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Caribbean Hurricanes

Regional Humanitarian Situation Report No.4

21 September 2017

Highlights

Hurricanes Irma, Jose and Maria (which continues to hit the Caribbean), have put the well-being of hundreds of thousands of children in danger. A few highlights of UNICEF’s initial response include: Two airlifts have provided relief supplies for Cuba, Turks and Caicos. In ECA, 30,000 people have been reached with WASH supplies. 6,500 children, mainly in Barbuda and TCI, are beginning to benefit from UNICEF’s response in WASH, recreational kits, educational material and psychosocial support (PSS) through the Return to Happiness programme. Water purification tablets, oral rehydration salts, tents, family hygiene and dignity kits have been distributed to Dominica. In Cuba, UNICEF has distributed 3 million chlorine purifying tablets to government authorities for ~44,000 people and action is underway to provide chlorine tablets, jerry cans, hygiene kits, hygiene messaging and psycho-social support to affected populations. In Haiti, \$2.5M in supplies and cash has been utilized for WASH, water systems repair, chlorination of wells, provision of education supplies and clean-up of schools for the back to school campaign. Cholera rapid response teams have been deployed to flooded areas. Prepositioned plumpy-nut distributed as supplementary nutrition to affected children. The distribution of school kits is in progress for 5,000 children in the most affected schools of the northwest. Across the region, traditional, social and multi-media messaging is focused on the need for child protection in emergencies.

Situation in numbers

+339,000 estimated # children in need of immediate assistance

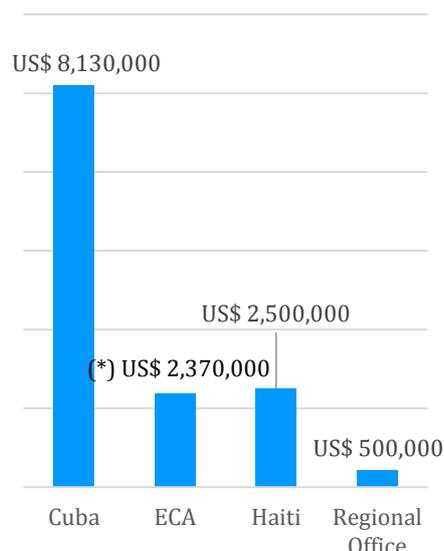
45,000 children at risk from hurricane Maria in ECA, with **20,000** children potentially affected in Dominica

2,262 schools affected in Cuba

132 schools affected in Anguilla, Barbuda, BVI and TCI Islands

Estimated Funding Needs

US\$ 13,500,000



FUNDING NEEDS

Funding requirements based on initial figures from UNICEF Country Offices. September 20, 2017

Sector	Cuba (US\$)	ECA (US\$)	Haiti (US\$)	Regional (US\$)	TOTAL (US\$)
WASH	6,130,000	290,000	1,350,000	-	7,770,000
Education (*)	2,000,000	1,300,000	600,000	-	3,900,000
Child Protection	-	650,000	500,000	-	1,150,000
Others (**)	-	130,000	50,000	500,000	680,000
TOTAL	8,130,000	2,370,000*	2,500,000	500,000	13,500,000

* Including Early Childhood assistance.

** Including Coordination, Logistics, C4D and other cross-cutting issues.

* ECA Funding need does not include the needs derived from Maria’s impact. It will be revised once needs are clearer and María is over.

Hurricane Maria, another Category 5 hurricane, is currently following a similar path to Irma, having made landfall in the Leeward Islands of Dominica, Guadalupe and Martinique on the evening on 18 September, and it will continue on through the Eastern Caribbean hitting Puerto Rico, northern Dominican Republic and TCI over the following few days. UNICEF and partners are working simultaneously on responding to Irma whilst preparing for Maria.

