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Information Bulletin no. 3 Hurricane Dorian–Bahamas

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin N° 3	Date of issue: 5 September 2019
Date of disaster: 1 September 2019	Focal Point in Nassau, Bahamas: Raphael Hamoir; Disaster Management Coordinator raphael.hamoir@ifrc.org
IFRC Category allocated to the disaster: Orange	
Host National Society: The Bahamas Red Cross Society	
Red Cross partners involved: French Red Cross (PIRAC), American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Ecuadorian Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	
Other partner organizations involved: Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); National Emergency Operations Center in Bahamas (EOC), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) / World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP).	

This bulletin is being issued for information only; it reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

CONTEXT

The situation¹

On 1 September 2019, hurricane Dorian hit Northern Bahamas with winds of up to 185mph (298km/h) reaching category 5 on the Saffir-Simpson and equalling the highest ever recorded at landfall. The storm battered the Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama for almost two days in what has been described as a stationary hurricane.

Although Grand Bahama suffered damage and floods, the Abaco Islands were hardest hit. The work of assessment teams sent by IFRC and CDEMA has been hampered by the harsh weather conditions, but footage taken from the air showed vast swathes



First IFRC shipment of supplies to Bahamas. 05 September 2019.
Source: IFRC

¹ [Tropical Storm Dorian Public Advisory](#). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Last update: 5 PM AST, 05 Sep. 19

of destruction. As we wait for initial evaluations, the Bahamas Health Minister has reported that 17 persons died in the Abaco Islands and three on Grand Bahama—these figures are likely to rise². Allow items for this declaration:

On 2 September, the Government of The Bahamas emitted a [Declaration of Exigency](#) which qualifies for the purposes of Customs Duty exemption Medicine and Medical supplies, Building materials, Tents, cots, bedding materials and mosquito nettings, Electrical fixtures and materials, Plumbing fixtures and materials, Household furniture, furnishing and appliances, Electrical Generators, Bottled Water, Clothing, Food for personal consumption and Personal hygiene products.

Early Damage Assessments and Response

Efforts to conduct needs assessments have failed due to the harsh weather conditions following the passage of hurricane Dorian. The following points provide an initial overview of what can be expected:

- Bahamas Health Minister has reported the death of 17 persons in Abaco and 3 in Grand Bahama³.
- Early video footage of Abaco shows total obliteration of portions of the island and large areas on the coast completely covered by water.
- The Bahamas Red Cross has 200 volunteers prepared and working to support the families affected
- All clean water wells could be contaminated by saltwater and no other freshwater resource is available for this area.
- Secondary sources report that the main hospital on Grand Bahama is unusable while the one in Marsh Harbour (Abaco) is intact and sheltering 400 people.⁴ There are also reports of thousands in need of food and water.⁵
- According to the first Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT) aerial reconnaissance flight over Abaco, the Sandy Point airstrip in the south and Treasure Cay in north central Abaco appear to be viable. Marsh Harbor airport remains underwater. Elbow Cay has been destroyed.
- According to CDEMA, approximately 60 per cent of homes in Marsh Harbor are damaged⁶.
- The RNAT aerial reconnaissance flight over Grand Bahama shows that the eastern part of the island is the most affected. The High Rock community has been practically destroyed. Roads are blocked. Although there were no large groups of people seen from above, scattered groups of people are trying to move west; however, the blocked roads impede their path. Oil spills from damaged oil tanks were spotted as well. The western part of the island, where Freeport is located, was not as badly damaged. Some areas in the west in Freeport are flooded, including an airport. There are cars and people moving in the streets.



Bahamas Red Cross Society

- The Bahamas Red Cross counts with two branches in Grand Bahama and Abaco, stocks prepositioned for 1,000 people in the Bahamas, and 200 volunteers responding to the emergency
- The National Society prepared for the response to Hurricane Dorian by:
 - Reviewing HR and Finance structure.
 - Reviewing logistics/preparation to receive first plane of Non-Food Items (NFI).
 - Assessing logistic capacities and requirements.
- The Bahama Red Cross has sent items to Grand Bahama and Abaco, but the items could have been lost due to the flooding conditions
- Continuous coordination with NEMA.

