Highlights

- In the early hours of September 19th of 2022, hurricane Fiona made landfall at Cabo San Rafael (La Altagracia province). At 5:00 am, the center of Fiona was located over land about 25 km west/southwest of Punta Cana, its maximum sustained winds are at 150 km/h with higher gusts, and it is moving northwest at 13 kph. Hurricane-force winds extend about 45 km off its center and storm-force winds extend about 240 km.

- Operators of fragile, small and medium-sized vessels are advised to remain in port on both the Atlantic and Caribbean coasts due to hazardous conditions associated with abnormal winds and waves.

- On weather conditions, a cloudy environment will prevail with the occurrence of moderate to heavy downpours being intense at times, thunderstorms and frequent gusts of wind with hurricane force locally mainly towards provinces of the regions: north, northeast, the eastern plain and the Central Cordillera of the country. This activity of downpours and wind gusts will spread to other areas of the country as hurricane Fiona moves over the eastern portion of the national geography.

- According to UNICEF calculations with the Climate Shock Vulnerability Index (IVACC), the highly vulnerable population (extreme and moderate poverty levels) at risk is 1,762,032 people, of which 666,856 are children and adolescents.

- Through the Presidential decree 537-22, it was declared disaster zones for the provinces of La Altagracia, La Romana, El Seibo, Samana, Hato Mayor, María Trinidad Sanchez, Duarte and Monte Plata. With this declaration, several ministries and government institutions are authorized to carry out procurement processes of goods, services and works through exceptional processes for emergency cases.

- The Government has established two Emergency Operations Centers in Higüey and Samana, provinces with the greatest impact, to provide an immediate response to the needs of the population.

- A team made up of members of the COE, ONESVIE, NGOs and UNICEF and WFP will carry out the damage and needs assessment (EDAN) in the affected areas on Wednesday, September 21st, to complete and contrast the information obtained to date. It is expected to have information on the affectation of Samana province with which it has not been possible to have communication.

Situation in Numbers

- **666,856** children at risk in Red Alert areas*
- **1,151,384** People affected by preventive closure of supply systems**
- **1,762,032** people at risk in Red Alert areas*
- **13,760** Displaced people***
- **1,074** People in Shelters***
- **02** People dead***

Sources:
*Estimated by UNICEF.
**INAPA, 19.09.2022
***COE, 20.09.2022

Hurricane Fiona – Provinces on alert 19th sept. 11:00 am
(Source: Dominican Republic Emergency Operation Center Alert System)
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Assessments are still ongoing in the affected areas. The province of Samana has no communication due to the effects of the hurricane. According to the initial assessment on date 09-20-2022 initial information as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAMAGED HOUSES</th>
<th>PARTIALLY DAMAGED HOUSES</th>
<th>DEADS1</th>
<th>DESTROYED HOUSES</th>
<th>DISPLACED PEOPLE</th>
<th>INACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</th>
<th>SHELTERS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF DISPLACED PEOPLE IN SHELTERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,614</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13,070</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>49 (including 25 schools)</td>
<td>1,551</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the Climate Shock Vulnerability Index (IVACC), based on population data of the areas declared under Red Alert by the COE, UNICEF estimates that over 1,762,032 people – including 666,856 children- that are at risk of being affected by the storm effects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Population at risk 2 living in areas declared under Red Alert (Estimates calculated based on initial figures from IVACC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start of humanitarian response:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,762,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>863,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>898,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (Under 18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>666,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>338,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>328,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Under Five</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>203,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 0 to 23 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49,964</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

- The government of the Dominican Republic is leading the response to the Emergency through the Emergency Operations Center (COE). At the moment, it has not requested international support, although specific requests are expected in the course of the next few days.
- The United Nations Emergency Team (UNETE) has been activated and has a permanent presence within the COE.
- UNICEF participates in UNETE and is in contact with emergency response teams at the Ministry of Health, Education, National Health Services, Social Protection System, GASH, GRIN, and at the national child protection institution.

Summary Analysis of Program Response

Health, Nutrition and WASH

- Health authorities are concerned about the risk of an increase of diarrhea, leptospirosis, dengue, and COVID-19 cases. Health office branches have been guided to carry out covid tests on all those who present respiratory symptoms. Due to this situation, measures for the protection of the population will need to be reinforced to prevent the above conditions through WASH items and

1 News report
2 The preliminary information only considers people at risk. The PIN will be adjusted as data from damage assessments becomes available.
educational materials for the population with high levels of vulnerabilities that are living in the affected territories by the hurricane. The first response has been planned with the distribution of 5,000 Hygiene Kits including menstrual hygiene for families with children and adolescent girls as well as cleaning kits, 5,000 plastic drums with drinking water, 100 water tanks to be installed at community centers, and health and education centers among others (including water purification tablets). Support will be given to the Dominican Society of Red Cross to put in place water treatment plans.

- Likewise, the WASH sectorial coordination Group (GASH) has been activated since the beginning of the hurricane. Preliminary information from GASH indicates that 78 aqueducts are out of services affecting 1,174,637 people that are without running water in their households. UNICEF will continue to assist in the coordination role of the GASH.

