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Hurricane Irma

Regional Humanitarian Situation Report No.3

unicef

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Highlights

The aftermath of Hurricane Irma is putting the well-being of hundreds of thousands of children in the Caribbean in danger. The extent of the devastation to Cuba and islands in the Eastern Caribbean is beginning to become clearer as rapid assessments are underway. With high winds, heavy rain and storm surges, Irma caused widespread damage to homes, schools, health centers and basic infrastructure across the region.

- Hurricane Irma put 2.4 million children at risk; of these 271,000 were directly affected.
- Each island affected in the Eastern Caribbean has a different set of needs, with WASH, Child Protection and Education being priorities.
- Thousands of children are having their education disrupted, as schools across Cuba, Turks and Caicos islands, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Barbuda are damaged. This also raises child protection concerns.
- Supply needs are being identified, mainly education materials, hygiene kits, jerry cans and tarpaulins.
- UNICEF is taking part in multi-partner assessments across the region.
- Psycho-social support activities are underway in the Eastern Caribbean.
- UNICEF continues to use U-Report to send and receive vital information to 13,500 people across the region.

FUNDING NEEDS

Funding requirements based on initial figures from UNICEF Country Offices. 14 September 2017

Sector	Cuba (US\$)	ECA (US\$)	Haiti (US\$)	RO	TOTAL (US\$)
WASH	7,200,000	290,000	1,500,000	-	8,990,000
Education (*)	3,000,000	1,300,000	500,000	-	4,800,000
Child Protection	-	650,000	500,000	-	1,150,000
Others (**)	-	130,000	-	430,000	560,000
TOTAL	10,200,000	2,370,000	2,500,000	430,000	15,500,000

* Including Early Childhood assistance

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

Situation in numbers

2.4 million children identified at risk from the impact of the hurricane

+271,000 children directly affected

+1.19 million people directly affected

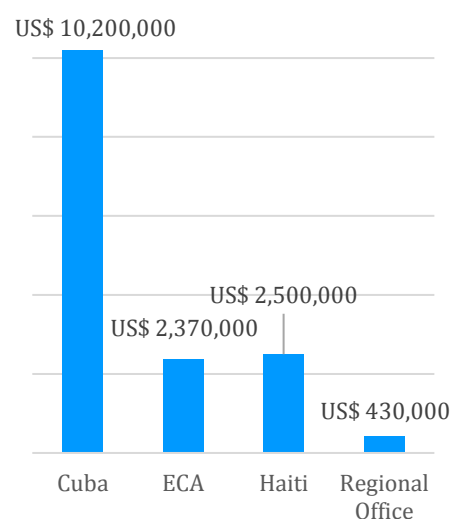
8,015 affected families in Haiti

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

1,700 schools affected in Cuba, with 500 in Havana alone

Estimated Funding Needs

US\$ 15,500,000



Situation Overview

Needs assessments are underway across all the islands affected by Hurricane Irma, a category five hurricane that hit the Caribbean between Wednesday-Sunday, 6-10 September, before moving on to cause further destruction in Florida. Damage has been confirmed in Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands (BVI), St Maarten/St Martin (both Dutch and French sides of the island), US Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos, Cuba and the Bahamas. While the impact was lower than originally feared in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, needs assessments are still underway. UNICEF staff are on the ground, working in close coordination with each government and implementing partners, evaluating the most urgent needs for children and adolescents.

Estimated Affected Population

(Estimates calculated based on initial figures from UNICEF Country Offices. 14 September 2017)

Country Office	Estimated number of affected people	Estimated number of affected children
Cuba ^[1]	900,000	171,000
Dominican Republic ^[2]	178,700	62,500
ECA ^[3]	73,760	19,213
Haiti ^[4]	45,000	18,932
TOTAL	1,197,460	271,645

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

- National response to the emergency is led by each National Government and their respective sectoral Ministries. UNICEF COs continue to actively participate in coordination meetings and provide technical assistance.
 - In Cuba, a CERF request is being coordinated with the government and the UNCT with a focus on Education and WASH. This will include early childhood development and recreation activities.
 - UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Office is fully engaged with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) response mechanism to conduct the first rapid needs assessment.
 - UNICEF Dominican Republic, as a part of UNETE, has offered support to the Government, and the WASH Group has been activated in the capital and in the northern region of the country. UNICEF could also request CERF, depending on the assessment of the humanitarian impact.
- 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 upon. OCHA has announced the intention to prepare a Regional Response Plan for some of the countries affected by the Hurricane.
- 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 that are part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and part of France are receiving direct support from the governments of The Netherlands and of France. Where requested, UNICEF LACRO is providing advice to the UNICEF NatComs.

