



Sept. 7, 2017

Hurricane Irma appeal

Appeal goal: \$500,000

Situation

As one of the strongest North Atlantic storms in recorded history, Hurricane Irma brings driving rain and winds in excess of 155 mph throughout the Caribbean. The Category-5 storm is impacting the island of Hispaniola, with Haiti's northwest squarely in Irma's trajectory. [Haiti's government has been preparing for the storm for a week.](#) Because IMA World Health has had a significant presence in Haiti since 1998, we are ready to respond to the public health challenges resulting from this devastating event.

IMA World Health Response

Cholera prevention and treatment

IMA World Health enjoys significant national, departmental and local relationships with the Ministry of Health and communities in Haiti. IMA Country Director Dr. Luula Mariano is concerned the country will see cholera outbreaks similar to what followed Hurricane Matthew last year, particularly in the northern regions of Haiti and peri-urban centres across the country. "Haiti has precious few plains and these are high density areas which are also highly prone to flooding and flash floods," she says. "Any time there is flooding, there is risk for rapid spread of cholera - which can be life-threatening in a developing country like Haiti."

IMA World Health aims to use its diseases surveillance and community-led mobilization experience, and its close relationships with local authorities across every district, to support to early detection and response to suspected cholera cases. Timely treatment and outbreak control education, community mobilization for rapid uptake of cholera vaccination, strengthening of points of care with life-saving drugs and procurement of family hygiene kits are among the urgently needed actions that IMA will undertake with your support.

Malnutrition surveillance

Haiti's northern and central plains are the agricultural core of what is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Both are squarely in Hurricane Irma's path at the time when the year's second harvest was expected. [Acute food shortages and increases in maternal and child malnutrition are expected in the affected regions and beyond.](#) IMA World Health staff will work with international organizations such as OFDA, the United Nations' World Food Program and its other agencies, IMA member agencies, government and civil society officials to ensure timely local level humanitarian response to mitigate the effects of food insecurity and malnutrition is prevented, or addressed especially in northern Haiti.

TO SUPPORT THIS APPEAL, or to discuss possible collaboration, please be in touch with [Matt Hackworth](#), director of communications, 202.888.6200 or 202.417.5883 (cell)