahama: 346
  Nassau: 1675

DEPLOYED

- PAHO staff: 14

1. UN News, September 5
2. PAHO Bahamas Situation Report 11
3. CDEMA Situation Report 10
SITUATION OVERVIEW

Hurricane Dorian reached Category 5 intensity on 1 September 2019 when it made landfall in Elbow Cay, Bahama at 12:40 EST peaking with one-minute sustained winds of 185 mph. At 14:00 EST Dorian made another landfall in Grand Bahama near the same intensity. However, the ridge of high-pressure steering Dorian westward collapsed on September 2, causing Dorian to stall just north of Grand Bahama for about a day. 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. New Providence has also experienced some impacts from the hurricane. This disaster is considered the largest humanitarian crisis in the country caused by a Hurricane with over $7 billion estimated in property damages, including thousands of destroyed dwellings. As of 9th September 2019, it is estimated that more than 76,000 persons are affected; over 449 persons are in shelters in Abaco, 346 in Grand Bahama, and, 1,675 in New Providence but it is calculated more than 2,000 people in 27 shelters in the in the disaster zone. The ministry of health reports that most shelters are already at full capacity. The death toll remains at 43, 35 on Grand Abaco and 8 on Grand Bahama but mass casualty numbers are expected to rise significantly as more areas become accessible and search and rescue operations continue in the following days. An estimated total of 3,500 people have been evacuated from Abaco and Grand Bahama and many are still waiting to be evacuated at the major ports. As a result of massive flooding and expected damages to the water and sanitation and health infrastructure, water safety, sanitation, and hygiene are becoming primary concerns. Therefore, there is a significant risk of waterborne and vector-borne disease transmission due to the deteriorated sanitary conditions and the lack of access to safe water in the affected communities. Increase in mosquito and rodent vectors are expected in the medium term. Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, and malaria, and the rodent borne leptospirosis are of particular concern. Food and water have arrived in Marsh Harbor Town (Abaco), but hygiene and surveillance (early warning system) are critical issues to address. The capacity of the healthcare delivery system has been impacted by Hurricane Dorian in Abaco and Grand Bahama. Access to health services and medical care delivery capacity has been significantly hampered in the most affected areas. The operational status health facilities in both islands is being assessed. Information regarding status and damages reported might change daily as assessments are underway.

BAHAMAS

Abaco island:
- The National EOC (NEOC) was compromised during the hurricane. CDEMA and NEMA are coordination to re-establish arrangements on Abaco to place a coordination centre and emergency support function system to support and mirror those of the NEOC in Nassau.
- Evacuation of the impacted areas is ongoing. It is estimated more than 4,000 residents are still on Abaco.
- The Water and Sanitation Corporation (WSC) has advised that water on Abaco should not be used for potable or domestic use. Arrangements are being made to supply water to impacted communities.

Grand Bahama:
- The two CDEMA Rapid Needs Assessment Teams have completed their preliminary assessments for Grand Bahama and Abaco.

New Providence:
- 6 shelters have been activated in New Providence and are already at full capacity with currently 1,675 people. Many evacuees from Abaco and Grand Bahama have sought shelter with family and friends in other islands.
- A Multi-National Caribbean Coordination Cell (MNCCC) consisting of CDEMA, Dutch, Canadian, British, American military, and the Royal Bahamian Defence Force has been activated to oversee prioritization and tasking of military assets on the ground. With the priority areas for military support being search and rescue operations, road and debris clearance, cleaning of Marsh Harbour, support relief supply and distribution and support with temporary housing for the impacted population.

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. 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. Additionally, the Ministry of Health has requested the need for Diphtheria (Dt) vaccine and 500 Hepatitis A vaccines for health care providers deployed to Abaco and Grand Bahama.

According to CDEMA’s latest situation report, there is an increased risk of environmental concerns as smell of dead animal carcasses and cadavers under the rubble is heavily present on Abaco and Grand Bahama. As such, debris clearance remains a
priority with a need for adequate heavy equipment on the islands.

