



DOMINICA: HURRICANE RESPONSE

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT • 31 October 2017



IOM training on safe construction skills for tradesmen and carpenters in Woodford Hill, Dominica
© IOM 2017

Highlights

■ On 24 October, the government of Dominica reopened 20 schools. Five of them were used as collective centres. IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Services, Gender and Family Affairs, developed a strategy to support the voluntary return or relocation of people hosted at schools used as collective centres.

■ IOM flow monitoring is ongoing. On a daily basis, IOM teams interview people that are leaving Dominica to determine their travel intentions. Special focus is on children who are travelling alone. 25 per cent of respondents indicated that they will not return to Dominica and 22 per cent travel in search of employment abroad.

■ On 26 and 27 October, 24 tradesmen and carpenters in Wesley, Calibishi and Woodford Hill received IOM training in safe construction skills. In teams of three persons consisting of a carpenter, a tradesman and a helper, they will start repairing roofs of moderately and heavily damaged homes of vulnerable people in their communities.

Situation Overview

With the decrease or loss of income generating activities and destruction of their homes, Dominica locals are increasingly leaving the island in search of better opportunities in neighboring countries. IOM has set up a Flow Monitoring process at the ferry port in Roseau to understand the motivations for the departure of Dominica nationals.

The second round of DTM is on-going and includes a special survey on the household return intentions. The survey will be used to provide tailored support to the people who want or need to leave the collective centres.

District Development Officers and Social Welfare Officers began to submit the multi-sector damage and needs assessment forms completed at village level across the country. IOM has been digitizing the forms to enable timely processing and analysis of the information, but the collection process has been delayed because the information was not consistent. IOM is

CONTACTS: Preparedness and Response Division
Donor Relations Division

✉ prd@iom.int
✉ drd@iom.int

🌐 <http://www.iom.int>
☎ +41.22.7179.271

actively assisting the Ministry of Social Services with tablets and staff to collect the data the coming weeks.

In addition, the Ministry of Housing, in collaboration with UNDP, has started a separate technical building damage assessment. Teams of enumerators will assess the structural damage of 800 to 1,000 houses daily. The process will take four to six weeks to complete all 25,000 buildings in Dominica.

IOM Response

Displacement Tracking

The second round of DTM is ongoing. It is expected that the number of displaced households has reduced considerably. A large but undetermined number of households are still staying with family, friends or host families. Increasingly rumours are spreading that after a month of displacement the tensions in these households are increasing, potentially leading to a second wave of displacement.

Flow monitoring of people travelling outside of Dominica commenced on 19 October. The travel intentions survey is being used to gather information on the demographics, origin, destination, purpose and intended length of travel outside Dominica for people using the ferry services to travel to Guadeloupe or St Lucia. 25 per cent of respondents indicated that they will not return to Dominica and 22 per cent travel in search of employment. IOM will continue to monitor this flow of people.

Collective Centre Support

IOM is providing support to school reopening by assisting the Government of Dominica to develop solutions for displaced people hosted in schools serving as collective centres. Voluntary returns are being supported wherever possible by shelter actors, including with the provision of tents (donated in kind by DFID) and tarpaulins (donated in kind by ECHO), as well as shelter partners' own shelter/NFI pipelines. Where returns are not possible (often due to total destruction of homes, or specific vulnerabilities), alternative solutions are proposed, including host families, an alternative collective centre or rental support.

IOM is identifying collective centres which can receive additional assistance to improve living conditions. The support will target community and resource centres where displaced people may remain for some time. A plan for support is being developed using DTM data and in coordination with the Local Government Commissioner.

Shelter

On Monday 23 October, the IOM Team leader, on behalf of the shelter working group, delivered a presentation on the use of tarpaulins for covering damaged roofs which was broadcasted on national TV and radio.

Regular coordination meetings are held by the Government of Dominica with support from IOM and the participation of Dominica Red Cross Society / IFRC, Caritas Dominica / CRS, Samaritan's Purse, IsraAid, Shelterbox, Digicel, Emergency Architects, Engineers without Borders and UNDP. On Wednesday 25 October, 25 participants shared information on the progress of their operations and discussed the early recovery plans, logistics and home insurance issues. According to the joint distribution record, as of 25 October, over 23,600 tarpaulins or shelter grade plastic sheeting have been distributed by shelter partners in Dominica. Shelter partners are also distributing kitchen kits, solar lamps, blankets, hygiene kits and other NFIs.

On 26 and 27 October, 24 tradesmen and carpenters in Wesley, Calibishi and Woodford Hill received training in safe construction skills. In teams of three persons, consisting of a carpenter, a tradesman and a helper, they will repair moderately and heavily damaged roofs of vulnerable people in their communities.

On 25 and 26 October, material for the reconstruction of 75 houses was transported from the port of Roseau to the newly established IOM warehouse in the Woodford Hill in the north-east of Dominica.

IOM is providing pipeline, distribution and coordination support to in-kind shelter and NFIs received from DFID, ECHO/Government of France and USAID. As of 29 October, IOM's direct distributions have reached 3,171 households (estimated 9,000 individuals) in addition to delivering shelter/NFI pipeline goods to shelter working group members, including Shelterbox, IsraAid, CRS and IFRC/Dominican Red Cross, for downstream distribution. On 29 October, IOM delivered 16 CGI sheets to St Alphonsus RC Church in Roseau, which also functions as a collective centre. The sheets enable the church to prevent leaking of water in the electrical system and reconnects the centre to the electric grid.

Shelter actors are currently planning to assist 2,911 households with transitional shelter or durable repairs of their roofs with durable materials like CGI sheets and timber. The procurement pipelines for a number of partners are already in process. The shelter working group is collaborating with the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Housing to share the key messages of the Dominica Building code and approved materials to the population and hardware suppliers.