

be delivered. Most seaports are operational, with the exception of those located in East Grand Bahama. Airports are becoming increasingly operational: Grand Bahama International Airport, West End (private), Walkers Cay, Moore's Island, Cistern Field, Great Harbour Cay, Treasure Cay and Sandy Point. The following airports have limited operational capacity: Spanish Cay (private), Scotland Cay, and Leonard M Thompson International (Marsh Harbor).

On 9 September, NEMA updated the status of health facilities:

In Abaco, the Sandy Point Clinic is operational while Marsh Harbour Health Care Center and Fox Town Clinic operate with limited capacity. Non-operational: Cooper's Town Clinic, Hope Town Clinic, Crossing Rock Clinic. Unknown status: Moore's Island Clinic, Green Turtle Cay Clinic and Man O War Cay Clinic.

In Grand Bahama, Eight Mile Rock Community Clinic and Hawksbill Community Clinic are operational. Operational, limited capacity: Rand Memorial Hospital, Sunrise Medical, Pearce Plaza Specialty Clinic. West End Community Clinic and High Rock Community Clinic. In eastern Bahama the status of three clinic remains unknown: Pelican Point Clinic, McCleans Town Community Clinic, Sweeting's Cay Clinic.

CDEMA reports that search and recovery operations are still underway, especially in Marsh Harbour, Abaco, adding that they are being coordinated by the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, with assistance from US/UK military assets and other search and rescue partners.

UN agencies and partners continue to conduct missions in Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama to assess needs in support of NEMA, while delivering assistance to various locations. As the situation remains fluid, including due to evacuations, regular assessments are required. Preliminary assessments confirm that water, sanitation, health and food are priority needs.

The Water and Sanitation Corporation has advised that the water on Abaco should not be used for either potable or domestic use.

NEMA informs that debris clearance is a priority, particularly on roads to increase access to impacted areas. Heavy equipment is required to facilitate debris clearance and waste management.

Oil leak from oil storage facility in Grand Bahama: the operator has mobilized response teams to conduct an assessment on 8 September, as well as a vessel with equipment to start cleaning up -- expected to arrive on 10 September. The Ministry of Environment is conducting a six-week assessment mission in Abaco to look at hazardous material risks, the same day.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

More than 40 humanitarian organizations are present in The Bahamas. While most base their operations in Nassau, response efforts focus on central and north Abaco. In Grand Bahama, the bulk of reported activities is in Freeport.

With the arrival of evacuees in shelters in Nassau in the past days, humanitarian organizations are liaising with NEMA to support assistance to evacuees in the capital. Humanitarians also continue to reach people remaining in Grand Bahama and Abaco Islands: relief assistance mostly arrives in Nassau and is dispatched to affected areas. This includes 14,700 individual meals-ready-to-eat from WFP which arrived on 6 September and are being progressively delivered to the islands. Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) have been deployed in Grand Bahama (GB) by International Medical Corps and near Rand Hospital in GB by Samaritan's Purse; in Little Harbour (Abaco) by Team Rubicon; in Treasure Cay and Marsh Harbour (Abaco) by Heart-to-Heart International; and in Cooper's Town (Abaco) by Humanity First. UNICEF's first supply shipment of humanitarian items was freighted by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on 8 September. It includes over 400,000 water purification tablets, several 5,000-liters tanks for at least 2,000 people and 1,000 jerry cans. These supplies are planned to be distributed to the affected communities in the coming days. PAHO/WHO's and IOM's first shipment of supplies arrived in Nassau on 7 September through the UN Humanitarian Response Depot warehouse in Panama; aquatabs, seven trauma kits, water bladders, body bags, generators and 1,000 tarpaulins are being shipped to affected areas. WFP provides eight mobile storage units, four generators, six prefab offices and five satellite communications system to address logistical and telecommunications gaps where needed. IFRC has received and will deliver 1,200 shelter tool kits, 4,100 blankets, 500 kitchen sets, 800 tarpaulins, 1,800 jerrycans, and 900 hygiene kits. With the support of UNDP, the Ministry of Public Works will begin the first Building Damage Assessment; two evaluation teams will be deployed to most affected areas on 10 September.