- Initial reports show very high levels of destruction to the islands of Dominica due to Hurricane Maria. Classes that were meant to restart on Monday 18 September were postponed in Antigua.
- The level of need could rise drastically over the next few days.
- Needs assessment has been completed in Haiti. There has been no increase in cases of cholera reported since Irma.
- 13 out of 15 provinces in Cuba have been affected by Irma.
- Needs assessment has confirmed there is no requirement for international assistance to respond to Irma in Dominican Republic. However, heavy rains and a tropical wave have caused flooding in the country, and more rain is anticipated with Maria.
- Stay safe information sent to 17,000 U-Reporters, and over 2,400 individual questions about Maria responded to it under 24 hours

Whilst needs assessments after Irma continue and are completed, attention has turned to Hurricane Maria, another Category 5 Hurricane that is following a similar trajectory to Irma. In islands affected by Irma in the Eastern Caribbean, Dominican Republic and Cuba, recovery continues simultaneously with preparedness activities, and the anticipated return to school for many students has been halted. Needs assessments have been completed in Dominican Republic and confirm that Irma brought less damage than originally predicted, but heavy rains and a tropical wave have brought flooding to parts of the country. In Cuba, the assessment relies on Government information. There is concern that a large proportion of crops has been damaged, affecting future food security. It is anticipated that numbers of children in need will increase over the next few days as Maria continues on its path.

Estimated Affected Population / Estimated Targeted Population

(Estimates calculated based on figures from UNICEF Country Offices. September 20, 2017)

Country Office	People in need of immediate assistance	Children in need of immediate assistance	People to be reached	Children to be reached
Cuba ¹	930,000	176,700	560,315	142,557
ECA ²	136,081	37,009	136,081	37,009
Haiti ³	300,000	126,000	300,000	126,000
TOTAL	1,366,081	339,709	996,396	305,566

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

- National response to the emergency is ongoing led by each National Government and their respective sectorial Ministries. UNICEF COs continue to actively participating in coordination meetings and providing technical assistance.
 - In Cuba, a CERF request has been prepared with focus on Education and WASH. This will include early childhood development, education and recreation activities for socio-emotional support.
 - UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Office is fully engaged with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) response mechanism to conduct the rapid assessment.
- UNICEF LACRO has taken part in regional coordination meetings led by OCHA where sector actions and operation mechanisms for the response are being analyzed and agreed. A Regional Response Plan for some the countries affected by the Hurricane finished and disseminated.
- UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Office is coordinating closely with all local authorities, including those of the affected British Overseas Territories which are considered under the Eastern Caribbean Multi-Country Programme (British Virgin Islands, Turks & Caicos Islands and Anguilla). The islands being part of the Kingdom of The Netherlands and part of France are receiving direct support from the government of The Netherlands and of France. Where requested, UNICEF LACRO is providing advice to the UNICEF NatComs.
- The Education Regional Group has met and shared information about presence and response actions in the affected countries.

Summary Analysis by CO

Eastern Caribbean Islands

The islands of the Eastern Caribbean are currently battling Hurricane Maria, which has already brought devastating damage to Dominica. The British Virgin Islands, which along with Anguilla and Turks & Caicos Islands bore the brunt of Hurricane Irma over the 6-8 September period, also remain in Maria's path. Many activities planned as part of the response to Irma have been put on standby as preparedness activities have been undertaken for the third category 5 hurricane in a month.

¹ Cuba. Estimates provided by OCHA and Cuba CO. Plan of Action, 18 September.

² ECA. Estimates including Dominica, which was severely affected by Hurricane Maria. The number of affected people and children can increase. Assessment are ongoing.

³ Haiti. Estimates provided by Haiti CO.

Many school classes that were due to restart on 18 September were postponed due to Maria. 17,000 people in BVI, TCI and Anguilla who were displaced by Hurricane Irma, including 1,300 living in shelters, are particularly vulnerable to Hurricane Maria which is forecast to affect these countries. Initial estimates suggest that 45,000 children in ECA are at risk from Hurricane Maria, of which 20,000 are in Dominica.

UNICEF CO Response

Over 6,500 children, mainly in Turks and Caicos Islands and Barbuda, are beginning to benefit from UNICEF's response in WASH, recreational kits, educational material and psychosocial support through the rollout of the Return to Happiness programme.

