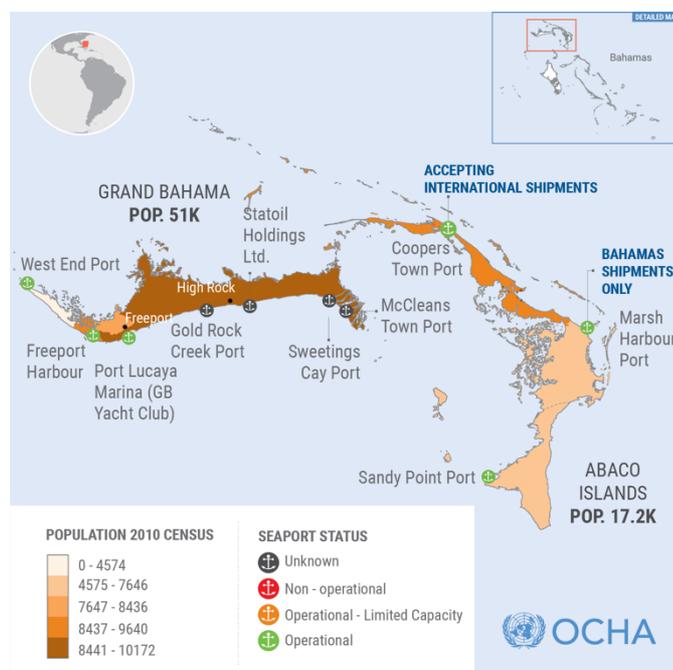


This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. The next report will be issued in 24-36 hours.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Following the passage of Hurricane Dorian, a category 5 hurricane, from 1-3 September on Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama, the Government of The Bahamas revised the death toll to 43 on 6 September: 35 people died in Abaco Islands and eight in Grand Bahama. Many remain missing and the number of casualties is expected to increase.
- UN agencies and humanitarian organizations are supporting the government-led response, under the leadership of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and in close coordination with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).
- As access to affected areas is progressively resuming, albeit limited, needs assessments are being undertaken by UN agencies and humanitarian organizations: on 7 September, two assessment teams accessed several locations across Abaco Islands, the most affected.
- Relief assistance to respond to the most urgent needs is arriving in Nassau and dispatched to affected areas, including 14,700 individual meals-ready-to-eat from WFP which arrived on 6 September and were immediately delivered to the islands.



## SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 6 September, the Government of The Bahamas revised the death toll to 43: 35 people died in Abaco Islands and eight in Grand Bahama. Many remain missing and the number of casualties is expected to increase. Search and rescue operations continue, as well as evacuations.

The Abaco Islands are the most severely affected. Initial assessments for Abaco found widespread destruction, with thousands of houses levelled, telecommunications towers down, and water wells and roads damaged. There is very limited or no water, electricity and sanitation. In Marsh Harbour, most of the infrastructure is damaged; “the Mudd” area, mostly inhabited by migrants, many undocumented, has been destroyed, therefore leaving this community in a particularly vulnerable situation.

In Grand Bahama, the eastern part is the most affected, with homes damaged between Freetown and Deep Water Cay. Oil tanks have also been damaged.

While many of the 3,300 people estimated to sheltered in Abaco Islands (2,500) and Grand Bahama (800) in Government buildings (as of 5 September) have reportedly been evacuated or left the shelters, those remaining in shelters or in affected areas need water, food, sanitation, medicines, among others.

Across Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama, airports and seaports are increasingly becoming operational, allowing assistance to be delivered. However, access to affected people, in particular in Abaco Islands remains challenging, including due to damaged roads and infrastructure.

Further assessments to accurately determine the scope of needs are underway. In support of NEMA, UN agencies and partners conducted assessment missions in Abaco Islands on 7 September, and will continue in the coming days. These assessments follow CDEMA's regional Rapid Needs Assessment Teams (RNATs), which conducted aerial assessments over Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama on 4 and 6 September. In Abaco, the flight mission recommended that in the short term, the emergency response will want to provide for roofing material, debris removal, full restoration of power, support to the Abaco Emergency Operations Centre, immediate shipment of supplies to Marsh Harbour and similarly affected areas, access to safe water and vector control activities, with medium-term considerations for water safety to minimize public health risks. For Grand Bahama, findings from the aerial reconnaissance indicate that the eastern end of the island was badly damaged. Other potential needs observed include relief supplies, a detailed assessment of an oil refinery that sustained damage, restoration of telecommunications, debris removal and vector control.

