Highlights
Hurricane Irma has put the lives of thousands of children in the Caribbean in danger. Wind, rain and surge waves are causing floods, mudslides and the destruction of homes, schools, health centers and WASH infrastructure, affecting children across the region.

- After impacting several islands during its path in the Caribbean Sea, Irma was downgraded to Category 3 Saturday morning but was expected to strengthen again over Florida.
- Hurricane Jose, upgraded to a Category 5, threatened the Leeward Islands and Barbuda, already devastated by Irma.
- The devastation across the areas has reportedly destroyed as much as 70-90% of the infrastructure on some islands.
- UNICEF is on the ground in the affected countries, working in Cuba, Dominican Republic, Eastern and Western Caribbean islands (Antigua, Anguilla, Barbuda, BVI and TCI) and Haiti, coordinating the response efforts with National Governments and carrying out rapid need assessments and delivering prepositioned supplies.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

+2.8 million estimated # of children at risk in affected areas;
7 million estimated # of people at risk in the affected areas;
25 fatalities recorded by Saturday morning;
+80,000 potentially affected children in Cuba, with 255,000 at risk
+19,000 people evacuated and in shelters in Dominican Republic;
132 schools potentially affected in Anguilla, Barbuda, BVI and TCI Islands;
+10,000 people in shelters in Haiti.

UNICEF’s estimated urgent funding needs: US$ 15 million

ESTIMATED POPULATION AT RISK

Estimates calculated based on initial figures from UNICEF country offices 9 September, 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Office</th>
<th>Estimated number of people at risk</th>
<th>Estimated number of children at risk</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cuba¹</td>
<td>637,500</td>
<td>255,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic²</td>
<td>1,636,500</td>
<td>654,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECA³</td>
<td>73,760</td>
<td>19,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti⁴</td>
<td>4,663,711</td>
<td>1,962,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>7,011,471</td>
<td>2,890,888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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¹ Initial estimates provided by Cuba CO.
² These estimates indicate people and children at risk in the area of impact. Assessment is ongoing. It is anticipated that the numbers of affected people might be significantly reduced as information arrives.
³ ECA Humanitarian Situation Report #3.
⁴ Initial estimates provided by Haiti CO prior to landfall. After the assessments and impact level, we anticipate that the numbers of affected people will be significantly reduced.
Situation Overview
Hurricane Irma continued its path through the Caribbean today, putting the lives of thousands of children in danger. On Wednesday 6 Sept., the Category 5 hurricane struck the islands of Antigua, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Anguilla, St. Martin and St. Barts. It reached Dominican Republic (DR), Haiti and Turks & Caicos on Thursday, 7 Sept. Irma made landfall in Cuba Friday evening, still as a Category 5 hurricane, directly hitting the island’s northern coast. The category was downgraded to Category 3 Saturday morning, but was expected to strengthen again over Florida. At least 25 people were confirmed dead by Saturday morning in the islands affected by the storm. Some of the islands in the eastern Caribbean have been totally destroyed, with up to 90% of the buildings affected. Scores of people have been displaced from their homes ahead of Hurricane Jose’s arrival. 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.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination
- National response to the emergency is led by each National Government and their respective sectorial Ministries. UNICEF COs are actively participating in coordination meetings and providing technical assistance.
- In Cuba, a CERF request is being prepared with focus on Education, Health and WASH. This will include early childhood development, education and recreation activities.
- UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Office is fully engaged with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) response mechanism to conduct the first need rapid assessment. A joint CERF request is under elaboration in coordination with the RO.
- 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 funding, depending on the assessment of the humanitarian impact.
- In Haiti, a joint helicopter assessment was undertaken by humanitarian actors, government partners and donors to assess damage. Sectorial/Intersectorial assessments were also done in Centre, North, Northeast and Northwest departments under governmental leadership.
- 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 go ahead with a Regional Response Plan for some of the countries affected by the Hurricane.

Summary Analysis by Country

Cuba
Irma made landfall in Cuba as a Category 5 hurricane, impacting the island for more than 48 hours with sustained winds of 250 kilometres per hour. It changed its course from north to west during Friday, with strong winds and rains affecting over 800 kms of national territory. The provinces most affected are Ciego de Avila, Santis Spiritus, Villa Clara and Camaguey. Flooding has affected the coastal areas of Matanzas, Mayabeque and La Havana with over six meter waves and tropical storm winds of over 70 kms per hour, causing preventive cuts to basic services, including power, water and gas. The number of potentially affected municipalities may reach 17, making it likely that the number of potentially affected children will increase from the first estimates of 40,000 to 100,000. This number may continue to rise.