- To support the return to normalcy for children in the four affected countries (Anguilla, Barbuda & Antigua, BVI and TCI), UNICEF has been working with partners on the ground to identify and respond to the most immediate needs.
- UNICEF has worked with FLOW communication to send C4D messages around promoting good hygiene practices, child safety and protection, and the prevention of mosquito borne illnesses in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos islands
- In Antigua and Barbuda UNICEF and other partners (WFP, Red Cross, UNFPA and DFID) are exploring plans to facilitate cash transfers for affected families.
- In Antigua and Barbuda consultations have been held with persons residing in shelters to ascertain their needs. UNICEF will be working jointly with Ministry of Social Transformation and other partners to ensure that C4D messages on child protection and health are disseminated to children and parents. To date more than 500 fliers have been disseminated with messages on child protection and WASH to families affected by Hurricane Irma.
- Over 75,000 water purification tablets, 250 WASH leaflets, 250 Child Safety Leaflets, 6,600 collapsible water containers, 1453 Jerry cans, 960 blankets, 18 rolls of tarpaulin, school equipment including 261 school bags, 300 books and 4 school-in-a-box and Return to Happiness training manuals have been ordered
- The northern liaison unit based in Antigua is operational with two staff members. This unit is liaising with the CDEMA hub for a coordinated rapid and efficient deployment and supply receipt and distribution to all affected northern islands focusing on Anguilla, Barbuda and British Virgin Islands.
- A Supply Division Logistics specialist joined the ECA team on surge to provide support and facilitate the receipt and disbursement of supplies into the affected countries. He is presently stationed in Providenciales, where he assisted with the setting up of a temporary warehouse.
- Two UNICEF ECA Specialists were deployed to TCI with a special focus on child protection, ECD and education needs. One was positioned with the assessment team in South Caicos, the other was part of the assessment team for Grand Turk and collectively they are part of CDEMA's northern Caribbean rapid assessment and response team in Providenciales. UNICEF M&E Specialist was deployed to Antigua and onward to BVI on 12 September and is part of the assessment teams and staging the preparations for initial response. Two others – a WASH and Education/Child Protection Specialists are in Antigua awaiting transfers to BVI. The ECD Specialist was positioned to Antigua awaiting entry into Anguilla.
- Joint Action Planning with the UN System in Barbados has been started for the next stage of humanitarian response and recovery.
- WASH: Once the repair stage begins UNICEF will provide material and technical support to the Ministry of Education for the hygienic cleaning of all affected schools, especially those used as shelters to enable quick return to regular education. For schools with interrupted water supply, UNICEF will support the installation of 1,000 litre water tanks.
- Education: Students from Antigua returned to school on 11 September, while those in Barbuda will return in two phases – senior students on 18 September and junior students on 2 October. They will be accommodated at a school in Antigua. UNICEF will also ensure that all preschool age children and girls, have access to quality education and care opportunities in safe and secure learning environments that promote the protection and well-being of learners.
- Child Protection: UNICEF is collaborating with IOM to undertake an audit of all shelters to ensure that the shelters meet basic humanitarian standards. This process started in Antigua on Monday 18 September in relation to shelters, which are housing Barbudans who have been evacuated to Antigua. UNICEF is also readying itself to provide some post-disaster rehabilitation of children's homes, which suffered significant damage during the hurricane.
- Thematic Funds in the amount of US\$1 million have been received to date through US Funds for UNICEF donated by Carnival Cruises, others are being sought from EMOPS while private sector fundraising in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region has been initiated by the Regional Office.

Gaps and needs

- UNICEF is still awaiting reports from the joint sub-regional rapid needs assessments (RNAT), which were organized by CDEMA, and continues to follow up and provide inputs to the next planned assessments.
- Assessments and plans will need to be adjusted after Friday, when Maria will have made its way through the Eastern Caribbean and past Turks and Caicos.

Cuba

Over 930,000 people are in immediate need of assistance in the most affected municipalities. There is severe damage to infrastructure and vital sectors such as housing, energy infrastructure, water supply, food production, health and education are affected. There is concern that agriculture has been severely affected and the impact of this may be felt in a few months. Recovery is expected to take time and needs are not yet fully estimated. Around 210,000 houses have been severely affected, and 3.1 million people have had their water supply disrupted, many of whom live in areas that was severely affected by drought just four years ago. 2,262 schools have been damaged, of which over 500 are in Havana. Health,

including waterborne diseases, is of major concern with around 70% of hospitals and policlinics damaged. Hurricane Maria is not deemed a major threat for Cuba at present.