²https://beta.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/bahamas-lifts-hurricane-dorian-storm-warnings-assesses-catastrophic-destruction/2019/09/04/df55da6c-ce88-11e9-a620-0a91656d7db6_story.html?noredirect=on

³https://beta.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/bahamas-lifts-hurricane-dorian-storm-warnings-assesses-catastrophic-destruction/2019/09/04/df55da6c-ce88-11e9-a620-0a91656d7db6_story.html

⁴<https://www.local10.com/weather/hurricane/hurricane-dorian-damages-health-infrastructure-on-grand-bahama-island>

⁵<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/09/hurricane-dorian-5-dead-catastrophic-storm-hit-bahamas-190903194804406.html>

⁶[blob:https://emops.pdc.org/97c7dab5-2e02-4471-bfb0-df8666abd077](https://emops.pdc.org/97c7dab5-2e02-4471-bfb0-df8666abd077)

- Two Bahamas Red Cross volunteers (RIT Trained) joined to RNAT in Abaco and Grand Bahama for 3 days. The 4 September mission was cancelled due to ground conditions since it was impossible to land. Mission was re-scheduled for Friday 6 September.
- Several media interviews and media presence by the Bahamas Red Cross.
- Strategy and request for Emergency Appeal presented to Prime Minister and NEMA. Green light given to send NFI plane.
- Continuous coordination with NEMA and other agencies.
- The BRC will also assess the situation in impacted keys.
- NS maintained 24/7 presence in the National Emergency Operations Center.
- NS has stocks prepositioned for 300 families purchased with funds from the Belgian Government.
- NS had some stock prepositioned in Grand Bahama for about 50 families (tarps, hygiene kits).
- 50 cash cards donated to the BRCS were sent to Grand Bahama.
- NS counts with an emergency bank account with funds to kick start an operation.



First IFRC shipment of supplies to Bahamas. 05 September 2019.
Source: IFRC

IFRC ACTIONS

- Head of Country Cluster Support Team has been deployed to Bahamas to provide additional support and leadership.
- The IFRC Americas Regional Office, together with the Nationals Societies of the Caribbean, has been monitoring and preparing for Hurricane Dorian.
- IFRC deployed a disaster management coordinator to Bahamas ahead of Dorian's landfall in anticipation of emergency response needs.
- The generous contribution of the Belgian Government made possible the IFRC pre-positioning of emergency stocks in Bahamas, which include: body and laundry soap; polypropylene ropes; lamp/radio cellphone charger hand crank, solar power; plastic buckets; woven blankets; tarpaulins; kitchen sets and jerrycan.
- IFRC has released 500,000 Swiss francs from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to cover the needs of about 500 families who will receive emergency shelter assistance, including tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets, and solar cell phone chargers.
- Unconditional cash grants will be provided to 1000 families which will allow them to repair and replace what they have lost, while also helping to bolster local economies in the short term.
- The IFRC has a very strong logistic capacity in the Americas region. As part of the Humanitarian Hub in Panama the IFRC can respond simultaneously to two disasters and serve 7500 families in each emergency.
- Activation of Airbus agreement and ongoing coordination for flyovers (20 hours of flight)
- Surge teams identified and arriving on 4-5 September including Restoring Family Links Surge from ICRC.
- Alert 2 and Category Yellow and Orange were issued by Americas Regional Office as per Regional Contingency Plan.

IFRC Surge personnel deployments

The SURGE Desks in Geneva and Panama sent out alerts and were able to quickly identify and select a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) that is arriving to Bahamas on 5 September. The SURGE team has the following profiles:

1. **Head of the Country Cluster Support Team** - IFRC
2. **Team Leader:** IFRC Americas Regional Office
3. **Field Coordinator:** French Red Cross (PIRAC)
4. **WASH Coordinator:** Canadian Red Cross
5. **Logistics Coordinator:** British Red Cross
6. **Logistics Officer:** IFRC Americas Regional Office
7. **Health Coordinator:** IFRC Americas Regional Office
8. **Health ERU assessment delegate:** Canadian Red Cross
9. **Shelter Coordinator:** German Red Cross
10. **Shelter Officer:** Ecuador Red Cross
11. **Communications:** American Red Cross
12. **PMER:** IFRC Americas Regional Office
13. **Finance:** IFRC Americas Regional Office
14. **Base camps manager:** Danish Red Cross
15. **Restoring Family Links (RFL):** ICRC
16. **Cash Coordinator:** American Red Cross
17. **Cash Officer:** American Red Cross
18. **Surge Information Management Support Coordinator (SIMS)-** American Red Cross (remote support)