UNICEF Response
- 3 million chlorine tablets have been allocated for distribution to 40-50,000 people.
- The CERF request is being prepared with a focus on Education, Health and WASH with specific supplies to support early childhood development, education and recreation activities.

Gaps and needs
- When Irma has cleared Cuba and weather conditions allow, an assessment will need to be conducted to identify needs.

Dominican Republic (DR)
Irma passed by the Dominican Republic as a Category 5 on September 7, which resulted in more than 50 aqueducts and water infrastructure affected, 10 communities with no means of communication, and over 1.6 million people at risk, including 654,600 children under 18 years of age at the greatest risk. Over 19,000 people have been evacuated to shelters, and 20 schools are currently being used as shelters for displaced people.
Based on the current information, the most affected provinces are Samaná, Montecristi, Puerto Plata and María Trinidad Sánchez.

UNICEF Response

- Prior to the arrival of the hurricane, UNICEF, with the Emergency Operations Center, disseminated key messages about preparedness through social media networks. As of September 6, these messages have been seen 18 million times.
- Through the nutrition resilience group, UNICEF has called on humanitarian partners to avoid the distribution of baby formula and other substitutes for breast milk.
- As a part of the disaster preparedness actions with the MoE, a guidance has been provided to teachers and psychologists in schools to effectively deal with children affected by the emergency.

Gaps and Needs

- Initial estimates call for the distribution of 3,000 hygiene kits, 5,000 plastic jerry cans and 100 water tanks for the affected population, as well as 30,000 ORS in preparation for an increase in diarrhea cases.
- It is essential to ensure psychosocial support and care for children in the most affected communities and for girls and boys in shelters and to advocate for the prevention of violence, especially sexual violence, in affected communities and shelters through the Young UNICEF partner volunteers.
- Efforts must be made to engage the affected population in response strategies and tools to ensure that all children and adolescents living in the affected areas can be protected, are healthy and have access to education and participation spaces.

Eastern Caribbean Area (ECA)

Residents of Barbuda, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Turks & Caicos (TCI) Islands are preparing for the arrival of Hurricane Jose. In Barbuda, the mandatory evacuation is ongoing. It is estimated that up to 800 of the 1,200 residents have been evacuated to shelters in Antigua. Approximately 132 schools are damaged in the most affected territories.³ Airlines in Barbuda and Anguilla remain out of service due to high levels of damage. It is estimated that more than 19,000 children are at risk, including 5,000 children at high risk. Other overseas territories such as St. Martin and St. Barts have also been severely impacted. A UNICEF Rapid Response Team has been deployed in Antigua Island to ensure rapid and efficient operations for BVI, Anguilla and Barbuda, while TCI response will continue to be handled from Barbados CO.

UNICEF Response

- Water purifications tablets were given to the National Emergency Office in Antigua for Barbuda evacuees. In addition, UNICEF pre-positioned emergency supplies in Antigua (tents, tarpaulins, water purification tables, etc.) have been distributed in coordination with national authorities.
- A UNICEF WASH Specialist was deployed to Barbuda and Antigua to conduct an initial needs assessment as a part of the UNDAC team for Anguilla. In addition, two UNICEF ECA Specialists have been deployed to Turks & Caicos Islands and one to BVI.
- More than 3,000 flyers have been produced with key messages on handwashing and Child Protection to be distributed within the next days. In addition, UNICEF has produced radio spots on health, hygiene, breastfeeding and child protection in emergencies.
- Teams from the non-affected islands are being mobilized for psychosocial care and support activities in partnership with the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean Office. The first group of children to benefit from this effort will be evacuees from Barbuda based in Antigua.
- Shelter and WASH supplies are being mobilized to TCI where the impact is reported to be very high, given the low-lying islands.

Gaps and Needs

- Deployment of relief teams, shipment of supplies and communications are hampered by inoperable airports and rough seas, especially with the impending arrival of Hurricane Jose.
- There is an urgent need for basic shelter and WASH supplies such as tarpaulins, blankets, water containers or hygiene kits. They will be shipped from the Panama regional and Supply Division stocks.
- Initial assessments reveal that up to 100 unaccompanied children arrived in Antigua from Barbuda. Care givers have been mobilized through the Department of Social Care, but close follow-up of the situation must be ensured. An education needs assessment including school infrastructure is required to ensure a rapid and safe return to education activities.
Haiti

- Irma passed north of the coast of Haiti on Friday 8 September, bringing lower levels of damage than originally anticipated. Areas in the departments of North East, North, Centre, l’Artibonite and Northwest experienced partial flooding. Preliminary assessments suggest that while there are around 10,000 people in shelters, the vast majority are there as a result of pre-hurricane evacuation procedures. The government is encouraging families to return home as soon as possible so that schools can recommence. Many have already started returning home.

