



HURRICANE IRMA

Situation Report No. 6

18 September 2017 – 19:00 EST

HIGHLIGHTS

- On the forecast track of Hurricane Maria, currently a category 4 Hurricane, the center of the storm will move across the Leeward Islands late today and tonight, bringing heavy rain and wind to islands that were already impacted by Hurricane Irma.
- In Anguilla, the Ann-Victoria Smith Polyclinic (Welches Polyclinic) is operational and will absorb patients of the Valley Health Center and Dental Unit which has closed due to major damage.
- Islands that suffered extensive damage to infrastructure continue to have challenges restoring electricity and clean water which is further complicated by logistical challenges.
- The recovery phase continue in the 13 out of 15 affected provinces of Cuba, with priority in restoring electricity, water and gas services to the most affected populations. Providence of Villa Clara and Ciego de Avila reported 50,000 houses that were damaged.
- As some people continue to be in shelters more than a week after the passage of Hurricane Irma, there is need to continue access to clean water and improve sanitary conditions at the shelters.
- Repairing damaged health facilities in impacted islands is crucial in managing emergency patients, quick diagnosis and treatment of diseases, and reestablish treatment of non-communicable diseases.



Source: Pan American Health Organization

Some water damage was reported to Welches Polyclinic that will absorb patients from Valley Health Center and the Dental Unit that sustained major damage.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

\$5.1 million

Funding required in the health sector of the Regional Response Plan for emergency support to the most vulnerable¹

32 million

People in the inhabited parts of the Caribbean exposed to high speed wind zones (excess of 60km/h)²

2 million

People in the Caribbean living in areas exposed to extreme high-speed wind zones (excess of 120 km/h)²

17 thousand

People in need of immediate shelter according to UN OCHA¹

1. UN OCHA Regional Response Plan

2. UNISTAR UNOSTAT population exposure map (7 September 2017)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On the forecast track of Hurricane Maria, currently a category 4 hurricane, the center of the storm will move across the Leeward Islands, including islands that were already impacted by Hurricane Irma late today and tonight. As of 5:00 PM today, Hurricane Warning for Maria is in effect for Guadeloupe, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, Martinique, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for Antigua and Barbuda, Saba and Saint Eustatius, Saint Martin, Anguilla, and Saint Lucia.

The U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands and Saint Martin which are currently under hurricane or tropical storm warning for Hurricane Maria were in direct path of Hurricane Irma that struck on September 6. These islands suffered extensive damage to infrastructure and continue to have challenges restoring access to electricity and clean water. This could greatly impact already hurricane battered standing structures in impacted islands, complicate humanitarian aid delivery, and displace more people to shelters. Repairs on damaged health facilities in previously impacted islands is ongoing, and crucial in managing emergency patients, quick diagnosis and treatment of diseases, and reestablish treatment of non-communicable diseases.

ANGUILLA

Along with the Princess Alexandra Hospital which is fully functional, the Ann-Victoria Smith Polyclinic (Welches Polyclinic) is operational and will absorb patients of the Valley Health Center and Dental Unit which has closed due to major damage. The Environmental health unit building is damaged and closed. The Environmental Health's truck is not working and poses challenges to the removal of debris, which could be affected when hurricane force winds arrive with Maria. Two shelters are being opened in preparation for Hurricane Maria. An increase in mosquito vectors was noted, and fogging was planned to start on 18 September, which could be affected by the coming hurricane. Care for vulnerable population, especially the elderly, is a challenge due to the Elderly Care Homes that was damaged and evacuated. There is currently no shortage of food or water.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

The Health EOC continues to be operational at the Ministry of Health. Daily medical and public health services are provided at the two government shelters housing approximately 250 patients. Surveillance system detected an increase in conjunctivitis cases which is being monitored. There are four shelters open in Antigua that remains open and housing people from Barbuda. The shelters need improvement in sanitary conditions. Environmental health in Barbuda is an issue, and 200 people will be contracted to clean the carcasses of dead animals. The people will be staying in tents and have a medical station dedicated to attend them. Public health nurses from Barbados are on standby for deployment.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

There remain 275 people in 11 shelters. The Rainbow Children's Home is functional with a generator and water supply. Medical supplies were delivered to Peebles Hospital and clinics on the Sister Islands of Jost Van Dyke, Virgin Gorda and Anegada. Assessment of clinics is ongoing in Tortola, where East End Clinic will be operationalized. Anegada Health Clinic appeared to be functional and two nurses were dispatched with medication. Jost Van Dyke roof sustained significant damage, and structural damage assessment is ongoing. Water tank at the clinic may be contaminated. Specific medicinal request is being addressed by the hospital. In Virgin Gorda, North Sound Clinic sustained damage to the roof and windows. The clinic is currently on standby generator, and receiving water from Necker Island on a daily basis. Iris O'Neal Clinic has sustained minor damage to the roof and working on generator power. Access to fuel for generators continues to be an issue. Response team members are currently in Barbados on standby for deployment.