NEMA identified its priorities for military support: search and rescue/recovery operations; road and debris clearance; clean-up of Marsh Harbour; support to relief supply and distribution on Abaco Cays; and support with temporary housing. US Coast Guards and military are providing USAR, transport and humanitarian assistance. The US military has been providing daily flights for inter-agency assessments. RFA Mounts Bay ship has delivered humanitarian assistance to Abaco island, debris removal, road clearance, medical assistance, bodies recovery, and helicopter transport for

humanitarian assessments. The Dutch vessel will arrive on 11 September to provide engineering, water, medical, infrastructure support, air and sea transportation. French, German and Dutch troops are onboard.

More details below on response efforts.

Early Recovery

Needs:

- According to Map Action and satellite data, central and eastern parts of Grand Bahama account for the areas with most destroyed buildings on the island; 76-100 per cent of buildings analyzed near High Rock (central Grand Bahama) and McLeans Town and Deep Water Cay (eastern Grand Bahama) having been destroyed.
- In Central Abaco, destroyed buildings are concentrated in the area surrounding Marsh Harbour, particularly The Pea and The Mudd -- both shantytowns with extremely vulnerable undocumented migrant populations--, and Scotland Cay, where satellite data shows that an estimated 51-75 per cent of buildings have been destroyed.
- Re-establish and strengthen government capacities at local level in both islands for managing the response.
- Debris removal and waste management are top priorities: quantification and sorting, asset mapping, identification of storage sites and management strategies in both islands.
- Securing of damaged structures and safe demolition.
- Building Damage Assessments and quantification of the impact on infrastructure.
- Rehabilitation of key government buildings.
- Support the repair of damaged buildings, ensuring building-back-better principle.

Response:

- The Ministry of Public Works will start, with the support of UNDP, the first Building Damage Assessment in the affected areas using the [BDA online tool](#) for rapid impact evaluations. Training of inspectors was conducted by UNDP on 9 September and two teams of assessors will be deployed to most affected areas on 10 Sept.
- The Ministry of Environment and Housing, with the support of UNDP, has started the elaboration of debris and waste management strategies for Abaco and Grand Bahama. Clearing work will start in the coming days as soon as the search and rescue operations allow. Experts from both institutions are working together to define the first estimates on quantities of debris generated by the disaster, identification of storage sites, management strategy and mapping of existing assets and needs. National and international partners interested in debris and waste management are requested to liaise with the Ministry.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Equipment and heavy equipment for debris and waste management is required. Details are available at the Ministry of Environment and Housing.
- Financial resources to support debris and waste on-site sorting through community engagement and local contractors are required.

Education

Needs:

- During the assessments, it was observed that the Primary School in Central Abaco (public), which has capacity to accommodate up to 1,500 students, is approximately 75 per cent damaged and currently used as shelter for 240 people.
- All reconstruction works, particularly of education infrastructure, should follow build back better principles and meet up to date building code.
- All schools in Abaco were closed as of 8 September, as most school-aged children have been evacuated. No reports of separated or unaccompanied children so far.

Response:

- UNICEF continues engaging with the Ministry of Health to better assess the needs of children arriving from the affected islands to Nassau; the numbers are yet to be confirmed by the Government.

Food Security

Response:

- Nearly 30 NEMA-coordinated distribution points on Grand Bahama began providing food to people affected on 7 September.
- The US Coast Guard delivered some 400 kg of water and food to Cooper's Town, Abaco.
- On 8 September, WFP and Bahamas Red Cross distributed the first MREs (meals-ready-to-eat) in Abaco, delivering 150 meals to 75 people.
- On 9 September, WFP and community groups provided over 1,500 MREs to the Administrative Office of Cooper's Town, to serve affected people in the Little Abaco settlements of Mount Hope, Cedar Harbour, Wood Cay, Fox Town, and Crown Haven.

Health

Needs:

- Restoration of access to essential health services, medical care delivery, quality of water in affected areas and their corresponding health facilities, proper sanitation and hygiene, adequate waste management and vector control.
- Deteriorated sanitary conditions (floodwaters, potential sewage contamination) and lack of safe water pose a risk of waterborne and vector-borne disease transmission – PAHO expects an increase in mosquito and rodent vectors in the medium term.
- Close monitoring and disease surveillance for potential outbreak of communicable diseases.
- Marsh Harbour Clinic in Abaco is providing services to around 200-300 patients daily. The Team Rubicon EMT assessment indicates that the building infrastructure is intact. There is still no potable water and an assessment of medical equipment is needed in addition to medical stocks.
- Minimum Initial Service Package for sexual and reproductive health services in all settings to address: HIV and STIs prevention and treatment, prevention of unwanted pregnancies. Shelters are providing basic healthcare, but not these critical interventions. There is also a lack of privacy to ensure patient confidentiality which is a barrier for patients accessing Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) information and services.
- Assess SRH needs in the affected areas. No information available at this point.
- According to UNAIDS Caribbean sub-regional office, 3,107 of the 6,000 people living with HIV in The Bahamas were affected by Dorian, as the storm's effects has limited their access to their required treatments and access to services.
- Princess Margaret Hospital in New Providence is under strain from the high volume of patients from Abaco and Grand Bahama.
- Healthcare workers in Abaco and Grand Bahama were among the affected. This may lead to a shortage in health personnel – such a shortage would require supporting the health sector's response and care delivery capacity, as well as a steady rotation of specialized healthcare staff (surgeons, anesthesiologists, pathologists, midwives, physicians, psychiatrists), as well as emergency and public health nurses.
- Psychosocial support is urgently needed to assist people in dealing with Dorian's consequences.

Response:

- PAHO is coordinating with the Ministry of Health and the Dutch armed forces to address health priorities and logistics capacities required for the response to health needs.
- PAHO is boosting epidemiological surveillance efforts for early detection and timely management of disease outbreaks.
- PAHO has completed an evaluation of the Fox Town Clinic.
- PAHO is currently conducting WASH and Health Infrastructure assessments in Abaco.
- Four Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs): Grand Bahama (near Rand Hospital), Little Harbour, Treasure Cay and Marsh Harbour. A fifth EMT is being deployed to Cooper's Town (Abaco).
- If needed by the Government, UNFPA will provide emergency RH kits. UNFPA could also surge SRH staff to strengthen the capacity of the Government to provide the MISP: provision of contraception, STI and HIV prevention and treatment, clinical management of rape.
- UNFPA to conduct SRH needs assessment in Abaco and Grand Bahama.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access to healthcare and medical care delivery has been considerably hampered in affected areas.

Nutrition

Needs:

- Prevention of the deterioration of the nutritional status of vulnerable groups, ensuring the provision of appropriate and prompt support for feeding and care of infants and young children and their caregivers.

Response:

- UNICEF shared key guidance and material with the Ministry of Health on nutrition needs assessments and key actions to prevent undernutrition in the most vulnerable groups: children under 2 and pregnant and lactating women.

Protection

Needs:

- Rapid design and establishment of psychosocial community and facility-based programmes, in relocation sites (including shelters, communities) and communities of origin, when conditions allow.
- Among the affected population, there is a significant concentration of vulnerable undocumented migrants. According to informal interviews with members of this community, they are likely unwilling to relocate and expect to return to Abaco when the situation stabilizes. Against this backdrop, further efforts will be needed to ensure conditions for returnees, particularly vulnerable children and families, and to guarantee that they are reached by timely and appropriate protection services.
- Strengthen psychosocial support and psychological first aid services in the shelters in Nassau.
- Strengthen GBV prevention and risk mitigation strategies in the shelters in Nassau, including the referral pathway, standard operating procedures (SOPs), awareness raising sessions and information dissemination for the affected population, particularly women and girls and other at risk groups.
- Initial request for 1,500 dignity kits to be distributed in the shelters in Nassau.
- Support the government's capacity to register the affected population, disaggregated by age, gender, disability, and other relevant factors.
- Support the government's capacity to manage shelters; in particular, GBV risks are identified, mitigated and prevented.
- Training on Gender-based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) prevention and response for front-line workers and other emergency actors.
- Identify the needs of women, girls, men and boys in all the steps of the emergency response and recovery.
- Support the Government to identify safe locations in Nassau for people arriving from the affected islands as well as those who are temporarily staying in hotels.
- Given the large number of actors, put in place measures to protect against sexual exploitation and abuse.

Response:

- UNICEF engages with authorities to better assess the needs of children arriving from the affected islands to Nassau; numbers are yet to be confirmed by the Government.
- UNFPA has deployed a Sexual and Reproductive Health Advisor, a Gender-based Violence Specialist, and a coordinator to support the Department of Gender Affairs on GBV prevention and risk-mitigation strategy.
- A long-term UNFPA GBV Coordinator will be in the country by next week.
- UNFPA, in support of the Gender Affairs Department, conducted a safety audit to the largest shelter in Nassau which hosts approximately 1,350 evacuees from Abaco and Grand Bahama islands.
- UNFPA conducts focus group discussions with evacuees in the largest shelter in Nassau and interviews with key informants.
- UNFPA, with the support from UNHRD, is bringing dignity kits to be distributed to the affected population.
- UNFPA will lead PSEA actions among UN staff.