UNICEF CO Response

- UNICEF has distributed to the authorities 3 million chlorine purifying tablets to cover the population of approximately 44,000 people, the population of Caribbean (39,000 people) for 21 days.
- UNICEF Cuba has started the purchasing process of 3.7 million chlorine purifying tablets to cover the population of Camajuani (60,000 people), as well as the purchase of 10 L water tanks (2 tanks per family) for approximately 30,000 families in Caibarien y Camajuani.
- UNICEF has participated in the UN launch of the Plan of Action on 19 September. The Plan will focus on supporting the rehabilitation of schools and the upgrading of their water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, which will include all of the most affected municipalities in La Habana, Matanzas, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila and Camagüey Provinces, where the most severe damage to the Education Sector is also reported.
- Human interest stories from Cuba, including photos have been produced.

Gaps and needs

- The Ministry of Public Health has confirmed the need for first-line medicines, such as oral rehydration salts, first aid kits, Doxycycline, water treatment tablets, tests to determine chlorine levels, calcium hypochlorite for disinfection, and rapid tests for the diagnosis of cholera, malaria and E. Coli.; as well supplies for protection against vector-borne diseases, impregnated mosquito nets and Temephos at 1%.
- More than 2,770 water supply systems remain affected, mainly due to the lack of electricity. Thirteen percent of electric power service remains to be restored, directly affecting water pumping and the intensity with which water is supplied to the population.
- Coastal flooding, damage to sanitation facilities, and the flooding of rivers has contaminated cisterns limiting access to safe, potable water.
- Damage to health centres includes the need to re-establish the functionality of water tanks and generators at primary health care facilities.
- Authorities have encouraged the return of children to school, however, the high number of damaged schools and schools used as evacuation centers hinders this effort, with 537 early childhood centers and boarding schools not being able to resume.

Haiti

The situation in the three northern departments of North-West, North and North-East, which were most affected by Hurricane Irma, is improving and the population is now resuming their regular activities. The water has receded from flooded areas. The population that was temporarily relocated to temporary shelters have been able to return to home. Education activities resumed fully in the Northern part of the country. The initial assessment of the Inter-ministerial evaluation reported one death, one missing and 17 people as seriously injured, an estimated 10,000 people evacuated to temporary shelters, 5,000 houses destroyed or seriously damaged, three schools as totally destroyed in the North-West department and 21 schools having been severely damaged (three in Centre, three in Artibonite and 15 in the North West). Regarding cholera, despite the passage of the hurricane, no increase in cholera cases has been observed to date. The road network has been badly damaged with some bridges washed away. Moreover, many crops, banana plantations and fruit trees have been affected, raising concerns for the coming harvest.

UNICEF CO Response

UNICEF staff have been on the ground to support Departmental Coordination and the implementation of activities of its implementing partners (ACF, OXFAM) through the activation of contingency PCAs.

- In North-West, ACF is working with the DINEPA through the contingency PCA to fix the water station in Jean Rabel. Works are expected to take about a month. ACF has installed a bladder of chlorinated water, distributed by a DINEPA truck. Other insecure sources are being monitored by ACF. Anse a Foleur damages will be fixed by the DINEPA themselves.
- In North-East, Oxfam continues to dislodge and disinfect flooded wells. The water network of Dosmond in Ouanaminthe has been damaged and is currently being diagnosed for repair.
- In Artibonite, a water network in La Chapelle is down as about 250m of waterpipes installed across the river have been carried away by flooding. Given the high rates of cholera in the department, emergency chlorination points have been set up while network repairs have already started and will be further supported by Helvetas.
- In the West department, a power generator has been damaged in Cabaret. ACTED has installed chlorination points near hand pumps while the DINEPA is planning the repair of generator.
- UNICEF continued supporting the Ministry of Education for the assessment of schools damaged in the aftermath of Irma. Around 126,000 children are in need of assistance, especially in the North-East. Irma hit at the very beginning of the school year and many children lost the materials they had already purchased. Assessment for supporting school furniture replacement for 12 schools that have been badly affected by the floods in the aftermath of Irma are undergoing. Implementing partners, Care and Plan, have resumed Back-to-School activities in the North and North-East, prioritizing schools that were affected by Irma, with the distribution of school materials and students' kits. Those materials will contribute to encouraging children's return to school.
- With the IBESR, (the government child protection agency), the Brigade for the Protection of Minors, and several implementing partners, especially the St. John sisters, UNICEF is providing assistance to ensure that children in alternative care, children (and their families) currently affected by the binational crisis, and children from vulnerable families affected by hurricane Irma, receive adequate care. Partners working in the North East are working closely with

