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1. Situation Awareness Overview

Information on disaster

	Data	Sources
Type and magnitude of the disaster	Hurricane Dorian impacted the Northern islands of The Bahamas from 1 to 3 September 2019 for approx. 68 hours. The hurricane devastated Abaco, Grand Bahama and the surrounding Cays.	CDEMA Sit rep #18
Damage caused	<p>The number of deaths is officially reported at 71. BRCS received more than 130 RFL case requests.</p> <p>According to the Assessment of the effects and impact of Hurricane in the Bahamas about 29,472 persons in 9,000 homes were affected by Dorian, in excess of 11 million square feet of structures have sustained some damage on the two islands. In Abaco, more than 75% of the dwellings were somehow affected, approximately 57% of the houses were severely damaged. Central Abaco (Marsh Harbour), Treasure Cay, and Hope Town were the most affected locations. Vulnerable settlements in Marsh Harbour were also destroyed. Damage to the housing sector on the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama is estimated at \$1.48 billion, 88.9% of which took place on Abaco.</p> <p>Housing was the sector most severely affected by Hurricane Dorian. Several residential settlements along or near the coastline suffered heavy damage as a result of the intense force of winds and storm surge or was impacted by falling trees and flying debris. Houses and residences suffered significant damage to the structural elements, roofs, flood damage, and other components of the buildings.</p>	<p>NEMA</p> <p>Report: Assessment of the effects and impact of Hurricane in the Bahamas (WHO, IADB, UN ECLAC)</p>
Triggers that may affect the situation	<p>Government closing of shelters and delays to transitional housing plans: 438 hurricane-affected people remained in two shelters in New Providence: 108 in the Bahamas Academy and 330 at the Kendal GL Isaacs Gymnasium. These figures are decreasing on a weekly basis.</p> <p>The 2019 Atlantic Hurricane season lasted until November, with the next one due to start in June.</p>	NEMA, NOAA National Hurricane Center, Social Services

Affected Areas

Abaco Islands are the most severely affected. Shelter Sector coordination team (SCT) analyses of Satellite and drones' imagery suggests that the north part of the islands from Cooper's Town down, the west Cays and the towns in the Marsh Harbour area (Murphy Town, Spring City, etc.) were severely affected. Four informal settlements on Abaco, (The Mudd, Pigeon Pea, Sand Bank and Farm Road) were declared no-build zones with three of them already almost cleared Ministry of Public Works.

Grand Bahama: Shelter Sector coordination team analyses of Satellite and drones' imagery suggests that the most affected area, in term of damage and destruction density are on the west part of the island for Pelican Point, Rocky Creek and McLean's Town sub-division (more than 88% Damage – excluding floods).

New Providence: Though spared the brunt of the hurricane, many people **displaced** from Grand Bahama and Abaco have reallocated in Nassau in shelters, with relatives or friends as there are more work opportunities in this city.

2. Updates per programme area

General updates

Updates

Transition from emergency to recovery phase.

Through the Disaster Reconstruction Authority Act 2019, the Government established The Bahamas Disaster Reconstruction Authority (DRA). DRA took over from NEMA on 3 December 2019 the overall response coordination of the response to hurricane Dorian. The DRA is responsible for the management of reconstruction and restoration in disaster zones, as well as establishing criteria, procedures and processes for transitional housing, services and assistance. Its functions include assessing the reconstruction needs, preparing a reconstruction plan, and oversight, monitoring and regulation, and coordinating relations with national and international bodies. The DRA has the powers to accept, deposit and act as trustee and manager of gifts and donations, enter into contracts, invest funds, appoint employees and take necessary legal action to implement reconstruction operations. The Authority will work with the recently created Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction to continue the reconstruction program for Grand Bahama, Abaco and the Abaco Cays. Former President of the Senate, Hon. Kay Forbes-Smith is serving as the Authority's Managing Director. The Ministry is providing the umbrella for both NEMA in preparedness and response and for the Reconstruction Authority for recovery.

UNDP supported the Government for the organization of the Hurricane Dorian Private Sector Pledging Conference on 13 January at the Baha Mar Convention Centre. Bahamas Red Cross, IFRC delegation senior management and Shelter Sector coordination team attended this event. The outcome of the Conference was to collect the final pledging statements made by Private sectors/ International Financial institutions / Multilateral organizations / Governments/Businesses/Individuals. Red Cross Statement → BRCS President Terez Curry made a brief report to the panel and committed to continue recovery efforts through Shelter/ Financial assistance, PSS and livelihoods."