Shelter

Needs:

- Some 4,800 people were evacuated from Abaco, mostly from the Marsh Harbour area.
- NEMA is sharing information on needs within shelters: e.g. Kendal Isaac's gymnasium is hosting 1,224 individuals and need mostly NFIs. One shelter managed by the Adventist church is hosting undocumented migrants and requires support. The Department of Social Services is following up.
- With the support of the U.S. Department of Defense, members of USAID/OFDA's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), along with other relief actors, conducted aerial and on-the-ground assessments of storm-affected areas of Abaco and nearby cays on 7-8 September. The assessments found that predominant humanitarian needs include safe drinking water, shelter support, and measures to restore power and enable access to hard-to-reach communities.

Response:

- IFRC and IOM conducted an Emergency Shelter coordination meeting on 9 September at the National Training Center in Nassau. At present, countries and organizations supporting shelter activities include the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART); the UK through its RFA Mounts Bay, which has started to deliver essential assistance to Abaco with shelter kits, water and other supplies; UK DFID, IOM, Mercy Corps, Project HOPE, Samaritan's Purse and UNFPA
- IFRC has recruited an emergency shelter coordinator, who should be arriving in Nassau shortly.
- IOM has deployed three staff to coordinate their response and carry out needs assessments, reporting and logistics support, with another five staff arriving in the coming days to support shelter needs/NFI, Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and financing.
- IOM will distribute 1,000 tarpaulins to the most vulnerable people in Marsh Harbour (Abaco).
- PAHO is working with the Ministry of Health in epidemiological surveillance in shelters.
- Joint visits with UNICEF/UNDP to temporary shelters, both official and unofficial, in the north of Abaco to gather information on needs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- IOM and IFRC require more detailed assessments to understand the full scope of shelter needs.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Power and water systems in Abaco require significant rehabilitation work.
- Waste management, cleaning and purification of water sources are among the most urgent issues to address.
- At the Marsh Harbor Health Center (Abaco), it is critical to tackle waste management. Garbage needs to be removed to avoid spread of diseases. Waste management is also critical at the Primary School in Central Abaco, currently used as shelter.

Response:

- WASH supplies arrived in Nassau on 7 September and will be sent to Grand Bahama for distribution through NGO Mercy Corps, arriving on 10 September.
- Meeting held on 9 September between international partners and government counterparts to identify critical needs, including quantities and type of support needed.
- The RFA Mounts Bay delivered water to Cooper's Town, Grand Cay and Fox Cay on 7 September, distributing roughly 4,000 gallons of water.
- Global Support and Development provided hygiene kits to Great Guana Cay and water to Grand Cay.

Emergency Telecommunications

Response:

- WFP-provided VSATs are operational at the international airport and at the seaport and is being set up at the government EOC.

- Following the installation of a connection for the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on Abaco, TSF accompanied the Ministry of Health to Treasure Cay Airport and Cooper's Town to reach people in need of communication while local operators continue to work on restoring the network.

Logistics

Response:

- WFP is setting up a Logistics hub in Marsh Harbour (MSUs, prefab offices, and VSATs in assembly), and remains on standby to deploy additional hubs as needed. This will include 4 temporary warehouses at the seaport in Abaco and 1 in the airport.
- WFP is providing support to NEMA/CDEMA in logistics coordination, including arrangements for further sourcing, charter vessels, fuel, fork lifts, flat-bed trucks, transport assets, and last mile delivery capabilities. WFP is chartering a third vessel on 11 September to Abaco.

Constraints:

- The Cooper's Town bridge in North Abaco is currently impassable. Roads from Sandy Point, South Abaco to Cooper's Town and North Abaco are cleared for access.
- As of 8 September, there are four fully operational airports on the Berry Islands (Cistern Field and Great Harbour Cay Airport), South Abaco (Sandy Point Airport), and Moore's Island (Moores Island Airport). There are an additional five (5) airports operating at a limited capacity in Central Abaco (Leonard M. Thompson International Airport and Scotland Cay Airport), Northern Abaco (Treasure Cay Airport and Spanish Cay Airport), and Wester Grand Bahama (Grand Bahama International Airport). The operational status of four (4) airports remains unknown, including the private West End Airport (West Grand Bahama), Auxiliary Airfield and Deep Water Cay Airports (East Grand Bahama), and the private Castaway Cay Airport (Castaway Cay off the southeast coast of South Abaco).