- In the framework of “Return of Happiness” intervention that is carried out together with by the Ministry of Education and the mental health department from the Ministry of Health, it will be supported with the provision of psychological assistance to children and teachers, who should be referred to seek specialized mental health services.

- The effects of the hurricane will aggravate the precarious nutritional status of children and pregnant and lactating women living in the affected territories. According to the Acute Malnutrition program through the APP NutreMUAC designed to register and follow-up acute malnutrition cases detected, around 18% of children presented acute malnutrition and are at risk in La Altagracia province. Data from recent surveys (May 2021) to the population in the highest levels of vulnerabilities estimates that around 25% of the families have reduced the number of meals per day and 36% have reduced the portion size, also food insecurity reach 42% and 47% of households with children and pregnant women respectively. UNICEF will reinforce the acute malnutrition program in the affected territories (La Altagracia, El Seybo and Monte Plata) and expand to other provinces such as Duarte (especially in the Bajo Yuna area), Maria Trinidad Sanchez and Samaná. It will be expected a worsening of nutritional status among under-five children, pregnant and lactating women thus early detection of acute malnutrition and risk will be carried out in at least 40,000 children, pregnant and lactating women and around 6,000 will need to be treated with BEP (balanced energy protein) products.

- Technical assistance from UNICEF will be needed to reinforce the coordination role that it should be guaranteed by the GRIN RD team to have a better nutritional response from government and non-government institutions to affected population by hurricane Fiona.

Education

- Almost 50 per cent of the shelters nationwide are schools. National emergency agencies have agreed to use schools as shelters only as a last resort.

- Currently, 25 schools are used as shelters, with 777 sheltered. The emergency situation due to the hurricane and the use of schools as shelters could prevent the school year from starting in the most affected territories. The school year began on the 19th and was postponed to tomorrow, September 21st.

- Many children and teachers have been presenting emotional situations as a result of the COVID emergency, being the most affected now due to the effects caused by the Hurricane. In this sense, it is opportune to develop psycho-affective recovery strategies in schools in prioritized territories, articulated with psychological care action from the Ministry of Public Health.

- Unicef will monitor whether the effects of storm Fiona will delay the start of the school year in some communities and is pending support in the development of alternative measures for education to continue. UNICEF will update the response plan accordingly.
**Child Protection**

Information provided by Child Protection counterparts from government, civil society and other AFP the following humanitarian needs have been assessed:

- Rapid needs assessment.
- Reinforce the remote psychosocial helpline (*Linea de Ayuda Familiar Contigo*) providing MHPSS services for children, adolescents, and their caregivers, in Spanish, Creole and sign language.
- Provide community-based psychosocial support to the most affected communities, including in the shelters.
- Support the child protection system to act in the most affected areas, in coordination with the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONANI), Ministry of Women, INAIPI and others to mitigate possible VAC and GBV risks.
- Disseminate messages on violence prevention and response to violence, especially sexual violence against girls, boys, adolescents, and women in affected communities, including where to reach services and report cases.
- Support case management and referral of VAC and VBG cases identified in the most affected communities.

**Social Protection**

The Emergency Committee of Superate, formally requested the support of the United Nations System in the country, in particular UNDP and UNICEF, to work jointly with the WFP, attending the emergency particularly to collaborate with the cash transfer programme. The social protection system has brought forward the delivery of September’s cash transfer to families in the provinces declared in a disaster situation, so that they can cover their basic needs related to nutrition. The activation of the special transfer for emergencies is foreseen. Populations in extreme poverty and poverty are always the most affected in emergencies. Especially those with children and adolescents and people living with disabilities. UNICEF’s response will focus on:

- Support the social protection system in collecting information, in the prioritized provinces of the level of affectation of households, with emphasis on those with children and adolescents and people with disabilities.
- Define with social protection scenarios for response through multi-purpose cash transfers for households with children and adolescents.
- Define with civil society partners scenarios for response through multipurpose cash transfers for households with undocumented or irregular migrant children and adolescents.
- Support for monitoring the delivery of cash transfers through the national system to or through civil society partners.

Partners:
SUPERATE protection program, Sistema Único de Beneficiarios (SIUBEN), Administradora de Subsidios Sociales (ADESS), SNU Agencies, civil society partners, community and migrant organizations.

**Media and External Communication**

The CO is monitoring all digital and traditional media outlets who are providing images and information on the situation. The CO contacted field photographers to obtain accurate images on the impact on families and children due to the hurricane. The CO has disseminated messages focused on encouraging families to implement the protection measures indicated by the official institutions, reaching 75,047 people directly so far. The CO was prepared to release statements and press releases if necessary, highlighting the needs of children.
Funding

Preliminary estimation of priority life-saving response is 1,000,000 USD to be updated according to the ongoing needs assessment. In the coming hours, UNICEF will prepare a Response Plan based on the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable children and families, and will estimate the additional funds required to ensure a multi-sector response.

Next SitRep: 09-23-2022

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UNICEF Dominican Republic Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFRD/

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