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Revised Emergency Appeal The Bahamas: Hurricane Dorian

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Revised Appeal n° MDRBS003

Glide n° [TC-2019-000099-BHS](#)

2,500 families (10,000 people) to be assisted

500,000 Swiss francs DREF allocated

26.2 million Swiss francs Appeal current funding requirements

Funding gap: 14.1 million Swiss francs
For details on coverage, see the [Donor Response Report](#)

Appeal launched 03 September 2019

Revision no. 1 issued: 24 September 2019

Revision no. 2 issued: 06 November 2019

Appeal ends 03 March 2021 (18 months' timeframe)

This revised Emergency Appeal seeks a total of **26.2 million Swiss francs** (increased from 17.3 million) to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support The **Bahamas Red Cross Society (BRCS)** to deliver assistance to and support recovery of **2,500 families (10,000 people¹)** with a focus on the following areas of focus and strategy for implementation: **Shelter; Health; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH); Livelihood and basic needs; Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI); Migration; Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); and National Society Strengthening (Preparedness for Effective Response)** for 18 months. The planned response reflects the situation and information available at this time of the evolving operation and will be adjusted based on further developments and more detailed assessments. Details are available in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) [<click here>](#)

This revised Emergency Appeal results in a funding gap of 14.1 million Swiss francs based on an increased number of people to be reached through livelihoods and basic needs activities and consequent increase in the number of staff and volunteers involved.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies wants to express its gratitude to all partners and donors who have contributed to this operation.

¹ According to ArcGIS the average household size of the Bahamas is 3.4 people per household. For this Emergency Appeal an average of 4 people per family was considered. [26 June 2019. ArcGIS](#)

The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

24 August 2019: NOAA informed that a newly formed tropical depression strengthened into Tropical Storm Dorian.²

August - September 2019: IFRC issues an [Information Bulletin no. 1](#) and [Information Bulletin no. 2](#) monitoring the development of Hurricane Dorian.

2 September 2019: IFRC issues a DREF Operation ([MDRBS003](#)) for 247,444 Swiss francs (CHF) to assist 500 families (2,500 people).

03 September 2019: IFRC issues an Emergency Appeal for 3.2 million Swiss francs to assist 5,000 families (20,000 people).

24 September 2019: IFRC issues the [Revised Emergency Appeal](#) for 17.3 million CHF to assist additional 2,000 families (8,000 people).

27 September 2019: [Operations update n°1](#) issued.

08 October 2019: [Operations update n°2](#) issued.

06 November 2019. IFRC issues the second Revised Emergency Appeal for 26.2 million CHF to assist 2,500 families (10,000 people),



The operational strategy

Overall situation

On 1 September 2019, Hurricane Dorian hit the Northern Bahamas with winds of up to 298 km/h reaching Category 5 on the Saffir-Simpson scale. The storm battered Abaco Island and Grand Bahama for almost two days in what has been described as a stationary hurricane.

The Bahamas is composed of 700 islands distributed over 100,000 square miles of ocean. Hurricane Dorian significantly impacted the north-western Bahamas islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama and the surrounding Keys. Hurricane Dorian surpassed known meteorological records as the strongest Atlantic hurricane documented to directly impact a land mass since records began. Hurricane also affected the north-western Bahamas islands for an approximate total of 68 hours, with the southern eyewall planted over Grand Bahama for about 30 hours.

Abaco Islands are the most severely affected. Initial assessments for Abaco found widespread destruction, with thousands of houses levelled, telecommunications towers destroyed, and water wells and roads damaged. There is very limited or no potable water, electricity or sanitation. Satellite data suggests that in Central Abaco, destroyed buildings are concentrated in the area surrounding Marsh Harbour, the most ravaged, particularly The Pea and The Mudd – both mostly inhabited by vulnerable groups – and Scotland Cay. Varying degrees of damage were also registered in critical infrastructure in Abaco such as health centres. Marsh Harbour port as well as the airport.

In Grand Bahama, the central and eastern parts are the most impacted, with major damage to 1385 households and 326 destroyed homes between Freeport and Deep Water Cay. A damage assessment³ carried out by the Department of Social Services in Grand Bahama suggest that 75 per cent of houses assessed near Eight Mile Rock West End, Freeport and East End, were destroyed or suffered major damage. Oil tanks have also been damaged⁴. According

² NOAA. [Hurricane Dorian. 2019](#)

³ Department of Social Services, Grand Bahama Report on Assessments related to Hurricane Dorian, 9 September 2019 – 9 October 2019

⁴ [OCHA. BAHAMAS: Hurricane Dorian. Situation Report No. 02. 10 September 2019](#)

to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)⁵, there were 777 sheltered people in 5 official shelters in New Providence as of 28th of October.

The population affected by the disaster includes Bahamian citizens from Grand Bahama and Abaco and a large number of people of Haitian descent residing in The Bahamas. While some of this segment of the displaced population are regularised and reside under work permits, many are present in The Bahamas without immigration status, have missing documentation or could be stateless⁶ making them particularly vulnerable in the aftermath of the hurricane⁷.

Moreover, a new tropical depression during the Hurricane Season could pose another threat to the islands of The Bahamas that were hit hard by Hurricane Dorian.



Photo 2: Damage in Marsh Harbour on Abaco at the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian..
Source: IFRC September 15, 2019.

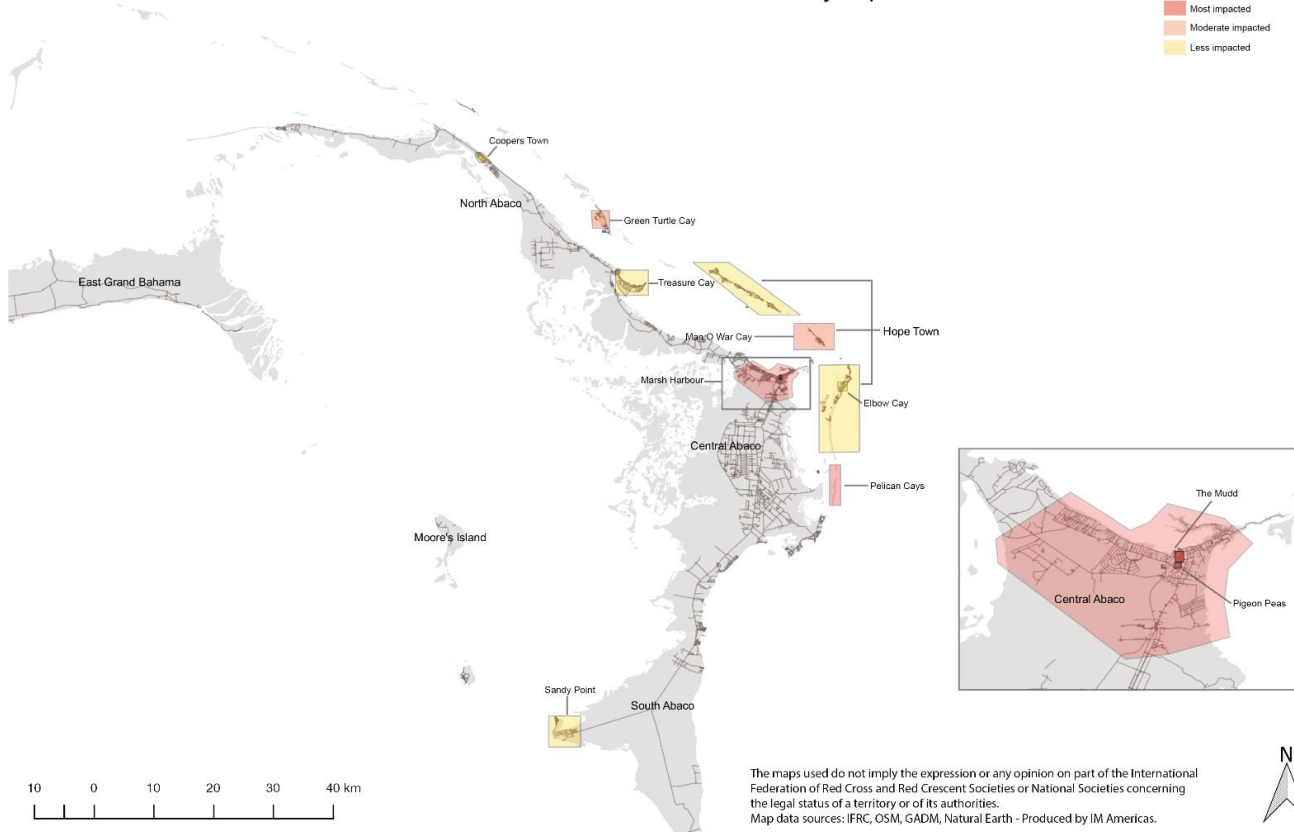
 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The Bahamas - Hurricane Dorian

Abaco Island: Prioritized areas by impact

Legend

 Most impacted
 Moderate impacted
 Less impacted



The maps used do not imply the expression or any opinion on part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
 Map data sources: IFRC, OSM, GADM, Natural Earth - Produced by IM Americas.

⁵ NEMA Weekly Update, 28.10.2019.