Emergency Response Units (ERU) deployed:

1. Logistic ERU led by Finnish Red Cross, deployed in partnership with Danish Red Cross - (1 TL, 1 Deputy TL, 2 warehouse, 1 admin, 1 Comms, 1 Air ops, 1 audio visual)

Emergency Response Units on alert:

1. IT& Telecom ERU (on standby)
2. Red Cross Hospital (on standby)

SIMS network to support the Bahamas Red Cross and the Americas Regional Office to:

- Produce different types of maps that meet operations team expectations.
- Support mobile data collection with survey design and data management.
- Produce infographics to support Communications team in IFRC Americas.
- Support on data management, especially on data coming from the field.
- Produce data visualization products that meet IFRC standards.
- Support other IM tasks if required.

The following mid and long-term positions will be advertised to provide support to the operation in Bahamas

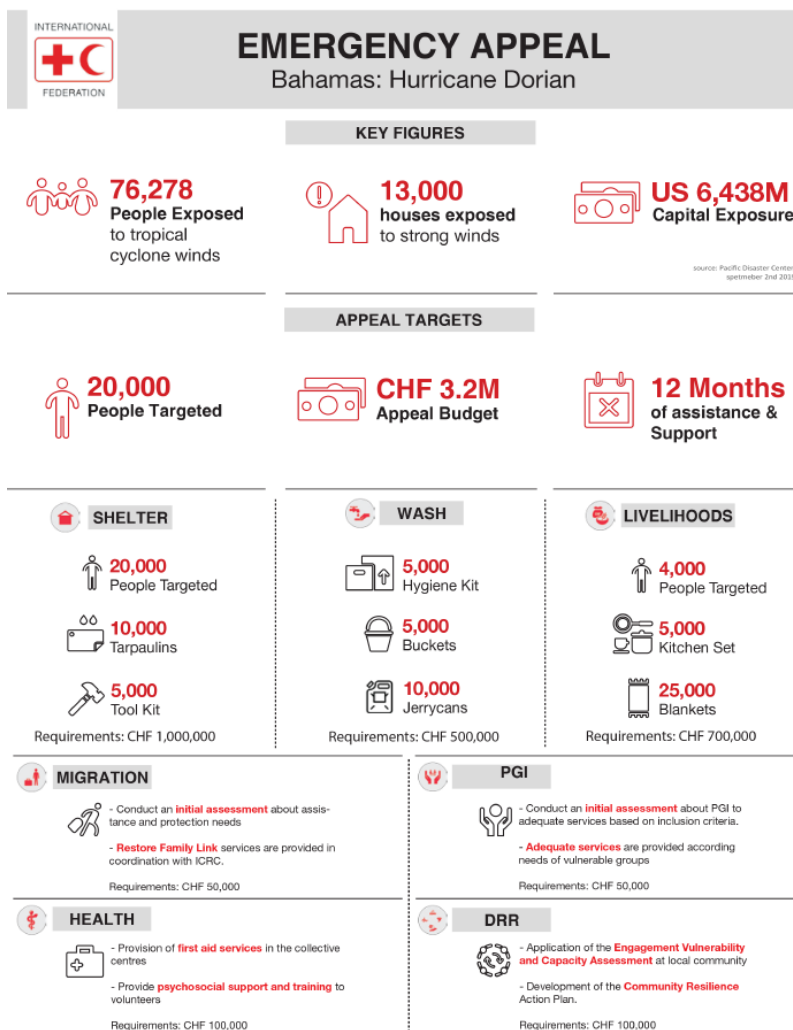
- Operations Manager
- Finance and Administration Delegate
- PMER Delegate
- Logistics Delegate

IFRC Emergency Appeal⁷

The Emergency Appeal seeks a total of 3.2 million Swiss francs (CHF) on a preliminary basis to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the Bahamas Red Cross Society to deliver assistance and support to 5,000 families (20,000 people) for twelve months. The areas of focus and strategies for implementation include: Shelter (including household items), Livelihoods and basic needs (including Cash and Voucher Assistance), Health, Water, Sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Migration, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and National Society strengthening (preparedness for effective response).

