

# CARIBBEAN – HURRICANES

FACT SHEET #7, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

JULY 16, 2018

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**27**

Reported Fatalities in  
Dominica due to  
Hurricane Maria  
GoCD – September 2017

**265,000**

People in the Caribbean  
Region Affected by  
Hurricane Irma  
UN – September 2017

**71,293**

People on Dominica  
Affected by  
Hurricane Maria  
UN – September 2017

**298**

Metric Tons of  
USAID/FFP-Provided  
Emergency Food Aid  
Delivered to Dominica  
USAID/FFP

**185**

Metric Tons of  
USAID/OFDA Relief  
Items Airlifted to Five  
Hurricane-Affected  
Countries  
USAID/OFDA

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Recovery operations continue in Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, and other hurricane-affected countries in the Caribbean, after the September 2017 passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria
- USAID/OFDA partner Samaritan's Purse (SP) supports economic recovery in Dominica
- Tropical Storm Beryl crosses Dominica on July 8–9, causing minimal damage

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CARIBBEAN HURRICANES RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018

USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup>	\$7,701,823
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$2,000,000
DoD <sup>3</sup>	\$12,800,000
<b>\$22,501,823</b>	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Hurricane Maria's passage in September 2017 severely damaged or destroyed more than 90 percent of buildings and damaged more than 40 water systems in Dominica, according to the UN. Amid ongoing recovery activities, USAID/OFDA partner the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) continues to support critical shelter repairs and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities, including in Dominica and throughout hurricane-affected islands in the Caribbean.
- In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Maria, USAID/OFDA partner Samaritan's Purse facilitated access to safe drinking water for an estimated 10,800 hurricane-affected people per day and USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided emergency food assistance to approximately 25,000 food-insecure individuals in Dominica.
- In June, USAID/OFDA contributed an additional \$870,000 for the Caribbean hurricanes response, including \$750,000 to support emergency repairs to damaged fisheries in Dominica. Cumulatively, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$22.5 million in FY 2017–2018 funding to assist populations in the Caribbean affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

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## HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT

- Response stakeholders in Dominica have shifted from humanitarian response to recovery activities, IFRC reports. This includes the transfer of responsibility for response coordination from the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica (GoCD) Emergency Operations Center to the GoCD Ministry of Planning.
- On June 25, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) presented lessons learned from the 2017 Caribbean hurricane season at the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Americas, held in Colombia's Cartagena city. The high-level meeting reaffirmed the region's commitment to achieving the Sendai Framework for DRR goal of reducing the number of people affected by disasters and resultant economic losses. Through an ongoing DRR initiative, USAID/OFDA supports the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to partner with WMO to build local capacity and develop tools for storm surge forecasting in the Caribbean region.
- As of May, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society (ABRCS) had provided emergency relief commodities, livelihood assistance, shelter materials, and psychosocial support to more than 400 hurricane-affected households in Antigua and Barbuda.

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## SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

- Hurricane Maria damaged or destroyed nearly 23,500 houses in Dominica, representing approximately 90 percent of houses countrywide, the UN reports. In response to the continued need for shelter materials, labor support, and shelter repair instruction, USAID/OFDA partner IFRC provided plastic sheeting and other relief commodities to 5,000 households and building materials for roof repair to 2,500 households in Dominica.

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## HEALTH AND WASH

- The passage of Hurricane Irma in September 2017 resulted in severe damage to Barbuda's Hanna Thomas Hospital, including the destruction of medical equipment and supplies. As of May, the hospital had reopened at reduced capacity; ABRCS continues to provide basic medical supplies to support hospital operations, according to IFRC.
- As of May, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, with support from ABRCS, continued to operate two collective centers for people displaced by the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Displaced populations remained in need of hygiene kits, mosquito nets, and safe drinking water, according to IFRC.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- In response to Hurricane Maria, USAID/FFP provided \$2 million to WFP to support the provision of emergency food assistance in Dominica. Immediately following the storm, USAID/FFP funded the regional procurement of nearly 300 metric tons (MT) of emergency food aid, sufficient to feed approximately 23,500 people in Dominica—more than 30 percent of the country's population. The food aid, distributed in collaboration with the GoCD, assisted in alleviating pressure on the country's private sector and allowing for the re-establishment of commercial food supply chains and the re-stocking of food inventories.
- Once markets reactivated, USAID/FFP partnered with WFP to provide monthly cash transfers for food to approximately 25,000 vulnerable individuals across Dominica. In coordination with the GoCD, WFP utilized the country's existing social protection system to improve hurricane-affected households' access to sufficient nutritious food, while supporting market recovery across the island.
- To ensure response readiness in the event of a future hurricane, USAID/FFP maintains a stockpile of emergency food commodities in Houston, Texas, available for immediate transportation to an affected country. USAID/FFP also supported WFP to preposition nearly 2,900 MT in food commodities in Haiti to provide immediate food assistance to emergency-affected populations in the region in the event of a disaster. This contribution increased the UN agency's emergency food stockpile to a level sufficient to feed approximately 300,000 people for a month.

