



*More than 1,700 of Dominica residents are benefiting from access to clean water trucked in by International Medical Corps as repairs and rehabilitation to the water systems are underway in Dos d'Ane, Paix Bausche, Thibauld, Borne, Providence, Terra Plate, and Belle Maniere.*

## SITUATION UPDATE

### Background

This year's Atlantic hurricane season was marked by six major hurricanes (Category 3+) and ten hurricanes total. Hurricane Irma, which developed into a Category 5 storm on September 5, reached peak wind speeds of 185 mph as it moved through the northern Leeward Islands. Irma was recorded as the 11<sup>th</sup> most intense hurricane in the Atlantic basin, maintaining maximum intensity for 37 hours.

Irma's destruction was most felt on the islands of Barbuda, Saint Martin, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands, and the United States – specifically, Florida. In Florida, despite evacuations, ninety people were killed as a result of the storm. International Medical Corps pre-positioned an assessment team in Florida prior to the hurricane making landfall, and additional assessment teams were operating in the Caribbean when Hurricane Maria, the fourth massive hurricane to strike the Caribbean during the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, traveled over Dominica on September 18<sup>th</sup> as a Category 5 storm,

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

International Medical Corps is responding to the aftermath of multiple hurricanes in Puerto Rico, Dominica, and Florida.

In Dominica, International Medical Corps has provided 298,258 liters of water to targeted communities, benefitting 1,740 people. The water trucking activities are supplementary to water rehabilitation projects in the same communities that are expected to begin in December. Nearly 3,000 hygiene kits have also been distributed to the communities.

In Puerto Rico, International Medical is deploying volunteer doctors and nurses to support two Mobile Medical Units, increasing capacity lost due to lack of staff. International Medical Corps is preparing a second round of deployments for early January.

and later over Puerto Rico on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The devastation was widespread – ninety-six people died and the damage estimates are at over \$51 billion USD across the Caribbean.

In Dominica, winds reached 160 mph, ripping the roofs off most homes and cutting the island off from cellular, radio and internet services. Maria affected 100% of Dominica’s residents, inflicting serious damage to roads, public buildings, homes, airports, and all of the island’s 53 health facilities. 98% of homes and buildings on the island incurred damage, half of which had their frames destroyed.

Maria hit Puerto Rico as a Category 4 storm, causing widespread flooding, high winds, and storm surges. The entirety of Puerto Rico’s aging electrical system was downed, subsequently affecting the water system. In the town of Toa Baja, flood waters rose six feet within thirty minutes, reaching fifteen feet in some areas. Three months after the hurricane, a significant portion of Puerto Rico remains without power, and those with power report it to be unreliable. The lack of electricity impacts water pump facilities, and the government is cautioning citizens to boil water prior to drinking it.

### **International Medical Corps Responds: Dominica**

International Medical Corps has been responding to the aftermath of the Atlantic storm season for several months now. During the initial weeks following the storm, International Medical Corps provided surge capacity and medical staff support at 11 Tier 1 and Tier 3 health centers in St. Andrew’s and St. John’s, as well as pharmaceutical staff support to sort, classify and distribute urgently needed pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. **During the initial emergency response, International Medical Corps volunteer teams conducted 764 patient consultations, covering 101 shifts in 11 clinics and hospitals.**

Moving forward, International Medical Corps is focused on helping communities recover and rebuild, working with the government and Dominica Red Cross to bring water systems back online. Starting in December, water rehabilitation and repair projects will be carried out in Dos d’Ane, Paix Bouche, Thibauld, Borne, Providence, Tere Plate, Moore Park, and Belle Maniere.

To provide access to clean water before the repairs are complete, International Medical Corps has been trucking water into these areas, upon direct request from Village councils and the communities. Between 400 and 800 gallons are being delivered daily to each community to ensure water access as per international standards (7.5 liters of clean water per person per day). **To date, 298,258 liters have been distributed to targeted communities benefitting 1,740 people.** The water distribution provides a temporary solution for these seven communities until International Medical Corps repairs the water system networks.

To help families stay healthy with water systems down, International Medical Corps has also distributed 3,000 hygiene kits to affected communities with the assistance of the Village Councils. Communities receiving kits are as follows: 335 in Dos d’Ane, 125 in Paix Bouche, 222 in Moore Park, 136 in Providence, 90 in Belle Maniere, 96 in Tere Plat, 845 in Woodford Hill, and 1,140 in Calibishie.

To further support recovery efforts and ensure coordination among response organizations, International Medical Corps also established and is chairing the Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)/Gender-Based Violence (GBV) working group in Dominica. The group holds bi-monthly meetings attended by UNICEF, UNFPA, IFRC, IsraAid, Dominica Psychology Society, NGO Coalition for the Protection of Children, Ministry of Social Services, Ministry of Health, Bureau of Gender Affairs, Drug Abuse Prevention Unit, Ministry of Education, and Department of Child Protection. The third meeting was on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. As a result of the working group and the ongoing needs on the island, International Medical Corps will launch Psychological First Aid Trainings for community leaders; to date, International Medical Corps has visited all village

councils in St. John and St. Andrew parishes to confirm support for the trainings, which will include five community leaders per village, for a targeted 35-40 people trained.

Finally, International Medical Corps continues to mobilize support of medicine and supplies, with additional pharmaceuticals expected to arrive next week in Dominica. These pharmaceuticals will be transferred to the Ministry of Health's Central Medical Store for distribution throughout the island to support medical facilities.