The IFRC thanks all partners who have supported the operation so far. The current coverage of the appeal is 22% (including soft cash pledges for a total of CHF 618,000 and in-kind donations for a total of CHF 99,432). The current funding gap is of CHF 2.5 million.

The IFRC encourages all partners to support this operation and ensure enough funding coverage to maintain this much-needed response. For any financial support to this emergency appeal, please contact marion.andrivet@ifrc.org



⁷ <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/press-release/bahamas-first-pictures-devastation-emerge-red-cross-issues-urgent-appeal-funds/>

IFRC Relief

With access to the battered islands slowly beginning to open, the Red Cross has started rolling out a major emergency relief effort. Getting relief to people in need is our number one priority. Damaged roads and telecommunications infrastructure present challenges, but Red Cross teams are working to respond to this disaster.

On 5 September in the afternoon, IFRC sent a plane load of relief supplies to Odyssey Aviation Nassau (MYNN). This first shipment included: volunteer visibility kits for 50 persons, 2 warehouse tents (large mobile storage tent), 1,600 jerrycans, 1,600 tarpaulins, 800 hygienic parcels, 800 shelter tool kits, 1,600 plastic buckets, 3,200 blankets and 700 kitchen sets.

A second batch of relief supplies will be sent on two planes this weekend after determining specific needs with the Bahamas government, CDEMA and partners. IFRC also expects to include tents, water bladders, family water filters, mosquito nets and additional hygiene kits. The Bahamas Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a list of immediate assistance supplies and IFRC has responded through the Caribbean Development Partners Group expressing what is available in the Humanitarian Hub.

Additional Resources

- [GO Platform](#) is constantly updated and there is a page dedicated to [Bahamas](#).
- Regional [Preparedness dashboard](#)
- [Hurricane Dorian monitoring dashboard](#).
- [Summary of Regional Contingency Plan](#)

Other Highlights

- Dominica Red Cross offered personnel to be deployed to support the response. Also, there is interest in opening a national Appeal, negotiating to direct those funds to the Appeal.
- Abaco island has the most vulnerable population with a significant Haitian population.
- Abaco island seems to be uninhabitable at this point: no fresh water, sanitation, or shelter.
- Shelter needs will be very important in Abaco
- Inter-island logistics will be complex.
- Ground operations in the Abaco Islands are uncertain as NS does not have a warehouse or means of transportation.

International Organizations and Government

- High level mission in Nassau comprised of CARICOM Sec Gen, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia/CARICOM Chair, Saint Lucia's Minister of Tourism, Prime Minister of Barbados and Minister Dale Marshall, CDB Chair, Director of RSS, CDEMA Executive Director.
- NEMA is expressing that they are currently focused on lifesaving response efforts, prioritizing search and rescue and recovery.
- The Bahamas Defence Force have been doing missions to Abaco, supporting lifesaving operations that have been taking place.
- USAID will provide a 17-man DART Team; 450 rolls of plastic sheeting; 600 hygiene kits with buckets; 4 chain saw sets; 1200 10L collapsible water containers.
- The Government of the United Kingdom is providing rapid deployment teams, with NFIs, jerry cans, hygiene kits, and shelter kits loaded onto the RFA Mounts Bay, which arrived on 2 September
- ECHO has activated the European Civil Protection Mechanism EUCPM (EU experts on different specialized fields including search and rescue, WASH, relief and in-kind support) available upon national

or UN request. Additionally, they have made Copernicus Emergency Mapping services available and are looking into emergency funding tools.

- Bahamas Health Minister reports that the Government is airlifting 25 doctors, nurses and other health workers to Abaco and hopes to bring in mental health workers soon.
- WFP reports that as a result of discussions with CDEMA, they will equip two logistics hubs, one for each island, with mobile storage units, generators, prefab offices and lighting. They also indicate that other equipment would need to be purchased in Nassau. UNHRD in Panama will also contribute to providing supplies⁸.
- USAID/OFDA received a plane with NFIs.
- Multiple NGO's are arriving and deploying personnel.
- Leadership and coordination of partners is done by CDEMA.
- 2 PAHO personnel on the ground and scaling up operations.
- 4 WFP personnel on the ground.
- PDC deployed in the Bahamas, present in National EOC.