⁶ [Abaco, Shanty Town, Preliminary Assessment Report, 2018 Ministry of Labour](#)

⁷ [IOM concerned about 'vulnerability' of migrants following Dorian. 4 October 2019. The Nassau Guardian.](#)

Response to date

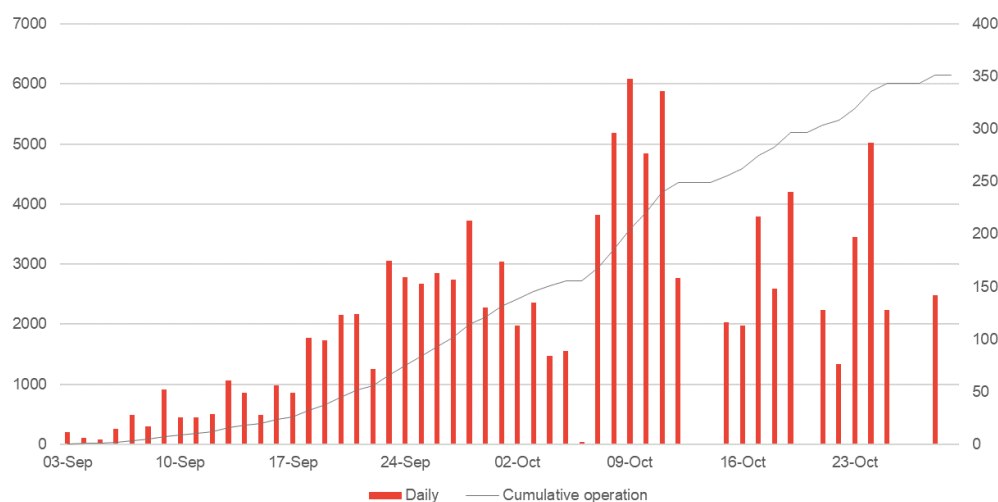
Before the Hurricane hit, the BRCS prepositioned stock to support 200 families. The relief items were sent to Abaco and Bahamas to start the humanitarian relief distribution but were lost after the impact. In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane, with support of IFRC, the BRCS received items to support 2,500 families with family kits.

Since the Hurricane cleared, hundreds of volunteers have donated their time and talents to help people in need. Red Cross volunteers delivered per-hospital care to evacuees and are currently sorting and distributing relief supplies, using their language skills to interpret for evacuees, as well as offering comfort to people traumatized by the storm.

Since the initial days of displacement, the BRCS has been distributing locally received donations and food vouchers in Nassau and Grand Bahama to help the evacuees. Red Cross staff and volunteers are distributing relief items to the affected population both in shelters and outside, such as water, hygiene items, dried food parcels, and other supplies requested by shelter managers and evacuees.

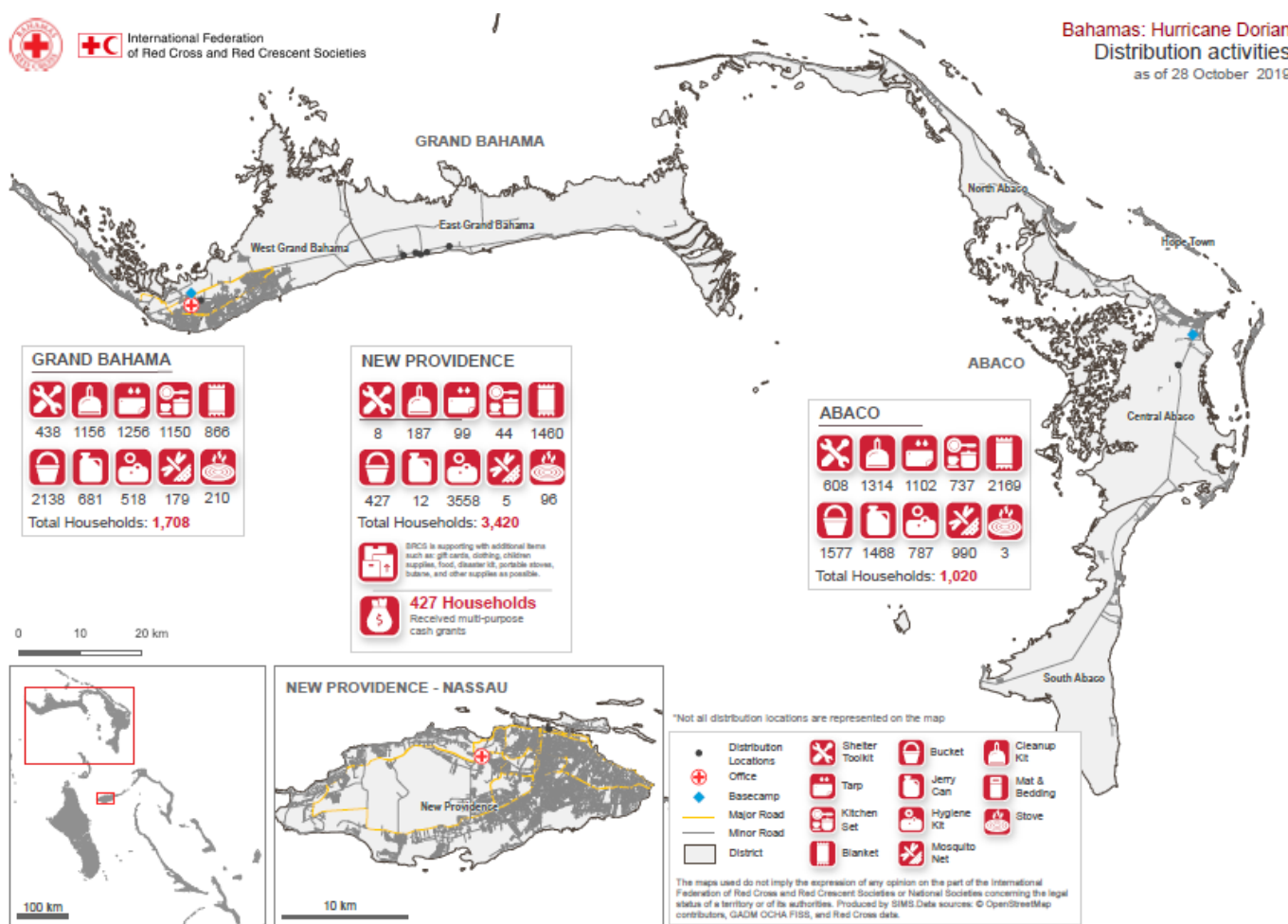
In the first days following the path of Hurricane Dorian, the BRCS activated its Emergency Medical Team (EMT) - composed of volunteers and staff - to provide emergency transport from Nassau Odyssey airport to affected people. They received evacuees from Abaco and Grand Bahama from the 2nd to the 9th of September (when the ambulance transfer service was shut down). On average, the EMTs attended about 40-60 people per day and coordinated with other EMT teams onsite to ensure transfer to appropriate services where needed (public and private hospitals, clinic and collective shelters). Affected people were provided with different medical assistance: treatment of soft tissue injuries and fractures, administration of missed medication, dialysis, maternity and psychological support services. In the first three days of the response phase the BRCS Ambulance transferred a total of 62 people to health facilities (36 males, 23 females, 2 unidentified).

Affected households need a wide range of immediate and basic goods and services, including but not limited to food, shelter, clothing, educational support, communication, transportation and debt-repayment. In response to these needs, NFIs, hygiene kits, diapers, formula, clothing, and one case of water per family were distributed. As of October 28, the BRCS has reached over 6,148 households, with appeal and other local contributions, through the distribution of relief



Number of Daily and Cumulative HHs Reached through relief distributions as of October 28

items (3,456 in New Providence, 1,020 in Abaco and 1,708 in Grand Bahama) and 420 households through multi-purpose cash assistance in New Providence, among which 381 from Abaco Islands and 39 from Grand Bahama.



Red Cross’s volunteer psychologists and nurses trained in advance of Hurricane Dorian have been providing psychosocial support (PSS) to evacuees and those affected in Grand Bahama and Abaco who have experienced traumatic events and who need support in identifying normal reactions to their experiences and when to seek further help. A PSS centre (the “Support Cottage”) has been established as an entry point at the BRCS headquarters and a similar PSS support programme is being established in Grand Bahama. So far, 836 people have been reached through PSS services, which includes one on one counselling, psychoeducation on coping, normative and referral to other services.

Moreover, BRCS, with the support of IFRC, are in the process of establishing a BRCS Help Desk in the largest of the government run shelter, as well as one at the BRCS office. These help desks will function both as an entry point to BRCS-provided services and as a way to ensure that people can be referred to government services or programs run by other agencies.

So far ten volunteers have been trained on CEA in Grand Bahamas and another ten have been sensitized in New Providence. Feedback mechanisms have been put in place and streamlined. A number of religious leaders have been identified as community entry points to Haitian communities, allowing outreach of CEA.

The ICRC, in coordination with the BRCS, has been supporting the implementation of Restoring Family Links (RFL) services to reconnect families separated by the hurricane. RFL working procedures were established for the BRCS headquarters and Centres on Abaco and Grand Bahama. Nine volunteers were trained to deliver basic RFL services. The BRCS, with the support of the ICRC, created a country page for the Movement’s Family Links Website explaining its RFL services available in the Bahamas after the hurricane. As of October 30, the RFL team has collected information and has been tracing 164 missing people, among these 43 cases were successfully resolved through family reconnections.

The BRCS has also launched a GoFundMe campaign [Bahamas Red Cross Official Hurricane Relief Fund](#) to raise funds from local and foreign donors to support the Bahamas Red Cross Relief Programme. BRCS also launched an [Amazon Wish List - Bahamas Red Cross Hurricane Dorian Relief](#) with local transport companies. *Nine to Five Imports LTD* and *Post Boxes* and *Amazon* to support the efforts of supplying basic human necessities and items to help with the clean-up and recovery. Two flights arrived on the 16 and 23 of September with relief items and supplies needed

to initiate recovery actions. Individuals and corporations have provided financial support to the Red Cross mission of alleviating human suffering. These donations have come from all over The Bahamas and all around the world.

The Finnish Red Cross has deployed a Logistics Emergency Response Unit (ERU), the Danish Red Cross a Basecamp Management ERU, the American Red Cross and Austrian Red Cross an IT & Telecommunication ERU. Additionally, the American Red Cross and French Red Cross have deployed a Relief ERU.