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## 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).

The United States Government has provided more than US\$2.8 million to response efforts, including \$1 million from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Food For Peace (FFP) program to WFP and more than \$1.8 million from USAID Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) for relief supplies and logistics support.

The United Kingdom is allocating GBP1.5 million (approximately US\$1.8 million) for the delivery of aid supplies aboard the RFA Mounts Bay that is already in The Bahamas, and support for CDEMA in coordinating the international response.

The Government of Canada pledged CAD500,000 (approximately US\$379,000) to support humanitarian partners after needs assessments are completed.

Switzerland is allocating 500,000 Swiss francs (approximately US\$506,000) to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and 200,000 Swiss francs (approximately US\$202,598) to WFP.

Following a 4 September visit to The Bahamas by UN Under-secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) will provide an immediate \$1 million for urgent life-saving efforts in the Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama.

WFP launched a three-month "Limited Emergency Operation" valued at \$5.4 million on 5 September.

PAHO's Disaster Response Team expects to launch a funding appeal in coming days.

IFRC launched an appeal for 3.2 million Swiss francs (approximately \$3,240,000) on 4 September, which will focus on short- and mid-term shelter assistance and relief supplies.

The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) will support the Bahamas with approximately \$10.9 million to allow The Bahamas to address its most pressing need, providing 50 per cent now for immediate action and 50 per cent within the 14-day window for all CCRIF payouts.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will provide a \$100 million contingency loan to support humanitarian and reconstruction in The Bahamas, following a previous emergency donation of \$200,000.

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## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The Government of the Bahamas, through its National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) leads the response efforts. NEMA is supported by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), as well as UN agencies, NGOs, humanitarian organizations and donors to fill identified gaps.

The humanitarian presence is increasing with more than 80 response partners in The Bahamas between government actors, UN agencies, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and donors, all engaged in response activities in support of the government.

CDEMA has alerted partners that NEMA focuses on overcoming transportation and logistics challenges to reach affected populations as soon as possible, as well as evacuation and setting up communications on Abaco Islands.

With improved access to seaports and airports, including the airport in Marsh Harbour now operational, relief supplies are being delivered. For instance on 6 September, two WFP-chartered planes delivered 14,700 individual ready-to-eat meals,

as well as generators, mobile storage units, satellite communication systems, and temporary office structures to support the establishment of logistics bases, to Nassau for onward transport to Abaco and Grand Bahama; the planes also transported eight metric tons of medical supplies and relief commodities, respectively, for PAHO and IOM. A Télécoms Sans Frontières team has also arrived in Marsh Harbour to support establishment of satellite communication systems.

Bilateral assistance has also come in, with CDEMA's participating states contributing technical personnel, funding pledges, military personnel, engineers and medics towards relief efforts.

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and a USAID-deployed search-and-rescue (SAR) team continues SAR operations in the worst-affected areas of the islands in coordination with the Government of The Bahamas (GoB). A USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) is supporting damage and needs assessments and identifying priority needs.

The United Kingdom has dispatched the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) Mounts Bay to start delivering essential assistance to Abaco Islands, delivering shelter kits, water and other basic items.

A CARICOM delegation led by CARICOM Chairman and Saint Lucia Prime Minister arrived in The Bahamas on 5 September, meeting with the Prime Minister and pledging full support to provide assistance. CDEMA's Executive Director accompanied the Prime Minister on a visit of Abaco on 6 September to assess damage.

## Early Recovery

### Needs:

- The Government of the Bahamas issued an Immediate Assistance Supplies List on 4 September detailing specific support needed for reconstruction and recovery needs, including portable generators, chainsaws and debris removal tools (shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows).

### Response:

- UNDP has a team of five experts to support the facilitation of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), should there be a request from the Government. Support offered on recovery efforts, including on damage assessment, debris removal and waste management, rehabilitation of infrastructure and critical facilities, re-roofing and housing.
- IOM is providing 1,000 tarpaulins to replace roofs stripped from homes on in Abaco and Grand Bahama this week.

## Education

### Needs:

- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education to assess the main education needs. It is estimated that among Abaco's total population, 3,000 children of primary and secondary school-age could require support.

### Response:

- UNICEF prioritizes the establishment of child-friendly spaces with non-formal education activities to help children recover.
- UNICEF Jamaica in partnership with the Government of The Bahamas has made available 200 recreation kits that could be released if needed.