Successes

The Shelter Sector Coordination team (SCT) deployed by IFRC as chair of the REDLAC Shelter Working group and Global Shelter Cluster lead for natural disasters, will end its in country support on 20th February and handover all tools and processes to DRA.

IFRC team transitioning from surge support into long-term staff

As of 5 December, **9,599 households** have been assisted through distributions

- On Abaco: 1,336 households
- On Grand Bahama: 2,654 households
- On New Providence: 5,609 households

Data collection and registration of beneficiaries conducted through an ODK survey for the recovery phase, measuring the vulnerability criteria based on the information collected

The total coverage of the FASS (Financial Assistance - CVA) program is **3,005** households, mainly:

- **1435** in New providence
- **877** in Abaco
- **620** in Grand Bahama

Th EPOA planned objective is achieved.

Movement Meetings

The main warehouse in Nassau has been cleared and remaining items sent to the warehouses in Abaco and Grand Bahama for distribution.

[GO IFRC](#) online page for Bahamas: Hurricane Dorian Operation updated, reflecting as new products: Financial Assistance dashboard, CEA dashboard, Shelter distributions and Rental support dashboard, Movement Picture.

- Weekly meetings are held every Friday with BRCS/IFRC/AmRC to share updates, coordination, experiences and challenges.
- Weekly RCM partners meetings.
- Weekly coordination meetings with Abaco and Grand Bahama field teams and sectoral leads.
- Bi-weekly Cash Working Group meeting.
- Weekly meeting to report on updates and challenges with IFRC Americas Regional Office



Shelter

Grand Bahama

Key Highlights and Activities

- Rental Assistance Program:
 - a. 188HHs are enrolled in the Rental Assistance Program with 147 distributed
 - b. Cheques have been used as a method of payment
 - c. Financial assistance for rental in Grand Bahama dashboard, including distributed shelter items, is available: Shelter Rental PowerBi
 - d. Shelter assessment ODK form is been used to verify that the property that will receive the HH's meets the minimum standards
- Home Repairs Program (Non-Structural):
 - a. 20 homes have been assessed
 - b. The logistics requisition process for the materials needed for the first repairs has been put in place
 - c. Shelter assessment ODK form for home repairs has been created to analyse the scope of works needed per home
 - d. Pilot phase for owner driven process being developed

Coordination:

- Technical working group meetings has taken place to discuss:
 - a. Retrofit guidelines
 - b. Build Back Better Interim messages had been designed on the prioritisation of the failure mechanism seen and simple solutions to build. The main topics are:
 - i. Roofing ii. Electrical connections iii. Timber construction. iv. Reinforced concrete construction v. Foundations vi. Bracing
- Coordination between Disaster Reconstruction Authority and Shelter main actors took place to identify the main needs of NGO's to move forward their efforts and to discuss the need that families with destroyed homes have.

	<p>Challenges and Action points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reach the target of 235 HHs for the Rental Assistance Program by the 21st of February - Hire shelter officers (inspectors) to monitor repairs
<p>Abaco</p>	<p>Key Highlights and Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairs Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 6 homes have been assessed b. The logistics requisition process for the materials needed for the first repairs has been put in place <p>Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination with the Government representatives is challenging as they are not currently present on the Island. <p>Challenges and Action points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hire shelter officers (inspectors) to monitor repairs - New shelter delegate arrives in mid Feb