The IFRC through the Surge response system and with the support of the Red Cross Movement has a 62-person field team in The Bahamas covering the areas of National Society Development (NSD), Volunteering Development, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Health, Livelihoods, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), Restoring Family Links, Basecamp Management, Communications, Administration, Finance, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), Information Management, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Logistics for the initial assessments of the situation and to assist in the implementation of the plan of action and working jointly with the BRCS on its programmes. Furthermore, the field operations coordinator serves as liaison between the BRCS's administration, NEMA and other implementing actors. As part of the Shelter Cluster leadership taken by IFRC, Red Cross deployed one delegate based in Nassau before the Hurricane to support the coordination of all the shelter actions in the emergency. Moreover, there is an NSD senior liaison officer from the IFRC that works directly with the governance of the BRCS.

To support its coordination and response, the IFRC Regional Office for the Americas (ARO) developed a Hurricane Dorian Monitoring [dashboard](#) on the [IFRC GO platform](#) IFRC is coordinating with the BRCS and with the Surge Information Management Support (SIMS) network, including the American Red Cross and British Red Cross, sharing data and support on mapping and information management.

Coordination and Partnerships⁸

The Government of The Bahamas led the overall response through NEMA and in coordination with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Although the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has not been officially activated, coordination between humanitarian partners, led by NEMA, with previous support from CDEMA and OCHA, has been established upon the request of the Government of The Bahamas⁹. In order to align response functions between relevant stakeholders, NEMA activated its Emergency Support Functions (ESF) humanitarian coordination structure composed of 15 functions. IFRC and the BRCS are working with the government's ESFs, aligning IFRC expertise to NEMA coordination mechanisms and participating in the NEMA coordination meetings.

Several Red Cross Movement partners are currently present in country and are supporting BRCS' response both through the IFRC's Emergency Plan of Action and bilaterally. In order to ensure and facilitate coordination between partners, BRCS, IFRC, American Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross are meeting weekly to discuss the response to date and how to best support the National Society's continued efforts in a coordinated manner. ICRC's activities have also been embedded in the IFRC's structure and are currently being implemented through the EPoA.

Shelter:

- IFRC is leading the Shelter Sector coordination group that focuses on individual shelters and settlements. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is leading the Collective Shelters and the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) coordination group. The objective of these coordination groups is to harmonize the response of shelter actors and to assist the government in developing a shelter strategy for the affected areas. In addition to the coordination groups in Nassau, two coordination hubs have
- In Abaco, IFRC, IOM and Shelter Box worked jointly on a rapid shelter assessment in the following locations: The Mudd, Dundas, Murphy Town and Spring City. Furthermore, ShelterBox, IOM and IFRC discussed possible individual shelters support options.
- In Grand Bahama, initial conversations have started about a possible collaboration between Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and IFRC in the development of methodologies for the implementation of repairs through cash.

⁸ More details on coordination are available in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

⁹ [OCHA, BAHAMAS: Hurricane Dorian. Situation Report No. 04. 04 October 2019](#)

WASH:

- The WASH sector is being jointly coordinated by NEMA/Water and Sewer Corp. and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Other key government counterparts are the Ministry of Health/PAHO, Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Public Works. Also, Grand Bahama Water Company is a counterpart on Grand Bahama.

Health

- Ministry of Health and NEMA are co-leading with PAHO the health coordination group with the national health authorities and partners to ensure harmonized health and humanitarian support to the affected population. This coordination extends to Abaco and Grand Bahama where a transition of leads of ESF 8 (Health) is underway. IFRC and BRCS regularly meet with these staff to discuss public health messages and the delivery of MHPSS services.
- Psychosocial support activities and services are being coordinated by The Bahamas Psychological Association (BPA), Ministry of Health and NEMA. BRCS and IFRC coordinate with these groups in Nassau, Abaco and Grand Bahama. The Ministry of Health has provided nursing staff previously trained by BRCS in PSS to support PSS activities in Nassau.

Protection

- A Protection Working Group (PWG) led by UNHCR was formed in mid-September and meets two days/week. There was consensus to avoid individual agencies performing assessments with the displaced population to avoid having people approached by many agencies. The PWG now feeds into IOM's joint assessment and have been consulted in the design of the assessment questionnaire. IFRC's PGI focal point regularly attends and contributes to both working groups. PGI focal point has also developed partnerships with members of both working groups, and most notably the UNFPA, to share resources, and to ensure greater population reach.
- A sub-working group on Gender Based Violence (GBV) has formed under the overall leadership of UNFPA. GBV actors in Nassau have been mapped and there is now a well populated referral pathway¹⁰.

Food Security

The World Food Programme (WFP) continues to support NEMA/CDEMA and the humanitarian community in assuring that immediate food needs are largely met daily by private individuals, local organizations, logistics and supply chain coordination.

IFRC and BRCS are co-leading the Cash-Working Group together with NEMA and the Department of Social Services. The purpose of the Cash-Working group is to ensure coordinated financial assistance programmes between implementing partners organizations.

Early Recovery

- The Ministry of Public Works will start, with the support of UNDP, the first Building Damage Assessment in the affected areas using rapid impact evaluations.
- The Ministry of Environment and Housing, with the support of UNDP, has started the elaboration of debris and waste management strategies for Abaco and Grand Bahama. Clearing and debris removal has started. In Abaco, Airport and Port areas will be prioritized.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

The impact of Hurricane Dorian on housing throughout the islands has been significant. The storm demolished houses and ripped off roofs and destroyed power systems, water supplies and sanitation. The most affected infrastructure areas are located on the Abaco and Grand Bahama Islands, which has caused a massive migration flow from the

¹⁰ [Global Protection Cluster - Bahamas Hurricane Dorian](#).

islands to Nassau or to the United States. In Abaco, the Marsh Harbour town has the most damaged infrastructure on The Mudd and The Pea areas, which were heavily populated by Haitian migrant community, 20% of whom are estimated to be undocumented.¹¹ As this population's homes have been destroyed, this community is in a particularly vulnerable situation. In Grand Bahama, the eastern part has the most damages between Freetown and Deep-Water Cay.

A [six-month order](#) has been issued by the Ministry of Housing and Environment banning for six months the construction of residential or commercial buildings. The order extends to the areas of the Mudd, Pigeon Pea, Sand Bank and Farm Road communities of Abaco, which were flattened by Hurricane Dorian. Before the hurricane decimated these communities, they had more than 1,000 homes and an estimated population size of 3,500, according to government reports. These areas are classified as "Shanty towns communities" and were heavily populated by vulnerable Haitians migrants.

IFRC deployed an assessment team to Abaco and Grand Bahama to identify a location for a base camp and a warehouse and to conduct a preliminary assessment of needs in health, wash, shelter and restoring family links.

Shelter: The damage or destruction of homes caused by Dorian immediately caused a massive need for shelter, both for the more than 5,000 people evacuated to Nassau and those who remained in Abaco and Grand Bahama¹². As of 28th October, a total of 5 collective shelters hosting 777 persons are active in New Providence. In Grand Bahama and Abaco, official collective shelters have been deactivated due to lack of use¹³.

IFRC conducted rapid evaluation of the level of damage of infrastructure in Abaco and Grand Bahama, including public schools, health clinics, hospitals, collective centres and community centres. The BRCS branches have also been assessed in Nassau, Abaco and Grand Bahama and proposals for rehabilitation and new construction have been developed.

The department of Social Services (ESF-6) is currently carrying out a socio-economic profile and property evaluation assessment in both Grand Bahama and Abaco. The preliminary outcomes of the assessment in Grand Bahama as of 9th of October are as follows:

Damage Scale	%	No.
<i>No Damage</i>	1%	15
<i>Minor Damage</i>	22%	462
<i>Major Damage</i>	62%	1,303
<i>Destroyed Houses</i>	13%	282
Total	98%¹⁴	2,110

Source: DOSS - October 2019.

A damage assessment is also being carried out in Abaco by the department of Social Services, however the results have not been released yet.

The Ministry of Public Works (ESF-3) with the support of UNDP is conducting two assessments, one on individual houses damage, and another one on public buildings damaged in both Abaco and Grand Bahama. The outcomes of these assessments as of 11th of October are as follows:

Location	Minimal Damage	Moderate Damage	Severe Damage	Totally Destroyed	Total Assessed
<i>Grand Bahama</i>	1267	497	391	223	2378
<i>Abaco</i>	123	88	128	95	434

Source: PW and UNDP. 11th October 2019.

¹¹ [Shanty Town Task Force, Ministry of Labour Bahamas \(2018\) Abaco Shanty Town Assessment Report](#)

¹² [Bahamas, Hurricane Dorian, 1 month after, OCHA, 4th October 2019](#)

¹³ [NEMA, Hurricane Dorian, The Bahamas weekly stats Friday 11th October 2019](#)

¹⁴ 48 (2%) applications were incomplete.

Immediate Relief Needs: In Abaco, markets are still not functioning, since key infrastructures have been severely damaged and have not been repaired yet. Fuels and vehicles are also scarce. As it pertains to social considerations, the persons with higher purchasing power have left the island and those who remain, mostly from minority groups, have no means to leave the island. Affected populations remain dependant on food, water, NFIs and HHs items that are being distributed by the Red Cross, WFP and other NGOs. Some households, mainly those who were living in shanty towns, remain in informal collective centres. Other families are being temporarily hosted by relatives or host families while they try to start repairing their houses. Many families have also been separated to different islands, especially those who have kids that have been enrolled in schools in New Providence.

In Grand Bahama, the part of the island that has not been affected has functioning markets. Many households whose houses have been damaged have moved to Freetown and they are living with relatives/host families or renting apartments. The Department of Social Services is supporting rental costs for 158 households out of the 298 households who requested rental support. The Red Cross and several other organizations are currently exploring ways to complement this program.