## Food Security

### Response:

- A WFP chartered aircraft carrying 14,700 individual meals-ready-to-eat (MREs) arrived in Nassau on 6 September, and was immediately loaded to ship to the islands.
- NEMA has activated existing agreements with national suppliers to dispatch food to affected areas. Other national partners have indicated their support to help conduct food distributions.
- Two WFP food security experts have been embedded in the CDEMA-led Rapid Needs Assessment Team due to be deployed to impacted areas on Abaco and Grand Bahama. Results from the assessment, which will be combined as part of a multi-sectoral analysis of post-impact damage and needs, will be used to inform the Government-led response.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Damage is hampering relief efforts and access to impacted households.
- In Grand Bahama, the RNAT aerial reconnaissance was able to observe various groups of residential homes in the eastern end that appear to be cut off, raising concerns as to their access to food supplies.


**Health**
**Needs:**

- Considering the extensive damages and access constraints, safe water, food, health care, non-formal education activities and psychosocial support for children and adolescents are the envisaged priority needs for UNICEF.
- Per PAHO, the stagnant floodwaters and potential contamination of sewage and lack of safe water indicate a high risk of diarrheal and waterborne diseases.
- Dorian flooded Rand Memorial Hospital in Grand Bahama and damaged their supplies. High Rock Clinic in Grand Bahama has been destroyed. Other clinics on Grand Bahama and New Providence are also flooded. Patient evacuations will be needed.
- PAHO expects management of dead bodies to be a rising issue, foreseeing the need for additional hospital morgue capacity. An additional 500 body bags have been requested by the Ministry of Health for Abaco as fatality numbers will likely increase.

**Response:**

- PAHO's Disaster Response Team is supporting the Ministry of Health with 14 pre- and post-deployment staff to address logistics, infrastructure assessment, EMT coordination and epidemiological surveillance, among other activities.
- PAHO, through the UNHRD warehouse in Panama, sent its first shipment of supplies to Nassau, stocked with Aquatabs, seven Italian trauma Kits A+B, water bladders, body bags and generators due to arrive on 7 September.
- An Emergency Medical Team (EMT) from Samaritan's Purse arrived in the Bahamas on 5 September, staffed with six physicians and two surgeons, 16 nurses, two anesthesiologists, allied health personnel, and logistics and management staff. The team, fully hospital-capable, will stay for three months.
- Samaritan's Purse is establishing an EMT type 2 field hospital facility in Freeport, Grand Bahama, to complement the impacted hospital.
- Humanity First is deploying an EMT type 1 outpatient clinic to Cooper's Town, in coordination with PAHO.
- The Grand Bahama EMT also brought 34 tons of medical equipment and tents.
- Team Rubicon provided an EMT for Abaco for a 15-day mission.
- PAHO is supporting cleaning operations for Rand Memorial Hospital (Grand Bahama) and Marsh Harbour Clinic (Abaco). This support also includes the provision of back-up generators and rotation of medical staff.
- EMTs who are monitoring/stand-by for the emergency are encouraged to contact the PAHO CICOM focal points.
- UNFPA has reproductive health and dignity supplies pre-positioned.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Communications with health centres are being restored but there is still no electricity on the island, according to PAHO's Emergency Operations Center.


**Protection**
**Needs:**

- UNICEF anticipates that psychosocial support for children and adolescents will be a priority need.

**Response:**

- UNICEF plans for potential distribution of kits for psychosocial support in shelters. A UNICEF protection specialist is expected shortly.
- UNFPA team (3) will arrive in Nassau on 8 September to conduct assessments to inform actions related to gender-based violence.

## Shelter

### Needs:

- The Government of the Bahamas issued an Immediate Assistance Supplies List on 4 September detailing specific support needed for shelters, including tents, cots, blankets, tarpaulin, portable stoves and cleaning supplies.
- IOM reports that many are sheltering in clinics and require relocation.
- CDEMA is prioritizing the allocation of space for emergency shelter solutions and are exploring options with UN teams on the ground to find short-term solutions while CDEMA works to secure longer-term solutions.