⁸ [blob:https://emops.pdc.org/97c7dab5-2e02-4471-bfb0-df8666abd077](https://emops.pdc.org/97c7dab5-2e02-4471-bfb0-df8666abd077)

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

The Bahamas Red Cross Society:

- Caroline Turnquest, Director General, phone: +1 242 424 4201; email: DirectorGeneral@bahamasredcross.org;
- Alicia Pinder, Disaster Manager; phone: +1 242 535 0073 ; email: lpinder@bahamasredcross.com

In the IFRC Americas Regional Office:

- Stephen McAndrew, Deputy Director and (Acting) Head of the Disaster and Crisis Preparedness, Response and Recovery (DCPRR) department; email: stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org
- Felipe del Cid, Continental Operations Coordinator; phone: +507 317 3050; email: felipe.delcid@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- Marion Andrivet, Emergency Appeals and Marketing Senior Officer; email: marion.andrivet@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- Mauricio Bustamante, Head of Logistics; email: mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org, cel: +507 6677-9675
- Stephany Murillo, Logistics Manager; email: stephany.murillo@ifrc.org, cel: +507 6679- 9674

Focal Points in Nassau, Bahamas:

- Ariel Kestens; head of country cluster office POS CCST; email: ariel.kestens@ifrc.org
- Raphael Hamoir; Disaster Management Coordinator; email: raphael.hamoir@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva:

- Antoine Belair, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination; Disaster and Crisis (Prevention, Response and Recovery); email: antoine.belair@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.