UNICEF Response

- Stocks including hygiene kits, blankets, schools in a box and chlorination supplies were prepositioned for approximately 10,000 in advance of Hurricane Irma, taking into consideration lessons learned from Hurricane Matthew. UNICEF multi-sectoral teams were also prepositioned in several locations.
- Two contingency PCAs were activated, with Oxfam and ACF (Action Against Hunger).
- Assistance is being provided by humanitarian partners and government at local levels and for vulnerable families according to needs assessments currently underway. The MIRA multi-sectoral assessment tool has been validated by the Government.

Gaps and needs

- Rapid assessments are underway to understand needs and the number of children who need aid.
- Human resource needs have been identified in operations, global protection coordination and human resources, which are being filled with roster deployments.
- The HCT has determined that, given the level of impact and the existing capacity, there will not be a CERF application or Flash Appeal launched.

Regional Actions include:

- UNICEF has mobilized 10 rapid response members from its regional and global response mechanisms. The Regional Rapid Response Roster and additional humanitarian personnel are ready for deployment to countries where support is required. The UNICEF Regional Office has been mobilized and is supporting the affected country offices with technical assistance, tools and reference materials for the response.
- **WASH**: WASH LAC is coordinating the response with WASH Group in DR and PAHO and advising on needed supplies to respond to the first phase of the emergency in Cuba. Water quality and inadequate hygiene habits due to lack of access to basic and adequate WASH services are concerns.
- **Education**: The regional office is in permanent communication with the COs in DR, Haiti, ECA and Cuba to identify the main education needs in terms of coordination, technical assistance, HHRR, supplies and tools. EiE reference materials have been sent to support the preparation of Education and ECD response.
- **Child Protection**: UNICEF RO has been communicating with Child Protection colleagues in DR, Haiti, Cuba and ECA to provide required support in preparation, response and eventual deployments.
- **Health & Nutrition**: There are no current request of support from LACRO in the Nutrition sector. While some countries are prepared or in contact with the Global Nutrition Cluster, others do not address Nutrition in the first phase of emergency. However, LACRO is in contact with Health and Nutrition specialists to be alert to possible health risks. The situation may rapidly deteriorate (outbreaks of diarrhea followed by a rise of acute malnutrition cases) if no preventive actions are taken to protect and support infant and young child feeding practices; ongoing monitoring is required.
- **Supply & Logistics**: UNICEF is providing a first delivery of humanitarian supplies to the most affected zones in coordination with national governments. US$250,000 worth of life saving supplies is being sent within the next days.
- **Communications and Media**: Three press releases, six blogposts, two videos and a number of interviews have been disseminated to show the impact of Hurricane Irma and UNICEF preparedness work. These are all available for download on a dedicated site on the website. Social media has been used for three purposes: stay safe messages to those affected, communication on the impact and UNICEF work, and fundraising.
- **Communication to engage communities (C4D)** Guidance and tools for rapid assessments, key messages and the communication in humanitarian action tool kit has been shared with Cos.
- **U-Report Social Mobilization**: Over 12,500 joined U-Report in 72 hours to receive stay-safe messages before the hurricane. Over 1,200 individual questions have been responded to in U-Report before, during and after the hurricane. U-Report is being used to support assessment of needs via bespoke polls sent to U-Reporters in each country or island affected.
- **Fundraising**: The RO prepared a regional appeal shared with all National Committees and Latin America and Caribbean Country Offices as of Wednesday.
Next Sit-Rep: 13/09/2017

More details can also be found at:

Results from: Have you been affected by the Hurricane in ECA? http://ureport.in/poll/2235/
Results from: Have you been affected by the Hurricane in Dominican Republic? http://ureport.in/poll/2241/
Results from: Have you been affected by the Hurricane in Haiti? http://ureport.in/poll/2243/
Photos and videos: https://weshare.unicef.org/Package/2AMZIFOFH1U
Press releases: https://www.unicef.org/lac/media_36994.html

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