Early Recovery Response: Further assessments have been conducted in the North of Abaco (Crown Haven, Fox Town, and Coopers Town) where shelter repair and rental/ host families support needs have been identified as well as in the centre of the island (Treasure Cay, Sand Banks, The Mudd, the Pea) where totally destroyed houses have been found, and reconstruction has been forbidden by law for a six-month period. Affected population living in those shanty towns will not be able to rebuild their homes and they are in need of a temporary shelter solution such as rental/ host family support or construction of temporary shelter in a property. In other settlements close to Marsh Harbour, like Dundas, Murphy Town or Spring city, partially damaged houses have been found. Shelter repair support through materials and tools in kind is one of the main needs.

In Grand Bahama, detailed damage assessments have been conducted in the East End and the West End. In the East, the level of destruction is more severe, and a significant number of houses need major repairs and others have been totally destroyed. Therefore, there is a need for major repair support, reconstruction of houses and rental/host families support. In the West End, the majority of the houses have been flooded and are in need of minor repairs support, as well as rental/host families support because in most cases the houses are unliveable since doors, windows and electricity systems have been damaged. In Grand Bahama, support through financial assistance is feasible since markets are functioning in the non-affected areas, and access to affected areas has been cleared.

IFRC deployed a Recovery Assessment Team to develop the Red Cross Movement strategy and to identify the next steps to be taken during the recovery stage.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion:

Water Supply: Water supply in Abaco is now being coordinated through a series of distribution points and via bottled water delivery. In Grand Bahama, the central and eastern parts were the most affected. Water is currently being pumped from two wells in Lucaya and Settler's Way areas to supply Freeport but the supply is restricted due to limited access to electricity. Drinking water supply needs are reportedly met by bottle water distribution and agency operated small Reverse Osmosis plants. Drinking water was sourced entirely from bottle water before the storm, and household water treatment for potable water is not expected to be in great demand.

Non-potable water supply needs remain impacted in the affected areas of Grand Bahama and Abaco, where groundwater is the primary water source for hygiene and sanitation needs and well fields have been impacted by saltwater intrusion. Contamination of aquifers needs to be further assessed by the National Authority before running water is restored. A water quality and hydrogeological survey are being designed; there is a search for off-grid/private for RC rehabilitation and/or suitable public buildings/resources for WASH support.

UNICEF, IFRC and other sector partners have begun distributing water treatment chemicals, hygiene kits, jerry cans, and bladders into the affected areas. The Bahamas Government, through the Water and Sewer Corporation (Abaco) and Grand Bahama Water Company, with assistance from PAHO and other actors are working to assess the extent of groundwater contamination and damage and to restore the existing water supply infrastructure. Assistance and expert advice are needed to deal with saltwater intrusion of the well fields and impact on groundwater sources. Proper storage and distribution of treated water will be critical as well as provision of household level water treatment.

Sanitation and Hygiene: Sanitation systems are still in need of assessment, particularly smaller, household level systems in areas that have been difficult to access since the hurricane. However, with the most affected areas largely depopulated, health risks are limited at present. Sanitation needs are temporarily supported with portals/serviced temporary toilets. Some affected populations had to resort to open defecation while in transitional collective shelters,

and those that did not evacuate the areas that have been hardest hit, report open defecation as the norm. Sanitation systems in schools and hospitals also need assessment and repair.

In Treasure Cay, Abaco, a 500,000 USG storage tank was blown away as well as the sewer lift station. Debris clearing, and waste management assistance is also a priority. Debris clearance reportedly started in Abaco in first week of October. RFL and forensics teams are monitoring dead body management issues related to debris clearance.

Health: Health assessment focused on three key areas: assessment of clinical, psychosocial support and public health needs.

Clinical needs: Assessment of clinical service provision in Abaco and Grand Bahama indicated that health needs would be adequately met. The Marsh Harbour Clinic has returned to normal functional capacity and has adequate medical staff and resources, satisfactory pharmacy, laboratory and radiology capacity. Rand Memorial Hospital emergency department of the Grand Bahama is still functioning, treating approximately 75-150 patients per day. There is one Type 2 Emergency Medical Team – deployed by Samaritans Purse – to replace medical services at the Rand Memorial Hospital. No clinical assets from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement need to be deployed. At distribution sites community members are asked about their health and wellbeing and typically indicate that these needs are being met by functioning clinics and EMT deployments on the ground. Multiple actors have identified mental health and psychosocial support and a major gap in their operations, particularly in Abaco where service is limited.

Psychosocial Support: IFRC and Bahamas Red Cross are coordinating with the Bahamas Psychological Association to provide PSS across three locations. While the start-up of PSS services was fast in Nassau, and the capacity of Grand Bahama to provide support services is being built, the population of Abaco remains underserved.

Public health needs: The primary public health concerns for the affected populations from Abaco and Grand Bahama and those in collective shelters in New Providence are water-borne diseases (including acute watery diarrhoea), vector-borne diseases (including dengue, chikungunya and Zika), acute respiratory infections (especially in children under-five) as well as other infectious diseases. The Ministry of Health has established a syndromic surveillance system in hospitals and shelters and has strengthened its epidemiological surveillance capacity with daily visits to shelters and clinics.

Teams involved in distribution and assessment ask people about their health and their families health, referring to the nearest functional clinic when necessary.

Marsh Harbour Health Centre in Abaco and Samaritan's Purse Field Hospital (covering needs previously met by Rand Memorial Hospital in Grand Bahama) have not reported any cases of acute watery diarrhoea, however there has been an increase in gastroenteritis. Risk of water borne diseases is expected to remain high in the weeks following the disaster. Lack of sanitation and hygiene is likely to be a driver of these diseases, even when bottled water is available.

Livelihoods and basic needs: The overall loss and damages of livelihood are currently being assessed by the Government of The Bahamas. The BRCS's has undertaken initial livelihoods recovery needs assessment which main findings are outlined below.

The recovery process is hindered by several factors such as challenges in the restoration of basic supply services (electricity, fuel, water) and public and private services (education, housing, health, transportation, communication, financial), return of population, and debris management.

The small coastal settlements of Grand Bahama were also heavily impacted. The fisheries sector in the East End was devastated, and the main urban centre Freeport and other small communities in East and West Grand Bahama, were affected, to a lesser extent. Households whose main source of income is fishing, need assistance to replace their assets, restore access to basic services (fuel and electricity) and regain access to markets.

Hurricane Dorian has significantly affected urban centres (Marsh Harbour and Freeport) in particular small businesses holders through physical destructions of shops which are still closed and through reduced local demand.

Undocumented migrant population and informal vendors running informal small businesses will not benefit from recovery measures put in place by the Government of The Bahamas. Several small businesses will need financial capital to restart their business. In addition, in Abaco island, the reestablishment of basic services and restoration of the tourism industry, which depends on government plans for return and reconstruction is required to stimulate market systems and for businesses owners to regain their level of economic activities.

Farmers have lost physical productive assets such as crops, livestock, irrigation systems. Market systems are also disrupted due to damage or destruction of marketplaces and drop in local demand for their produce. Main priorities are debris removal and land rehabilitation due to elevated salinity levels in soil and underground water.

Tourism in Abaco has stopped completely because the tourism business infrastructure is totally destroyed, while in Grand Bahama, it has been severely affected due to limited transportation options. The damage to infrastructure in the tourism sector has a decisive impact on the demand of products and services of the fisheries, trade, hospitality sectors, and therefore on business owners (employers), employees, and self-employees.

Protection, gender and inclusion:

In response to the protection and inclusion needs highlighted in the Emergency Appeal there have been two deployments of PGI specialists. The assessments that they have carried out have identified a number of PGI issues, many of them urgent. These include:

- Concerning situation of undocumented Haitian migrants, increasing number in detention and deports creating stress and fear within the communities. Many are hiding and hence not accessing humanitarian aid, and essential services, including health services.¹⁵ This is creating other protection risks that may be precipitated by negative coping mechanisms.
- Tension between the Bahamians and Haitian communities. Haitian migrants (particularly those who are undocumented or in an irregular situation) have been widely reported to experience heightened protection and inclusion risks since the hurricane.
- Possible separation of children from their families as a result of increased immigration activities deportations and reports of large number of people who left collective centres as further explained in the Migration section below.
- Collective shelters have not been established according to Sphere Standards, increasing the risk of GBV.

The Bahamas Government does not require child protection checks for volunteers operating in The Bahamas. This increases the risk to affected children who have regular interaction with multiple organisations during times of disaster. Opportunities to advocate around lessons learnt from other humanitarian actions in setting up longer term shelter sites is timely, this includes advocating on rankings based on vulnerability, and on ensuring that the relief site meets international standards exist. Under the leadership of IOM, the humanitarian community has put forward a joint proposal to the Government outlining the support available to in managing mass shelters, IFRC has contributed to this proposal.

Bahamas has a national strategic plan to address gender-based violence. The Red Cross will follow the recommendations of the national strategy to ensure that approaches to gender-based violence prevention and intervention are culturally relevant and effective for persons with disabilities, lesbian and gay communities, populations from the family islands (also referred to as “out islands”), migrants, children, and the elderly. A referral system is now in place for survivors of gender-based violence.

IFRC is working closely with the Bahamas Red Cross to strengthen their capacity in safeguarding and in mainstreaming of PGI their programs.

Migration: As mentioned above, Haitian migrants, particularly those who are undocumented, are at heightened risk of vulnerability and having lack of access to services due to fears of deportation, as well as long-standing discrimination that has worsened since the hurricane. These inequalities are likely to be compounded where multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination exist.

A vulnerable population of people who had been residing in Abaco in six (6) unregulated housing sites has been particularly affected. The informal settlements called The Pea and The Mudd have sustained catastrophic damage. An assessment conducted by the Ministry of Labour of these areas in [Abaco in April 2018](#) reported an estimated population of around 3,000 people living in these informal settlements (20% of these people living in this town are undocumented migrants). These areas are likely to record significant number of deaths in addition to other damage. People who remained in Abaco after Hurricane Dorian expressed fear of deportation if they accepted evacuation to Nassau.

