



## Hurricane Dorian

ONE-MONTH UPDATE | OCTOBER 2019



### Red Cross Delivers Vital Aid in Dorian's Wake

On September 1, 2019, immensely powerful Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas, relentlessly pounding the Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama Island for the better part of two days with sustained winds of up to 185 mph and a devastating storm surge.

When Dorian finally moved on from the Bahamas, it threatened millions of residents along the Southeast U.S. coast, leading to widespread evacuations in multiple states and battering coastal communities in the Carolinas—including a second landfall on North Carolina's Outer Banks that spawned destructive tornadoes—before eventually veering back out to sea.

Powered by generous support from our donors, the American Red Cross is there for the people affected by this devastating storm, working alongside our international partners to bring sorely needed relief to hurricane survivors in the Bahamas, while also providing vital aid to affected individuals and families in the U.S.

#### Red Cross Supports Relief Efforts after Catastrophic Impact on the Bahamas

Dorian was the most powerful tropical cyclone on record to hit the Bahamas. Due to the intense and prolonged conditions, damage on the islands was heartbreaking, leaving people in need of basic aid such as food, water, health services and emergency shelter. Tragically, more than 60 people lost their lives—with hundreds more still missing—while infrastructure and homes were damaged by Dorian's extreme winds or swept away by its storm surge.

Bahamas Red Cross volunteers were active from the beginning—preparing people on the islands before the storm hit and helping families cope in the days after the storm. The American Red Cross and the global Red Cross and Red Crescent network have deployed staff and supplies to the Bahamas and are working side-by-side to support the ongoing response.

Many evacuees fled to the capital of Nassau, where Bahamas Red Cross volunteers offered basic medical care at the airport and distributed relief aid like water, hygiene items, dried food parcels and other supplies for people staying with loved ones or taking refuge in government shelters. Food vouchers were provided for evacuees, while trained psychologists and nurses continue to offer comfort and mental health support for individuals and families coping with heartbreaking losses.

To deliver needed supplies and help hurricane survivors recover, the global Red Cross network has rolled out a major emergency relief effort. Red Cross disaster specialists in health, logistics, water and sanitation, cash distribution, and more are on the ground supporting the Bahamas Red Cross. Meanwhile, hundreds of Bahamians have volunteered to help the Red Cross sort donations and pack boxes of supplies, hygiene items and food parcels.

A long journey remains ahead for hurricane survivors in the Bahamas. Getting relief to families in need and helping survivors as they plan their next steps are our top priorities. As of October 1, 2019, the American Red Cross has already committed \$6.1 million\* to

Above: Red Cross workers distribute relief items in Abaco, the Bahamas, following Hurricane Dorian's devastating impact. Photo by John Engedal Nissen/IFRC

\*Out of an estimated \$29.7 million budgeted to provide ongoing relief and recovery in the Bahamas.

provide relief and recovery aid for affected residents in the Bahamas, and we have deployed more than 20 disaster specialists to support the international response.

As we continue to provide relief materials to those affected by Hurricane Dorian, the Red Cross is also distributing cash to some of the most vulnerable families impacted by the storm. These cash grants enable hurricane survivors to prioritize their needs, bring them dignity and restore some sense of normalcy to their lives. In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue working alongside the Bahamas Red Cross and the global Red Cross network to help meet the ongoing needs of impacted residents as they begin to plan their next steps.

## Family from the Bahamas Receives Help from Red Cross after Dorian's Devastation

Lorvensky and Christina took shelter with their 3-week-old child, Kean, at a school on Abaco Island when Hurricane Dorian struck. They rode out the storm there, but it was a terrifying few days, as even the school suffered heavy damage.

The couple and their newborn child lost their home to the storm's devastating winds and rain. "I kept my son safe under my arm," Lorvensky said of the family's ordeal.

After Dorian moved on, they left Abaco Island by boat to stay with family members in Nassau—where they received

a food voucher, water, baby formula, personal hygiene items, clothes and more from the Red Cross. "We came to the Red Cross because we heard they're giving help," said Lorvensky.

Asked what her hope is for her son, Christina added, "I want him to get a good education. I want a lot for him! I just want good things for him."

## In the U.S., Red Cross Supports Evacuees and Aids Storm-Battered Communities

While most of the United States mainland was spared the worst of Hurricane Dorian's fearsome impact, the Red Cross made extensive preparations as this powerful and unpredictable storm lingered off Florida for days before turning north—bringing dangerous conditions to coastal communities in Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and southeastern Virginia along the way. The storm made one final landfall on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, causing severe coastal flooding and spawning tornadoes that inflicted heavy damage before heading out to sea.

Due to widespread potential impacts and large-scale evacuations from Florida to the Carolinas, the Red Cross mobilized some 110 emergency response vehicles and 109 tractor trailer loads of relief supplies, including cots, blankets and 63,000 ready-to-eat meals as we prepared to meet Dorian's threat to the U.S. mainland.