Summary Analysis by CO

Cuba

Hurricane Irma spent 72 hours over Cuba, causing different levels of damage to in various parts of the island. It initially hit the area between Guantanamo and Las Tunas. Despite lots of wind, there was no serious impact during the first hours, but Irma maintained its strength and slowed its pace while travelling over the north coast, causing high impact, especially on houses and telecommunications. In the Central Region, many areas that focus on fishing, agriculture and tourism have been impacted. Irma spent 12 hours around Villa Clara, causing large-scale destruction in Ciego de Avila, Sancti Spiritus, Villa Clara and Camaguey. There is a possible impact on food security, as the affected area contains 80% of all cattle and more than 11,000 hectares of staple food plantations, all of which were affected. Flooding has affected the coastal areas of Matanzas, Mayabeque and La Havana. Many areas of Havana remain without power, while water supplies are beginning to be restored. The airport was closed until Wednesday. There is likely to be a need for housing reconstruction and rehabilitation of hospitals and educational centres in many areas, although this falls outside UNICEF's area of responsibility.

1. Cuba: Initial estimates provided by OCHA and Cuba CO.

2. DR: These estimates indicate the general population and children who are living in poverty and with high level of vulnerability to climate shock in the most affected provinces in the north (Samaná, Puerto Plata, Montecristi and María Trinidad Sánchez).

3. ECA: ECA Humanitarian Situation Report #5.

4. Haiti: Estimates provided by Civil Protection Department. After the conversation with the CO, we anticipate that this number may rise again as assessment of water systems are completed.

UNICEF CO Response

- UNICEF plans a similar response to Hurricane Irma as the one implemented for Hurricane Matthew but in more municipalities.
- UNICEF has identified WASH as a priority area. UNICEF will be providing chlorine tablets, jerry cans, hygiene kits and hygiene messaging.
- The CERF request draft is being finalized, focusing on WASH and education and specific supplies to support early childhood development, socio-emotional and recreation activities.
- UNICEF plans to work with UNESCO and WHO on Return to Happiness programmes. It is exploring the possibility of expanding its child protection role to include Return to School and Return to Protective Environment programmes as part of education.
- UNICEF is developing a supply plan for all sector needs to be shared. Current identified supplies include 1 whole container of jerry cans, 100 school in box kits 90 recreation kits, and 50 ECD kits.

Gaps and needs

- Communication has been difficult. Telecommunications have been badly affected. Stand-by partners with telecommunication expertise are available if needed.
- There have been fuel shortages, but power should be back running by the end of the week.
- UNICEF staff are also facing personal consequences of Irma, with lack of water and other basic services in their homes.
- UNICEF does not have the capacity to respond to all 14 municipalities affected. CO is currently looking to respond to eight municipalities.
- Thirteen out of the 15 warehouses that were available in the provinces have been damaged, making it difficult to store and distribute supplies. No UNICEF supplies have been lost or damaged.
- A communications plan is lacking; external communication is difficult, as everything needs to be Government approved.

Dominican Republic (DR)

The damage to the Dominican Republic was far less than expected, with no fatalities reported. However, a large number of people have been displaced in the north of the country. School classes (public and private) restarted on Monday, 11 September and the majority of displaced people have returned to their homes. Although the damage has not been large, the situation for children must be monitored, especially regarding basic water and sanitation services for children.

UNICEF CO Response

- Needs assessment missions were completed this week in the north of the country, and the humanitarian needs will largely be met by national authorities. While UNICEF will provide technical and specific small-scale support, the CO will not be requesting additional funding.

