Highlights

- As of 13 December 2017, most schools in all hurricane-impacted Eastern Caribbean countries have reopened, bringing an increasing number of children back to school. However, while in Dominica 94 per cent of public-owned or funded schools have reopened, attendance is only at 68 per cent, possibly highlighting the impact of outward migration in the aftermath of the hurricane.
- The resettlement of Barbuda residents has not gone according to plan with only 34 per cent of the population signaling an intent to return from Antigua in the short-term; the main ferry service being out of operation and a decision that the previously state-funded passage (US$ 72 round trip) will now be borne directly by passengers.
- In Dominica, only eight per cent of people, mainly those living in the cities of Roseau and Portsmouth, have access to electricity. In the British Virgin Islands (BVI) only one-fifth of the population has restored power.
- Since the launch of the programme on 4 December, approximately 1,120 children from a target population of 6,000 vulnerable children and their families have been reached with the UNICEF-supported Emergency Cash Transfer Programme in Dominica.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNICEF Target*</th>
<th>Total Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH: # people with access to safe water</td>
<td>37,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection: # of children enrolled in psychosocial activities</td>
<td>17,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education: # of children attending schools equipped with critical pedagogical and/or recreational materials</td>
<td>25,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection: # of targeted children from the most vulnerable families receiving top up grants to cover basic needs</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sectoral: # of affected children with access to information on good hygiene, and on safety and protection</td>
<td>38,987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNICEF Funding Needs
US$ 9,819,562

39,000
# affected children in need of assistance in Irma- and Maria-affected countries

19,800
# affected children in Dominica

169
# children in temporary shelters in Antigua, British Virgin Islands, Dominica
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

With the holiday season approaching, increasing pockets of population in hurricane-ravaged countries continue to see a gradual return to normalcy; but a large segment of the population is still struggling. While critical services, such as water, were restored to between 70 and 90 per cent of people (British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands, respectively), the return of electricity has been at a much slower rate. As of 13 December 2017, over 90 per cent of the population in Dominica was without electricity, while 80 per cent of the residents in British Virgin Islands and 40 per cent in Anguilla remain without power.

The education sector continues to make strides to return to normal, even as a shift system and temporary learning spaces - such as UNICEF-provided tents - continue to be utilised. School enrolment figures in Antigua (Barbuda), Anguilla and Turks and Caicos Islands have reached or surpassed pre-hurricane levels, reflecting some movement between the islands, especially from Dominica. In Dominica, 94 per cent of all public-owned or funded pre-schools, primary and secondary schools have reopened, with an attendance rate of 68 per cent, according to pre-hurricane enrolment figures. However, considering migration trends since the hurricane,1 it is expected that the school-age population currently residing on the island is below the 18 September 2017 figure.

The expected resettlement of Barbuda residents currently in Antigua, remains a critical concern. According to the Intent to Return survey conducted by IOM, only 34 per cent of approximately 1,600 people, want to return in the short term. The means of transportation from Antigua to the smaller sister island is also doubtful, with the main ferry being out of service, and a decision that Government will no longer bear the cost of the passage.

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1 Considering that at least 500 children are known to have migrated to Antigua and Barbados alone.
Humanitarian Strategy and Coordination

In line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF continues to respond to the hurricane emergency in the Eastern Caribbean in all affected countries and territories (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, and Turks and Caicos Islands), through a combination of service delivery, technical assistance, communication and advocacy.

UNICEF’s humanitarian strategy focuses on Education, Child Protection and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions, with a two-track approach - immediate humanitarian relief to affected populations and longer term recovery and resilience support. In Dominica, the non-conditional cash transfer programme, supported by the Government, UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) launched on 4 December is ongoing. The programme aims to reach 25,000 people including 6,000 of the most vulnerable children. In Antigua and Barbuda, UNICEF continues to support the development of a social protection policy with a focus on disaster risk reduction. In British Virgin Islands, UNICEF’s partnership with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) will complement the Red Cross/ Caritas cash transfer programme for vulnerable families.

Following the dissolution of the emergency coordination mechanism under the leadership of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in the hurricane-affected territories - as per CDEMA’s mandate on disaster management, UNICEF has been directly coordinating its response with governments, National/ International Non-Governmental Organizations and other UN agencies including OCHA, PAHO, UNDP, IOM, WFP and UN Women. UNICEF is actively engaged in regular government and UN coordination mechanisms in the area of Education, Child Protection, Shelter and WASH, mainly in Dominica, but also in British Virgin Islands and Antigua and Barbuda.

UNICEF Response

CHILD PROTECTION

Increasing numbers of children continue to be reached with psychosocial support as the Return to Happiness programme remains on track in all hurricane-impacted countries. Over the past two weeks an additional 2,000 children have benefitted from this intervention, bringing the total to over 13,040. An increasing number of persons being trained to deliver this programme, especially in safe community spaces, will ensure that children not yet attending school and those on Christmas recess can access these critical services.