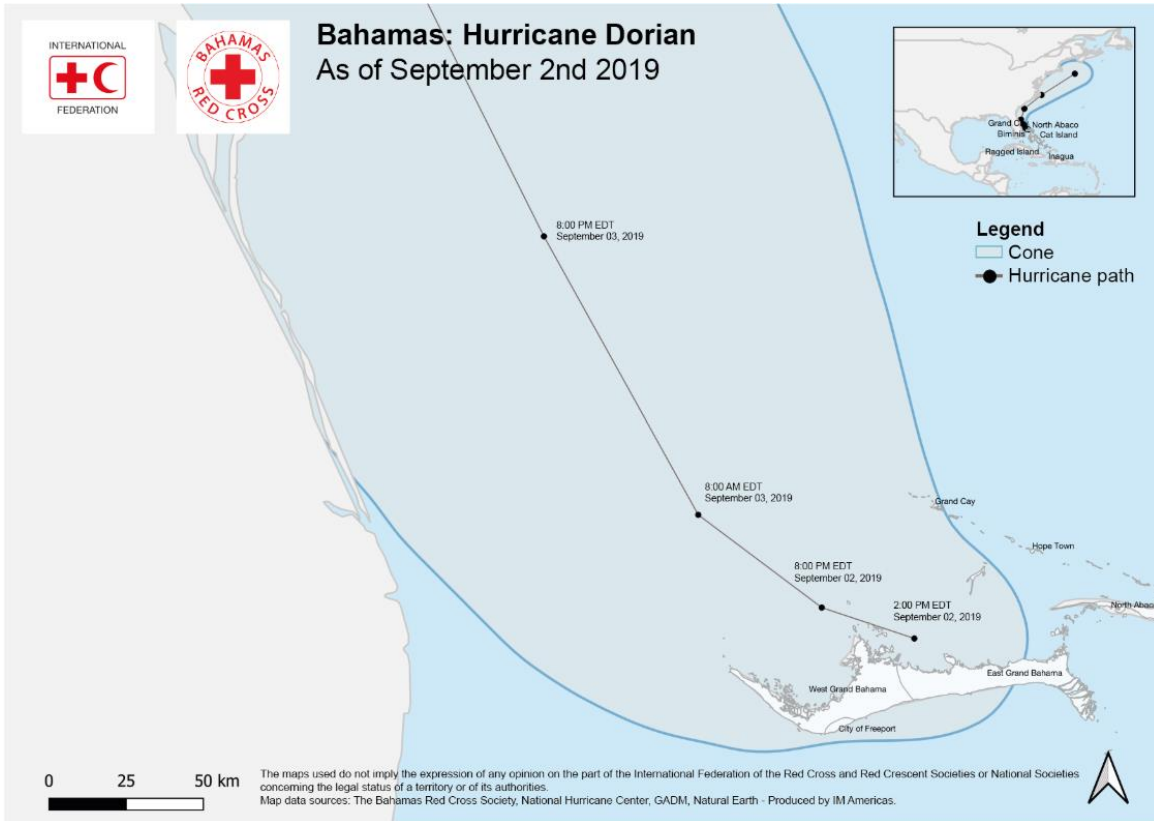


Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

Annexes

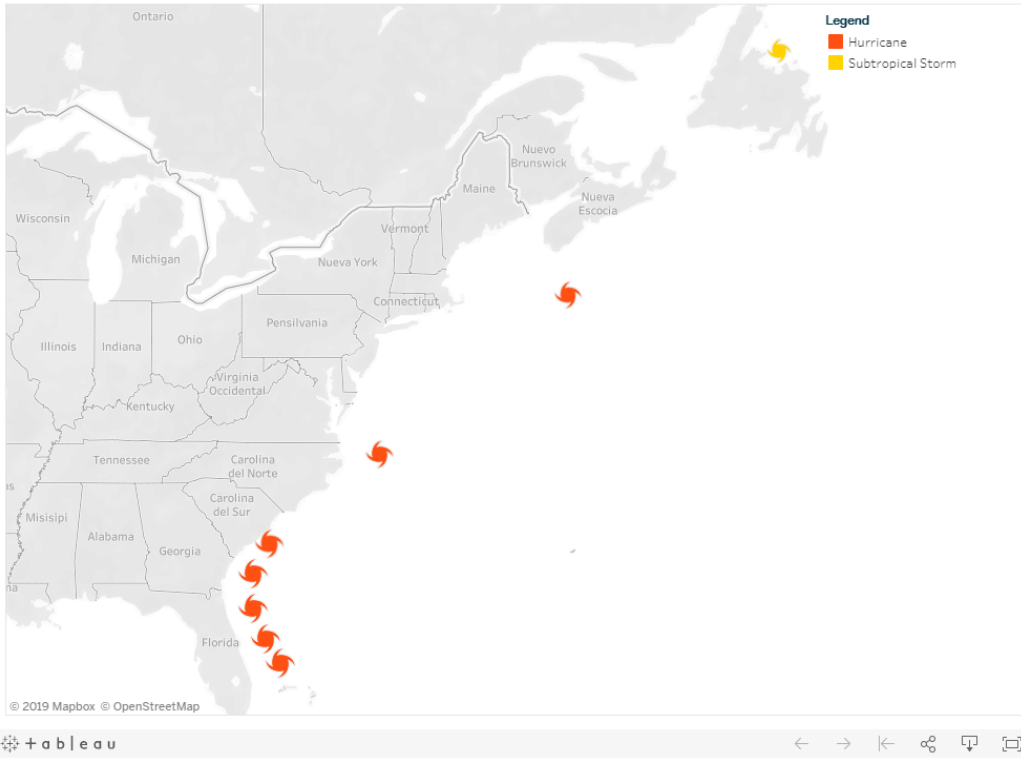
Information Management products developed by the Information Management Team can be found in the GO Emergency Page: <https://go.ifrc.org/emergencies/3751#details>