According to interviews with members of this community, they are likely unwilling to relocate and expect to return to Abaco when the situation stabilizes. Against this backdrop, further efforts will be needed to ensure conditions for

¹⁵ [Ava Trunquest, "Lowest of the Low," claims immigration Targeting Abaco Churches, Eye Witness News \(28 October 2019\)](#)

returnees, particularly vulnerable children and families, and to guarantee that they are reached by timely and appropriate social services.

Many irregular migrants are feared dead, because they may have stayed behind to ride out the storm in their unsafe squatter settlements due to their mistrust of government-run shelters. An entire community of people who already had a contentious history with The Bahamian government is now homeless and, in some cases, face an increasing fear of deportation. The number of undocumented Haitian displaced in government shelters is low; the assumption is that those who have made it to Nassau are living in informal settlements and are fearful of accessing much needed services. Many Haitians have reported no safety net of relatives, as they also lived in the informal settlements obliterated by the storm.

After suspending apprehension and repatriation exercises immediately following the storm, the government has escalated its rhetoric about migrants in recent weeks. On September 23, 2019, Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis told press that undocumented immigrants affected by Hurricane Dorian face no protections and will be subject to the country's laws of apprehension and deportation. The Bahamas Attorney General stated on October 1, 2019 that Haitian citizens who resided in The Bahamas legally with a work permit and who had lost their jobs as a result of the Hurricane would have to go back to Haiti to apply for a new permit as the permits are tied to a specific employer. According to a Bahamas Government report on shanty towns in Abaco, 41% of residents there relied on a work permit to remain in The Bahamas.

In the current situation, documentation of affected persons is one of the key protection issues. Replacement of birth certificates, education certificates, work permits, housing documents, etc will be required for the population to restart their lives. Vulnerable persons in this group include minors who may have lost critical documents necessary to apply for Bahamian citizenship. This is something that is particularly important given the short 1-year deadline between 18-19 years of age in which people can legally apply for citizenship.

There is a role for Red Cross in supporting people to understand their rights and support them to access documentation services in a safe manner.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): communities affected by disasters are themselves uniquely positioned to implement prevention and response measures. Some BRCS staff and volunteers have been trained in CEA and have a good understanding of best practices to engage with communities. With new volunteers being engaged in the operation, a continued focus on CEA is important.

The strategy for CEA is to support BRCS to further develop its capacity to engage with and to be accountable to communities. CEA will be embedded in sector support and in volunteer engagements. During the response phase focus is on engaging with people in shelters and train volunteers to engage with affected populations. During the recovery phase the strategy will further strengthen engagement with and accountability to communities and their leaders in Grand Bahama and Abaco.

Community engagement will ensure that:

- Affected people are engaged in the design, implementation and monitoring of the Red Cross response to Hurricane Dorian.
- Affected people provide feedback to Red Cross and file complaints if experiencing misconduct.
- Affected people receive information which supports them to become more resilient and feel informed.
- Red Cross can help affected people advocate for their needs and rights with Government.

An action plan which covers the phases of this operation is currently being finalized. It will support plans for the different sectors on how to inform and engage communities in planning and implementation, and in ensuring feedback, and will be coordinated with the PGI and the support provided for national social development.

Disaster Risk Reduction: Due to the impact of Hurricane Dorian most of the communities in the island of Abaco and Northern Grand Bahama were affected. It is almost unanimously agreed that the negative impacts of disasters and other social issues fall most heavily on those with the least coping capacity. The economically and socially vulnerable in our societies do not always have access to the resources, information and tools to prepare for or respond to these issues nor to develop resilience.

The Bahamas would appear to be highly vulnerable. The relatively small size of the country, and its dependence on the tourism industry, make the country vulnerable to economic fluctuations in its major tourism markets. Human

settlements and tourism developments are mainly located along the coast and are high risk for coastal erosion and catastrophic events. The small size of the economy means that the country lacks the financial and technical resources for reducing projected levels of risk. The terrestrial and marine environments, and their biological resources, are already under stress from pollution, urbanization, and other non-sustainable impacts. Climate change is likely to add to these impacts and increase the risks and vulnerabilities. Given the uncertainties as to the dimensions and timing of climate change impacts, it is vital that adaptive measures are practical both in terms of effectively responding to present day climate risks, and to projected risks, as well as advancing the wider issue of sustainable development. In this regard, the Government of The Bahamas has prepared a [National Policy for Adaptation to Climate Change](#).

However, communities do have capabilities and capacities which, when developed, place them in positions whereby they can reduce their vulnerability and better participate in decision-making processes to meet their own needs especially now after Hurricane Dorian. It is therefore necessary to increase the capacity of the local communities that have been affected by Hurricane Dorian, which would facilitate their recovery and ensure their future sustainability under the long-term vision and framework of Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change of The Bahamas Red Cross.

National Society Development (NSD)

BRCS Strategic Plan (2010-2020) has been reviewed and dates for starting the strategic planning process were about to be set when the Hurricane Dorian struck. The strategic planning process is now part of this National Society Development Plan of Action. An Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) self-assessment exercise (OCAC phase 1) was also conducted by BRCS in January 2019.

Based on the OCAC results, the OCAC Plan of Action and the actual situation, a National Society Development Movement Plan of Action (October 2019 – March 2021) was drafted. The plan of action is also based on the volunteering development plan of BRCS that was a result of the regional volunteering workshop in February 2019. The five main areas included in the Plan of Action are governance, management, volunteering development, branch development and communications and resource development.

Based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required to deliver in this operation, the following programme support functions and operation support are being established to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination: human resources, logistics and supply chain; protection and visibility equipment for the NS; information technology support (IT); communications; social media management; CEA; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); and finance and administration.

The Bahamas Red Cross is carrying out a Preparedness for Effective Response process to enhance their preparedness and response mechanism with support of OFDA capacity building initiative.

Targeting

The assessments indicate that the level of damage suffered by households is severe. Displaced people (in local community shelters or staying with relatives or neighbours) are the primary target for immediate distribution of relief items.

The community will be engaged in the beneficiary selection through the BRCS volunteers who are assisting in developing distribution and the registration lists. Following criteria of vulnerability will be taken into account:

- Single headed households
- Pregnant women
- Families with children
- Older people
- Persons with disabilities
- Vulnerable groups (with special needs, minority communities)
- Households severely affected by the disaster

According to preliminary needs assessments and consultations with partners and other stakeholders in the country, the IFRC will focus its operation in the two most affected Islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama (including New Providence) as well as other islands receiving evacuees. In-depth evaluations will be carried out to continue assessing the needs, and the corresponding adjustments will be made in future revisions if necessary.

Proposed Areas for intervention

Overall objective

The overall goal of the operation is to provide **immediate life-saving and longer-term support for recovery to 2,500 households (10,000 people) affected by Hurricane Dorian** focusing on Shelter (including distribution of household items); Health; WASH; Livelihoods and basic needs; Protection Gender and Inclusion, Disaster Risk Reduction, National Society Strengthening and Shelter coordination services in support of the government.

Proposed strategy

The BRCS has a network of Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) collecting data and registering affected families and vulnerabilities. Through its network, the National Society with the support of the IFRC and the Movement partners are doing the following:

- Carrying out continuous need's assessments, registration and analysis including the use of mobile data collection tools to gather information
- Informing the communities of the relief effort undertaken and receiving feedback on its program working on the feedback mechanism strategy
- Coordinating with National authorities and other stakeholders present in the country to ensure integrated programming
- Continuing to develop and share key messages, radio announcements and Facebook alerts with communities

The general response strategy will target the most affected families whose houses have been destroyed or very heavily damaged and not habitable. Several vulnerability criteria will be also taken into consideration: single headed households, pregnant women, families with children, older people, persons with disabilities, vulnerable groups (with special needs, minority communities) and households severely affected by the disaster. The displaced population is accommodated in various ways, some in existing shelters, many with neighbours or relatives on the island.

The Minimum Standards on Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Emergencies shall be integrated in each sectoral, planning, program design and monitoring activity.

The plan will be constantly improved by in-depth evaluations but will be constructed based on two phases, which are expected to overlap: the **emergency relief phase** and **recovery phase**. All actions will be focused on covering urgent needs and planning for the recovery actions to strengthen the resilience of the affected families.

Sectoral interventions will be integrated wherever possible, to have a great impact on the worst affected, and streamline implementation. The strategy includes a strong component for strengthening the National Society capacity to respond to future disasters.

Three operational hubs have been established to coordinate the operation activities and to manage warehouse of the items stocked:

- In Nassau – BRCS headquarters
- In Abaco – Forrest Heights Academy
- In Grand Bahama-Grand Bahama RC centre

Areas of Focus



Shelter

People targeted: 2,000 families (8,000 people)

Male: 4,000

Female: 4,000

Requirements (CHF): 6,000,000

Proposed intervention

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions.

