



International Medical Corps is trucking 400 gallons of water twice daily to multiple communities in Dominica, providing a stop-gap measure until rehabilitation of water sources are completed.

SITUATION UPDATE

Background

International Medical Corps is responding in multiple locations to this year's Atlantic hurricane season, which devastated multiple Caribbean islands and made landfall in the United States. The bulk of the damage occurred from Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Hurricane Irma developed into a Category 5 storm on September 5 and was recorded as the 11th most intense hurricane in the Atlantic basin. The hurricane maintained peak intensity for 37 hours. Less than two weeks later, Hurricane Maria, the fourth massive hurricane to strike the Caribbean during the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, formed in the Caribbean. The storm began its trail of wreckage in Dominica on September 18th as a Category 5, and later traveled over Puerto Rico on September 20th. The devastation was widespread – ninety-six people died and the damage estimates are at over \$51 billion USD across the Caribbean.

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

International Medical Corps is responding to the aftermath of multiple hurricanes in Puerto Rico, Dominica, and Florida.

In Dominica, International Medical Corps has deployed medical volunteers to support local health facilities and mobile medical units, supporting 14 health facilities and providing more than 700 consultations to date. Water trucking and water point rehabilitation has begun for affected communities.

In Puerto Rico, International Medical Corps is providing power, clean water, communications and cash grants to 26 health facilities and local clinics that serve more than 63,000 people. Initial grants totaled \$100,000 with additional grants anticipated at \$350,000 across the clinic network. International Medical Corps will also be deploying four Mobile Medical Units later this month.

In Dominica, winds reached 160 mph, ripping roofs off homes and cutting the entire island off from cellular, radio, and internet services. Maria affected 100% of Dominica's residents, inflicting serious damage to roads, public buildings, homes, airports, all of the island's 53 health facilities, and the agricultural sector. Dominica's recovery is progressing slowly, as food, water, electricity, and communications capabilities remain scarce across the island. Shelter remains a top priority for residents as 98% of homes were damaged in the storm.

Maria hit Puerto Rico as a category 4 storm, causing widespread flooding, high winds, and storm surges. The aging electrical grid was nearly completely shut down, subsequently closing hospitals, clinics, water pumping stations, and more. Today, **more than half of the country** is still without power, and those with electricity report it to be unstable. A significant portion of the population still does not have access to water, and those with access to water are being told to boil or purify their water before drinking it. The needs in Puerto Rico remain substantial.

[International Medical Corps Responds: Dominica](#)

International Medical Corps' hurricane response efforts in Dominica are well underway, incorporating direct medical support, gift-in-kind, primary health care infrastructure rehabilitation, and water, sanitation, and hygiene support across the island.

The volunteer medical teams who have been providing surge capacity are on their final rotations in St. John's and St. Andrew's Parishes, home to a combined 18,000 people. The medical teams have been supporting one hospital, two "T3" facilities (moderately sized health centers with emergency room capabilities) and 11 "T1" facilities (small health centers with limited services.) The support also includes deploying mobile medical units to visit patients unable to reach the health facilities. The focus of the medical teams has been to provide relief to overworked staff struggling with aftermath of the storms – as with the rest of the island, these individuals are working to recover despite the lack of clean water, electricity, and shelter while being expected to return to work and care for the community. **As of November 10th, over 700 patients have been seen through the supported mobile medical units.**

International Medical Corps' partnership with Pharmacists without Borders continues with the most recent deployment of pharmacists working in Portsmouth Hospital and Wesley Health Center in Marigot health district. The inventory of pharmaceuticals and medication at Portsmouth Hospital has been completed, and this week's tasks are focused on meeting inventory needs at Wesley Health Center.

This past week, International Medical Corps also launched water trucking to multiple communities, including Dos d'Ane, Paix Busche, Thibault, Borne, Providence, and Terre Plate. Belle Maniere will be added to this list, following a direct request from Village Councils. Four-hundred gallons of water are being delivered twice daily to each community to ensure that families have access to the international standard of 7.5 liters of clean water per person per day. The water distribution provides a temporary solution for these seven communities until International Medical Corps, with the Dominican Water and Sanitation Company (DOWASCO), is able to repair the public water systems.

To complement the water trucking, International Medical Corps is also now working to hire local community health workers who will be supporting water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities through outreach and education training and messaging -- with the goal of improving hygiene and health practices around safe water use and promoting healthy behaviors, such as handwashing. Community health worker training and hygiene promotion will be implemented in conjunction with community water system repair and health center facility rehabilitation, helping to ensure an integrated and holistic response to community health needs. In addition, 3,000 hygiene kits are en route to Dominica to further support healthy hygiene practices, and another 20 foot container with several thousand kits is now being mobilized to arrive in the coming weeks. The hygiene kit distribution will focus on the Portsmouth and Marigot health districts in the two targeted parishes of Dominica, complementing on going services.

The International Medical Corps team will also be launching mental health services, providing training of trainers for psychological first aid to support relief and recovery efforts. The training follows an effort to develop a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support assessment report. International Medical Corps is also chairing the Dominica Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) working group, which is attended by a variety of stakeholders, including UNICEF, IFRC, IsraAid, Ministry of Social Services, Ministry of Health, Dominica Psychology Society, Bureau of Gender Affairs, Lifeline Ministries, Ministry of Education, and Department of Child Protection. International Medical Corps is working with these stakeholders to identify the trainees for Psychological First Aid and International best practice training.

International Medical Corps Responds: Puerto Rico

After arriving to Puerto Rico within days of Hurricane Maria, International Medical Corps continues to collaborate with La Asociación de Salud Primaria de Puerto Rico (ASPPR), a non-profit health network of 76 clinics supporting vulnerable populations in Puerto Rico.