Hurricane Dorian Track Maps





Hurricane Dorian Track - As of 3rd September 2019



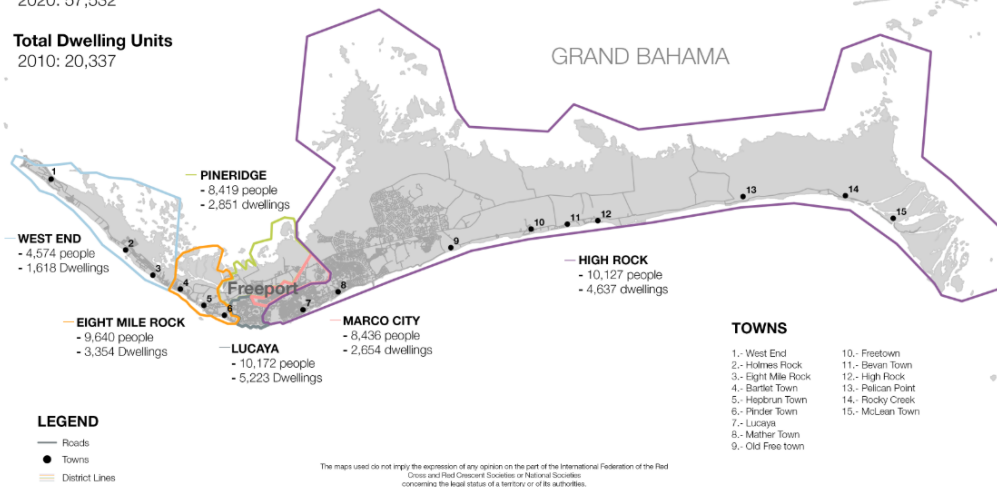
Basemaps



Grand Bahama Districts & Settlements

Total Population
 2010: 51,368
 2020: 57,532*

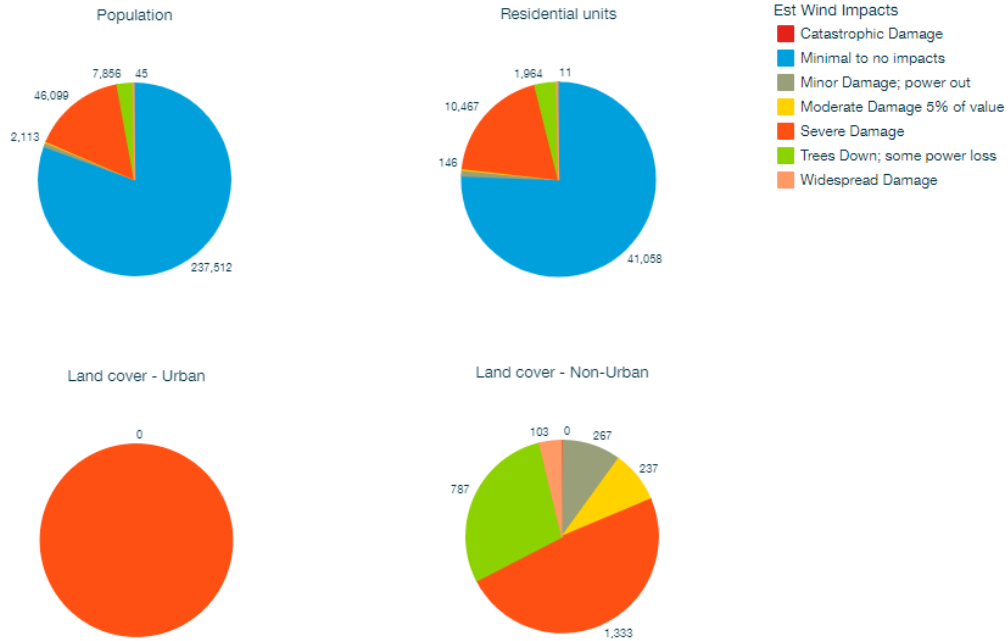
Total Dwelling Units
 2010: 20,337



Data visualization products and dashboards



Hurricane Dorian - Impact and Exposure



Bahamas: Hurricane Dorian - Surge Capacity Overview

2 Ongoing alerts 8 Requested profiles 8 Current deployments

Open Surge alerts

Profile required	Deployment duration	English required?	Spanish required?	Application link
CBI	1 month	Required	Preferred	http://bit.ly/2lulolz
Health	1 month	Required	Preferred	http://bit.ly/2lulolz
Logistics	1 month	Required	Preferred	http://bit.ly/2lulolz
PSS	1 month	Required	Preferred	http://bit.ly/2lulolz
WATSAN	1 month	Required	Preferred	http://bit.ly/2lulolz

More information? Please contact Surge.AMERICAS@ifrc.org

Required profiles



Currently deployed staff

Name	Profile	national_society	Deployment date	Deployment duration
Jenelle Eli	Communications	American RC	2019-09-03	1 month
Emmanuel PAJOT	Coordination	France RC	2019-09-03	1 month
Raphael Hamoir	Coordination	IFRC	2019-08-30	3 weeks
Arshad Mandol	Finances	IFRC	2019-09-03	1 month
Erin Law	Health	IFRC	2019-09-03	1 month
ERU Logistic	Logistics	Denmark RC	2019-09-03	1 month
Valeria Araujo	Logistics	IFRC	2019-09-03	1 month
Maia Techera	PMER	IFRC	2019-09-05	1 month