

A group of Dominican children participate in a psychosocial Return to Happiness session



# Eastern Caribbean Humanitarian Situation Report No. 10



18 October 2017

Situation in numbers

## Highlights

- According to the Post Disaster Needs Assessment for Barbuda, recovery needs are estimated at EC\$596 million (US\$220.8 million), of which recovery costs in shelters are estimated to be EC\$214.9 (US\$79 million), in health at EC\$19.8 million (US\$7 million), and in education at EC\$13.2 (US\$4.8 million).
- Education: As of 17 October, some 14,000 children in the affected countries of Anguilla, Barbuda, Turks & Caicos Islands, are attending schools equipped with pedagogical/recreation material. An additional 1,500 secondary school students from Dominica are expected to return to school on 19 October.
- Child Protection: Some 2,300 children (19 per cent of the target) received psycho-social support, while another 7,115 (18 per cent) children have access to safe community spaces as of 17 October.
- WASH: 35,750 people (a quarter of the affected population) have been reached by UNICEF with safe water, and 6,500 children have access to functional hand-washing facilities and soap in schools, learning centres and safe spaces. Over 2,920 evacuees in shelters were provided with sanitation and/or hygiene and dignity kits.
- As of the 17 October one-month anniversary of Hurricane Maria, 2,900 people reside in shelters in Dominica (a slight increase since the previous reporting period) and 207 Barbuda evacuees are in shelters in Antigua.

**39,000**

# of affected children in need of assistance in Hurricane Irma and Maria-affected countries

**19,800**

# of affected children in Dominica

**2,900**

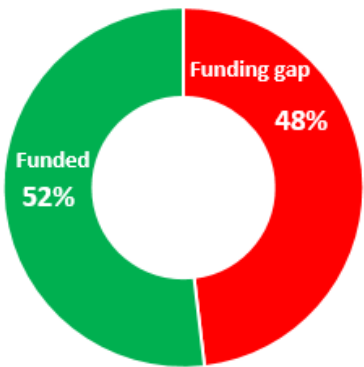
# of people in shelters in Dominica

**1,070**

# of children from Dominica and Barbuda estimated to be integrated in schools in Antigua

|                                                                                                                   | UNICEF         |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                                                                                                                   | UNICEF Target* | Total Results |
| WASH: # people with access to safe water                                                                          | 141,621        | 35,800        |
| Child Protection: # of children enrolled in psycho-social activities                                              | 12,131         | 2,300         |
| Education: # of children attending schools equipped with critical pedagogical and/or recreational materials       | 26,254         | 12,780        |
| Cross-sectoral: # of affected population with access to information on good hygiene, and on safety and protection | 143,006        | 81,900        |

## UNICEF Funding Needs US\$8,570,000



\*Targets on education have been adjusted for the Turk and Caicos Islands and Dominica following an assessment of education needs. Similarly, the WASH target has been adjusted to reflect the situation in Dominica.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Recovery in Eastern Caribbean countries which were impacted by two powerful category 5 hurricanes between 8 and 18 September 2017 is progressing. One month after the disastrous events, efforts continue to re-establish critical services such as water, electricity and telecommunications in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Dominica, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. While countries affected by Irma - such as Anguilla, BVI and Turks and Caicos islands - have now entered the recovery phase, the focus in Dominica still largely remains focused on emergency support.

A total of 38,987 children have been affected in these countries, and more than a quarter of them are under five years of age. Although national authorities are making significant progress in restoring services for children, many of them are still in need of protection, education, clean water and other critical services.

The draft Post Disaster Needs Assessment for Barbuda confirms a picture of almost total devastation, with an estimated total recovery cost of US\$220.8 million. The social services sector was heavily impacted and the recovery cost to the housing stock was estimated at US\$79 million, health at US\$7 million and education at US\$4.8 million. All Barbudan children are now attending formal education in Antigua.