Eastern Caribbean Islands Area (ECA)

A large number of the Eastern Caribbean islands have been battered by Hurricane Irma. Six fatalities have been confirmed, though this figure may rise. Barbuda and Tortola and South Caicos in TVI report especially high damage. The majority of inhabitants of Barbuda, which was almost completely destroyed by Irma, are in Antigua, and despite school restarting today in Antigua, children from Barbuda were not eligible to attend. Telecommunications, power supply and water systems in Anguilla, BVI and TCI remain down. Many of the islands relied on bottled water before Irma hit, and some bottling plants have been affected. The plant in Anguilla is now fully operational, but the plant in South Caicos remains closed. Shelter, food and water for the multiple islands is crucial. Air access to the islands has begun to resume. There were reports of looting, and curfews have been put in place on some islands. The damage to school infrastructure greatly jeopardizes access to education for affected children. It is estimated that in all the islands, 19,200 children - of whom 5,500 are under five - are deprived of access to safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and safety, and 15,000 children and adolescents are in need of psycho-social support and protective environment.

UNICEF CO Response

- Children from the islands of Anguilla, BVI, TCI and Barbuda remain a UNICEF priority.
- 1,900 children and adolescents are to be reached by UNICEF psycho-social support and educational activities in Anguilla, Barbuda, BVI and TCI.
- UNICEF is part of the 22-strong UN Rapid Assessment and Response Teams gathering information for Turks and Caicos Islands.
- UNICEF took part in two site visits made to the National Technical Training Centre and Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground (Stadium) in Antigua. A joint visit will be made on Thursday to the other sites hosting evacuees in coordination with the Ministry of Social Protection.
- UNICEF has identified a need to provide school bags for children from Barbuda in Antigua. UNICEF has also identified that families staying with friends and family in Antigua may not be accessing services.
- To support the return to normalcy for children in the four affected countries, UNICEF has been working with partners on the ground to identify and respond to the most immediate needs. Pre-positioned supplies in Antigua are being distributed to affected populations that were evacuated from Barbuda. Supplies from Barbados are being shipped north. The supplies being immediately ordered are:
 - Water tanks (1,000l) to reach 69 schools/shelters to benefit approximately 7,700 children (+6 years old);
 - 193 ECD Kits for 193 communities to benefit 5,786 children (0-6 years old);
 - 309 school-in-a-box Kits for 309 communities to benefit 12,340 children (+6 years old);
 - 135 recreation activities to benefit more than 12,340 children (+6 years old);

- 69 tents for 64 communities to benefit 7,394 children (+6 years old).
- Pre-positioned supplies in Antigua are being distributed to the affected population evacuated from Barbuda to Antigua and supplies from Barbados emergency stocks are being shipped north.
- Return to Happiness activities are to start in Antigua on 14 September for Barbuda evacuees in the largest shelter in the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. Psychosocial support for children started on 12 September in Barbuda, and a further request has been received from TCI.
- The UNICEF team reports near total devastation in South Caicos, where 200 families will need to be evacuated.
- Education plays a key role during emergency situations, so UNICEF and partners will mobilize all the possible resources in order to accelerate the return to school for the affected child populations. Students in Antigua returned to school on 11 September. All six primary schools in Anguilla have been badly damaged and school may not restart until 1 October.
- C4D: UNICEF is using C4D strategies and tools to guarantee that all children and adolescents living in the affected areas are protected, healthy and have access to education and participation spaces.
 - Key messages sent via social media, WhatsApp and via traditional media;
 - C4D plan in place covering education, child protection and health;
 - Radio spots on health and child protection broadcast;
 - C4D questions integrated into the assessment tool that will be used by actors on the ground during the initial assessment;
 - 1,000 copies of communication materials produced (checklist for parent before an emergency, handwashing poster and flyer, tips for keeping your children safe after a disaster, prevent Zika & dengue after flooding, radio ads have been distributed).
- EPF and Thematic Funds are being sought from EMOPS, while private fundraising in LACRO has been initiated by LACRO.
- UNICEF continues to advocate for the rejection of donations of powdered baby milk.

