



*Ciales Clinics in Puerto Rico is distributing insulin pouches that remain cold to beneficiaries without electricity. This activity is funded by International Medical Corps.*

## SITUATION UPDATE

### Background

This year's Atlantic hurricane season was marked by six major hurricanes (Category 3+) and ten hurricanes total. Hurricane Irma was recorded as the 11<sup>th</sup> most intense hurricane in the Atlantic basin, maintaining maximum intensity for 37 hours and hitting the Caribbean the week of September 5<sup>th</sup>. Hurricane Maria followed less than two weeks later, travelling over Dominica on September 18<sup>th</sup> as a Category 5 storm, and later over Puerto Rico on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

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. Currently, only half the island's population has access to power, and much of that access is intermittent and unreliable.

### International Medical Corps Responds: Dominica

International Medical Corps has been responding in Dominica to the aftermath of Hurricane Maria since the storm hit in September with health; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS); and logistics support. During the initial weeks following the storm, International Medical Corps provided surge capacity and

## 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 411,658 liters of water to targeted communities, benefitting 1,740 people. The water trucking activities are supplementary to water rehabilitation projects in the same communities.

In Puerto Rico, seven International Medical Corps-supported clinics receiving grants are reporting that funds allowed for 4,380 patient consultations, staff care for 130 health care workers, 336 hours of power, and 1,200 gallons of fuel.

medical staff support at 11 Tier 1 and Tier 3 health centers in St. Andrew's and St. John's Parishes, 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.** International Medical Corps is now working to extend these services to provide additional medical volunteers and support.

In addition to providing staffing for continued surge capacity, upon request from the Ministry of Health and PAHO, International Medical Corps began providing transportation support for nurses working night shifts at Princess Margaret Hospital in Roseau as of December 1, helping to ensure continued access to care for patients. With the disruption of electricity on public roads, and the lack of evening and late night transportation due to the continued curfew, this activity ensures uninterrupted services at the hospital during late-night hours. Transportation support will be provided for nurses travelling to the hospital at the start of the evening shift (8pm) along the western coast route as far as Portsmouth and for those completing the night shift at the hospital (9pm) and travelling to their residences along the same route. **It is projected that an average of twenty-six nurses will be utilizing the transportation daily through the month of December.**

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, and helping families stay healthy. 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, 411,658 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 also distributed nearly 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. In addition, teams have hired six Community Health Workers who will be conducting outreach and education to these communities on water, sanitation and hygiene and health messaging, with a focus on hygiene promotion. Training curricula for the new Community Health Workers has been approved by the Ministry of Health's Director of Health Promotion, and training is starting this week.

To support mental health needs, on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, International Medical Corps, in collaboration with IsraAid and the Dominican Psychological Society carried out its first psychological first aid training for national level Girl Guide leaders. There were a total of fourteen participants from across seven localities; using this training, leaders will be able to support the mental health of their Girl Guide participants as these young women and girls recover.

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 fourth meeting will take place on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### 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. Reports from the facilities are still incoming. **However, seven clinics have reported that the grants have supported 4,380 patient consultations, staff care for 130 health care workers, 336 hours of power generation, and 1,200 gallons of fuel.** Interventions include the following:

- PryMed Association, Ciales Clinic: This facility purchased insulated insulin pouches that maintain cool temperatures without electricity. They have distributed 195 to various households in their coverage area and are planning to provide more.
- NeoMed Association, Aguas Buenas Clinic. This facility is using an International Medical Corps-donated generator to power the entire facility. Though the patient population is relatively low here, this is the only health facility in the area that is able to operate.
- Maunabo Clinic and Santa Isabel Clinic both received water bladders and have installed and utilized them as backups. The Santa Isabel location has no water storage capacity other than the International Medical Corps-provided bladder.



*The Patillas-Santa Isabel team stands by their only water-storage bladder, provided by International Medical Corps.*

As the power grid comes back online, ASPPR has started to relocate International Medical Corps-provided generators to health clinics in greater need, ensuring that more clinics have the opportunity to provide access to care. This week, the generator at Barceloneta is being moved to a NeoMed facility in Aguas Buenas -- the municipality of Aguas Buenas has had no grid power since Hurricane Maria.

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.

Finally, to increase access to health services, International Medical Corps is working with the Associations to deployed volunteer medical staff to support two of ASPPR's mobile clinics for several weeks. Two physicians and four nurses have been deployed to Mayaguez and Hatillo, starting Monday, December 4. The mobile medical units will provide access to care for remote facilities and household visits to families unable to travel to available health facilities.

<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.	Aguas Buenas (formally at 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.

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