Lorvensky, Christina and 3-week-old Kean, of Abaco Island in the Bahamas, received vital relief from the Red Cross after losing their home to Hurricane Dorian. Photo by Jenelle Eli/American Red Cross



At the Boardwalk RV Park in Emerald Island, North Carolina, Red Cross volunteer Bob Wallace speaks with residents Amy Adkins (left) and Melissa Pittman (right). Many homes in the park were badly damaged or destroyed when a waterspout spawned by Hurricane Dorian tore through the community. Photo by Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

As of October 1, 2019, more than 3,100 Red Cross responders from all over the country had joined with our partners to support more than 38,300 overnight stays in Red Cross and community shelters and help serve over 189,700 meals and snacks, while also distributing more than 20,800 critical relief items like comfort kits and cleanup supplies. In addition, our volunteer mental health and health services professionals made more than 12,200 contacts to provide comfort and individual care for people affected by Hurricane Dorian—including those with special needs and functional disabilities.

In Florida, the American Red Cross also worked in close coordination with partners at Palm Beach County Emergency Management to provide shelter in West Palm Beach, Florida, for evacuees arriving from the Bahamas.

In addition to offering safe haven as evacuees planned their next steps, the Red Cross delivered food, water, hygiene items, health services and emotional support. Volunteers also helped reconnect families and provided referrals to those in need with the generous support available through community resources.

*Thank you!*

The American Red Cross must be prepared to respond quickly when disasters occur. From home fires that affect a single family to hurricanes that impact millions, those in need turn to the Red Cross in their darkest hours because they know they can depend on us with vital relief when it's needed most. Your donation helps us fulfill this trust.

## Hurricane Dorian Relief and Recovery: Estimated Budget (Bahamas and U.S.)

Generous Red Cross donors are supporting ongoing relief and recovery efforts for people affected by Hurricane Dorian, both in the Bahamas and on the U.S. mainland. As of October 1, 2019, the Red Cross has raised \$37.7 million, including the value of critical donated goods and services, to help people impacted by Hurricane Dorian. Below are the current budget estimates for our ongoing response and recovery efforts in the Bahamas and in the U.S.

2019 Hurricane Dorian Estimated Bahamas Budget (in millions) <sup>1,2</sup>					
As of October 1, 2019					
Expense Categories	Food, Shelter and Relief Items	Financial Assistance	Community Recovery	Total	Expense %
Grants to help meet unmet needs	\$3.5	—	\$9.8	\$13.3	45%
Financial assistance, food, and other relief items	—	\$9.2	—	\$9.2	31%
Temporary American Red Cross disaster hires and reservists	\$0.4	\$0.4	\$0.8	\$1.6	5%
Funds provided to IFRC and Bahamas Red Cross to support service delivery and capacity building	—	\$0.3	\$1.2	\$1.5	5%
Full time American Red Cross employees	\$0.2	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.5	2%
Deployment of American Red Cross volunteers and staff (includes airfare, lodging, meals and vehicles)	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.4	1%
American Red Cross IT and communications costs	\$0.2	—	—	\$0.2	1%
Total Program Expenses	\$4.5	\$10.2	\$12.0	\$26.7	90%
Management, general and fundraising <sup>3</sup>				\$3.0	10%
<b>Total Estimated Budget</b>				<b>\$29.7</b>	<b>100%</b>
Hurricane Dorian Estimated U.S. Budget (in millions) <sup>1,2</sup>					
As of October 1, 2019					
Deployment of volunteers and staff (includes airfare, lodging, meals and vehicles)	\$2.9	—	—	\$3.1	39%
Financial assistance, food and other relief items	\$1.7	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$1.9	24%
Freight, postage and warehousing	\$1.1	—	—	\$1.1	14%
Full-time Red Cross employees	\$0.5	—	—	\$0.5	6%
Kitchen, shelter and other logistics that enable service delivery	\$0.3	—	—	\$0.3	4%
Equipment, maintenance and fueling of Red Cross emergency vehicles and rented trucks	\$0.2	—	—	\$0.2	2%
IT, communications and call centers	\$0.1	—	—	\$0.1	1%
Total Program Expenses	\$6.8	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$7.2	90%
Management, general and fundraising <sup>3</sup>				\$0.8	10%
<b>Total Estimated Budget</b>				<b>\$8.0</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures are budget estimates and could change as needs change.

<sup>2</sup> Dollar figures in all tables are rounded to the nearest \$100,000; therefore, expenses \$49,999 and below are represented as zero

<sup>3</sup> Management, general and fundraising expenses support our work at its core and are indispensable to running the organization and helping people in need. They include the people and systems to maintain our enterprise-wide computer and telecommunications, HR and payroll systems to support our more than 20,000 employees and approximately 300,000 volunteers, fundraising and communications functions, and other support services across all program lines. 90 cents of every dollar received for Hurricane Dorian will be spent on our services to people affected by Hurricane Dorian.