To support relief and recovery efforts, International Medical Corps provided an initial \$100,000 to ASPPR clinics this past month. A total of 17 clinics were identified to receive grants for fuel, minor infrastructure improvements, and staff wellness activities to ensure facilities can operate without interruption, benefitting some 63,000 individuals. For example, Camuy Health Services, a facility along the north coast, will use part of its grant to repair a solar array that is currently inoperable. Under normal conditions, the solar array reduces the energy bill by 25% (~\$7,000 per month). Migrant Health Service, Western Region, will purchase 3,750 gallons of diesel fuel to support three of its 10 centers for a period of 3 weeks while it awaits connection to the power grid, a project expected to take months in these locations.



Maricao's Mobile Medical Unit, which International Medical Corps will be staffing with medical teams from our volunteer response roster.

International Medical Corps is in the process of developing the second phase of grants to ASPPR clinics to provide targeted support to health facilities affected by the storm and more sustainable rehabilitations to facilities. Moving forward, the International Medical Corps team may also provide direct support for patient costs in order to reach people who need medical care but are faced with other challenges or are in need of other essential household support, including home repair, food, and more. Additional support is expected to be \$350,000 across clinic and individual grants.

ASPPR clinics have also received 8,000 hygiene kits; International Medical Corps is working with ASPPR staff to develop a distribution plan for the kits, which will be distributed to households who are patients of the targeted clinics or those who are reached through mobile medical teams operating from these facilities to help encourage healthy behaviors and thwart the spread of disease.

In addition, International Medical Corps has partnered with NetHope to help provide input and prioritize needs among ASPPR clinics to bring connectivity back to affected health facilities. NetHope has already provided internet and satellite services to one International Medical Corps-supported clinic, and is planning to bring connectivity to multiple additional clinics, as outlined in the table below.

International Medical Corps is in the process of recruiting medical volunteers to support mobile medical units (MMUs) to support Mayagüez, Maricao and Las Marias of the Migrant Health Center, and the Utuado Federally Qualified Health

Center managed by Corporación de Servicios Médicos Hatillo. These clinics are conducting home visits to treat patients who are unable to come to the centers for treatment. The sites see an average of 450 patients per week in their clinics, and an additional 60 through their outreach program. However, their MMUs are running limited schedules due to lack of personnel. International Medical Corps will be enhancing this services by deploying volunteer medical teams. There is currently an ongoing assessment to determine specific staff needs. The activity is projected to start at the end of the month.

Donations to ASPPR Clinics, Puerto Rico			
Equipment and Supplies	Cash Grant	Clinic Name	Location
Generator: Clarke EDG6000 46KvA; connectivity through NetHope		Centros de Servicios Primarios de Salud, Inc.	Florida
Generator: Clarke EDG6000 46KvA		Neomed Center	Gurabo
Generator: Clarke EDG6000 46KvA		Migrant Health Center Western Region, Inc.	Mayaguez
Generator: Clarke EDG6000 46KvA; connectivity through NetHope	Cash Grant	Centros de Salud Primarios de Patillas, Inc.	Patillas
Generator: Clarke EDG6000 46KvA	Cash Grant	Atlantic Medical Center, Inc.	Barceloneta
Generator: HIPOWER 80kVA	Cash Grant	Corporacion Sanos	Caguas
Generator: HIPOWER 80kVA; connectivity through NetHope	Cash Grant	Salud Integral en la Montaña, Inc.	Naranjito
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal		Health Promed	Vieques
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal	Cash Grant	Hospital General Castañer, Inc.	Jayuya
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal		Centro de Servicios Primarios de Patillas	Santa Isabel
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal; Connectivity through NetHope		Centro de Servicios Primarios de Patillas	Maunabo
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal; Connectivity through NetHope		Salud Integral de la Montana	Orocovis
Potable Water Bladder, 500gal; connectivity through NetHope		COSSMA- Las Piedras	La Piedras
Connectivity through NetHope	Cash Grant	HealthProMed Foundation, Inc.	Culebra
Connectivity through NetHope (Arecibo, Utuado)	Cash Grant	Corporacion de Servicios Medicos y Primarios de Hatillo, Inc.	Hatillo, Utuado, Arecibo, Aguadilla
	Cash Grant	Morovis Community Health Center, Inc.	Morovis/ Toa Baja
Connectivity through NetHope	Cash Grant	Hospital General de Castañer	Adjuntas
	Cash Grant	Camuy Health Service, Inc.	Camuy
	Cash Grant	Migrant Health Center	Las Marias
Connectivity through NetHope	Cash Grant	Migrant Health Center	Maricao
	Cash Grant	Migrant Health Center	Isabela
	Cash Grant	Prymed	Cialas
	Cash Grant	Consejo de Salud de PR	El Tuque
	Cash Grant	Hospital General de Castañer	Castañer
Connectivity through NetHope	Cash Grant	COSSMA	Cidra
	Cash Grant	Costa Salud Community Health Centers, Inc.	Rincón/ Aguada

[International Medical Corps Responds: Florida](#)

In Florida, International Medical Corps continues to support a network of 30 local clinics in and around Fort Myers, an area hit hard by Hurricane Irma. With the clinic's 500 staff largely displaced from their homes, we are providing sanitation facilities so that staff can return to work. We are also helping restore power and rehabilitate the network's clinic in Bonita Springs, which serves some 30,000 people. In addition, we are also partnering with a clinic network in Miami-Dade County, helping to provide low or no-cost medication for vulnerable families, ensuring that they continue to receive care for chronic diseases such as diabetes and easing their financial burden in the wake of the storms as they rebuild.

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