### Response:

- NEMA has requested IFRC's and IOM's support to coordinate the provision of emergency shelters in Abaco Islands.
- Red Cross volunteers are providing psychosocial support for people currently in shelters.
- IOM is planning to deploy its Displacement Tracking Matrix.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Prevalent flooding and blocked roads are preventing people from accessing shelter.
- IOM requires more detailed assessments to understand the full scope of the needs of displaced people.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs:

- The National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) reports there is a shortage of drinking water on Abaco.
- Preliminary findings from the RNAT reconnaissance flight over Abaco suggests that pending assessments focus on the extent of the damage to water storage, distribution, disinfection. Grand Bahama may require a thorough assessment of water tanks.
- The Government of the Bahamas issued an Immediate Assistance Supplies List on 4 September detailing specific support needed for the Bahamas Water and Sewerage Corporation (WSC), detailing a need for potable purified water, water bladders, water containers, water purification kits, water pumps to address floods, salt water reverse osmosis plant, bladder tanks, generators for power pumps, hygiene kits, plastic storage pumps and latrines.

### Response:

- UNICEF deployed WASH experts to the Bahamas.
- In collaboration with IFRC, a first shipment of UNICEF WASH supplies is expected to arrive on 8 September in Nassau, including water purification tabs to benefit approximately 9,500 people for two weeks and water tanks for 1,920 daily and water containers for 500 families.
- In order to kick-start the response, UNICEF has activated its Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) mechanisms with US\$ 500,000 available.
- Mercy Corps has jerry cans in Nassau ready to be delivered. Available upon request is dewatering equipment, lifestraw water filters, water bladders, EmWatt system, and chlorine tabs. A WASH technician is arriving on 10 September.
- DFID has supplied hygiene kits and bottled water in Marsh Harbor.

### Constraints:

- WFP, who are set to install a logistics hub in Marsh Harbour (Abaco), are concerned with water and sanitation safety in Marsh Harbour, not only for the affected population, but for humanitarian actors set to deploy.

## Emergency Telecommunications

### Response:

- At the request of CDEMA, WFP provides 8 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), 4 generators, 6 prefab offices and 5 VSATs to address logistical and telecommunications gaps where needed.
- WFP IT EPR Officer deployed to Bahamas to join the CDEMA RNAT team to conduct rapid assessments in affected locations.
- ETC emergency communications equipment prepositioned at UNHRD Panama (14 x VSAT Kits) could be deployed if needed to support humanitarian operations.
- Télécoms Sans Frontières LAC deployed to The Bahamas with satellite connectivity equipment. The first TSF team arrived on 4 September, quickly establishing a satellite connection at the Marsh Harbor Emergency Coordination Centre in Abaco.
- Drones are used to capture high resolution aerial imagery for situation monitoring and mapping. WFP providing technical support to setup drone team and coordination mechanisms flights, data capture and processing.

### Constraints:

- Hurricane Dorian caused severe damage to telecoms infrastructure. Some locations are completely disconnected.
- Services from the 2 MNOs/TELCOs in Bahama (BTC and Alive) have suffered major interruptions in Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama.
- Aerial assessments indicate some GSM connectivity. Intermittent connectivity was reported on Abaco, especially over Sandy Point. Further ground assessment required to identify gaps.
- Terrestrial internet and landline services still down in Abaco Islands, and operating at 60% in Grand Bahamas, but TELCOs expect that this will worsen during the day.

## Logistics

### Response:

- At the request of CDEMA, WFP provided eight Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), four generators, six prefab offices and five VSATs to address logistical and telecommunications gaps where needed.
- CDEMA and WFP are developing a logistics operations plan, including a scale up of logistics coordination capacities and assets.
- WFP has a team of 15 experts in emergency operations & coordination on the ground.
- A WFP chartered aircraft carrying 14,700 individual meals-ready-to-eat (MREs), logistical and telecommunications equipment arrived in Nassau on 6 September, and were immediately loaded to ship to the islands.
- WFP is also supporting with pre-impact analysis of potential logistical bottlenecks to inform the Government-led response.
- IFRC has begun to receive and distribute aid – their second cargo, loaded with 20T of relief, arrived in the Bahamas on 7 September, with a third charter with 40T expected on 9 September.
- The ships HMS *Johan de Witt* and HMS *Snellius* from the Netherlands armed forces are set to arrive in the Bahamas on 11 September. The HMS *Johan de Witt* is equipped with desalination equipment, two helicopters and several landing vessels to transport relief items. The HMS *Snellius* has hydrographic assessment capacities for detecting underwater obstacles that may require clearing for port access. Both ships are transporting civil-military rescue operations trained marines.

### Constraints:

- WFP reports challenges in organizing and determining which partners have supplies to transport, what those supplies are, the volume of the supplies, and current capacities in Marsh Harbour, the main point of entry and access for supply distribution on Abaco.

## 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 Function (ESF) humanitarian coordination structure, composed of 13 ESFs with their own lead ministries or departments to align response functions between relevant stakeholders.

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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