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## Information Bulletin no. 2

# Hurricane Dorian–Bahamas and United States of America



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

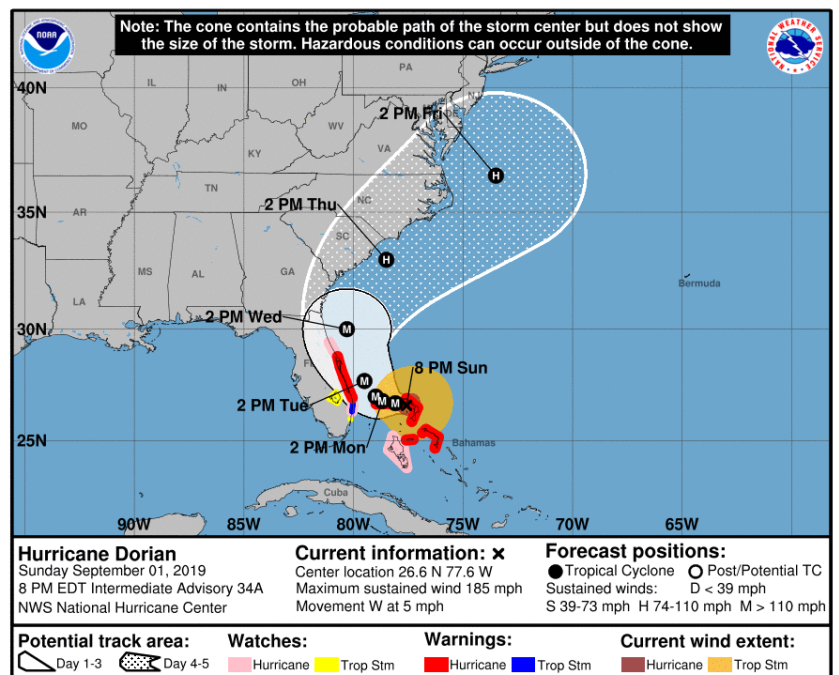
<b>Information Bulletin N° 2</b>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 1 September 2019
<b>Date of disaster:</b> 1 September 2019	<b>Focal Point in Nassau, Bahamas:</b> Raphael Hamoir; Disaster Management Coordinator <a href="mailto:raphael.hamoir@ifrc.org">raphael.hamoir@ifrc.org</a>
<b>IFRC Category allocated to the disaster:</b> Yellow	
<b>National Societies currently involved:</b> the Bahamas Red Cross Society and American Red Cross	
<b>Other partner organizations involved:</b> Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); National Emergency Operations Center in Bahamas (EOC), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) / World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP).	

*This bulletin is being issued for information only; it reflects the current situation and details available at this time.*

## The situation<sup>1</sup>

On 1 September 2019 at 800 PM EDT, the distinct eye of Hurricane Dorian was located near latitude 26.6 North, longitude 77.6 West.

Dorian is moving toward the west. A slower westward to west-northwestward motions it is expected to continue for the next day or two, followed by a gradual turn toward the northwest. On this track, the core of extremely dangerous Hurricane Dorian will continue to pound Great Abaco this evening and move near or over Grand Bahama Island tonight and Monday. The hurricane will move dangerously close to the Florida east coast late Monday through Tuesday night.