- USAID/OFDA recently contributed \$750,000 to non-governmental organization Samaritan's Purse to support fishing cooperatives in Dominica to repair and replace hurricane-damaged infrastructure. The new assistance is targeting 12 priority cooperatives benefiting approximately 2,200 fishermen across Dominica, with the aim of improving food security on the island.

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## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- The Dominica Flash Appeal, released by the UN and the GoCD in September 2017, requests \$31.1 million to support relief and early recovery activities through December 2017. To date, international donors have provided approximately \$20.9 million in funding towards the appeal, representing approximately 67 percent of the request, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Total funding for emergency relief and early recovery activities in Dominica to date—including contributions to and outside the flash appeal—totals \$29.5 million, OCHA reports.

### CONTEXT

- During successive weeks in September 2017, Hurricanes Irma, Jose, and Maria tracked through the Caribbean. The storms, particularly Irma and Maria, brought destructive winds, heavy rainfall, and dangerous storm surge to affected islands, leading to at least 52 fatalities and causing significant infrastructure damage across the region.
- On September 6, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Lisa A. Johnson issued a disaster declaration in response to the anticipated effects of Hurricane Irma in The Bahamas, and on September 7, U.S. Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Linda S. Tagliatela issued a disaster declaration in response to Hurricane Irma and the anticipated effects of Hurricane Jose in Antigua and Barbuda. In response, USAID/OFDA contributed an initial \$100,000 each to ABRCs and The Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS).
- On September 7, USAID activated a regional Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and stood up a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to coordinate the USG's response to the hurricanes.
- On September 9, U.S. Embassy in Paris Chargé d'Affaires D. Brent Hardt issued a disaster declaration for French Saint-Martin, and on September 10, U.S. Embassy in The Hague Chargé d'Affaires Shawn Crowley declared a disaster for Sint Maarten due to the effects of Hurricane Irma and anticipated effects of Hurricane Jose. In response, USAID/OFDA contributed an initial \$100,000 each for activities in Saint-Martin and Sint Maarten.
- Following the passage of Hurricane Maria, Ambassador Tagliatela issued disaster declarations for Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis on September 19 and 22, respectively. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 to Dominica and \$50,000 to Saint Kitts and Nevis for immediate humanitarian relief efforts.
- On October 2, Ambassador Tagliatela renewed the disaster declarations in Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica for FY 2018 due to continued humanitarian needs caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria.
- On October 9, the DART demobilized, initiating a shift to early recovery activities. A Dominica-based USAID/OFDA disaster risk management specialist continues to monitor humanitarian assistance activities and liaise with GoCD officials and humanitarian response organization representatives in Dominica in coordination with USAID/OFDA staff in San José, Costa Rica, and Washington, D.C.

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CARIBBEAN HURRICANES RESPONSE IN FY 2017 <sup>1</sup>**

<b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
ABRCS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Antigua and Barbuda	\$100,000
Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	The Bahamas	\$100,000
Dominica Red Cross Society (DRCS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Dominica	\$100,000
French Red Cross (FRC)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Saint-Martin	\$100,000
SP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Sint Maarten	\$100,000
	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Dominica	\$200,000
	Airlifted Relief Commodities	Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sint Maarten	\$702,319
	Americas Support Team (AST)		\$149,000
	Program Support Costs		\$239,122
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$1,790,441</b>
<b>DoD</b>			
	Logistics Support	Caribbean Region	\$12,800,000
<b>TOTAL DoD FUNDING</b>			<b>\$12,800,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CARIBBEAN HURRICANES RESPONSE IN FY 2017</b>			<b>\$14,590,441</b>

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CARIBBEAN HURRICANES RESPONSE IN FY 2018 <sup>1</sup>**

<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
IFRC	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	Dominica	\$500,000
	Health, Shelter, WASH	Dominica	\$500,000
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	Health	Dominica	\$250,000
SP	Shelter, WASH	Dominica	\$2,499,998
	Agriculture and Food Security	Dominica	\$749,997
WFP	ERMS	Dominica	\$300,000
	Airlifted Relief Commodities	Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sint Maarten	\$453,926
	AST		\$643,000
	Program Support Costs		\$14,461
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$5,911,382</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Dominica	\$500,000

Cash Transfers for Food	Dominica	\$1,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>		<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CARIBBEAN HURRICANES RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>		<b>\$7,911,382</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE CARIBBEAN HURRICANES RESPONSE IN FY 2017–2018</b>		<b>\$22,501,823</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 12, 2018.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.661.7710.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>