



# SITUATION REPORT: HURRICANE DORIAN

September 13, 2019

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Hurricane Dorian, a category 5 storm, devastated the Bahamas from September 1 to 3, 2019. The islands most affected include Abaco and Grand Bahama. The death toll stands at 50 people, but as search and rescue efforts continue, the total is expected to rise. Initial assessments for Abaco found widespread destruction, with thousands of houses leveled, telecommunications towers down, and water wells and roads damaged. There is limited or no water, electricity or sanitation. In Grand Bahama, the storm most impacted the central and eastern sections, with several homes damaged between Freetown and Deep Water Cay. While access to affected communities remains challenging – hampered by damaged roads and infrastructure -- airports and seaports across Abaco and Grand Bahama are increasingly becoming operational, allowing assistance to be delivered. According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), 4,800 people have been registered as evacuees and shelters have been opened in Nassau to receive people. While many are staying with family and friends across the Bahamas, 1,650 are staying in six shelters in Nassau and are in need of assistance.

## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE EFFORTS

More than 40 humanitarian organizations are present in the Bahamas. While most are based in Nassau, response efforts focus on central and north Abaco. In Grand Bahama, the bulk of reported activities is in Freeport. With the arrival of evacuees in shelters in Nassau, humanitarian organizations are coordinating with NEMA to support assistance to evacuees. The World Food Program delivered 14,700 individual Meals Ready to Eat that arrived on September 6 and are being progressively distributed to the islands. UNICEF's first supply shipment of humanitarian aid includes over 400,000 water purification tablets, several 5,000-liter tanks for at least 2,000 people and 1,000 jerry cans. These supplies will be distributed to the affected communities in the coming days. NEMA identified these priorities for military support: search and rescue/recovery operations; road and debris clearance; clean-up of Marsh Harbour; support to relief supply and distribution on Abaco Cays; and support with temporary housing.



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Photo courtesy of AP

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF – ACTIONS TAKEN AND NEXT STEPS

While Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health does not have a direct presence in the Bahamas, we are assessing the situation and are in contact with partners who do work there. The ACT Alliance (which includes Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health as an active member) has deployed an assessment team from its Latin America and Caribbean office to assess the damage and design a response. In places where Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health does not have an operational presence, utilizing the ACT platform for an emergency response is often the most efficient way to help. Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health has a dedicated team of disaster response professionals and is ready to support the humanitarian efforts of the ACT Alliance and its members.

## ABOUT LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF AND IMA WORLD HEALTH

In January 2019, Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health combined operations to dramatically increase our impact on breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting healthier families and communities throughout the world.

With nearly 75 years of demonstrated expertise helping to transform some of the hardest-to-reach places in the developing world, **Lutheran World Relief** is an innovative, trusted international nongovernmental organization committed to those otherwise cut off from basic human services and opportunities.

We help communities living in extreme poverty adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being and we respond to emergencies with a long-term view. When a disaster hits — whether it's a drought, tsunami or civil war — we work alongside communities over months and years to help them recover and adjust to new realities, ensuring that they are prepared to withstand the next unexpected challenge.

**IMA World Health** provides solutions to health-related problems in the developing world. IMA — which stands for Interchurch Medical Assistance — was founded in 1960 by a consortium of faith-based relief agencies to provide medical supplies to the world's poorest populations. Today, IMA World Health focuses on:

- Ensuring people have access to primary health care services.
- Promoting maternal and child health through access to immunizations, malaria treatment and other lifesaving health services.
- Promoting proper nutrition, especially for very young children.
- Preventing the spread of HIV.
- Distributing medicine and supplies to prevent diseases from spreading — including malaria and Ebola — and helping communities care for those affected.
- Responding to and preventing sexual and gender-based violence.

For additional information about Lutheran World Relief's response to this situation and other emergencies around the world, please visit [lwr.org](http://lwr.org). You can also join the conversation about how Lutheran World Relief is responding to emergencies with a long-term view at [facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief](https://facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief) or [twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief](https://twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief).