



## Bahamas Crisis Response Plan 2020

### 2020

#### Funding Required

\$6,500,000

#### Target Beneficiaries

68,000

#### IOM Vision

In 2020, IOM seeks to respond to the humanitarian and recovery needs of the population affected by hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas, as well as to build the resilience of communities impacted by recurring natural hazards in the country.

#### Context Analysis

On 1 September 2019, Hurricane Dorian, one of the most powerful storms ever recorded in the Atlantic, caused catastrophic flooding and devastated several areas in the north-western part of the Bahamas. With wind speeds of up to 220mph and gusts of 310mph, Dorian decimated the low-lying islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama. The Government of the Bahamas reported in January 2020 the official deaths of 71 persons and 282 persons missing. According to the official Census 2010, the islands of Abaco and the Grand Bahama are home to approximately 17,000 and 51,000 residents, respectively. Abaco is also home to a large irregular Haitian migrant population living in shantytowns that were completely devastated and whose irregular status may have prevented them from seeking assistance. According to the [Shelter Cluster Bahamas](#), it is estimated that 9,000 homes were affected. Damage to the housing sector is estimated at \$1.48 billion USD, 88.9 per cent of which took place in Abaco.

As of January 2020, IOM estimates that 2,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) are still residing in collective centres, rental apartments and with host families in Nassau, and according to the Miami based Consul General of The Bahamas, an estimated 650 people reside in Florida. Families have been gradually returning back to the affected islands. IOM Haiti reported that more than 700 migrants have been repatriated to Haiti since Hurricane Dorian. The Ministry of Housing and Environment has issued a Prohibition to Build Order for the Mudd, Pigeon Pea, Sand Bank and Farm Road community areas located in the island of Abaco, where a large number of vulnerable irregular migrants used to live.

Over the past few years, the Bahamas has been seriously affected by three major hurricanes, all Category 4 or stronger, depleting family resources and significantly impacting the ability of communities to recover from disasters.

## Coordination

The post-Dorian emergency response is coordinated by the Bahamas National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), with support of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the US Coastguard, UNOCHA and other international agencies. IOM led the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team in Abaco in the first weeks after Hurricane Dorian. Since September 2019, as global co-lead for the Camp Management and Camp Coordination (CCCM) Cluster, IOM has supported the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Renewal in the coordination of "Emergency Shelter and Mass Care" (ESF 6).

In response of Hurricane Dorian, the Government has established a new Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction, in which NEMA focuses on Disaster Preparedness and Response and special Disaster Reconstruction Authority (DRA) to lead and coordinate all reconstruction activities in the affected islands.

## IOM Capacity

Since 2009, IOM has been present in the Bahamas and signed a cooperation agreement with the Government. Since hurricane Dorian hit the islands, IOM re-opened an office in Nassau and has staff deployed in Marsh Harbour (Abaco). The IOM team in the Bahamas is led by an experienced team leader who also led the IOM post-hurricane Maria response in Dominica. IOM Bahamas has relevant expertise in emergency response, information management, CCCM and shelter.

IOM Bahamas is also supported by the Regional Office in San Jose which provides technical and administrative guidance, as well as by the Department of Operations and Emergencies and the Department of Migration Management at IOM's headquarters in Geneva.

### Objective

#### **Saving lives and protecting people on the move**

\$2,500,000

**Funding Required**

1,050

**Target Beneficiaries**

In terms of humanitarian assistance and protection, IOM's programming will aim to reach 6,000 displaced persons by Hurricane Dorian alongside affected 4,000 individuals that remained in Abaco and Grand Bahamas islands. The Government of Bahamas' capacity will also be strengthened in terms of camp coordination and camp management (CCCM).

## **Displacement Tracking for Humanitarian Response**

### **Funding Required**

\$150,000

IOM Bahamas will implement the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), an integrated set of tools to track and monitor displacement and population mobility during the emergency phase of the response to support evidence-based humanitarian operational planning and the identification of vulnerable groups for relevant stakeholders.

## **Camp coordination and camp management**

### **Funding Required**

\$325,000

In order to create the conditions for early recovery from displacement, including the return to places of origin, IOM will support and work with the Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development to provide Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)-related assistance, including registration of individuals, management and upgrades of collective centres to meet minimum standards, advocacy and support in case of site closures.

## **Protection**

### **Funding Required**

\$400,000

A large proportion of vulnerable communities who were affected by Hurricane Dorian were persons of Haitian descent. IOM will support the Government of Bahamas to communicate to all affected populations by the hurricane Dorian on how to access basic assistance and support when returning to their place of origin. This will ensure that all basic needs from the affected populations are met without discrimination, establishing clear referral procedures, and including for persons in situations of vulnerability, such as victims of human trafficking.

For migrants, these actions will be guided by the [Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster](#).