CUBA

The recovery phase continue in the 13 out of 15 affected provinces of Cuba, with priority placed in restoring electricity, water and gas services to the most affected populations. Providence of Villa Clara and Ciego de Avila reported 50,000 houses that were damaged. Reports indicate that 793 health centers were affected, including 62 hospitals and 116 policlinics. Hospital Lucia Iniguez and Hospital General Vladimir Ilich Lenin reported damages in emergency and gyno-obstetrics service. Hospital Hermanos Ameijeiras was the most affected, with radiology, laboratory, medical imaging, and emergency surgery services affected. Landslides in Villa Clara Province have impacted healthcare centers. Recovery of damaged health facilities is ongoing, and medical offices of damaged buildings are being relocated. Health authorities maintain an active epidemiological surveillance system, and communicable disease outbreaks have not been registered. The government continues to perform needs assessments for health services, water and sanitation, and environmental health. Essential medicines such as oral rehydration salts, first aid kits, doxycycline, water treatment tablets, and rapid diagnosis tests were identified as needed.

SAINT MARTIN AND SAINT BARTHELEMY

A shortage of potable water was reported from Saint Martin, and bottled water is being distributed. Water purification tablets were identified as needed.

SINT MAARTEN

In Sint Maarten, one evacuation center remains open with approximately 80 persons. In preparation for Hurricane Maria, six possible evacuation centers that can house up to an average of 100 persons each have been identified for prepositioning food, water, and materials in vulnerable areas of Cay Bay, Middle region and Dutch quarters. Dutch army will provide logistics for transportation of items and provide security.

The roof of Sint Maarten Medical Center is being repaired. A generator was provided to the baby clinic. General practitioners and pharmacists are seeing patients for limited hours due to lack of water and power supply. A mobile clinic is providing services and vaccination to communities without access to general practitioners. The reestablishment of the water piping system and access to potable water remains a priority. Though some parts of water supply is functional, water quality needs to be improved for human

consumption. The sewage system is not yet working at regular capacity. The equipment for garbage collection is identified as needed. Mosquito and breeding sites are expected to increase due to rain and uncollected debris.

TURKS AND CAICOS

According to preliminary satellite image analysis on 11 September 2017, UNOSAT reported that 51% of the total number of structures in Cockburn Island was potentially damaged. Providenciales Hospital is functioning and continues to receive dialysis patients from Grand Turk Hospital. Improving hospital waste collection is a priority. Blue Hill Clinic sustained damage to the electrical panel, air conditioner, and pump house. South Caicos Clinic sustained damage to the roof and is functioning with a generator. The generator needs repairs, and water pump is not connected to the generator, and unable to pump water into the clinic. In North Caicos, Kew Clinic is functioning. Bottle Creek Clinic suffered major damage and was relocated. Middle Caicos Clinic is operational without major damage. Medical supplies and vector control was identified as needed. Two additional Rapid Response team members are on standby for deployment to Turks and Caicos Islands.

NEEDS

Hurricane Maria, currently a category 4 hurricane, is expected to bring heavy rain and wind to the Leeward Islands, including those that were already impacted by Hurricane Irma. This could greatly impact already battered structures and debris, complicate humanitarian aid delivery, and displace more people to shelters. A quick delivery of needed supplies and human resources as well as prepositioning and preparation for the coming storm will be important to avoid further public health impact by the coming hurricane.

Healthcare professionals are being deployed from different islands to support the needed surge in human resources. Strengthening capacity in addressing mental health in impacted population, especially those in shelters is important. Repairing damaged health facilities in impacted islands is crucial in managing emergency patients, quick diagnosis and treatment of diseases, and reestablish treatment of non-communicable diseases.

Maintaining sanitary conditions, especially in shelters, continues to be a priority. Increases in mosquito and rodent vectors have been reported in heavily impacted islands. Vector control and cleaning supply needs list has been requested from affected island for consolidation.

Logistics needs include restoration of the distribution chain, increased storage area and improved security. Security issues are complicating humanitarian response including logistical issues for the islands to distribute basic supplies and deploy personnel. A quick delivery of needed supplies and human resources will be important in the coming days due to Hurricane Maria and other potential storms developing in the Atlantic.

Heightened epidemiological surveillance to support early detection and timely management of disease outbreaks will be important in the coming days due to lack of access to clean water, healthcare and treatment, and increase in vectors and rodents. Some shelters are already reporting diarrheal and skin diseases. Vector-borne-diseases should be prevented by quickly cleaning debris that may create breeding sites when it rains. Environmental Health should also be addressed in these islands as clearing and recovery continues.

RESPONSE ACTIONS

PAHO continues to assess needs of impacted countries and territories and deploy supplies and human resources as needs are identified by impacted islands. The Deployment of Regional Response Teams to the islands included focus areas in coordination, damage assessment, epidemiological surveillance, logistics, information management, and water and sanitation. Requested supplies are being provided by PAHO and country offices in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. As needed medical and humanitarian supplies are identified by countries and shared with PAHO, medical and other supplies have been prepositioned in Panama and Barbados for rapid distribution in preparation for Hurricane Maria. As new information emerges from the field, new possible deployments may be considered by health authorities, especially after the passage of Hurricane Maria. A second round of deployments is being organized.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is coordinating emergency projects to cover medical supplies, reestablish health services, and purchase of essential medicines and medical equipment. The United Nations (UN) is developing a joint UN Response Strategy that lays out the priorities of international humanitarian agencies (UN and NGOs and IFRC), working closely with national Governments and regional counterparts in particular CDEMA.

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