Shelter Cluster Coordination

<p>All locations</p>	<p>Key highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Shelter Sector Coordination Team (SCT) new National Coordinator took over from its predecessor on 27th November. Outgoing Hub coordinator for Grand Bahama and National Information Manager ended their deployment on 13rd and 17th December. New National Technical Coordinator and Hub coordinator for Abaco/National Information Manager arrived on 3rd January. - From 3rd December the coordination of the response was transferred from NEMA to the new Disaster Reconstruction Authority (DRA). The government has defined 7 recovery priorities and 11 projects, including 2 regarding shelter and housing. DRA has nominated early-January two Shelter Sector focal point for Abaco and Grand Bahama, that SCT is directly supporting. - During December 2019 and January 2020 reporting period, the SCT co-chaired and facilitated 6 Shelter Sector meetings and 4 Technical Working Group meetings in Freeport for Grand Bahama, and 6 Shelter Sector meetings and 2 Technical Working Group meetings in Marsh Harbour for Abaco. - SCT is developing the Shelter Sector Strategic Framework (SF) with DRA and humanitarian partners for Dorian's response, with alignment of all partners with Government recovery priorities, under 3 strategic objectives, (1) enabling access to temporary shelter, (2) restoring permanent housing options, and (3) providing Building Back Better (BBB) technical assistance. The SF current version will be finalised tentatively of 14th February. - SCT is processing a full revision of the 3W (Who, What, Where) with analysis of partners response and presence, linked with the SF, to inform related information products, as for partners presence mapping and response planning figures. SCT is also developing technical guidelines and BBB key messages. - To date, 28 governmental and humanitarian partners have distributed emergency shelter items to more than 2,500 households. Partners have ongoing and planned activities for rental assistance for more than 490 households and early recovery support through homes mucking/gutting, mould remediation or repairs for up to 2,700 housing units. The main priority and current focus of the response is on repairing the maximum number of houses with non-structural damage before the next hurricane season due to commence in June. - <p>Challenges and Action points</p>
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- The Shelter Sector Coordination team (SCT) deployed by IFRC as chair of the REDLAC Shelter Working group and Global Shelter Cluster lead for natural disasters, will end its in country support on 20th February and handover all tools and processes to DRA.
- Some affected people from Abaco and Grand Bahama were evacuated to New Providence, with up to 2,000 sheltered in collective centres. Only few hundreds remain there, but without clear options to move back to their pre-Dorian communities.
- House reconstruction in the Bahamas can be very expensive (upwards of 70,000 USD for a small 2-bedroom house). While government and partners are starting to repair houses with minor damage, there is no current capacity identified to rebuild at scale destroyed homes or houses with structural damage.
- Due to the unprecedented scale of disaster impact for the Bahamas, building damage assessments have still to be completed and to be overlaid with social economic assessment data, in order to fully allow gap analysis for the recovery response moving forward.
- Most of the houses damaged and destruction came from non-compliance with the Bahamas building codes and from the significant tidal surge flooding. Building Back Better, technical assistance and quality control for enhanced building code compliance must be enhanced to reinforce resilience of Bahamian affected communities in a future of more frequent climate-change induced hurricanes



Construction

Design and Construction of BRCS branch offices in Grand Bahama and Abaco

Grand Bahama and Abaco

Key Highlights:

- Canadian RC is providing funding for the design and construction of Grand Bahama Branch building
- Negotiation ongoing with American RC to provide funding for the design and construction of Abaco Branch building
- Canadian RC is providing technical support for coordination and project management of both the buildings
- BRCS is securing land title for Abaco Branch
- Implementation strategies have been discussed between BRCS, IFRC, Canadian RC and American RC

Coordination

- 1st Coordination meeting to discuss on budget and implementation strategy was held on 15th January 2020.
- 2nd and 3rd meetings were organized on 23rd and 29th to discuss on Request for Proposal (RFP) document (tendering for consultancy services documents) for hiring Engineering and Architectural services

Challenges and Action points

- Tentative Work Plan showing critical deadlines has been prepared to guide the design and construction process.
- MoU, Project Cooperation Agreements (PCA) and Pledges needs to be drafted and signed before publishing tender for construction.



Health

New Providence	<p>Key Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSS services promotion continues; a total of 1,127 persons were reached, at Bahamas Red Cross Health & Wellness Centre, at the distribution site and evacuation shelter (Kendal Gym and Bahamas Academy). - Epidemic control in the community continues; a total of 2,318 persons were reached. House to house, people reached with key health and hygiene messages, especially about the flue key message prevention, vaccines and coronavirus prevention/information (based on WHO messaging). - Care providers (30 nurses) in the department of Public Health received training and refresher in January on Epidemic Control (rainy season, flew, prevention messages) - Basic training for all response and distribution staff on giving key public health messages. <p>Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BRCS continues participating in the MHPSS Coordination meeting held twice per month (Ministry of Health/Psychosocial board meeting)
Grand Bahama	<p>Key Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a PSS space that is functional; volunteers are present on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month. -
Abaco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nothing to report



Livelihoods

Key Highlights and Activities

- 32 people registered and eligible for Livelihoods-fishery sector were supported with MPCG in **Grand Bahama**.