IBESR to return children evacuated from residential care centers to while systematically documenting them. Border monitoring mechanisms continue to be mobilized.

- In Nutrition, stocks of therapeutic nutrition commodities prepositioned in the Northern departments continue to be used by health structures. UNICEF is finalizing a partnership with FONDEFH, a local NGO, that responded to a call for proposal to revitalize nutrition activities in North and North East prior to Hurricane Irma. ACF and MDM-Canada are already active in the North-West for management and prevention of malnutrition and activities are ongoing normally.

Gaps and needs

- Close monitoring of hurricane Maria is ongoing. Setting up of emergency preparedness measures are in place.
- Evaluation in remote areas affected by hurricane Irma is ongoing.
- Replenishment of the contingency stock in preparation of potential new hurricane needs to be continued, in particular as the hurricane season continues until end of November.
- UNICEF Haiti needs US\$ 2.5m to finance activities in response to the impact of hurricane Irma and to replenish its contingency stocks.

Dominican Republic (DR)

As previously reported, initial impact from Irma was lower than anticipated, and almost all the people who were temporarily displaced have been able to return to their homes. There are no people in shelters because of the hurricane. Preliminary results from initial assessment suggest that there are no affected schools, there are no cases of unaccompanied children and there are no specific problems related to violence. Recovery of areas affected by Irma continues, with the Government taking the lead on rebuilding affected or damaged infrastructure. However, large volumes of rain have continued to fall due to hurricanes Irma and Jose saturating the soil in the eastern, northeast, central mountain and some provinces of the northeast/border regions. In addition, a tropical wave that passed after Irma affected 318 houses, and destroyed a further 41. Major flooding is anticipated as Hurricane Maria has just passed through the eastern and northern part of the country starting early Thursday morning⁴.

UNICEF CO Response

The (BCP) business continuity Plan has been reviewed, including actions to prepare the staff, communications assurance and review of protocols to activate in emergencies. They have been revised and have updated the local suppliers of for interventions that could be arranged with the Government.

- Potential sectoral interventions are prepared for health, water and sanitation, education and protection. Potential humanitarian partners in the field have been contacted for their implementation.
- In-country available funds are identified for the immediately emergency response.
- A message package has been developed for the preparation for a hurricane, reviewed by the Center of Emergency Operations (COE), and disseminated. Additional messages will be disseminated, as needed, in close coordination with the COE.

Regional Actions include:

Education:

- LACRO Education team is working with UNICEF HQ in order to identify a consultant to be part of the Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) mission for ECA countries, representing the Education sector.
- Revision of supply plan to enable CO to send an updated document based on budget changes in CERF.
- The Education Regional Group met and shared information about presence and response actions in the affected countries.
- Child Protection:
 - Follow-up to the Antigua Shelter Assessments.
 - Follow-up to start of Return to Happiness programme in Antigua.
- Gender:
 - All of the affected countries by Irma have received support on gender and emergencies guidance for inclusion in assessments as well as materials to conduct a GBViE assessment for children.
 - LACRO has been in touch with UN-Women to ensure that any gender assessment involves UNICEF. In addition, LACRO has offered support in the assessment tools/questions.
- WASH:
 - LACRO is advocating for governments of affected countries, especially in Eastern Caribbean to consider provision of mosquito nets and repellent to the affected populations.
 - LACRO is advocating to look out for outbreaks of related diseases of water not treated for human consumption. Surveillance and monitoring of appropriate use of chlorine supplies being distributed to families.
- Health and Nutrition:
 - UNICEF is advocating for governments of affected countries to reinstate and operationalize affected health care services for infants, young children and pregnant women from affected populations.
 - LACRO is advocating to address the concern that the nutrition situation may rapidly deteriorate (outbreaks of diarrhea followed by a rise of acute malnutrition cases) if no preventive actions are taken to protect and support

