



DOMINICA: HURRICANE RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT NO. 12 / 28 MAY 2018



Community information session – Calibishie – Dominica. ©IOM – May 2018

Highlights

- Through the National Emergency Preparedness Organization (NEPO), the Government of Dominica (GoD) has started to implement some preparedness activities for the upcoming hurricane season. Two meetings, chaired by the prime minister, were held to establish the way forward for disaster recovery, response, mitigation, along with other related activities. There is an urgent need to repair buildings that will be used as emergency shelters (collective centers), as well as fire stations and health centers.
 - Households have also started to prepare for the season by reinforcing their houses, however, a scarcity of skilled labor has led to increasing labor costs.
 - Under current IOM recovery projects, funded by DFID, ECHO and Australian Aid, 97 houses were repaired and 3 t-shelters (core houses) were installed. 300 individuals received these houses in the communities of Woodford Hill, Marigot, Morne Rchette, Colihaut, Dublanc and Bioche.
 - 3,283 individuals across the targeted communities attended 37 community sessions on the “build back better” approach.
 - “Build back better” messages were distributed and shared about 71,037 times through radio broadcasts, Facebook posts, newspaper articles and community broadcasts (vehicle with speaker).
- IOM received the second donation of construction materials from UNDP/ China Aid. The donation value is estimated at \$250,000. These materials will be used to repair houses under the current IOM projects.

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Situation Overview

Eight months after Hurricane Maria hit the island, there are still IDPs living in collective centres. They are the most vulnerable people, with many of them being elderly or having no relatives, houses or employment and being unable to pay a rent or other housing costs.

The majority of the existing Buildings pre-identified for emergency shelter require improvements.

The technical assistance centres (TACs) serve as a critical mediator between the GoD and the communities, and were recently established under the “Dominica Housing Framework”.

The TACs, which review the plans and monitor the reconstruction work, still have insufficient capacity to respond to many crucial services. However, positive developments emerged with the creation of a joint, consolidated database that includes a list of potential beneficiaries, their status, status of recovery interventions by the housing and settlements sector partners, and other information intended to reduce risks of mobilization conflicts and

beneficiary doubling. The database is also intended to provide clear notification to the government regarding the completion of the work scope by international partners and alert the need for further government intervention, including remaining repair, retrofit and inspections regimes.

The Housing Coordinator Advisor, who co-leads the housing and settlements working group, coordinates the work of 10 international housing partners, local civil society organizations, private initiatives and other UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, etc.); and produces reports of progress, troubleshooting and issue resolution. The advisor also acts as a government liaison, co-leads weekly meetings and supervises the IOM Information Manager – who created and continuously maintains the Hurricane Maria Recovery Housing Progress Database. Support was also provided by the housing coordinator on the multi-ministry assessment of emergency shelters (collective shelters). In addition, the advisor is available to provide advice on the integration of climate resilience within recovery efforts to the government and international partners.



Community information session - Wesley – Dominica. ©IOM – April 2018

IOM RESPONSE



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Currently, IOM is discussing with the government of Dominica about the improvement of several emergency shelters (collective centers). Discussions are also ongoing about the coordination and management of the collective centers.

In May 2018, IOM donated galvanized sheets to the new Grotto Home to improve the facility. This Centre, is dedicated to homeless individuals and it is located at Bellevue Rawle.



Shelter

IOM is implementing three shelter recovery projects for roof repair and installation of t-shelter (core houses). For these projects, IOM faced challenges in hiring skilled labor (carpenters) due to the sheer volume of the repair works. With the assistance of the GoD, IOM applied for circular migration and brought 22 carpenters from Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Vincent, in collaboration with the NGO Habitat for Humanity. 16 workers came as part of a collaboration with the Adventist Disaster Response Agency (ADRA), as well as 10 volunteer carpenters are coming from the United States of America (USA, through All Hands & Hearts). Another 10 from Guyana are expected to arrive by mid-June 2018.

16 construction teams are currently operating. During the period of one week, the 16 construction teams repaired 22 houses, and it is envisaged that the number of repaired houses will increase significantly in the coming weeks.

Since part of the reconstruction work requires tools that are powered by electricity, IOM is seeking additional power supply solutions to expand the geographic coverage of the operations. Therefore, the organization is negotiating with the Dominica Electricity company (DOMLEC) to receive "interim" connections to the power network in the areas where



Satisfied beneficiary – Marigot - Dominica. ©IOM – April 2018

the power is not fully restored. This will increase the effectiveness of the construction work and reduce the use of the generators and fuel.



97 houses were repaired along with three t-shelter (core houses) and were handed over to 300 IOM beneficiaries in Woodford Hill, Marigot, Morne Rchette, Colihaut, Dublanc and Bioche.

A total of 588 beneficiaries have been selected among the most vulnerable people in eight communities: Marigot (217), Woodford Hill (130), Morne Rchette, (47) Colihaut (52), Dublanc (31), Salisbury (59), Bioche (18) and Bense (34). Once the IOM caseload is completed, the remaining beneficiaries will be referred to other actors like the Government of Dominica.

IOM RESPONSE

IOM is considering targeting more villages to implement all its repair activities, because many houses are beyond repair.

3,283 individuals attended 37 community information sessions carried out in eleven communities: Marigot, Woodford Hill, Colihaut, Salisbury, Morne Rachette, Dublanc, Anse De Mai/Bense, Bioche, Wesley, Calibishie and St. Joseph. The purpose of the sessions was to raise awareness on the “building back better” approach, the Dominica Housing Standards, beneficiary selection criteria and to serve as a feedback mechanism for complaints and the like.

600 copies of the “Guidelines to the Dominica Housing Standards”, along with other relevant information, were distributed at the community information sessions.

A total of five focus group meetings were held in five communities on the east and west (Marigot, Bense, Woodfordhill, Bioche and Salisbury) to propose beneficiary names and priority levels to guide field work. Through a field outreach visit, the IOM team identified 39 potential beneficiaries in Layout Park.

Radio coverage is expanding as an increasing number of communities and households are receiving access to power sources. Listenership remains high among Dominicans in the Diaspora who disseminate important information back home. 77 minutes of radio time were broadcasted with 27,500 non-unique listeners estimated, including local ones and diaspora.

Feedback was received from 484 persons, including 35 complaints, mainly regarding timing and queries about their absence on beneficiary lists. 322 individuals received a response from IOM and were assisted with addressing their issues.

Facebook is also being used as a communication tool now by IOM Dominica, generating 51 likes and over 3,600 engaged users thus far. Community members also use the page as a means of communicating feedback, asking questions and receiving guidance on methods of “building back better”. A link to the Dominica building standards has been posted on the page as well.

IOM continues to support the coordination of housing repairs with a full-time coordinator and information manager.



Roof repair – visit DFID donor – Morne Rachette – Dominica. ©IOM - May 2018