LOCATION:  St John’s, Antigua and Barbuda
DATE:  20 September 2017

1. Logistics Operational Update

Dominica

- Following preliminary aerial assessments, significant infrastructural damage and access constraints have been reported in the island of Dominica. The road connecting Douglas-Charles International Airport to Roseau, the country’s capital, is affected by landslides, fallen bridges and debris. The Cane Field Airstrip, located 5km north of Roseau, is also flooded and covered in mud. On 20 September UNHAS air assets conducted a rapid aerial assessment over the island that confirmed the vast level of damage.

Antigua and Barbuda

- No significant damaged or logistics constraints have been reported in Antigua as a consequence of Hurricane Irma, while Barbuda reported sustained damage to private houses and public infrastructures. Government authorities are compiling the list of needs to be shared with humanitarian actors. Priorities reported are the following: debris removal and cleaning, and rehabilitation of shelters, while reconstruction efforts to allow people back are consolidated.

- The passage of Hurricane Maria between 18 and 19 September reportedly did not cause any additional logistics constraints. The airport, closed on the afternoon of 18 September as a precaution, has reopen in the morning of 20 September.

Sint Maarten

- There is currently no exact estimation of needs as a consequence of Hurricane Irma. Ongoing distributions of shelter, food and water are untargeted and remaining stocks of food and water are unclear. Efforts are in place to strengthen coordination among all parties and maximise the humanitarian response.

- Airport: airside handling is currently under military control and working effectively. Civil Aviation Authority is temporarily suspended but is expected to resume in the near future. Storage at the airport is reportedly available.

- Seaport: the seaport is operational, with only open storage available. Customs clearance is not required for relief items.

- Transport: a mixture of privately contracted commercial trucks and military transport is currently being used to distribute assistance and debris removal activities.

- In general, no gaps in transport, warehousing and fuel are reported. The main constraint is road accessibility. Organisations on the ground are continuing to collect information on accessibility of rural roads/trails in the affected districts.

- After a rapid assessment conducted by the passage of Hurricane Maria, no significant damage or flooding have been reported. In-depth assessments are planned but no additional needs are anticipated.

http://www.logcluster.org/sector/irma17
Hurricane Irma
Situation Update
(20 September 2017)

Turks and Caicos

- As Hurricane Maria approaches, preparations are ongoing and staff evacuation is being activated, including some Disaster Management and humanitarian staff on site.
- All MSU’s that were erected in the previous days to increase storage capacity in the area for the humanitarian response have now been dismantled and secured as a precaution ahead of Hurricane Maria.
- Access to logistics assets, including trucks, forklifts and boats (planning for post-Maria movements) remains challenging.
- Humanitarian stocks, including 10 mt of HEB’s, are prepositioned in a secure fixed structure.

Regional

- WFP, in support of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), has rolled out an online tracking matrix to consolidate information on cargo movement (planned/dispatched – sea/air) since 17 September. This can be found at the following link: https://tinyurl.com/yaso24ml
- Concept Note and Request for Assistance for the use of military assets have been discussed with UK Military and CDEMA, and are awaiting final clearance before being circulated.

2. Coordination

Regional

- Surge logistical technical capacity has been deployed in support to the regional emergency coordination structures in Barbados, Turks and Caicos, Antigua and Sint Maarten. Two operational and coordination hubs have been established in Turks and Caicos and Antigua, with one regional coordination/support hub in Barbados working closely with CDEMA.
- The technical, coordination and IM support across the different hubs is to ensure uninterrupted and maximised relief operations and the integration of the humanitarian community’s logistical requests and capacities into the overall Hurricane response plans. This includes information sharing and development of context-specific tools through dedicated mailing lists and communication platforms; facilitation of humanitarian actors’ access to the use of foreign military assets; streamlining of information and guidelines on customs/import procedures.

Barbados

- After Hurricane Maria severely impacted Dominica, there is ongoing coordination with different actors onsite in relations and cargo movement into the island from various locations.
- Daily coordination meetings with UNHCT and CDEMA are being held and discussions with CDEMA, OCHA and UN agencies are underway to strengthen sectorial coordination for the Hurricane Irma/Maria response.
- OCHA/WFP IM Officers are supporting CDEMA with definition of templates and identification of focal points per sector (Food Security, Shelter, Wash, Logistics, ICT and Protection) in hurricane affected areas.

http://www.logcluster.org/sector/irma17
Antigua and Barbuda

- The Logistics Sector working group was launched; first coordination meeting held on 20 September in St John’s with several organizations represented. Focus on the meeting was to discuss the latest updates as well as logistics gaps and bottlenecks and UNHAS flight services.
- The working group will aim to support and coordinate the logistics aspects of ongoing and planned response in Barbuda as well as across the region.
- UNHAS focal point will receive the different requests for flight destinations that can be served with actual capacity and coordinate flights schedules accordingly.
- Regular participation in coordination meetings chaired by the National Office for Disaster Services in St John’s.

Sint Maarten

- Despite efforts, a continuous need for stronger logistics coordination and IM is reported, especially on cargo tracking, stock control and reporting as no standardized system or formats are yet in place.
- A first inter-agency meeting in recovery plan proposed by UNDP was organised on 20 September to finalise a first draft of the concept note for a multi-purpose cash intervention in St Maarten.

Turks and Caicos

- Along a coordination mechanism run by military actors on the ground, sectoral groups and joint distributions are being finalised and implemented. Efforts are ongoing to strengthen the coordination and information sharing with local authorities.

3. UNHAS Air Service

- An UNHAS air service from Antigua to Dominica is to start on 21 September to carry out an initial rapid assessment; additional flights will be scheduled according to booking requests. As per a survey circulated among the humanitarian community across the region, main destinations for the time being will be Dominica, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Sint Maarten.
- Standard Operating Procedures and booking forms to access UNHAS Caribbean Air Services will be soon circulated via distribution list and uploaded onto the Hurricane Irma response-dedicated webpage at: http://www.logcluster.org/sector/irma17.

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