Eastern Caribbean countries and overseas territories continue to respond to two devastating category 5 hurricanes - Irma and Maria - which left a trail of destruction in Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica and Turks & Caicos Islands. Dominica is one of the most affected, hence it remains a primary focus of humanitarian efforts.

- **Education** – More than 11,700 school-age children in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands returned to class, some of them using temporary learning spaces. A total of 27 of the 67 state primary and secondary schools in Dominica are slated to reopen on 16 October.

- **Child Protection** - Over 2,800 children received psychosocial support and/or access to safe child spaces. In Dominica, a safe recreational space was provided for up to 900 indigenous children of the Kalinago community. Partners were trained to deliver psycho-social support to a population of 12,000 children. In Antigua, 26 new facilitators drawn from teachers, social workers and counsellors were trained in Return to Happiness programme activities. They will further cascade their training in Antigua and Barbuda.

- **WASH** – With water distribution systems still severely compromised in the impacted countries, especially Dominica, UNICEF and partners provided safe drinking water to nearly 35,000 vulnerable people, including 9,100 children.

- **Communication** - 82,000 people, including 21,000 children in the five affected countries were reached with life-saving information on hygiene, safety and protection while 740,600 people were reached with UNICEF communication materials on social media channels.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Two category 5 hurricanes (Irma and Maria) caused devastating impact across the Caribbean, affecting particularly Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Island, Dominica, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. UNICEF continues to provide humanitarian support to affected children and families. Logistics and access to affected populations remain a challenge in Dominica where employees in the public sector have just recently started to return to work. UNICEF continues its efforts to deliver supplies and reach the most vulnerable children and adolescents.

The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) for Antigua and Barbuda has been concluded and results and indicative cost estimates will be shared next week.

### Estimated Population in need of assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimates based on latest Population and Housing Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start of humanitarian response: 06 September 2017 – Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands. 20 September – Commonwealth of Dominica</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population in need</strong></td>
<td>143,006</td>
<td>71,859</td>
<td>71,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anguilla</td>
<td>13,555</td>
<td>6,698</td>
<td>6,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbuda</td>
<td>1,595</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Virgin Islands</td>
<td>28,054</td>
<td>13,820</td>
<td>14,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>69,246</td>
<td>35,377</td>
<td>33,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turks &amp; Caicos Islands</td>
<td>30,556</td>
<td>15,127</td>
<td>15,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children Under 18 at Risk</strong></td>
<td>38,987</td>
<td>19,690</td>
<td>19,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anguilla</td>
<td>3,778</td>
<td>1,908</td>
<td>1,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbuda</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Virgin Islands</td>
<td>7,367</td>
<td>3,767</td>
<td>3,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>19,774</td>
<td>10,013</td>
<td>9,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turks &amp; Caicos Islands</td>
<td>7,527</td>
<td>3,722</td>
<td>3,805</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Children Under Five at Risk</strong></td>
<td>10,737</td>
<td>5,478</td>
<td>5,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anguilla</td>
<td>1,058</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>512</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbuda</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>86</td>
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<tr>
<td>British Virgin Islands</td>
<td>2,134</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>1,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>4,927</td>
<td>2,479</td>
<td>2,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turks &amp; Caicos Islands</td>
<td>2,444</td>
<td>1,239</td>
<td>1,205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, and 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 support efforts in areas of comparative strength.

The United Nations Secretary General made a two-day visit to hurricane-ravaged Caribbean islands. In Dominica, the UNSG participated in a meeting with the Prime Minister and entire Cabinet and visited a child friendly space in Salybia, Kalinago territory. During his visit to Antigua, the UNSG interacted with residents at the National Technical Training Center shelter and had an opportunity to interact with children who were participating in a psycho-social support activity through the Return to Happiness programme.