Output 1.1: Short-term and mid-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households

- Assessment of immediate and early recovery shelter needs, capacities and gaps, and Mid-Term shelter solutions, including market assessments
- Identification of target families (2,000 households during the emergency phase provided with household items and 1250 in the early recovery phase) based on needs assessments and registration, verification of beneficiaries in different target groups and locations (displaced and non-displaced)
- Coordination with government and other stakeholders
- Analysis of security of tenure for those who will be receiving immediate or midterm shelter assistance (rental support or repairing or rebuilding damage shelters)
- Advocacy on security of tenure for those on need of emergency and midterm shelter assistance and provision of technical support to secure it to those who need it
- Purchase and distribution of emergency shelter and household items for 2,000 families
- Provision of Short-term shelter solutions for affected population (rental support / host families support) through cash/voucher) for 750 families
- Monitoring of Short-term shelter solutions for affected population (rental support / host families support) through cash for 750 families
- Provision of midterm shelter solutions for affected population (transitional shelter and settlement) through cash/ in kind 500 families
- Monitoring of midterm shelter solutions for affected population (transitional shelter and settlement) through cash/ in kind 500 families
- Rehabilitation/ upgrading of Bahamas RC branches
- Monitoring of rehabilitation/upgrading of Bahamas RC branches
- Repair of damaged collective centers

Output 1.2 Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households

- Production and distribution of IEC materials
- Orientations on assessments implementation for volunteers
- Orientations to volunteers on the best use of the distributed shelter and household items
- Orientations to affected households on the best use of the distributed shelter and household items
- Orientations for volunteers on the Build Back Safer approach
- Orientations for affected households on the Build Back Safer approach
- Trainings for construction professionals on the Build Back Safer approach
- Training of Trainers on Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) Youth/Plus
- PASSA Youth/Plus sessions for affected households
- Implementation of PASS Youth/Plus plan of action
- Supporting operation with Shelter staff (delegate and national staff).



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 2,500 families (10,000 people)

Male: 1,250 heads of household

Female: 1,250 heads of household

Requirements (CHF): 12,000,000

Proposed intervention

Outcome 2: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Output 2.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

- *Distribution of hot meals and food rations (depending on identified needs) in initial response stage*

Output 2.2: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (small businesses and natural resource-based livelihoods)

- *Define livelihoods restoration, strengthening and protection strategy*
- *Selection and registration of livelihoods target groups and beneficiaries. Basic needs analysis will prioritize the differential needs of people according to sex, age and disability based on available data.*
- *Carry out livelihoods and household economy baseline*
- *Support 201 affected families to restore their livelihood activities and their livelihoods related-markets (distribution of assets, cash and voucher assistance, etc.) so affected communities can resume their income-generating activities*
 - A) *Asset replacement of fisherfolk to restart economic activities (CVA)*
 - B) *Asset replacement to key market stakeholders of the fisheries market system to restore market system (CVA for Fish house).*
 - C) *Asset replacement to small business owners to restart their activities (CVA).*
 - D) *Information/Help desk to provide information to employees currently unemployed as a result of Hurricane Dorian.*
- *Support 150 affected families to strengthen and protect their livelihood activities (coaching, training, distribution of assets, cash and voucher assistance, etc.) in order to achieve greater economic security and to increase resilience to future disasters*
- *Monitoring of livelihood restoration, strengthening and protection activities*
- *Final evidence-based impact evaluation*

Output 2.3: Community awareness activities on livelihoods strengthening and protection are carried out with target communities and public actors.

- *Livelihoods Programming Course (LPC)*
- *Emergency and Recovery Livelihoods Assessment (ERLA) course*

Output 2.4: 2,500 households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs

- *Feasibility analysis, market assessment and monitoring of local Financial Service Provider (FSP) status*
- *Mobilize volunteers to conduct Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) Volunteers represent a balance representation of persons of all gender identities, disabilities and backgrounds.*
- *Develop and implement CEA Strategy. Awareness activities will include a balance of people of all genders and disabilities.*
- *Establish and activate feedback and complaints response mechanism, this includes community facing information on PSEA.*
- *Conduct detailed identification to identify eligible beneficiaries based on preset-selection criteria using ODK.*
- *Registration and verification of selected beneficiaries.*
- *Distribution sites or methods are analyzed against the Minimum Standards on Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Emergencies and resulting action plan is implemented.*
- *Provide unconditional cash grants of 1,782 USD to 2,500 selected families and conduct post-distribution card reconciliation.*
- *Provide unconditional cash grants of 1,028 USD to 2,500 selected families and conduct post-distribution card reconciliation.*
- *Provide unconditional cash grants of 810 USD to 2,500 selected families and conduct post-distribution card reconciliation.*
- *Monitor card use and complaints response mechanism. Established information mechanism will be accessible and available in English and Creole.*
- *Conduct Post-Distribution Monitoring and Final Card Reconciliation*
- *CVA Lessons Learned & Evaluation*
- *Development of a CVA case study*
- *Conduct CVA training for volunteers. Basic needs analysis will analyse the differential needs of people according to sex, age and disability based on available data sets*

- Support operation with hiring of Livelihoods Staff (CTP delegate and national staff)
- Co-lead Cash Working Group.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 2,000 families (8,000 people)

Male: 4,000

Female: 4,000

Requirements (CHF): 900,000

Proposed intervention

Outcome 3: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Outcome 3.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities

- Conduct training for RC volunteers on carrying out water, sanitation and hygiene assessments
- Conduct initial assessment of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities
- Continuously monitor the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities
- Coordinate with other WatSan actors on target group needs and appropriate response.

Output 3.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

- Provide safe water targeted communities through bottled water distribution for a period of two weeks.
- Setting up five distributions points in Marsh Harbour (procurement of storage tank (2.4 litres), bladders, transport costs)
- Develop solid waste management plan for used plastic bottles
- Distribute household water treatment products (chlorine tablets for 3 months) enough for 90 days, to 2,000 people.
- Distribute jerry cans (2 per family) and buckets with lids (1 per family) for up to 2,000 households.
- Provide key messages and training to targeted communities on safe water storage, and safe use of water treatment products.
- Deploy assessment team to evaluate damage and potential impacts to local groundwater supplies, and provide recommendations for repair/rehabilitation
- Based on assessment findings, implement cleaning and disinfection of boreholes/wells
- Procurement and distribution of water filters (1,500)
- Repair/rehabilitation of 50 household level water supply systems
- Procurement of WatSan kit #2

Output 3.3: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

- Conduct needs assessment: define hygiene issues and assess capacity to address the problem.
- Select target groups, key messages, and methods of communicating with beneficiaries (mass media and interpersonal communication).
- Develop a hygiene communication plan and train volunteers to implement activities of the communication plan.
- Design/Print Information, Education and Communication materials
- Deliver key messages, assess progress and evaluate results on the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology.
- Engage community on design and acceptability of water and sanitation facilities.

Output 3.4: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population

- Determine the needs for hygiene NFIs, including soap, water storage, and menstrual hygiene for each community based on health risks and user preference in targeted communities in coordination with the WASH group or cluster.
- Distribute 6,000 hygiene kits (family), sufficient for 3 month(s) to 2,000 HH people (kit is one- month supply)
- Determine whether additional distributions are required and whether changes should be made (monitoring of distributions and needs)

Outcome 4: Sustainable reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities in the recovery phase

Output 4.1: Community managed water sources giving access to safe water is provided to target population

- Rehabilitation of 5 community-based boreholes/wells
- Provide training in management of water supplies and operation and maintenance of infrastructure
- Monitor use of water through household surveys and household water quality tests
- Implement solid waste management plan for recovery of plastic bottles used during emergency phase

Output 4.2: Improved access to and use of adequate sanitation by the target population. is provided to target population

- Select design for toilets based on consultation with targeted communities with considerations for cultural preference, safety, access for children and disabled, anal cleansing practices, national standards, and menstrual hygiene as well as environmental impact and sustainability
- Construct 250 toilettes (for 250 households) in transitional shelter locations to be determined in consultation with shelter team (sanitation needs in excreta disposal are expected to be less than water supply needs, as in some areas sanitation infrastructure was less impacted by the Hurricane)
- Distribute 250 solid waste bins as required and ensure collection is ongoing through recovery period.
- Drum proofing (drum retrofitting) activities to protect against development of breeding sites
- Address any outstanding needs in environmental sanitation identified during the emergency phase.



Health

People targeted: 2,000 families (8,000 people)

Male: 4,000

Female: 4,000

Requirements (CHF): 500,000

Proposed intervention

Outcome 5: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Output 5.1: The health situation and immediate risks are assessed using agreed guidelines

- Health needs assessment conducted by Surge Health in partnership with BRCS of clinical facilities to assess for potential ERU deployment.
- Health needs assessment conducted by Surge Health in partnership with BRCS of clinical facilities to assess for public health needs and PSS.

Output 5.2: Target population is provided with rapid medical management of injuries and diseases

- Red Cross EMT service provision to 400 people from Odyssey airport to preferred hospital.
- First aid trainings in Abaco, Grand Bahama and New Providence

Output 5.3: Epidemic prevention and control measures carried out.

- New Providence: Development and release of key messages targeting 1,600 people aligned with Epidemic Control for Volunteers in collective shelters (focusing on prevention of diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, and other infectious diseases).
- Abaco: Development and release of key messages targeting 4,000 people aligned with Epidemic Control for Volunteers (using volunteers, radio, social media and other appropriate mediums)
- Grand Bahama: Development and release of key messages aligned with Epidemic Control for Volunteers (using volunteers, radio, social media and other appropriate mediums)
- Procurement and distribution of impregnated mosquito nets (LLITs) for 2,000 families
- Training of 50 volunteers in key public health messages (epidemic prevention and WASH in coordination)
- Supporting the operation with the hiring of Health Staff

Output 5.4: Psychosocial support provided to the target population

- New Providence: Recruit and develop roster of trained volunteers specialising in psychology and counselling.
- New Providence: Psychosocial support services that provide psychoeducation on positive coping skills and grounding techniques are available and provided at the Bahamas Red Cross cottage and in shelters.
- New Providence: Psychosocial support activities for children in the Bahamas Red Cross afterschool centre
- New Providence: Men, Women, Children and Vulnerable Groups are engaged in supportive activities (sporting events) to meet their psychosocial support needs

- *New Providence: Construct ramp for access to support cottage to along for people with mobility issues to access.*
- *Abaco: Psychosocial support training for 20 volunteers and staff*
- *Abaco: Psychosocial support services that provide psychoeducation on positive copings skills and grounding techniques are available.*
- *Abaco: Child friendly places are set up and running*
- *Grand Bahama: Psychosocial support training for 40 volunteers and staff*
- *Grand Bahama: Psychosocial support services that provide psychoeducation on positive copings skills and grounding techniques are available.*
- *Grand Bahama: Child friendly places are set up and running*
- *Psychosocial support provided to staff and volunteers*
- *Support the operation with the hiring of PSS staff*

Outcome 6: The medium-term risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Output 6.1: Gaps in medical infrastructure of the affected population filled

- *Stock replenishment of Ambulance*
- *Training in new ambulance equipment of EMT for Bahamas Red Cross*
- *Procurement of new ambulance*

Output 6.2: Community -based disease prevention and health promotion measures provided.