### International Medical Corps Responds: Puerto Rico

After arriving to Puerto Rico within days of Hurricane Maria, International Medical Corps continues to collaborate with La Asociación de Salud Primaria de Puerto Rico (ASPPR), a non-profit health network of 76 clinics supporting vulnerable populations in Puerto Rico.

To support relief and recovery efforts, International Medical Corps provided an initial \$100,000 to ASPPR clinics last month. This first tranche of funding identified a total of 17 clinics to receive grants for fuel, minor infrastructure improvements, and staff wellness activities to ensure facilities can operate without interruption, benefitting some 63,000 individuals. **Reporting from clinics is still incoming, but three clinics have reported a total of 3,440 patient consultations and 140 health care workers supported from the first phase of funding.**

International Medical Corps is in the final phases of developing the second phase of grants to ASPPR clinics to provide further targeted support to health facilities affected by the storm and more sustainable rehabilitation to facilities. The grants evaluation committee met this past week to develop the Phase 2 grant objectives and the application process. Grant amounts will be capped at \$30,000 per local clinic network, and activities considered for funding include staff support, expanded health services, and health center resiliency.

ASPPR clinics have received 8,000 hygiene kits that will be distributed in the coming weeks to households who are patients of the targeted clinics or those who are reached through mobile medical teams operating from these facilities to help encourage healthy behaviors and thwart the spread of disease.

To increase access to health services, International Medical Corps is now deploying volunteer medical staff on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to support two of ASPPR's mobile clinics for several weeks. A second round of volunteers is currently being recruited for deployment in early January. The MMUs will be operating on the southeastern part of the island, near Humacao. The mobile medical units are conducting home visits to treat patients who are unable to come to the centers for treatment. The sites see an average of 450 patients per week in their clinics, and an additional 60 through their outreach program. The volunteer surge will assist the MMUs in expanding their currently limited schedules, a result of lack of personnel.

<b>Donations to ASPPR Clinics, Puerto Rico</b>			
<b>Equipment and Supplies</b>	<b>Cash Grant</b>	<b>Clinic Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Generator: Clarke EDG6000 46KvA; connectivity through NetHope		Centros de Servicios Primarios de Salud, Inc.	Florida
Generator: Clarke EDG6000 46KvA		Neomed Center	Gurabo
Generator: Clarke EDG6000 46KvA		Migrant Health Center Western Region, Inc.	Mayaguez
Generator: Clarke EDG6000 46KvA; connectivity through NetHope	Cash Grant	Centros de Salud Primarios de Patillas, Inc.	Patillas
Generator: Clarke EDG6000 46KvA	Cash Grant	Atlantic Medical Center, Inc.	Barceloneta
Generator: HIPOWER 80kVA	Cash Grant	Corporacion Sanos	Caguas
Generator: HIPOWER 80kVA; connectivity through NetHope	Cash Grant	Salud Integral en la Montaña, Inc.	Naranjito

Potable Water Bladder, 500gal		Health Promed	Vieques
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal	Cash Grant	Hospital General Castañer, Inc.	Jayuya
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal		Centro de Servicios Primarios de Patillas	Santa Isabel
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal; Connectivity through NetHope		Centro de Servicios Primarios de Patillas	Maunabo
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal; Connectivity through NetHope		Salud Integral de la Montana	Orocovis
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal; connectivity through NetHope		COSSMA- Las Piedras	La Piedras
Connectivity through NetHope	Cash Grant	HealthProMed Foundation, Inc.	Culebra
Connectivity through NetHope (Arecibo, Utuado)	Cash Grant	Corporacion de Servicios Medicos y Primarios de Hatillo, Inc.	Hatillo, Utuado, Arecibo, Aguadilla
	Cash Grant	Morovis Community Health Center, Inc.	Morovis/ Toa Baja
Connectivity through NetHope	Cash Grant	Hospital General de Castañer	Adjuntas
	Cash Grant	Camuy Health Service, Inc.	Camuy
	Cash Grant	Migrant Health Center	Las Marias
Connectivity through NetHope	Cash Grant	Migrant Health Center	Maricao
	Cash Grant	Migrant Health Center	Isabela
	Cash Grant	Prymed	Cialas
	Cash Grant	Consejo de Salud de PR	El Tuque
	Cash Grant	Hospital General de Castañer	Castañer
Connectivity through NetHope	Cash Grant	COSSMA	Cidra
	Cash Grant	Costa Salud Community Health Centers, Inc.	Rincón/ Aguada

### International Medical Corps Responds: Florida

In Florida, International Medical Corps continues to support a network of 30 local clinics in and around Fort Myers, an area hit hard by Hurricane Irma. With the clinic's 500 staff largely displaced from their homes, we are providing sanitation facilities so that staff can return to work. We are also helping restore power and rehabilitate the network's clinic in Bonita Springs, which serves some 30,000 people. In addition, we are also partnering with a clinic network in Miami-Dade County, helping to provide low or no-cost medication for vulnerable families, ensuring that they continue to receive care for chronic diseases such as diabetes and easing their financial burden in the wake of the storms as they rebuild.

#### **Contact Information:**

Ian Rodgers, International Medical Corps Director of Humanitarian Response  
IRodgers@internationalmedicalcorps.org