Challenges and Action Points

- Limited capacity to start specific livelihoods activities (support to fisherfolks and small businesses) until arrival of Livelihoods delegate in country in mid Feb.

Cash & voucher assistance

All locations

Key Highlights & Activities

The total coverage of the FASS (Financial Assistance - CVA) program is **3,005** households, mainly:

- **1435** in New providence
- **877** in Abaco
- **620** in Grand Bahama
- Financial assistance dashboard developed and available. <https://tinyurl.com/uz45o3q> Updated every Friday.
- The team continues to coordinate with case management about a transition to referrals in the future. While also support IM and data processing of the operation-wide intake data.
- FASS team has shared and held discussions with CEA and Comm's focal point to prepare key message now that the program is moving into a recovery phase and the focus will shift to other programs.

- BRCS volunteers did an amazing work. More work is still needed for cards management and provide follow up support to question from recipients

Coordination

- Cash-Working Group met until end of December 2019. At this stage, it appears there is limited need for this type of working modality from the major NGOs in country. IFRC and BRCS will coordinate with government agencies (including Department of Social Services)
- Case Management delegate will be in Grand Bahama to support the process for the registration of beneficiaries and the way forward.

Challenges and Action Points

- Formalize the adoption of the centralized assessment/registration process at operation and BRCS' level.
- The team spent a good part of the period conducting follow up with households that had not showed so far despite multiple invitations. All those follows ups that responded were re-invited to the next distributions in order to reach the 3,000 HHs target.
- FASS post distribution monitoring (PDM) survey will be deployed in Q1: methodology under development.

Relief

**New
Provide
nce**

Key Highlights and Activities

- Continued support to people who remain in the communal evacuation shelters. The government has consolidated people in the previous 2 shelters (Kendal Gym and Bahamas Academy) into one collective centres. While number in January 2020 were 300 people in Kendal Gym and 108 people in Bahamas Academy; the number have significantly decreased as families try to find alternative solutions.
 - People who were leaving the Kendal Gym were provided with check-out packages including: household items, hygiene and cleaning products, Hardware & safety gear, and food items.
- The warehouse in Nassau has been emptied and stock moved to warehouses in Grand Bahamas and Nassau to complete distributions.

Challenges and Action Points

- With the shelters planned for closing in the coming months, support will be required to help the transition to a longer-term solution and monitor the flow of people returning to Abaco or Grand Bahama.

**Grand
Bahama**

Key Highlights and Activities

- Planning of final distributions of remaining NFIs in the warehouse

Abaco

Coordination

- Coordination with organizations on the ground (including fire fighters, etc) for distributions of last NFIs.
- New relief delegate arriving in mid Feb.

Challenges

- Increasing number of community members/potential beneficiaries returning to Abaco and inquiring about Red Cross assistance. Requests include housing or housing repairs, household items, and financial assistance.



PGI

All locations

Key Highlights and Context

The PGI surge completed her mission on 26 November. Handover notes highlighted the following challenges:

- Protection risks are high, particularly for migrant population. Long-term xenophobia from Bahamians to Haitians (an estimated 20% of the population).
- Gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection (CP) risks are high across all three islands, as are risks of PSEA (protection against sexual exploitation and abuse).
- Risks in collective shelters are high.
- BRCS has identified at least 10 protection cases and is working on providing PSS and referrals to appropriate a
- PGI delegate planned to arrive late Feb

Community Engagement & Accountability

All location

Key Highlights and Activities

- CEA dashboard is available: CEA PowerBI and updated three times a week. Available on IFRC Go Platform.
- A total of 172 feedback communications were collected and documented by BRCS HQ during the reporting period, amounting to a 30% increase from the previous period. The feedback was collected and documented through the following feedback channels: 1. BRCS HQ Helpline (50%), 2. Feedback Boxes (38%), 3. Face-to-Face interactions (6%), WhatsApp messages (6%).
- 41% of the feedback was documented as requests, with most of these being around registration for financial assistance (90%).
- CEA plans for integration drafted and submitted to Grand Bahama and Abaco regarding financial assistance.
- Guidelines and SOPs for feedback mechanism designed.
- Capacity building trainings initiated for with BRC for feedback mechanism.
- Training conducted for BRCS case workers
- CEA integration into case management.