PAHO, which is the UN agency with the largest footprint in the Eastern Caribbean, is leading support in the Health Sector while WFP is leading on food distribution, as well as providing valuable logistical support to partners. UNFPA and UN Women have provided support on gender specific issues, while UNICEF leads in areas vital to children:

- Supplies and technical support to bring children back to school (in reopened schools or temporary facilities)
- Psycho-social support to small children and children in school age to overcome traumatic experiences (Return to Happiness programme)
- Advocacy for protection of children evacuated, in shelters, without parental care or traveling alone
- Additionally, UNICEF has been 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 for northern countries, including Anguilla and British Virgin Islands, as well as 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 programmes for Cash Transfers to vulnerable families from Barbuda and in British Oversea Territories. A similar programme with support from UN agencies is under development in Dominica.

UNICEF RESPONSE

UNICEF’s ongoing emergency response is focused on the education sector, child protection and psychosocial support as well as the WASH sector. Provision of supplies and technical support are complemented with communication strategies targeting vulnerable families with lifesaving information.

WASH:
- 35,200 persons in the affected population have access to safe water, including: 720 from Barbuda; 208 in British Virgin Islands; 9,417 in Dominica; and 24,891 in Turks and Caicos Islands. 9,161 are children.
- 3,190 children have access to functional handwashing facilities and soap in schools and learning/safe spaces.
- 1,900 evacuees in shelters were provided with sanitation or hygiene and dignity kits, including: 280 in Anguilla, 150 from Barbuda; 1,472 in Dominica. 494 child-evacuees were also reached.
- 17,800 packs of water purification tablets distributed, including: 480 for Barbudans; 160 in British Virgin Islands, 600 in Dominica; 16,594 in Turks and Caicos Islands.
- 9,900 members of the population reached with collapsible water containers in Turks and Caicos Islands. 2,574 of them are children.

EDUCATION:
- 6,400 school-age children and adolescents have resumed their education, either in re-opened schools or temporary learning facilities.
- 10,900 pre-school, primary and secondary age children equipped with critical pedagogical and recreational materials.
- 835 children under-five have access to safe and secure learning/play environments that promote protection and well-being.

CHILD PROTECTION:
- 1,900 children have received psycho-social support through the Return to Happiness (RTH) programme.
- 885 children have safe access to child friendly spaces or similar safe communities supported by UNICEF for socializing, play and learning.
- 166 Return to Happiness facilitators were trained.

COMMUNICATION:
- 81,619 affected population including 21,216 children have been reached with lifesaving information on hygiene, safety and protection, including: 10,237 people in Anguilla; 1,000 from Barbuda; 18,036 in British Virgin Islands; 32,726 in Dominica; and, 19,620 in Turks and Caicos Islands.

SUMMARY RESPONSE BY COUNTRY

ANGUILLA

All 6 primary and pre-schools, and 2 special need centers were re-opened on Monday 9 October. Distribution plans to UNICEF supplies for WASH and education arrived on 10 October are in place along with logistical arrangements.

WASH:
- 280 people benefiting from family hygiene and dignity kits.

Education:
- 450 children attending schools equipped with UNICEF recreational material (recreation kits).

Child Protection:
- 600 children already enrolled in psycho-social activities through Return to Happiness programmes.
- 24 Return to Happiness facilitators trained.
- Training on psychosocial support plan for primary school teachers, started on October 9.
- A lessons learnt exercise on the delivery of RTH training to volunteers was undertaken.

Communication:
- 10,200 population affected have been reached with lifesaving information on hygiene, safety and protection.
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

All Barbudan children attending both public and private primary schools - around 250 children - including children with special needs, reached through the Return to Happiness programme. In Antigua, the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) and UNICEF OIC interacted with Barbudan children participating during a Return to Happiness session at the National Technical Training Center shelter.

WASH:
- 720 people regained access to safe water through water purification tablets.
- 470 children using functional handwashing facilities in schools and learning/safe spaces.
- 150 people in shelters reached with family hygiene and dignity kits.

Education and ECD:
- 410 (100%) Barbudan school-age children and adolescents are back in school, temporarily integrated in Antiguan schools.
- 720 children attending schools receiving UNICEF learning/recreational material as Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits, School-in-a-box, Recreational kits.

