



Most health facilities still do not have reliable sources of power in Puerto Rico. International Medical Corps has been delivering generators and making cash grants to ensure facilities can access power until the grid is reestablished.

## SITUATION UPDATE

### Background

Recovery from this year's Atlantic hurricane season continues at a slow pace. The bulk of devastation occurred from Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which ravaged several Caribbean islands as well as impacting the United States.

Hurricane Irma, which developed into a Category 5 on September 5, was recorded as the 11<sup>th</sup> most intense hurricane in the Atlantic basin, maintaining peak intensity for 37 hours. Less than two weeks later, Hurricane Maria, the fourth massive hurricane to strike the Caribbean during the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, developed in the Caribbean. The storm traveled over Dominica on September 18<sup>th</sup> as a Category 5, 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, where winds reached 160 mph, roofs were ripped off homes and the island was cut off from cellular, radio, and internet services. Maria affected 100% of Dominica's residents, inflicting serious damage to roads, public buildings, homes, airports, all of the island's 53 health facilities, and the agricultural sector. Dominica's recovery is progressing

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

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

100% of health facilities and 98% of homes were damaged as a result of Hurricane Maria in Dominica.

66% of Puerto Rico remains without power, and 25% of residents still do not have access to running water.

In Dominica, International Medical Corps has deployed medical volunteers to support local health facilities and mobile medical units, supporting 14 health facilities and providing more than 600 consultations to date. Moving forward, services will include facility rehabilitation; water, sanitation and hygiene services in 4 communities; and mental health and psychosocial support.

In Puerto Rico, International Medical Corps is providing power, clean water, communications and cash grants to 26 health facilities and local clinics that serve more than 63,000 people. Initial grants totaled \$100,000 with additional grants anticipated at \$350,000 across the clinic network.

slowly, as food, water, electricity, and communications capabilities remain scarce across the island. Shelter remains a top priority for residents as 98% of homes were damaged in the storm.

Maria travelled onward to Puerto Rico, hitting the island as a category 4 storm and causing widespread flooding, high winds, and storm surges. The aging electrical grid was severely impacted, subsequently shutting down hospitals, clinics, water pumping stations, and more. Today, the government is stating that 40% of power has been restored, but coverage is uneven and unreliable. A significant portion of the population do not have access to water, and those with access to water are being told to boil or purify their water before drinking it. The needs in Puerto Rico remain substantial.

### International Medical Corps Responds: [Dominica](#)

International Medical Corps continues to respond to needs on the island of Dominica through a combination of direct medical support, gift-in-kind, and the development of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and primary health care infrastructure rehabilitation across the hardest-hit areas of the island.

International Medical Corps is beginning to phase out direct medical support to health centers in St. John's and St. Andrew's parish, home to a combined 18,000 people. In these parishes there is one hospital, two "T3 facilities" (moderately sized health centers with emergency room capabilities) and 11 "T1 facilities" (small health centers with limited services). International Medical Corps volunteer medical teams have been relieving overworked staff in Portsmouth and Marigot hospitals and clinics, as well as conducting house visits in communities to reach those unable to travel to static facilities, including elderly and disabled. This week, the final rotation of two nurses are supporting the health facilities still in need of staff support, as determined by the Ministry of Health (MoH) District Medical Officer. **International Medical Corps' medical volunteers have served 634 patients since October 17<sup>th</sup>.**



*Dr. Melina Brecknell sees a pediatric patient during MMU rounds. International Medical Corps medical volunteers supported health centers and MMUs in St. John's and St. Andrew's parish, relieving health workers and filling in personnel gaps.*

Last week, International Medical Corps deployed a new team of pharmacists from Pharmacists without Borders. The pharmacists will continue to support Portsmouth Hospital and Wesley Health Center, the primary health facility in Marigot health district, as requested by the Chief Pharmacists at Dominica's Central Medical Store. Their tasks include sorting and organizing the large amount of donations received at the larger regional health facilities and implementing an inventory system in coordination with the MoH. In addition, at the request of PAHO and the Senior Lab Technician at the MoH, International Medical Corps has procured and delivered reagents to support critical laboratory machines. These reagents will provide a stop gap until the normal supply chain of reagents is restored.

To ensure long-term access to clean water and assist in the recovery of water, sanitation and hygiene systems, International Medical Corps is partnering with the Dominican Water and Sanitation Company (DOWASCO) to repair four community water systems serving 14 settlements and nearly 10,000 people. International Medical Corps will also be

rehabilitating the water, sanitation and hygiene systems in 11 targeted health facilities in Portsmouth and Marigot health districts. Water trucking to communities and health centers will begin this week to ensure there is access to clean water prior to completion of the four water system repairs. Water trucking to communities will provide the international standard of 7.5 liters of treated water per person per day for at least two weeks.

To support these efforts, International Medical Corps is now recruiting six local Community Health Workers (CHW) to conduct WASH outreach activities with the goals of improving hygiene and health practices around safe water use and promoting healthy behaviors, such as handwashing. CHW training and hygiene promotion is in conjunction with community water system repair and health center facility rehabilitation to ensure an integrated and holistic response to community health needs. In addition, 3,000 hygiene kits are now en route to Dominica to further support healthy hygiene practices, and another 20 foot container with several thousand kits is now being mobilized to arrive in the coming weeks. The hygiene kit distribution will focus on the Portsmouth and Marigot health districts of Dominica, complementing on going services.

### 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.

Last week, an evaluation committee comprised of ASPPR leaders and International Medical Corps staff reviewed 18 rapid response grants from 14 different association members. A total of 17 clinics were selected for funding from the initial \$100,000 grant. These grants will support the clinics with fuel, minor infrastructure improvements, and staff wellness activities to ensure facilities can operate without interruption, benefitting some 63,000 individuals. For example, Camuy Health Services, a facility along the north coast, will use part of its grant to repair a solar array that is currently inoperable. Under normal conditions, the solar array reduces the energy bill by 25% (~\$7,000 per month). Migrant Health Service, Western Region, will purchase 3,750 gallons of diesel fuel to support three of its 10 centers for a period of 3 weeks while it awaits connection to the power grid, a project expected to take months in these locations.

International Medical Corps is in the process of developing the second phase of grants to ASPPR clinics to provide targeted support to health facilities affected by the storm and more sustainable rehabilitations to facilities. Moving forward, the International Medical Corps team is considering providing direct support for patient costs in order to reach people who need medical care but are faced with other challenges or are in need of other essential household support, including home repair, food, and more. Additional support is expected to be \$350,000 across clinic and individual grants.

Finally, 8,000 hygiene kits arrived in Puerto Rico this week. ASPPR will work with International Medical Corps to distribute these 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

<b>Donations to ASPPR Clinics, Puerto Rico</b>			
Generator: Clarke EDG6000 46KvA		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	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	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		Centro de Servicios Primarios de Patillas	Maunabo
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal		Salud Integral de la Montana	Orocovis
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal		COSSMA- Las Piedras	La Piedras
	Cash Grant	HPM Foundation, Inc.	Culebra
	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
	Cash Grant	Hospital General de Castañer	Adjuntas
	Cash Grant	Camuy Health Service, Inc.	Camuy
	Cash Grant	Migrant Health Center	Las Marias
	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
	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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