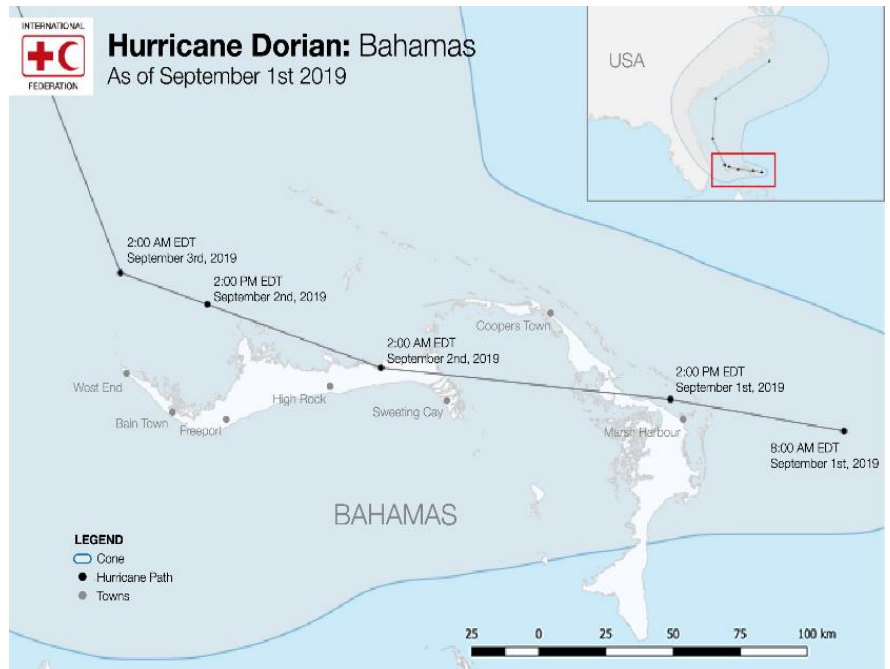


<sup>1</sup> [Tropical Storm Dorian Public Advisory](#). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Last update: 5 PM AST, 01 Sep. 19

## Hazards affecting land

**WIND:** Catastrophic hurricane conditions are occurring in the Abacos Islands and will spread across Grand Bahama Island tonight. It is recommended to not venture out into the eye, as winds will suddenly increase as the eye passes. Hurricane conditions are expected within the hurricane warning area in Florida by late Monday or Tuesday.

**STORM SURGE:** A life-threatening storm surge will raise water levels by as much as 18 to 23 feet above normal tide levels in areas of onshore winds on the Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama Island. Near the coast, the surge will be accompanied by large and destructive waves.



**SURF:** Large swells are already affecting east-facing shores of the Bahamas, the Florida east coast, and will spread northward along the southeastern United States coast during the next few days. These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions.<sup>2</sup>

## Event Details Reported from Nassau

- **The hurricane movement is extremely slow.** Dorian made landfall at 6 AM on September 1<sup>st</sup>, and is still impacting the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama. The system is currently moving at 5 mph (8 km/h). This slow movement implies:
  - Prolonged exposure to extremely strong winds (sustained 295 km/h).
  - Prolonged exposure to heavy rains (up to 30 inches expected in portion of Northern Bahamas).
  - Prolonged exposure to life threatening storm surge; generating extreme sea penetration and flooding in the impact area.
- **Major damages are currently reported in the islands of Abaco, Grand Bahamas and Keys located on the hurricane path.** Both islands had been severely impacted by hurricane Matthew in 2016.
- **Initial information available shows severe impact** on the island of Abaco and Keys. Abaco island has suffered extreme floods and penetration of sea; possibly contamination of wells providing fresh water to the island's population.
- Shelter, Water, Food, Health would be the priority needs for the impacted population.
- **Up to 76 000 people could be directly impacted from Hurricane Dorian in Northern Bahamas.**
- **Hurricane conditions are expected throughout Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> in the morning.** Due to the very slow movement of the system, first flyovers could initiate on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> in the afternoon and ground assessments on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The island of New Providence, most populated, with the capital Nassau, was only affected by peripheral rains and winds. No damages were reported on this part of the country as of September 1<sup>st</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> [Tropical Storm Dorian Public Advisory](#). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Last update: 5 PM AST, 01 Sep. 19

# Exposed population

## The Bahamas<sup>3</sup>

### Estimated damage

Source: PDC Advisory #33

Select a country:

Select a state/department:

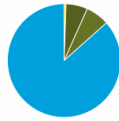
### Exposure by Country / Department

Estimated wind impact	Wind Speed (km/hour)	Population	Population %	Residential Units	Residential Units %	Land Cover Urban (km2)	Land Cover Urban %	Land Cover Non-Urban (km2)	Land Cover Non-Urban %	Land Cover Cropland (km2)	Land Cover Cropland %
Catastrophic damage	183.6 - 720.0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Severe damage	152.3 - 183.6	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Widespread damage	129.6 - 152.3	23	0.0%	6	0.0%	0	0.0%	15	0.0%	1	0.0%
Moderate Damage 5% of value	105.8 - 129.6	84,991	0.4%	17,561	0.6%	53	0.5%	694	0.0%	60	0.1%
Minor Damage; power out	91.1 - 105.8	1,035,495	5.5%	193,889	6.2%	541	5.3%	2,057	0.1%	782	1.2%
Trees Down; some power loss	76.0 - 91.1	1,076,920	5.7%	212,428	6.7%	467	4.5%	7,917	0.4%	3,857	6.1%
Minimal to no impact	0 - 76	16,784,477	88.4%	2,727,582	86.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
		<b>18,981,906</b>		<b>3,151,466</b>		<b>1,061</b>		<b>10,683</b>		<b>4,700</b>	

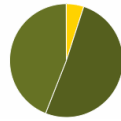
Population



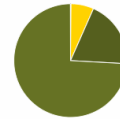
Residential Units



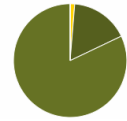
Land Cover Urban (km2)



Land Cover Non-Urban (km2)



Land Cover Cropland (km2)



## United States of America

### Estimated damage

Source: PDC Advisory #33

Select a country:

Select a state/department:

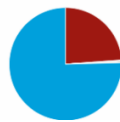
### Exposure by Country / Department

Estimated wind impact	Wind Speed (km/hour)	Population	Population %	Residential Units	Residential Units %	Land Cover Urban (km2)	Land Cover Urban %	Land Cover Non-Urban (km2)	Land Cover Non-Urban %	Land Cover Cropland (km2)	Land Cover Cropland %
Catastrophic damage	183.6 - 720.0	56,058	19.0%	12,957	23.8%	14	27.5%	2,448	5.9%	0	0.0%
Severe damage	152.3 - 183.6	515	0.2%	129	0.2%	0	0.0%	199	0.5%	0	0.0%
Widespread damage	129.6 - 152.3	164	0.1%	41	0.1%	0	0.0%	166	0.4%	0	0.0%
Moderate Damage 5% of value	105.8 - 129.6	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	19	0.0%	0	0.0%
Minor Damage; power out	91.1 - 105.8	577	0.2%	144	0.3%	0	0.0%	18	0.0%	0	0.0%
Trees Down; some power loss	76.0 - 91.1	361	0.1%	90	0.2%	0	0.0%	51	0.1%	0	0.0%
Minimal to no impact	0 - 76	237,543	80.5%	40,973	75.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
		<b>295,219</b>		<b>54,334</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>2,901</b>		<b>0</b>	

Population



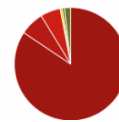
Residential Units



Land Cover Urban (km2)



Land Cover Non-Urban (km2)



Land Cover Cropland (km2)



<sup>3</sup> Source: [IFRC Hurricane Dorian Monitoring Dashboard](#).

