

## ChildFund Humanitarian Situation Report (Sitrep) Format

**Country:** Dominica

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### 1. Overall description of the significant change in the situation at the national level

Hurricane Maria passed directly over the island of Dominica on the night of September 18 as a Category 5 storm on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, destroying the country's power and water supply lines, agriculture, telecommunications, damaged health centres, bridges, blocked the roadways with landslides and brought life in the island to a stand-still.

Restoration of power, water supply and provision of food and shelter have been identified as priority areas for humanitarian response. Immediate food assistance is needed to support the affected population, especially in remote areas, before roads and markets open again, according to the World Food Programme (WFP).

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that Hurricane Maria has totally decimated Dominica's agricultural sector directly impacting income, food and nutrition security of a large percentage of the island's population.

- The initial response to Hurricane Maria in Dominica is underway as humanitarian organizations arrive to deliver critical aid and carry out assessments throughout the rest of the island.
- Although access to Dominica is gradually being restored, internal access along key roads is limited and hindering the delivery of crucial aid to cut-off communities.
- Authorities in the Dominican Republic are using national contingency plans to address the needs caused by Maria in the areas exposed to the worst of the storm's path.

The aid community in the Caribbean must now support the emergency response to Maria and continue providing support in recovery to the islands affected by Irma.

## Description of the current humanitarian situation in ChildFund operational areas Initial update from Dominica

**56,000**

people in Dominica who require urgent support with shelter and water (80 per cent of the population)

**19,774**

Children under 18 in Dominica affected by Maria

**All 53**

health facilities in Dominica affected by Maria

Caribbean countries and the aid community continue to support local authorities in their response to the aftermath of two category 5 hurricanes that hit the region within three weeks.

Various UN agencies and humanitarian partners have deployed teams to assess the situation in Dominica and have begun distributing aid. Military troops from several countries are supporting the aid response especially in the delivery of food, water, non-food items and shelter items.

Humanitarian response teams are arriving in Dominica to work closely with local authorities to provide much-needed relief to the beleaguered island in the wake of Hurricane Maria. In spite of the difficulties and challenges regarding access, communications, power supply and food, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is leading response efforts on the ground, with support from foreign governments, UN agencies and humanitarian partners.

With 15 confirmed deaths and virtually the entire population of 73,000 people affected by Maria, the needs in Dominica are critical. The country's entire agricultural production was wiped out, creating not only an immediate concern with food security, but concern over livelihoods and Dominica's economic activities in exporting agricultural goods. Power and water supplies have been disrupted throughout the country as well.

Reports from CDEMA indicate a wide range of immediate needs, including food, water, water purification kits, construction material, electric generators, fuel, hygiene kits and home supplies.

Dominica is currently accessible via Canefield Airport, which is being used for emergency flights with temporary emergency telecommunications, and the sea port at Woodbridge. The telecommunications infrastructure within Dominica was badly damaged by Maria; communications are being slowly restored and text messaging is available through Digicel and Flow.

### **Description of planned, desired or ongoing ChildFund response**

- Contact our prior staff there and Local Partners, especially Gelina Fontaine (former focal point). We are already in contact with Martha Joseph who was our employee in Dominica. She was also DRM Focal point, she is in the states now.
- Monitoring of the situation with the LPs until we are confirmed that all their staff, communities and children are ok
- Assessment of local partner situation and restart the network with local partners and government agencies. Explore they are functional and their ability to handle response and relief activities i.e import and handle products.
- Explore partnership with UN agencies (Unicef, WFP, etc, inclusion in Dominica Flash Appeal) and government agencies.

We are in contact with:

In the island

Beverly Baron, Director West Federation phone: +1767 616 1234, also Richmond is with her, +17672779966, based in MAHAUT (West Federation ready to help, "Right now all assistance is going to government and not to individual organizations, so when the start allowing organizations to receive then we will organize receipt, right now we are in cleaning mode. Lost my roof completely so lots of water flooded in. No power except to the hospital and no gasoline station, not water through pipes).

Cynthia Tavernieri: Sponsorship manager: Phone: +1 767 275 8451, based in SOUFRIERE (see attached) Cecilia:, Dominica, telephone: +1 767 277 9291, based in 6733 Morne Prosper, ROSEAU VALLEY (see attached)

In the US:

Velma coordinator East Federation +1 767 276 9866, [vmjoseph.edcf@gmail.com](mailto:vmjoseph.edcf@gmail.com) I live in Woodfordhill 2 villages south of the Main airport See email below, " East Federation is still fully functional"

Martha Joseph, former DRM focal point. +1 7672258880

Durval former Dominica Country Director, based in Ecuador.

In Panama:

P&G regional (Panama), waiting for a list of possible donations.

Logistica Humanitaria, by boat it's two week transit from Panama at the moment, may be better from US.

**5. Coordination mechanisms set up by the government and/or United Nations that ChildFund has participated in:**

- OCHA/ Redlac coordination system at regional level (meetings). UN system: UNICEF, WFP/UNHRD, PAHO, UNDP, IOM, etc
- Review process of the United Nations Regional Response Plan for the Caribbean Region
- Coordination with UNDAC teams.
- Close communication with OFDA/USAID Regional Advisor. Tim Callaghan
- Communication and coordination with ECHO and P&G regional office (Panama).

During this week UN system is developing a Dominica Flash Appeal (separate to Regional Plan). We are in contact with Unicef and Ocha people at regional and field level to work together for introduce Child Fund us partner.