Shelters: With an increasing number of people arriving in various shelters, many of which are already at capacity in Nassau, food safety, WASH, and general hygiene measures need to be strengthened. While syndromic surveillance systems are in place, health staff and medical supplies are still needed at the shelters. Ensuring access to health clinics and pharmacies from shelters is also an increasing need a characterization of the evacuee destinations is also needed so that health care services can be planned and monitored for ongoing surveillance.

Hospitals: Preliminary Assessment of the 3 severely impacted health facilities: Marsh Harbour Clinic (Abaco); Rand Memorial Hospital (Grand Bahama); Cooper’s Town (Abaco) is underway. As today, Rand Memorial Hospital, is partially operational, having suffered severe loss of equipment and supplies and requiring major cleaning following flooding. While the Hospital clean-up has started, more in depth cleaning is needed to remove contamination. Marsh Harbour (Abaco) is partially operational providing medical service to 200-300 patients per day. Infrastructure assessments so far indicate that the clinic is in good condition and the infrastructure is intact. Medicines and medical supplies need to be replenished and general cleaning and sanitation is required. For more detailed information, see currently assessment in the report of health facilities section. The Ministry of Health have identified Cooper’s Town Clinic (Abaco) to be of high priority to restore health services to Northern Abaco, it is currently operating on a generator and there is no water available. More information is needed regarding the types of admissions at the hospitals and those that have been MEDEVAcued including characterization of the injuries.

Health care workers: With most of the population on Abaco and Grand Bahama affected, including health care workers, there is an anticipated shortage of health personnel. Currently there is a rotation system with health care workers from New Providence providing support to the affected clinics in Abaco and Grand Bahama, however it is imperative to continue to support the health sector’s response and care delivery capacity and facilitate rotation of health workers. These include surgeons, anaesthesiologists, pathologists, midwives, family physicians, psychiatrists, emergency and public health nurses. Additionally, providing adequate accommodation for medical personnel in the affected area is needed. Mental health and psychosocial support are also urgently needed to assist victims to deal with the consequences of the disaster.

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 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

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. A $3.5 million donor appeal was issued as a preliminary estimate to cover short-term healthcare, water and sanitation, epidemiological surveillance and vector needs in the most affected islands for the next 6 months.

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 WDC)
- Incident Manager (PHE Barbados)
- Health Partners Coordination (CDE-Panama)
- 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. PAHO continues to support the deployment of international medical corps and EMTs.

Logistics: A Logistics Support System (LSS) has been set up by PAHO and operating at Odyssey Aviation, Nassau for incoming supplies. In collaboration with WFP and NEMA, PAHO will aid in streamlining the clearance and movement of incoming health and humanitarian relief for safe and fast distribution to the affected areas. 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. An additional shipment of the same supplies is being mobilized. PAHO’s Revolving Fund has been informed and is taking action regarding the diphtheria and hepatitis A vaccines.

WASH and Health Infrastructure assessments continue to be carried out. A post-disaster assessment by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will begin on the 22nd of September.

Risk Communication: Collaborating with the Ministry of Health to disseminate key messages on vector and water borne diseases

Surveillance: Daily syndromic and event-based surveillance have been established at shelters and hospitals.

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 EMT teams.

Current status on EMTs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMTs</th>
<th>Operation Status</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samaritan’s Purse</td>
<td>Activated</td>
<td>Grand Bahama near Rand Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Rubicon</td>
<td>Activated</td>
<td>Mobile teams deployed from Little Harbour to 2 clinics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart to Heart</td>
<td>Activated</td>
<td>Treasure Cay and Marsh Harbour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>Activated</td>
<td>Grand Bahama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Med Corp</td>
<td>Activated</td>
<td>Coopers Town and Fox Town Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanity First</td>
<td>Activated</td>
<td>Location will be North, Central and South Eleuthera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City Medics</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
East end clinics in previous tables are comprised of High Rock, Free Town, McLean and Pelican. The table has been adjusted to reflect this.