## **Shelter and settlements**

### **Funding Required**

\$1,625,000

IOM will support families with temporary shelter assistance in the evacuated areas through cash-based rental support. Where families can return to their homes to carry out small-scale emergency repairs, IOM will provide tailored support to create a limited habitable space in damaged houses. Depending on the market situation, support will be provided through the provision of cash and/or labour and technical advice as appropriate.

## Multi-sectoral support

### Funding Required

\$0

Includes funding which supports multi-sectoral interventions or cannot be attributed to a specific activity area.

Objective

### **Driving solutions to displacement**

\$2,000,000	14,800
<b>Funding Required</b>	<b>Target Beneficiaries</b>

Displaced persons, returnees, and government and other relevant stakeholders involved in the recovery and transition phase.

## Displacement Tracking for Recovery and Crisis Prevention

### Funding Required

\$100,000

IOM will use its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Assessment tool to inform the Government of The Bahamas and the other relevant stakeholders of outstanding recovery needs, indirectly benefiting affected populations. DTM will be used to support the recovery and transition phase, particularly in the context of return and reintegration processes. Analysis of existing DTM data, or data from adapted DTM tools, in combination with other data and analysis, will contribute toward providing an evidence base for transition and recovery programming and progress towards longer-term, development-orientated outcomes including durable solutions.

## Land and property

### Funding Required

\$100,000

IOM will support families in the owner-driven reconstruction of their houses and, more specifically, in the provision of legal (housing, land and property) support, especially for persons

that used to live in disputed areas or no-build zones.

## **Durable Solutions**

### **Funding Required**

\$1,800,000

IOM's engagements regarding durable solutions seek to end displacement situations of individuals, households, communities or other groups displaced through the provision of immediate and longer-term support such as debris removal, mould removal, provision of temporary shelter and house repairs. People that used to rent will be given support with cash and finding new accommodation.

Objective

### **Strengthen preparedness and reduce disaster risk**

\$2,000,000

**Funding Required**

68,000

**Target Beneficiaries**

Persons affected by hurricane Dorian in Abaco and Grand Bahamas islands and related authorities and communities at risk for the next hurricane season which starts in June 2020.

## **Health components of preparedness and risk reduction**

### **Funding Required**

\$300,000

In order to strengthen local health capacities to encourage to reduce and mitigate risks, IOM plans to carry out the following activities:

- Recruiting and assisting expert staff and volunteers to respond to health needs;
- Mobilising mobile medical teams to address the health needs in remote/affected areas;
- Procuring and distributing relief supplies and medicines in collaboration with health authorities;
- Supporting/establishing/strengthening the cold chain mechanisms and supply chain management;
- Capacity building for local health care workers on priority intervention areas;
- Building resilience in the affected communities (emergency preparedness and guidance).

## **Emergency preparedness - rename**

### **Funding Required**

\$1,400,000

IOM Bahamas preparedness activities aim to build the capacities and improve the ability of IOM and key stakeholders, such as the government and local organisations, the private sector as well as local communities to anticipate and effectively prepare to respond to the impact of likely hazards, events or conditions.

This will include a range of activities such as strengthening internal and inter-agency preparedness, developing the preparedness capacities of government and non-governmental partners to improve humanitarian response, strengthening the capacities of various stakeholders to assist migrants in the Bahamas and enhancing the safety and security skills of staff members working in treacherous environments.

Activities will be conducted to prepare collective centres/emergency shelters as well as map emergency shelters. Around the emergency shelters, communities will be trained in risk awareness and preparedness, with a special focus on youth and schools. Non-food items like tarps, solar lamps, jerrycans will be prepositioned and radio training will be conducted in communities.

## **Disaster Prevention**

### **Funding Required**

\$200,000

Disaster prevention involves activities and measures designed to avoid existing and new disaster risks. Aligned with the Sendai Framework priorities, IOM's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities will prevent or reduce displacement associated with disaster and climate risk, and strengthen resilience by incorporating “building-back-better” measures in the recovery and reconstruction phases. Specific activity areas will include:

- Conducting multi-hazard risk assessments;
- Community-based disaster risk management;
- Establishing and strengthening early warning systems;
- Capacity-building for government counterparts;
- Establishing risk-informed policies and strategies;
- Risk information systems;
- Carrying out environmental protection measures;
- Supporting planned relocations;
- Supporting training and livelihoods diversification.

## **Displacement Tracking for Preparedness and Risk Reduction**

### **Funding Required**

\$100,000

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has been proven to be highly effective as a preparedness tool. In order to support preparedness activities, IOM plans to integrate DTM into capacity building activities, map potential evacuation and displacement sites and set up data collection mechanisms to be ready before a natural disaster occurs.

## OPERATIONAL PRESENCE

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International staff and affiliated work force

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National staff and affiliated work force

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IOM Field Offices