



*On Saturday, International Medical Corps constructed its Type 1 EMT in High Rock, where the local health clinic was destroyed in Hurricane Dorian.*

### FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps has set up a fixed health center in High Rock, one of the hardest hit parts of Grand Bahama island.
- The official death toll has remained at 50 for several days, but with 1,300 people still unaccounted for, that number is expected to rise in the days ahead.
- In total, more than 76,000 people have been adversely affected by Hurricane Dorian.

### SITUATION UPDATE

Relief efforts continue on Grand Bahama and Abaco islands following the devastating Hurricane Dorian, which killed at least 50 people and has displaced thousands more. The hardest-hit parts of Grand Bahama island, where International Medical Corps has been requested by the government to help lead assessment efforts and provide medical care, include the tightly knit communities of High Rock, Pelican Point and McLeans Town.

Within these three communities, one health clinic was leveled and two suffered structural damage that rendered them nonoperational, meaning the population has no access to healthcare. Urgent needs include shelter, food, sanitation, clean water, urgent medical care, continuity in medication for chronic conditions, screening for infectious diseases and tetanus vaccines for puncture wounds. Residents currently have little or no access to power, potable water or working toilets. Communication remains a concern, as there is no WiFi/internet access from High Rock, in the center of the island, eastward through Sweetings Cay. Roads have been extensively damaged, and driving is complicated by the fact that electrical cables that have fallen in the road are starting to break up and could puncture tires, which is an issue in an environment where spare tires and puncture repair are in short supply.

Assessment teams have noted significant mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs in communities affected by the hurricane, including a need for psychological first aid training. Though there has not been high demand for MHPSS at Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport, demand is expected to rise as the initial shock from the storm wears off. Assessment efforts regarding the need for protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services are ongoing.

### INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE

International Medical Corps is continuing to work with the Bahamian Ministry of Health (MoH), in coordination with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), World Health Organization (WHO) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and with local hospital administration and staff, to lead assessment efforts on Grand Bahama island and

provide medical care in the hard-hit central and eastern parts of the island, from Freeport in the west through Sweetings Cay in the east. Our teams are collaborating closely with Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport to assess and address urgent health needs throughout the island, and backstop overwhelmed hospital staff. The bulk of our team—including the EMT lead, physicians, nurses, and specialists in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), MHPSS and logistics—are located on Grand Bahama island, and are receiving support from HR and logistics teams in Nassau.

On Thursday, team leads met with representatives from PAHO and the UN, to discuss assessment findings and how to best coordinate efforts. In addition, the team began preparing for bad weather, as many locals began moving to higher ground to take cover from Tropical Storm Humberto, which eventually tracked farther east than originally forecast. On Friday, volunteer teams reorganized and took inventory in the pharmacy and at the warehouse, and continued to provide backstopping services for Rand Memorial Hospital.

The MoH had asked International Medical Corps to set up a Type 1 EMT (outpatient medical clinic) in High Rock that will serve patients while providing a base for mobile medical teams supplying support to Freetown, Pelican Point, McLeans Town and Sweetings Cay. Construction of the clinic, which is scheduled to open on Monday, has been completed, with clinic flow and process finalized by the staff. As part of the site build, International Medical Corps partner Tesla installed solar panels capable of generating 60 amps, and our WASH team installed two water bladders with a total storage capacity of 1,000 gallons.

Also over the weekend, a second team of clinical staff deployed to a local warehouse to assist in a food and water distribution organized by K1, a government organization. The team was given permission to send a mobile medical team into the community, alongside the food distributors, to perform house visits. The team included two physicians and nine nurses, and was accompanied by a pharmacist.

Our MHPSS team supported a mental health outreach team from Rand Memorial Hospital, providing community outreach and MHPSS awareness-raising activities in communities near Freetown. The team conducted door-to-door meetings with residents, providing emotional support as well as information on available mental health and related services. The team also attended awareness-raising activities with a local church group, and accompanied a clinical team during door-to-door visits in Hudson Estate during food and water distribution.

The Bahamian MoH has requested 120 day plans, to include short and long-term plans. International Medical Corps will likely be employing local MHPSS staff long-term along with other identified needs. We will continue to serve communities in and around High Rock up to Sweetings Cay with mobile outreach to Freetown, focused on providing medical, WASH and MHPSS services to vulnerable populations. In addition, we are in discussions to provide staffing support for the reopening of Freeport Public Health Clinic, located across from Rand Memorial, and plan to deploy one of our several mobile medical teams to support the clinic as it welcomes back patients.



*Jen Samiotes holds a newborn in the Rand Memorial neonatal emergency care unit. International Medical Corps has been backstopping the hospital in Freeport, Grand Bahama to relieve its overwhelmed staff.*