## Key information from other organizations:

- CDEMA is leading international coordination. With the financial support of the Government of the United Kingdom and on behalf of the Caribbean Development Partners Group on Disaster Management, two Rapid Needs Assessment Teams were deployed to Nassau and a lead was deployed who will be stationed at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) in Nassau.
- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) through the medical authorities indicates that is still assessing the need for medical supplies.
- The Medical Information and Coordination Cell (CICOM) is monitoring the development of Dorian and potential needs for Emergency Medical Teams to deploy.
- Two Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) coordinators from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) / World Health Organization (WHO) located in Nassau (Bahamas) and Bridgetown (Jamaica).
- Four World Food Programme (WFP) personnel on the ground.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### National Societies actions



Bahamas

Context	Bahamas Red Cross
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated 24/7 for the management of this situation.</li> <li>• A complete evacuation order has been sent out by National Authorities to inhabitants of several keys (only accessible by boat). Order to evacuate risks areas to seek shelter has been issued in Grand Bahama and Abaco Islands.</li> <li>• The Bahamas naval forces have prepositioned boats in strategic areas with emergency items to be deployed to the impacted areas as soon as conditions allow.</li> <li>• Nassau Airport should remain open during the entire event. The situation will be frequently updated and decision to close the airport could be taken based measured conditions.</li> <li>• All international assistance should be closely coordinated with NEMA.</li> <li>• Field evaluations are expected to determine the actual conditions of the ports and airports of Bahamas, according to Bahamas Airport and Grand Bahama Port Authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <a href="#">GO field report</a> published on August 31<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>• The Bahamas Red Cross has requested assistance from the IFRC through deployment of staff and allocation of DREF funds. The NS is seeking to provide immediate assistance to 2,500 people (500 families) from the most impacted areas.</li> <li>• National Society (NS) EOC has been activated. The NS maintains a 24/7 presence in the National EOC. 200 volunteers available to respon.</li> <li>• The Bahamas Red Cross counts with two branches in Grand Bahama and Abaco.</li> <li>• The NS has stocks prepositioned for 1,000 people in the Bahamas</li> <li>• A stock for 50 families was prepositioned to Grand Bahama before impact.</li> <li>• Status of stocks in Abaco islands will be provided soon.</li> <li>• A Group of Disaster Response volunteers have been activated.</li> </ul>

- CDEMA teams deployed to support NEMA
- United Nations agencies deployed to the field: PAHO, WFP

- Volunteers will take part in the assessment process which would start on Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup>.



## United States of America

### Context

- Dorian is expected to affect the South Carolina coast Wednesday or Thursday.
- States of emergency in effect for all of Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina, along with 12 counties in Georgia.
- Mandatory evacuations are underway in some parts of Florida.
- The National Hurricane Center posted a hurricane watch on Sunday for the Florida coast from Deerfield Beach to the Brevard-Volusia county line north of Titusville, meaning that hurricane-force winds are expected there within 48 hours.
- A tropical storm warning extends north from there to Sebastian Inlet, and storm watches were posted for Lake Okeechobee and for the coast south of Deerfield Beach to Golden Beach.

### American Red Cross

- The American Red Cross is preparing to assist tens of thousands of people in the path of Hurricane Dorian as the extremely dangerous storm tracks towards the southeast coast of the U.S.
- While the exact path of Dorian is still uncertain, millions of people live in areas that could be impacted by wind, rain, flooding and a high storm surge, even if the storm does not make direct landfall on the coast.
- The American Red Cross is coordinating with community partners and emergency responders to prepare evacuation centers for people who may seek shelter over the coming days. As many as 60,000 people in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina may need emergency shelter.
- The American Red Cross is mobilizing over 1,600 trained volunteers from all over the country, 110 emergency response vehicles and more than 99 tractor-trailer loads full of relief supplies, including cots and blankets.
- While the Red Cross does not typically collect and distribute blood in Florida, they have sent approximately 350 blood products to local blood centers to ensure patients in need continue to have access to lifesaving blood.
- The American Red Cross has also pre-positioned additional blood products and stocked many hospitals in areas of the Southeast likely to be impacted by the storm early next week