| Estimated Population at Risk of potential Hurricane impact<br><i>Estimates based on latest Population and Housing Census</i>                                          |                |               |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Start of humanitarian response:<br>06 September 2017 – Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos islands<br>20 September – Commonwealth of Dominica |                |               |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                       | Total          | Male          | Female        |
| <b>Total Population at Risk</b>                                                                                                                                       | <b>143,006</b> | <b>71,859</b> | <b>71,147</b> |
| Anguilla                                                                                                                                                              | 13,555         | 6,698         | 6,857         |
| Barbuda                                                                                                                                                               | 1,595          | 837           | 758           |
| British Virgin Islands                                                                                                                                                | 28,054         | 13,820        | 14,234        |
| Dominica                                                                                                                                                              | 69,246         | 35,377        | 33,869        |
| Turks & Caicos Islands                                                                                                                                                | 30,556         | 15,127        | 15,429        |
| <b>Children Under 18 at Risk</b>                                                                                                                                      | <b>38,987</b>  | <b>19,690</b> | <b>19,297</b> |
| Anguilla                                                                                                                                                              | 3,778          | 1,908         | 1,870         |
| Barbuda                                                                                                                                                               | 541            | 280           | 261           |
| British Virgin Islands                                                                                                                                                | 7,367          | 3,767         | 3,600         |
| Dominica                                                                                                                                                              | 19,774         | 10,013        | 9,761         |
| Turks & Caicos Islands                                                                                                                                                | 7,527          | 3,722         | 3,805         |
| <b>Children Under Five at Risk</b>                                                                                                                                    | <b>10,737</b>  | <b>5,478</b>  | <b>5,259</b>  |
| Anguilla                                                                                                                                                              | 1,058          | 546           | 512           |
| Barbuda                                                                                                                                                               | 174            | 88            | 86            |
| British Virgin Islands                                                                                                                                                | 2,134          | 1,126         | 1,008         |
| Dominica                                                                                                                                                              | 4,927          | 2,479         | 2,448         |
| Turks & Caicos Islands                                                                                                                                                | 2,444          | 1,239         | 1,205         |

## Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) - an inter-governmental organization under CARICOM - has been providing the overall leadership and coordination for the humanitarian community with support from OCHA and other UN agencies. Additionally, CDEMA has been the interlocutor with military from UK, The Netherlands and Canada, who provided vital support to logistics and transportation in the initial response phase. Within the UN, OCHA and the Resident Coordinators have created fora for coordination, while different agencies have led the support efforts in areas of comparative strength.

CDEMA will lead a rapid review of the recent and on-going responses from national authorities, the humanitarian community, as well as other external support actors. UNICEF will contribute financially and with technical support on

issues of particular relevance for children. The findings and recommendations from the review, which is planned to start next week, are likely to re-shape organizational structures and emergency preparedness and response plans for natural disasters with multi-island impact in the Caribbean.

PAHO - the UN agency with the widest footprint in the Eastern Caribbean – is leading support in the Health Sector, while WFP is leading on food distribution, and also providing logistical support to partners. IOM is leading support in organizing shelters and continues to provide guidance with other agencies. UNFPA and UN Women have provided support on gender specific issues, while UNICEF is leading in areas vital to children, including:

- Supplies and technical support to bring children back to school (in reopened schools or temporary facilities)
- Psycho-social support to small children and children of school age to overcome traumatic experiences (Return to Happiness programme)
- Advocacy for the protection of children evacuated, in shelters, without parental care or traveling alone
- Additionally, UNICEF is co-leading the WASH sector with PAHO. Support in this sector is of particular importance in Dominica.

As Antigua is the CDEMA sub-regional focal point responsible for northern ECA countries, including Anguilla and British Virgin Islands, as well as being the logistical hub for support to other countries and territories, national authorities have made valuable efforts to coordinate the wider community of humanitarian actors. DFID and the Red Cross have initiated and led cash transfer programmes to vulnerable families from Barbuda and in British Oversea Territories. A similar programme is under development in Dominica, with support from UN agencies.

## Humanitarian Strategy and Response

UNICEF continues to provide humanitarian support to affected children and families. The ongoing emergency response is focused on the provision of education, psycho-social support and other child protection services. In Dominica, an important part of UNICEF response focuses on water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) as the national water distribution system remains disrupted as a result of widespread damage to water mains. It is estimated that between 40-45 per cent of the population remain without access to piped water. Direct service delivery and technical support are being further complemented with communication strategies targeting vulnerable families with lifesaving information.

### CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF child protection response in the Eastern Caribbean region aims to ensure that children affected by the hurricanes are protected from harm, trauma and risks of abuse and violence. Although national authorities are working hard to re-open Early Childhood Centers, due to their high cost, they are out of reach for many vulnerable families.

To respond to the needs of children affected by the hurricanes, including the most vulnerable, UNICEF has established child-friendly spaces, with some 7,115 children having benefited already from recreation and learning activities in child friendly spaces or similar safe communities supported by UNICEF.

To address the risks of trauma from the recent disaster, UNICEF has also prioritized the provision psycho-social support, which is currently reaching some 2,300 children. Capacity building activities for teachers and care-takers have also been prioritized, with 181 facilitators trained on the Return to Happiness psycho-social support programme. Physical, sexual and emotional violence against children have been major concerns at home and in schools across the Caribbean even prior to the emergency, with up 60-70 per cent of children reportedly experiencing some form of physical violence or psychological abuse.

In emergency situations, the risk of violence against children can increase, which is why UNICEF response also includes a strong Communication for Development (C4D) component. Specific messages have been developed to reach parents and care-takers with communication messages on protection.

Special attention is also given to avoid children traveling alone and ensuring protection standards are met in shelters.

## EDUCATION

The enrollment rate of children in pre-schools and primary Schools in the affected areas prior to the emergency was nearly at the universal access level, and UNICEF is currently supporting national authorities to quickly bring children back to the classrooms and restore normalcy in children's life in safe protective environments. To this end, UNICEF is providing technical assistance, advocacy and much needed school materials and supplies to education institutions, while also supporting temporally learning spaces.

As a result of these efforts, some 6,800 school-age children and adolescents have already resumed their education, either in re-opened schools or temporary facilities. Nearly 14,000 pre-school, primary and secondary age children received critical school and recreational materials, and 835 children under five accessed safe learning and play activities.



*Desre Simon, 10, holds educational and recreational supplies that she received during a UNICEF distribution at the Antigua Recreation Ground (Antigua and Barbuda's national stadium), in St. John's, capital of the island of Antigua. © UNICEF/UN0121371/Moreno Gonzalez*

## WASH

Safe drinking-water and sanitation facilities are urgently needed for keeping children healthy. Through technical support and supplies UNICEF and partners continue to support National Authorities to provide affected populations with access to clean water and sanitation at household level, as well as in schools and other learning centers.

So far, around 35,750 people (a quarter of the affected population) have been reached by UNICEF with safe water, and 6,500 children have access to functional hand-washing facilities and soap in schools, learning centres and safe spaces. Over 2,920 evacuees in shelters were provided with sanitation and/or hygiene and dignity kits.

Since the beginning of the response, a total of 10,116 packs of water purification tablets were distributed to affected populations in key locations (480 in Barbuda; 160 in British Virgins Islands; 3,800 in Dominica; 5,726 in the Turks and Caicos Islands). In addition, 6,522 people (including 1,696 children) were reached with collapsible water containers in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

## Supply and Logistics

Delivery of much needed supplies for affected population continues, but challenges persist particularly in Dominica, where only one company is doing regular shipments once a week, and the capacity to receive high quantities of supplies and store them before distribution is limited. Half of the supplies already received (including 17 ECD and 40 school-in-the-box kits, 487 hygiene and dignity kits, 643 tents, boxes of 3,228 water purification tablets, etc.) have already been distributed.

Further shipments of supplies are in progress, including 2,400 hygiene and dignity kits, 20 tents and 49 recreational kits which are due to arrive in Dominica on 18 October. Arrangements have been concluded with port officials to facilitate the smooth processing and clearance of this cargo.

## Media and External Communication

UNICEF ECA continues have a good presence on national and international media, as well as on social media. During the past week there was coverage of Barbuda activities on UN-TV and in international media such as the Miami Herald. Additionally, a joint Press Release issued with UNAIDS for International Day of the Girl kept the focus on girls in disasters and emergencies. Social media also remained a key part of the external communication strategy with over 900,000 people reached on ECA's digital media platforms.

## Next Sit Rep: 25 October 2017

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