- *eCommunity-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) with integrated PHAST Training of Trainers*
- *Grand Bahama: eCBHFA trainings with inclusion of behavioural change, communicable diseases, management of NCDs, violence prevention and psychological first aid among other (conducted alongside and integrated with PHAST)*
- *Abaco: eCBHFA training with inclusion of behavioural change, communicable diseases, management of NCDs, violence prevention and psychological first aid among other (conducted alongside and integrated with PHAST)*
- *Support to carry out community action plan developed through implementation of eCBHFA*
- *Distribution of condoms in shelters, PSS centre and at community level*



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 250

Male: 125

Female: 125

Requirements (CHF): 200,000

Proposed intervention

Outcome 7: Communities identify the needs of the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged and marginalised groups, as a result of inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs

Output 7.1: NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

- *Assess specific needs of the affected population based on criteria selected from the minimum standard commitments on gender and diversity*
- *Support sectoral teams to includes measures to address vulnerabilities specific to gender and diversity factors (including people with disabilities) in their planning*
- *Support sectoral teams to includes measures to address vulnerabilities specific to gender and diversity factors in their planning*
- *Hold basic ½ day training with IFRC and NS staff and volunteers on the Minimum Standard Commitments (or integrate a session on Minimum Standard Commitments in standard/sectorial trainings).*
- *Support sectoral teams to ensure collection and analysis of sex-age and disability-disaggregated data (see guidance in (forthcoming) revised MSCs)*
- *Supporting the National Society with PGI delegate*

Output 7.2: Emergency response operations prevent and respond to sexual-and gender-based violence (SGBV) and all forms of violence against children.

- *Conduct training on PGI minimum standards*
- *Use Minimum Standard Commitments as a guide to support sectoral teams to include measures to mitigate the risk of SGBV*

- Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Protection/SGBV including mapping of referral pathway (in line with the forthcoming SOP template in the revised Minimum Standard Commitments)
- Include messages on preventing and responding to SGBV in all community outreach activities
- Hold basic ½ day training with IFRC and NS staff and volunteers on addressing SGBV (or integrate a session on addressing SGBV in standard/sectorial trainings)
- Establish a system to ensure IFRC and NS staff and volunteers have signed the Code of Conduct and have received a briefing in this regard
- Map and make accessible information on local referral systems for any child protection concerns
- Provide essential services (including reception facilities, RFL, and access to education, health, shelter, and legal services) to unaccompanied and separated children and other children on their own
- Establish child-friendly spaces and community-based child protection activities, including educational ones
- Translation services for community activities
- Volunteers, staff and contractors sign, are screened for, and are briefed on child protection policy/guidelines

Migration



People targeted: 250

Male: 125

Female: 125

Requirements (CHF): 200,000

Proposed intervention

Outcome 8: Communities support the needs of migrants and their families and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit and destination)

Output 8.1: Awareness raising and advocacy address xenophobia, discrimination and negative perceptions towards migrants are implemented.

- Support National Society enhance the diplomacy in favour of vulnerable migrants
- Enhance the coordination with authorities and stakeholder to advocate for accessing of migrants to humanitarian aid
- Develop Communication Campaign to reduce stigma and xenophobia
- Support the operation with a Mission Migration specialist
- Study Case (evidence-based) to sensitize migrants' vulnerabilities

Output 8.2: Family links are restored for people separated from, or without news of, their loved ones as a result of the disaster

- Continuation of interviews at the Bahamas Red Cross office.
- Frequent visit of all shelters to offer RFL phone calls and to take tracing cases
- Follow up on cases on Collective Shelter to monitor the unaccompanied minors and to endeavor to find their families
- Communicate families through the Call Center, including regular call backs
- Work with the Member Groups on Abaco and Grand Bahama to increase the possibility to search the remaining population in the affected area
- Interaction with Department of Social Services to check names in shelter registers
- Continue to visit the shelters to speak with the occupants and also disseminate the RFL work to the Shelter Management and other NGOs
- Work with other partners to create a National RFL Network adapted to the specific Bahamian context.
- Evaluation of the need to bring in Forensic expertise in an effort to increase identification of mortal remains
- Train Volunteers in RFL Activities and referrals to other services such as PSS
- Creation of Field Teams to visit shelters independently
- Organization of data management to centralize the information gather of missing people, and to issue proper follow-up
- Interview teams to receive families and to follow-up
- Support to National Society with experts from ICRC (1 RFL Delegate, 1 RFL Data Manager, 1 Forensic Specialists)



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted: 1,000

Male: 500

Female: 500

Requirements (CHF): 1,200,000

The BRCS will disseminate family disaster plans and community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities to the affected communities.

The strengthening of the BRCS's disaster preparation and response capacities are one of the most important part of this operation to build resilience at community level.

Outcome 9: Communities in high risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster

Output 9.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters

- Implementation of ToT on the Road Map to community resilience
- Implementation of one EVCA Training of Trainers
- Completion of EVCA in six communities
- Implementation of CDRT Training (six trainings)
- Purchase of CDRT equipment
- Development of School Disaster Preparedness Programmes (six schools)
- Printing of Billboards - Evacuation Routes and Signs for communities and schools
- Application of the School Safety Framework and the School Protected Module.
- Implementation of Six Workshops Disaster Planning and Identification of Evacuation Route
- Establishment of Early warning system at community level
- Development of the Disaster Preparedness Business Plan for Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- Public awareness raising through the dissemination of Public Awareness and Public Education DRR key messages
- Develop the Early Action Protocol for the Forecast-Based Action (FbA) by the DREF

Outcome 10: Communities affected in disaster and crises affected areas adopt climate risk informed and environmentally responsible values and practice

Output 10.1: Contribution to climate change mitigation are made by implementing green solutions

- Implementation of a Climate Change Plan of Action based on the roadmap to community resilience.
- Implementation of Caribbean Climate Change Adaptation Methodology in DRR activities
- Volunteer Training on the Climate Change tool Kit
- Application of the Communities Adapting with Nature (CAN) check list at community level and the climate change toolkit
- Implementation of the Nature Based Solution measures in the selected communities
- Sensitization on Climate Change Campaign
- Implementation of Climate Change Workshop
- Revision on the natural resource law, (including humanitarian standards such as the Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response)
- Development on an Environmental study to provide recommendations for subsequent action to be included in decision- making Proportional environmental impact assessments and subsequent management plans.
- Climate change and private sector case study on resilience economies

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 5,200,000

Strengthening National Society

Based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required to deliver in this operation, the following programme support functions and operation support are being established to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination: human resources, logistics and supply chain; protection and visibility equipment for the NS;

information technology support (IT); communications; social media management; CEA; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); and finance and administration.

All Red Cross actions are based on volunteer action and the operation will ensure/is ensuring that all personnel and volunteer staff participating in the emergency and recovery phases receive recognition, insurance, security and duty of care. All volunteers participating in this operation will receive the proper trainings, debriefing sessions and participate in the lessons learned workshops.

All groups of people lacked basic access to information in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane. Access to telecommunications has been limited and sporadic in both Abaco and Grand Bahama. There is reportedly no radio access in Marsh Harbor in Abaco. This situation is rapidly evolving. Communication has been through the “grapevine” and this has led to the proliferation of rumors and misinformation. This has been particularly true with regard to rumors about health including rumors about the spread of infectious diseases such as cholera and the false perception that dead bodies can make one ill. These rumors will need to be carefully considered as part of the development of key messages.

The Bahamas Red Cross is carrying out a Preparedness for Effective Response process to enhance their preparedness and response mechanism with support of OFDA capacity building initiative. This EA will support the BRCS in the implementation of the different phases of the process for facilitating continuity of operations and services within the NS to deliver services to affected communities, and accountability to donors and partners in the face of disasters and crises.