Child Protection:
- 225 children enrolled in psychosocial activities.
- 540 children have safe access to UNICEF supported community spaces for socializing, play and learning.

Communication:
- 1,000 affected people have access to information on good hygiene, and on safety and protection.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (BVI)

School started on BVI on 5 October for the 3-8 years age group. Senior secondary had already started in a temporary building. School for all other children is targeted to begin on 3 November. The west side of the island does not have electricity or piped water and many cisterns are polluted by seawater. Roads are opening up, but debris removal is still pending. The State of Emergency has been lifted, but a 10pm to 6am curfew remains in effect.

WASH:
- 208 people provided access to safe water through purification tablets.

Education:
- 1,900 children are back in school, including in re-opened facilities or temporary learning spaces.
- 350 children under-five have access to secure learning/play environments in day-care/pre-schools with trained ECD facilitators.

Child Protection:
- 1,100 children enrolled in psycho-social activities (Return to Happiness programmes).
- 105 of Return to Happiness facilitators trained.
- 325 children enrolled in child friendly spaces or similar safe community spaces for children.

DOMINICA

School remains closed leaving approximately 18,200 children and adolescents without access to education. The Prime Minister is committed to reopen the school on Monday 16 October. However, an agreement was established with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and Ministry of Social Services (MoSS) to establish safe temporary learning spaces at Pointe Michel and Atkinson where schools were destroyed. UNICEF accompanied PAHO in the health needs assessment in Dominica, to ensure that the health needs of children and women are attended. New roads continue to open throughout the island, allowing access to more communities. The UNSG participated in a meeting with the Prime Minister and entire Cabinet.

WASH:
- 9,400 people regained access to safe water.
- 1,500 people regained access to hygiene through Family Hygiene and Dignity kits in shelters.

Child Protection:
Education:
- 20 children enrolled in child friendly spaces or similar safe community spaces for children.
- Critical pedagogical and/or recreational material has been provided for schools in Dominica to reach an estimated 990 children.

Communication:
- 33,000 affected children have access to information on good hygiene, and on safety and protection.

Turks and Caicos (TCI):
Out of 15 schools in the country, 13 have been reopened. Water, electricity and communication remain largely interrupted in many parts of the country. The ferry service from Virgin Gorda to Tortola continues to be interrupted. Several ferries are damaged in Virgin Gorda, presenting difficulty in the movement of persons and supplies from one island to another.

WASH:
- 24,900 people regained access to access to safe water through water purification tablets.
- 9,900 people reached with collapsible water container (jerry cans).
- 2,800 children using functional handwashing facilities in schools and learning/safe spaces.

Education:
- 2,800 children are back in school, including re-opened facilities or temporary learning spaces.
- 4,000 children attending schools receiving (ECD kits, School-in-a-box, Recreational kits).

Communication:
- 19,600 affected children have access to information on good hygiene, and on safety and protection.

Additional support provided:
- 960 blankets delivered.
- 6,000 people protected from mosquito borne diseases through the delivery of mosquito bed-nets.

Supply and Logistics
In anticipation of supplies arriving in Antigua and Barbuda, the Supply and Logistics team coordinated with port authorities and DDM on customs clearance of the incoming shipment. An assessment of port handling facilities to offload cargo was made. Preparations were made for setting up temporary learning and safe spaces as well as distribution plans in Anguilla.

Media and External Communication
UNICEF ECA continues to keep the response to the emergency, especially the situation of children, in the eye of the public and donors through a variety of media platforms. Through partnership with the LAC Regional Office and DOC, high-impact videos, human interest stories, photos and photo essays were shared across traditional and social media platforms in various markets. UNICEF ECA’s own social media channels reached 740,600 people. The Officer-in-Charge also conducted radio, newspaper and television interviews in Antigua where the UNICEF response and existing funding needs were clearly articulated.

Security
No security incidents reported. UNDSS has field presence in Dominica.

Next SitRep: 17/10/2017

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