UNICEF is also currently in discussion with the government in Antigua and Barbuda, following news that some of the alternative arrangements described are not conducive to the welfare of children, adolescents or women as they don’t re-establish connections and/or interactions that give a sense of normalcy, nor have child-friendly spaces. UNICEF and UNFPA are advocating for temporary solutions that are supportive and protective. 100 Barbadian evacuees from the National Stadium shelter have been relocated to these sites. UNICEF is also working with state and non-state actors to draft a plan to address the needs of teachers and students transitioning to Barbuda to resume classes in January 2018.

In Dominica, efforts are underway to identify additional child-friendly spaces for children, but this is hampered due to community buildings being used as shelters.

EDUCATION

At the scheduled end of the first term of the school year, UNICEF’s ongoing efforts resulted in an increasing number of children being able to resume education. The break for the traditional Christmas vacation finds pre-emergency enrolment and attendance numbers being reached, with Anguilla, Barbuda and Turks and Caicos reporting close to 100 per cent attainment, while over 90 per cent of children in the British Virgin Islands regained access to education. Progress continues to be made in Dominica where 68 per cent of children are now back at school. Nine schools are still being used as shelters, down from 12 in
the last report. With these improved numbers, 94 per cent of all public or government-funded schools in Dominica have reopened. However, the attendance figures have not kept pace with schools being reopened as over 500 students who were attending schools in Dominica before the disaster are known to have migrated to neighboring countries such as Antigua and Barbados. With many students being housed in temporary spaces and shift systems operating in most of the islands, the new term in 2018 will bring renewed focus on repairing or replacing educational infrastructure lost during the two hurricanes.

With a recent contribution from ECHO, UNICEF will support the procurement and distribution of textbooks and pedagogical materials for at least 20 of the most affected schools in Dominica, benefiting at least 1,500 students across the island. In addition, school-based disaster risk management plans will be formulated for at least 20 schools.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In close cooperation with partners, UNICEF continues to provide WASH support in the hurricane-impacted countries. The population with restored service ranges from 70 per cent in British Virgin Islands to 90 per cent in Turks and Caicos Islands.

UNICEF is highly engaged in this sector in Dominica with a number of ongoing actions: a waste water treatment plant is being repaired through a standby arrangement facilitated by UNICEF; an agreement was signed with the state water provider on water rehabilitation systems that will provide permanent water services to 8,000 people; and an agreement was signed with the Ministry of Heath for the implementation of a national hygiene promotion effort through mass media. With more schools reopening, over 19,000 children are now benefitting from access to functional handwashing facilities in schools, up from 16,000 at the last reporting period.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

In Dominica, at least 1,120 children from a target population of 6,000 vulnerable children and their families have been reached by the UNICEF-supported Emergency Cash Transfer Programme. This programme, which is being implemented in the Eastern Caribbean Area for the first time, is a collaboration involving World Food Programme, UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Services, Family and Gender Affairs. The emergency cash transfer programme will help vulnerable families meet their basic needs.

COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Since the beginning of UNICEF’s response, some 26,510 children have been reached with lifesaving information on hygiene, safety and protection through SMS, radio, social media and printed materials. UNICEF also supported consultations among affected children and their families in two countries – Dominica and Barbuda -as part of emergency response. Results from the consultations are being used to guide programme interventions in the implementation and monitoring phase.

Supply and Logistics

Since the beginning of the humanitarian response, UNICEF has supported schools and temporary learning spaces with a total of 277 school-in-a-box, 109 Early Childhood Development and 237 recreational kits, along with other essential supplies.

Under the WASH component, UNICEF has delivered at household-level some 20,400 water purification tablets across the islands and over 24,740 collapsible water tanks in Dominica and Turks and Caicos Islands. Additional distribution of mosquito nets and water tanks of the British Virgin Islands is expected over the coming weeks with the release of a shipment of supplies from the port.
Media and External Communication

The occasion of the three-month anniversary of the impact of the hurricane was used as a media pitch to draw attention to the remaining challenges being faced in the countries and UNICEF’s support to the progress being made. This included media focus on the emergency cash transfer programme which generated significant media coverage both regionally and internationally. A new video released by DOC also marked three months of progress.

Funding Update*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Funding Requirements 2017</th>
<th>Funded</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US$</td>
<td>US$</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>$ 2,990,000</td>
<td>$ 538,051</td>
<td>$ 2,451,949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>$ 1,729,562</td>
<td>$ 1,641,830</td>
<td>87,732</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>$ 3,800,000</td>
<td>$ 2,695,715</td>
<td>$ 1,104,285</td>
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<td>Emergency Cash Transfer</td>
<td>$ 1,200,000</td>
<td>$ 600,000</td>
<td>$ 600,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross-cutting/Coordination</td>
<td>$ 100,000</td>
<td>$ 115,900</td>
<td>$ (15,900)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$ 9,819,562</td>
<td>$ 5,591,496</td>
<td>$ 4,228,066</td>
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*As of 15 December 2017.

Next SitRep: 11/01/2018

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