Gaps and needs

- UNICEF WASH: for shelters, UNICEF will ensure adequate gender segregated sanitation and bathing facilities, with cleaning supply materials and family hygiene kits.
- Supply needs have been identified for Anguilla: 10,000 water cases, 200 tarpaulins, 200 water containers, 500 cleaning kits, 10,000 units of mosquito repellent, 5,000 hygiene kits, 5,000 food kits, 10,000 baby kits, 10,000 first aid kits, and 40 tents for shelter.
- In BVI, the supply needs identified include: tarpaulins, water jugs, water purification tablets, towels, blankets diapers, and medicines.
- In TVI, the supply needs identified include: emergency relief supplies, food for the entire population, tarpaulins, water supplies, mosquito repellent, shelter facilities and generators.
- Access to shelter, places in schools, and access to healthcare is required in Antigua.
- The security situation is critical in St Maarten (Dutch side), which is being described as a war zone. There has been looting in the streets and persons have been reported to be walking around with guns and machetes. The main support priorities for UNICEF are protection for the most vulnerable children and adolescents, psycho-social support to the most affected children and adolescents, water/sanitation and hygiene promotion, re-establishment of education in the education system, including early childhood development as the main protective environment, along with participation and engagement of families and children and adolescents in the recovery efforts.
- In South Caicos, there are a number of undocumented Haitian and Dominican Republic nationals. These families are vulnerable and report having no access to cash.
- UNICEF has identified the need for an Engineer/Architect to evaluate the infrastructure of schools that were damaged.

Haiti

The most exposed areas of Haiti to the effects of Hurricane Irma are the three northern departments of North West, North and North East. Centre and Artibonite, which are prone to flooding, are also affected but to a lesser degree. A small number of schools have been reported as damaged and/or have lost materials. Schools reopened on 12 September in North East. While there are concerns about diarrheal diseases such as cholera, no increase in cases has been reported to date. In North East, 1,600 families were housed in temporary shelters for 72 hours in 12 shelters; these shelters are now closed. In addition, two children have been reported missing in North East. In North West, 840 people were housed in temporary shelters in Anse à Foleur, which was the most badly affected area; these are now in the process of being closed. In North West, there are reports of very few houses destroyed, and the majority of those that have been damaged are being repaired by their owners.

UNICEF CO Response

- Damage assessment is underway. As of 11 September, there is one reported death, one missing person and 17 injured. 12,539 people have been evacuated and 81 official shelters are open. 2,646 houses are described as severely damaged, with 466 destroyed and 4,903 flooded. A total of 8,015 families, which equals 45,000 people, are reported to be affected. This number may rise as assessments of water systems are completed.
- Continuous surveillance and rapid response to cholera alerts continues, focusing on access to clean water and sanitation in the most affected areas, as well as through strengthening community based surveillance. No disease upsurge has been observed so far. UNICEF supports three OXFAM teams covering North and North East via direct logistics to MSPP mobile teams and two teams in North West.

- In North East, the contingency PCA with Oxfam was activated, and through this, UNICEF has undertaken an evaluation of affected water points, especially a mapping of all the wells which have been flooded in the neighborhoods of Ouanaminthe in order to plan their disinfection as soon as possible. In North East, two emergency water distribution systems have been installed, six hand washing stations and three chlorination points in shelters, while door to door hygiene activities are underway alongside the distribution of Aquatabs in Caracol and Ferrier.
- In the North, North East and Artibonite departments, eight bladders were installed in the main temporary shelters by UNICEF partners in support to DINEPA.
- In North West, UNICEF has provided technical assistance to DINEPA Rural Department Unit to support the rapid assessment of water systems in Sauval, Ka-Luc a Mahotiére, Calife and Anse à Foleur.
- In Nutrition, stocks of plumpy nut were prepositioned in the Northern departments (Artibonite: 770 boxes, North West: 1,300 boxes, North East: 200 boxes and North: 110 boxes) prior to Hurricane Irma and are currently being used by the health structures. A rapid evaluation is on-going by UNICEF partner FONDEFH in the North and North East.
- All 242 children in institutions at risk of being flooded or damaged by the hurricane and who were relocated to safe locations have now returned to their facilities.
- Support to Education Departmental Directorate in the North East was provided to assess all affected schools. UNICEF now assisting in cleaning buildings to facilitate schools reopening. School kit distribution is planned for around 80 public schools (around 25,000 children) in North and North East as part of UNICEF regular program. Quantities of kits will be adapted to accommodate additional needs as required.

Gaps and needs

- A meeting is required to ensure coordination in WASH intervention in affected communities in North East and Artibonite.
- Partial repair to water supply is required in Sauval de Jean Rabel, Anse a Foleur and La Chappelle.
- A need for hygiene kits, school kits and school furniture has been identified in North East.
- Cash transfer needs are required for vulnerable families.
- UNICEF Protection team held a meeting with the leader of IBESR (Social Services) in North to highlight the need to monitor vulnerable families that have been affected by Hurricane Irma at the community level. According to IBESR, the number of cases of separated children in multisector evaluations have not been verified.

