UNICEF Daily Situation Report Dominica
1 September 2015

Highlights
* 11 confirmed deaths; 23 people still missing, 23 listed as homeless
* An additionally three communities evacuated, joining the south-eastern community of Petite Savanne from which over 500 people were evacuated
* 16,995 of the population of 71,293 severely impacted by the tropical storm
* Widespread damage reported in the education sector; official start of school postponed from September 7 to September 21.
* Two schools (one primary, one secondary) in the capital being used as emergency shelters for displaced people

(Sources – Dominica Government/CDEMA)

Situation Overview
Sectoral assessments continued in Dominica on September 1 as the flood-ravaged country continued to reel from the severe devastation caused by flooding associated with Tropical Storm Erika. The storm which dumped over 12 inches of rain in a 12-hour period, caused several landslides and flooded communities across the 290 square-mile island.

The devastation on the mountainous country was islandwide, but was particularly intense in nine communities, mainly in the capital and along the south-eastern, west and eastern corridor. A large portion of the 71,293 residents live close to the shoreline or in valleys which are prone to the effects of flooding and landslides.

Following an assessment of the food distribution sector, the Dominica government reported that it was satisfied that the country could meet the immediate food and nutrition needs of the country. However, the challenge remained getting critical supplies to sparsely-populated communities in outlying districts because of damage to feeder roads.

The regional and international response to the disaster is being coordinated by the Regional Response Mechanism which is an arrangement for the coordination of disaster response among Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Participating States.

CDEMA reports that search and recovery operations were continuing in the affected areas. Access to a number of communities has been restored and injured persons have been airlifted to the Princess Margaret Hospital, the island’s primary health care facility. A total of 574 persons have been rendered homeless.
**Humanitarian Needs**
The immediate needs identified by the Government of Dominica include:

- Bottled water
- Supplies for babies
- Hygiene supplies for senior citizens
- First aid kits
- Blankets and cots

Figure 2 - Commercial flights into the main Douglas-Charles Airport have not resumed on account of the severe impact of flood waters on the airport. Pictured is inside the departure lounge

**Inter-Agency Collaboration, Coordination, Cluster Leadership and Key Partnerships**
The UN system’s response is being co-ordinated under the Regional Response Mechanism (under the leadership of CDEMA) which met on August 31 to discuss the latest situation. The Agency is waiting sectoral assessments to better coordinate the short and medium term requirements.

**UNICEF Response**
Contact was made with the Ministry of Education to get a status report on the sector, especially as it related to the scheduled September 7 start of school. The opening of schools has now been deferred to September 21, 2015. The Ministry reported than an initial assessment revealed of its 75 primary and secondary schools, 2 are either unreachable or damaged, with one suffering very extensive damage and will need to be rebuilt.
Additionally UNICEF informed the Ministry that persons trained in the physio-social Return-to-Happiness programme are on standby in St Lucia for deployment to Dominica as necessary.

UNICEF collaborated with CDEMA and the Barbados Coast Guard to dispatch 503 boxes of adult hygiene kits, 100 boxes of infant hygiene kits as well as 4,000 water purification tablets to the flood-ravaged areas on August 29.

Programme Commitments:

Nutrition: The nutritional needs of children are being assessed. However CDEMA reports that Government is satisfied that since the supply chain into their island has not been broken, the needs of children and the general population can be met on island. However there remains a challenge in getting supplies to affected populations in remote communities.

Health: PAHO is conducting an assessment of the health situation. There is immediate concerns about mosquito-borne diseases and leptospirosis.

WASH: UNICEF has supplied water purification tablets and has a supply of oral rehydration salts on stand-by.

Child Protection: UNICEF is still assessing the need for protective services. Additionally a team of trainers are on standby to implement the psycho-social Return to Happiness Programme.

Education: An assessment of schools started on August 31. Government has identified a need for 1,000 exercise books, 480 pens and 480 pencils. UNICEF stands ready to supply school-in-box kits based on the needs identified ahead of the scheduled September 7 start of the new school year.
Next steps

- Discuss area of intervention in the education sector with the Ministry of Education in Dominica.
- The next SitRep will be on September 2nd

For further information, please contact

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