## Actions

### IFRC Actions:

- Regional Disaster Management Coordinator for IFRC deployed to Nassau to monitor situation, provide support to National Society, coordinate response and liaise with partners.
- Agreement with [Airbus Foundation](#)<sup>4</sup> has been activated and a request has been sent for support with a helicopter to fly over impacted areas and drop off and pick up assessment teams.
- Thanks to the Belgium Government, the IFRC have emergency stocks pre-positioned for 1,000 people in Bahamas including body and laundry soap; polypropylene ropes; lamp/radio cellphone charger hand crank, solar power; plastic buckets; woven blankets; tarpaulins; kitchen sets and jerrycans.
- Stock prepositioned in Jamaica, Bahamas, Barbados, Saint Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago and Panama and Dominican Republic (also with support of the Belgium Government).
- IFRC Information management system at [GO Platform](#) is constantly updated and there is a page dedicated to [Bahamas](#): Regional [Preparedness dashboard](#) and [Hurricane Dorian monitoring dashboard](#).
- Active coordination between IFRC Regional Office for the Americas and IFRC Country Cluster Support Team in Port of Spain and DM Coordinator deployed to the Bahamas.
- Preparedness and safety measures being planned for IFRC staff, offices and assets. [Summary of Regional Contingency Plan](#)
- Regional DMs from PIRAC (French Red Cross) and IFRC Office in Panama remain on standby.
- Disaster Relief Emergency funds will be allocated to respond to the initial phase of the Emergency and Emergency Appeal is begin considered and final decision will be made in the next 48 hours.
- Canadian Red Cross and PIRAC are ready to send support upon request.
- Regional and Global Surge Alert for Red Cross personal has been issued.
- Despite no formal request for FACT support at the moment; an information message has been sent to the Surge contact list.
- IFRC Logistic Department is currently in contact with the logistics cluster, who are working to obtain assessment reports or reliable information.
- Bahamas Shipping instructions and logistics/customs focal point are updated.
- Contingency stock was already delivered and cleared in the Bahamas.
- Contact with regional supplies have been made and there is stock available for immediate procurement: mattresses, towels, bed sheets, chlorine tablets, among others.

<sup>4</sup> The Airbus Corporate Foundation and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have signed a cooperation agreement for humanitarian logistics collaboration.



- Gathering updated information from shipping lines, to determine the available services to Bahamas ports.

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## 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](mailto:DirectorGeneral@bahamasredcross.org);
- Alicia Pinder, Disaster Manager; phone: +1 242 535 0073 ; email: [lpinder@bahamasredcross.com](mailto:lpinder@bahamasredcross.com)

### **American Red Cross:**

- Noé Hatchuel, International Emergency Field Operations Officer - International Response Operations Center of American Red Cross; phone: +1.202.594.6238; email: [noe.hatchuel@redcross.org](mailto:noe.hatchuel@redcross.org)

### **In the IFRC Americas Regional Office:**

- Stephen McAndrew, Deputy Director and (Acting) Head of the Disaster and Crisis Preparedness, Response and Recovery (DCPRR) department; email: [stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org](mailto:stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org)
- Felipe del Cid, Continental Operations Coordinator; phone: +507 317 3050; email: [felipe.delcid@ifrc.org](mailto:felipe.delcid@ifrc.org)

### **Focal Point in Nassau, Bahamas:**

- Raphael Hamoir: Disaster Management Coordinator, email: [raphael.hamoir@ifrc.org](mailto:raphael.hamoir@ifrc.org)

### **Focal points for English Speaking Caribbean:**

- Daniel Arango: Disaster Management Coordinator for the Hurricane Season  
email: [daniel.arango@ifrc.org](mailto:daniel.arango@ifrc.org)
- Ariel Kestens; head of country cluster office POS CCST; email: [ariel.kestens@ifrc.org](mailto:ariel.kestens@ifrc.org)

### **In IFRC Geneva:**

- Antoine Belair, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination; Disaster and Crisis (Prevention, Response and Recovery); email: [antoine.belair@ifrc.org](mailto:antoine.belair@ifrc.org)

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## 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**.