Regional Actions include:

- UNICEF RO is supporting work on Cuba's CERF document.
- UNICEF Regional Office has been communicating with all COs affected to provide technical assistance, tools and reference materials for response preparation.
 - Education: School Security Index to assess the infrastructure of damaged schools in ECA; ECA CO support in identifying specialists for the implementation of Return to Happiness, revision of drafts of regional response plan and inclusion of inputs for child protection; support to Haiti in its follow-up actions to prevent family separation and to identify specialists for the coordination of the cluster for two months.
 - Health, Nutrition and WASH: Work with the C4D team to prepare key messages on health, nutrition and WASH to be disseminated through U-Report to the Caribbean countries; in response to CDEMA reporting that countries have asked for baby formula as part of their list of urgent supplies, UNICEF has drafted a message on the importance of protecting breastfeeding and to avoid donations and the distribution of breast-milk substitutes.
 - Child Protection: ECA CO support to identify specialists in the implementation of Return to Happiness, revision of drafts of regional response plan and inclusion of inputs for child protection; support to Haiti in its follow-up actions to prevent family separation and the identification of specialists to coordinate the cluster for two months; support to Cuba in the revision of CERF draft to incorporate socio-emotional activities in education.
 - Gender: Support to COs on key gender elements to include in on-going assessments and sectoral priorities as required.
- Human Resources: Logistics Specialist deployed to support ECA; Protection/ Education Specialist identified to support ECA; Child Protection Cluster Specialist identified to support Haiti; and Fundraising Specialist and Education Specialist identified to support Cuba. Support for the potential deployment of an Engineer/Architect to evaluate infrastructure of damaged schools in ECA.
- Supply & Logistics:
 - Supplies of 55,440 water purification tablets have arrived in Cuba.
 - Supplies which include 10,080 fleece blankets, 220 tarpaulins, 32,300 water purification tablets, 8,053 Jerry cans and fifteen 5,000 litre collapsible water tanks will leave for Turks & Caicos tomorrow, which amounts to 25 tons of the total 40 tonne shipment requested. Blankets take up significant space in cargo, so may need more than two flights.
- Communications and Media: A series of interviews have been coordinated with DOC and COs; one press release will be published in the next days; three Blogs have been disseminated; a Photo Essay produced by a Communication Specialist from the RO in TCI will be published 14 Thursday; a statement from the UNICEF Cuba Representative in support of victims of Hurricane Irma has been shared; a video for the Executive Board which includes images from Antigua and two child testimonies has been made; close coordination and content sharing with COs has been maintained; and, B-roll and photographs are being uploaded daily onto [weshare](#).
- Communication to Engage Communities (C4D) and U-Report:
 - UNICEF continues to use U-Report to assess needs as part of the response. An additional 500 individual questions have been answered. 87% of U-Reporters in Haiti and Dominican Republic said they found the information received via U-Report about Hurricane Irma had been useful. Tomorrow, a poll will be launched

around health concerns, including the importance of breastfeeding, how to avoid water and mosquito-borne diseases and how ensure that young children are adequately nourished.

- Fundraising: ECA has met with the US Fund to present the situation in the Caribbean Islands and the financial needs. ON 15 September, a meeting will be held with European National Committees to explain the regional situation.

Next Sit-Rep: 19/09/2017

More details can also be found at:

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

Ureport results from: Where did you look for information about Irma in Dominican Republic? <http://ureport.in/poll/2255/>

Ureport results from: Where did you look for information about Irma in Haiti? <http://ureport.in/poll/2257/>

Ureport results from: Where did you look for information about Irma in Eastern Caribbean? <http://ureport.in/poll/2258/>

**Who to
contact for
further
information:**

REGIONAL OFFICE

Marita Perceval
Regional Director
mperceval@unicef.org

REGIONAL OFFICE

Douglas Reimer
Regional Advisor Emergencies
dreimer@unicef.org

CUBA CO

Maria Machicado
Representative
mmachicado@unicef.org

ECA CO

Khin-Sandy Lwin
Representative
klwin@unicef.org

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CO

Rosa Elcarte
Representative
relcarte@unicef.org

HAITI CO

Marc Vincent
Representative
mvincent@unicef.org