⁴ More details will be provided as assessments of Maria's impact in Dominican Republic are completed.

infant and young child feeding practices (e.g. evaluate current practices, provide safe places and skilled support to breastfeeding mothers, ensure the suitability of the general food rations for feeding infants 6-24 months).

- LACRO is available to support UNICEF COs to advocate for the Government in affected countries to consider the prevention of the deterioration of the nutritional status of infant and young children through the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding, the support of suitable and appropriate complementary feeding for children under 6 months, and the provision of micronutrient supplements to young children and pregnant and lactating women.
- LACRO contacted the Nutrition in Emergency focal point from Dominica Ministry of Health after through GRIN-LAC to provide guidance on key nutrition actions in emergency response in light of Hurricane Maria. LACRO is available to provide support in nutrition in emergencies as needed.
- Supply:
 - A new shipment is being organized for TIC with 777 tarps, 10,000 water purification sachets, 2000 mosquito nets, 48 school-in-a-box kits and 96 recreation kits
 - Planned departure 23 Sep considering developing weather conditions
 - Larger procurement of supplies is being coordinated with Supply Division
- Human Resources:
 - 13 personnel deployed to support the emergency (2 in Haiti, 2 in Panama and 9 in ECA). It is important to note that 4 out of the 9 in ECA have completed their deployment.
 - Deployment from Ecuador CO to support BVI education and protection response. Staff member has been briefed by LACRO colleagues on child protection actions that are being developed. Due to Hurricane Maria staff member is in Antigua waiting to travel to BVI where support is being given to ensure the integration of children and adolescents from Barbuda in the schools of Antigua.
 - Two international staff will arrive in Cuba on Wednesday 20, in Communication and Response planning posts.
- Communications and Media:
 - A [Photo Essay](#), [Web Story](#) and a [Blogpost](#) on the impact of Hurricane Irma and UNICEF's preparedness and response for Hurricane Maria have been produced and published. More than 150 quality pictures have been shared and are already available in UNICEF's public Weshare. With support from DOC two new videos ([1](#) and [2](#)) have been produced and shared in global, regional and national social media and digital platforms.
 - Social media messages continue moving in our own channels.
- Communication to engage communities (C4D) and U-Report:
 - A health, nutrition and WASH poll was sent to U-Reporters affected by Irma on Thursday 14 September. Whilst 80% of respondents said they felt confident to make their water safe to drink, and 84% said they were aware that mosquitos brought disease, just 48% of U-Reporters who are pregnant, breastfeeding or with a child under 5 said they had access to a health provider. 90% of U-Reporters said the information they had received via U-Report was helpful.
 - A 'stay safe' message was sent to 11,500 U-Reporters on Monday 18 September with regards to Hurricane Maria.
 - 4,500 more individuals have signed up to U-Report to receive information about Maria. The vast majority of these new U-Reporters are in the Dominican Republic.
 - In 24 hours (Monday 7pm – Tuesday 7pm) over 2,000 individual questions about Hurricane Maria have been answered via U-Report. Concerns include at what time and where Maria will arrive, and whether there really is another hurricane coming.
- Fundraising:
 - Donation from Carnival Cruises (\$1,000,000) through UNICEF USA for ECA Country Office has been remitted on Friday 15 September.
 - Corporate Donations from Target & Google (\$50,000 and in excess of \$500,000) through UNICEF USA for all affected CO's have been confirmed.
 - Individual major donor donation (\$100,000) through UNICEF USA for all affected CO's has been confirmed.

Next Sit-Rep: 26/09/2017

For more information:

Please see all posts on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

Results from: U-Reporters in countries and islands affected by Irma tell us their health needs? <http://ureport.in/poll/2265/>

Photos: <https://we.tl/e5WwiaODk9>.

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