FUNDING

NEMA established the Bahamas Disaster Relief Fund to receive cash donations via NEMA and cheques and wire transfer via the RBC Royal Bank (Bahamas). Instructions available here: <https://bit.ly/2m9K82V>

Several countries, both within and outside the region, have provided, or have pledged to provide, relief contributions:

Country	Amount (US\$)	Destinated activities or organization
Canada	\$379,000	Support for humanitarian partners after needs assessments are completed
India	\$1,000,000	Relief allocation for Bahamas
British Virgin Islands, Belize, Dominica, Grenada (<i>Organization of Eastern Caribbean States member state disbursements</i>)	\$100,000 (each)	Support for recovery efforts.
Switzerland	\$506,000	IFRC
Switzerland	\$202,000	WFP
Republic of Korea	\$200,000	Contributions to restoring damages and relief efforts.
Trinidad and Tobago	\$500,000	Relief expenses, including medical supplies.
United Kingdom	\$1,800,000	Delivery of aid aboard RFA Mounts Bay, support for CDEMA
United Kingdom (UK Department for International Development - DFID)	\$308,490	Support for deployment of CDEMA response teams
United States of America	\$1,000,000	Food For Peace (FFP) program to WFP
United States of America	\$1,800,000	Relief supplies and logistics support

Groups, such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), have made allocations directly to The Bahamas, while international organizations have released funds to support life-saving operations:

Organization	Amount (US\$)	Activities or organization
Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)	\$10,900,000 (50% disbursed)	Relief allocation for Bahamas.
Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)	\$200,000	Emergency response grant to NEMA and Bahamas
CERF	\$1,000,000	Urgent life-saving efforts.
IOM	\$140,000	Operational disbursement for temporary shelter and the distribution of shelter kits.
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	\$100,000,000	Emergency loan to support humanitarian efforts and reconstruction.
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	\$200,000	Emergency donation.
UNDP	\$200,000	Coordination of recovery efforts in collaboration with the Government.
WFP	\$5,400,000	Limited Emergency Operation.

Additionally, PAHO and IFRC have launched appeals for critical short-term assistance and supplies:

Organization	Appeal (US\$)	Destinated activities
IFRC	\$3,240,000 (requested)	Short- and mid-term shelter assistance and relief supplies.
PAHO	\$3,500,000 (requested)	Short-term healthcare needs over six months, including water and vector control needs.

GENERAL COORDINATION

NEMA is leading the coordination of the emergency response from its Nassau-based National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). Through the NEOC, NEMA is in close coordination with NGOs, donors and UN agencies. NEMA has installed its Emergency Support Functions (ESF) humanitarian coordination structure, composed of 13 ESFs with their own lead ministries or departments to align response functions between relevant stakeholders. The regional and international humanitarian community has designated focal points for each of the relevant Emergency Support Functions to strengthen support and coordination efforts.

NEMA has opened its EOC Partners Coordination Offices in the National Training Agency on 9 September to strengthen international partners' coordination with ESFs.

CDEMA continues to convene Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) partner meetings to guide coordination among regional actors.

OCHA is present in Nassau, supporting NEMA, CDEMA, UN agencies, NGOs and donors to coordinate needs assessments and response efforts, and facilitate civil-military coordination, among other activities.

Useful links for partners, including contact list, ESF/sector lead contacts and 3W: <http://bit.ly/BHSUsefullinks>

Background on the crisis

Hurricane Dorian swept over the north-west of Bahamas between 1-2 September as a Category 5 storm, lashing the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama with wind speeds in excess of 180mph and storm surge of up to 23 feet. Various UN agencies and partners, including the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) were able to pre-deploy personnel to the Bahamas in anticipation of the needs that Dorian would cause. The Government of Bahamas is leading the response, with Bahamas' National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) liaising with humanitarian partners in coordinating response. Preliminary aerial assessments reveal critical needs in food, clean water, health and shelter. Partners are working to establish logistics access to these islands to deliver supplies and carry out more detailed assessments.

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