Challenges and action points

- Increasing number of calls to the BRC Hotline regarding the registration process as well as specific calls related to card reloads. Targeted key messages to be designed.
- Lack of volunteers in Abaco.
- Lack of human resources to operate the feedback mechanism effectively. Trainings to be conducted.



WASH

New Providence	<p>Key Highlights and Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BRCS/IFRC is responsible for WASH at the Kendall G.L Isaacs Gymnasium collective shelter. - Activities connecting Shelter and Wash have been implemented: building and repairs toilets, bathroom and showers; portable toilets (minimum standards fulfilled), handwashing stations. - A total of 1,682 persons were reached. Sanitation cleaning team keep bathroom cleaned (started in December 8th) at Kendal Gym wash outside. Number of toilets has been adjusted to the declining number of people. - BRCS provided messaging on epidemic control
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1. Other support areas

Case Management

Activities & Highlights:

- A full contingent of Case Managers has been hired by the BRC to support Hurricane Dorian, as well as National Society programming in New Providence
- Capacity building trainings have been initiated by the BRC for case management
- With the close of the CVA programs, case management
- The BRC is leading the development of a case management program to connect beneficiaries to community supports and is exploring the possibility of a limited cash-assistance program
- IFRC is supporting the implementation of a case management system OSCAR that will help to consolidate all the information for a follow up on the cases registered for Hurricane Dorian operation in the midterm and welfare program for the longer term. The software implementation is being delayed for several weeks and solutions are underdevelopment to fill the gap for data until OSCAR is set up. We have several challenges remain: cross sectoral tracking of cases, managing cases is a tedious process that requires a lot of steps and data manipulation, and making the information available for case workers and supervisors. We copy with these challenges by developing solutions as the implement RC2 Relief tool, the information management platform that collects and manages information for humanitarian operation. IM team is considering the adaptation of this Relief tool for the short-term case management and monitoring.

Challenges:

- Case Management software development has progressed more slowly than anticipated

National Society Development

Activities & Highlights

- Meeting with Minister of National Security, expressed
- New BRCS Director General has begun (attended International Conference in Geneva)
- Interviews conducted for BRCS HR manager, resource mobilization and PER.
- Ongoing support to the leadership of the NS by NSD Liaison, two induction events for the newly elected board and also HR support in the recruitment of new staff.
- Continued support for volunteering provided by IFRC Americas volunteering focal point

Media and Communications

Activities & Highlights:

- Updated frontline messaging for staff and volunteers re: transition of MPC program
- Collaboration with FASS team for holding messages to card recipients
- On-going professional development with BRCS comms focal point
- Prep for 6-month report
- Monitoring re: GB community feedback in public forums, reactive messaging provided
- Collaboration for joint branding with external partners (MercyCorp) for programs and launch events in Grand Bahama

8 Team Arrivals/Departures

	Role	Arrival Date	Departure Date
Xavier Genot	Shelter Cluster Coordination	21-Nov-19	20-Feb-20
Evodie Vilus	Finance	23-Nov-19	14-Feb-20
Camille Coubeaux	IM	27-Nov-19	
Denise Solis	Shelter	20-Jan-20	
Stephen Hageritch	CASH	3-Dec-19	7-Feb-20
Carter Stone	CASH	3-Dec-19	8-Mar-20
Sally Berg	CASH	4-Dec-19	15-Feb-20
Brandon McFarlane	PER/Disaster preparedness		
David Dalgado	Shelter Cluster Coordination	3-Jan-19	20-Feb-19
Ryan Smith	Shelter Cluster Coordination	3-Jan-19	20-Feb-19
Priscila Gonzalez	PMER	9-Jan-20	
Laxman Chhetry	Senior Reconstruction Advisor	8-Jan-20	15 Jun-20
Ana Maria Escobar	IM	3-Feb-20	
Diana Arroyo	Communications	10-Feb-20	17-Feb-20
Roxana Trigo	CVA	15-Feb-20	

	Role	Arrival Date	Departure Date
Iris Almanza	Finance	14-Feb-20	
Aengus Ryan	Shelter Delegate	17-Feb-20	
Nurlan Derbishaliev	Relief / Field Coord	16-Feb-20	
Adrian Martinez	Livelihoods	17-Feb-20	