The PER approach consists of five inter-related areas (1) Policy, Strategy and Standards, (2) Analysis and Planning, (3) Operational Capacity, (4) Coordination, (5) Operations Support and thirty-seven components according to inter-related areas

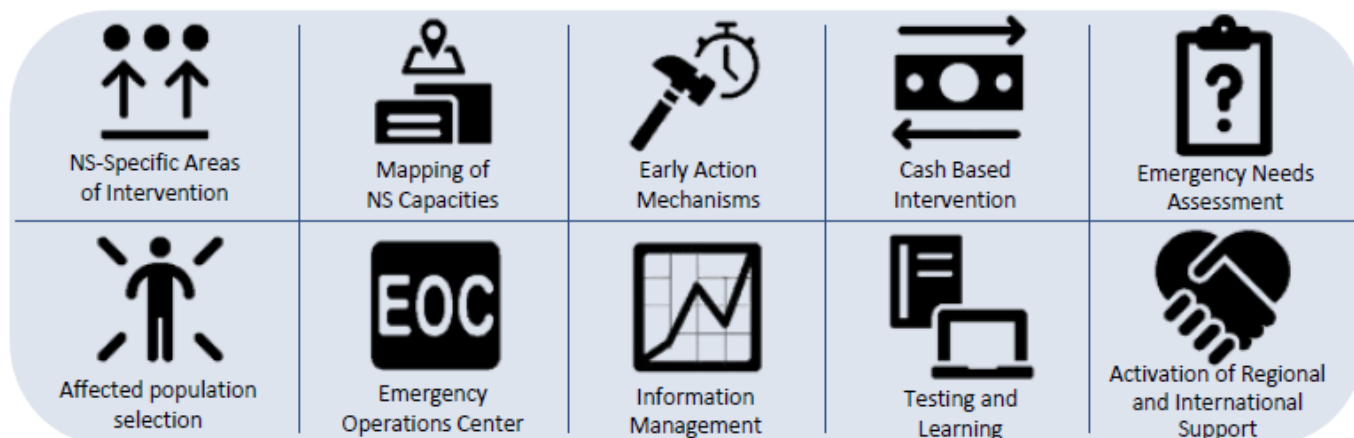
ANALYSIS AND PLANNING



COORDINATION



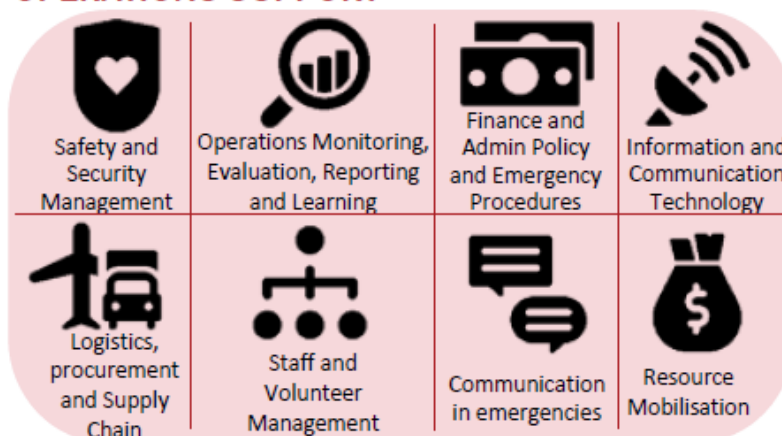
OPERATIONAL CAPACITY



POLICY, STRATEGY AND STANDARDS



OPERATIONS SUPPORT



Ensure Effective International Disaster Management

NS capacities to respond to disasters and crisis are strengthened throughout the identification of the main preparedness, response and recovery areas and components that required further investment:

- Deployment of Surge support as needed (Communications; Community, Engagement and Accountability (CEA); Logistics; WASH; Shelter; PMER; Finance; Relief; Emergency Response Unit (ERU); and others)
- Capacity strengthening of the national and branch disaster response teams (training, refreshment, insurance, equipment and performance) in relevant specific sectors or areas of intervention.
- Strengthening/development of the emergency response center, equipment, procedures, information management capacities.
- Information Management support for the operation during preparedness, response and recovery phases, including the activation of the Surge Information Management System (SIMS).
- Monitoring of the operation.

The coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced:

- Provision of regional shelter coordination support in fulfilling IFRC role as chair of the REDLAC Shelter Working Group and Global Shelter Cluster lead agency for natural disasters.
- Provision of shelter coordination support at the country level in coordination with OCHA, CDEMA and NEMA.

Influence Others as Leading Strategic Partners

IFRC supports BRCS through:

- Strengthening Movement coordination to facilitate informed operational strategies.
- Establishing coordination with government and other humanitarian actors including UN agencies to ensure complementarities in response.
- Management and delivery of the programme will be informed by appropriate monitoring and evaluation.
- Development of Resource Mobilization Strategy and training of volunteers and staff in Resource Mobilization
- Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan to enhance the scope and adapt the activities and needs by designing a technical guidance to ensure the performance of the operation is well documented through the proposed indicators, ensuring all the data collected in the areas of intervention is completely aligned with the measurement criteria established to facilitate the reporting process. This will be done in close coordination with the Information Management team.
- PMER capacities will be reinforced in the National Society to strengthen its capacities in monitoring and evaluation as well as data collection.
- A final evaluation and a lesson learned workshop will be carry about at the end of the operation to assess the relevance, coverage, effectiveness and efficiency
- A Real Time Evaluation of the operation that informs advocacy to increase reach and improve quality of programming.
- Establish Civil and Military Relations and Coordination that complements regional and international response operations and that effectively provide CMR advice to Head of Operations and to Movement Components engaged in disaster preparedness and response. This will include but is not limited to:
 - Promoting and ensuring adherence to applicable CMR policies and CMR Global Handbook in disaster preparedness and response operations at national and regional level. Advise of potential consequences if Fundamental Principles are compromised.
 - Maintaining up to date mapping, assessment and analysis of CMR stakeholders including potential channels of communication and share within the Movement as appropriate.

- Assist all movement actors and Partners develop a common approach to CMR within emergency area in accordance with applicable CMR policies and CMR Global Handbook.
 - Engaging with and if required establish local CMR platforms within CDEMA and in coordination with OCHA and other CivMil Actors on the ground to coordinate the common Movement CMR approach within area of operation, including where appropriate participation of Movement staff from region, neighboring countries or troop/MCDA contributing countries.
 - Drafting and disseminate and ensuring understanding of country or regional level CMR operational and practical guidance and tools for use within the emergency area.
 - Developing, maintaining and expand channels of communication with armed actors on issues related to use of Military and Civil Defense Assets (MCDA), protection of civilians, Red Pillar space/humanitarian access and other topics where armed actors are stakeholders.
 - Collating and sharing locations of humanitarian facilities and missions to civil and military actors in accordance with Red Pillar humanitarian notification procedures.
 - Ensure our “CMR Representative” will coordinate any/all outreach opportunities to armed actors and other humanitarian actors, communicating Movement identity, Fundamental Principles, roles, response mechanisms and coordination approach in workshops, seminars, trainings etc.
 - Maintain contact and participate in civil-military coordination meetings, mechanisms and platforms led by other organizations, including CDEMA, OCHA and other humanitarian and where appropriate military lead fora.
 - Conduct training of CMR to improve awareness and knowledge across deployed elements, including mentoring if required and organizing expert level CMR training, with assistance of RO and global CMR resources and when necessary the IFRC will provide feedback and lessons learnt for inclusion in future development of guidance, tools and training.
- The development of an International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) case study to assess the legal and institutional framework of The Bahamas relating to incoming international disaster relief items, in light of the management of the international response to “Dorian” and against the benchmarking of the *IDRL Guidelines*. This activity will complement an ongoing “Capacity Building Initiative” OFDA Project which identifies a Disaster Law component to support English-speaking Caribbean National Societies to develop policy advocacy strategies and sensitize governments and CDEMA to the need to adopt and implement climate-smart policy frameworks. The activity will contribute to identify and advocate for recommendations to improve the legislation related to the regulation and facilitation of the entry of international humanitarian aid and assistance in case of large-scale disasters
 - A capacity building training to support TNRCs to design an advocacy strategy in Disaster Law and other topics of relevance (e.g. protection of vulnerable groups in situations of disaster, migration, DRR), using the *IFRC Legislative Advocacy Toolkit*. This activity will contribute to strengthen the capacities of the National Society in Humanitarian Diplomacy
 - The human resources capacities of the National Society will be reinforced in Humanitarian Diplomacy to support and sustain on the long-term the advocacy efforts in Disaster Law and other topics of relevance as well as to implement the advocacy strategy that will be designed.
 - A national workshop to sensitize the government to the auxiliary role of the National Society and discuss the findings and recommendations that will stem from the IDRL study.
 - Public communications support to this operation will ensure that humanitarian needs are highlighted, and the achievements of the operation are well-profiled through proactive public information that integrates the use of IFRC online platforms, media relations activities, audio-visual production and social media engagement. Primary target audiences will include regional and international media, partner national societies, peer organizations as well as donors and the wider public.
 - Specifically, public communications activities will include:
 - Proactive media relations activities targeting international media based in the Bahamas and regional hubs to position IFRC and Bahamas Red Cross as primary references for the media, particularly around milestones in the emergency response and recovery operation
 - Production of news-related content for promotion via IFRC online platforms including; news stories, blogs and beneficiary case studies
 - Engagement with social media platforms including Twitter and Facebook to maximize visibility of the Red Cross Red Crescent response and promote fundraising.
 - Production of audio-visual material including photographs and video material for distribution to National Societies and the media.
 - Production of multimedia material to support fundraising activities.
 - Regular production of communications materials including factsheets and key messages to support National Societies communications efforts and fundraising activities.
 - Facilitation of field visits by media and National Society communications teams

Ensure a strong IFRC

IFRC will put in place the necessary mechanisms for timely and effective needs assessment, planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, accountability and quality assurance, including carrying out an Audit towards the end of the operation.

Funding requirements

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

EMERGENCY APPEAL

MDRBS003 - BAHAMAS - HURRICANE DORIAN

Funding requirements - summary

SHELTER	6,000,000
LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS	12,000,000
HEALTH	500,000
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE	900,000
INCLUSION, GENDER AND PROTECTION	200,000
MIGRATION	200,000
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	1,200,000
STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES	2,200,000
ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTER'L DISASTER MANAGEMENT	2,500,000
INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS	400,000
ENSURE A STRONG IFRC	100,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	26,200,000

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Elhadj As Sy
Secretary General

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Operation Update no. 1](#)
- [Operation Update no. 2](#)

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:

- Jono Anzalone, Head of the Disaster and Crisis Department; email: jono.anzalone@ifrc.org
- Felipe del Cid, Continental Operations Coordinator; phone: +507 317 3050; email: felipe.delcid@ifrc.org
- Diana Medina, Communications Unit Coordinator for the Americas; email: diana.medina@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:

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

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- Paula Martes; Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Manager; email: paula.martes@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva:

- Antoine Belair, Operations Coordination Senior Officer for 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**.
