

Massachusetts General Hospital Responds to the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian
EXTERNAL SITUATION REPORT No. 1 – 13 September 2019
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Background:

Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas on 1 September as a Category 5 hurricane and remained essentially stationary over the Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama Island until 3 September. Due to this prolonged intensity, including heavy rainfall, high winds, and storm surge, these areas sustained catastrophic damage, leaving roughly 70,000 residents seeking shelter, food and water, and medical care. Several healthcare facilities are reportedly unusable while others are partially operational and in acute need of generators, medical supplies, and clean water. These areas are also vulnerable to public health crises, including communicable diseases arising from inadequate sanitation and water treatment and mosquito-borne diseases resulting from large amounts of standing water and prolonged exposure.

MGH Center for Global Health (CGH) Global Disaster Response (GDR) partnered with [International Medical Corps \(IMC\)](#), who was tasked by the Bahamas Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to establish a clinical response on Grand Bahama Island. MGH leadership agreed to support IMC's request to send volunteers from the MGH CGH GDR Team. As of 7 September, two overlapping waves of MGH volunteers have deployed and team members will continue to work on the ground with IMC until at least 25 September.

MGH CGH Global Disaster Response Team in the Bahamas includes:

- Lindsey Martin, NP - Surgical Intensive Care Unit (Team Leader)
- Barbara Curtis, CNM - Obstetrics and Gynecology Service
- Jennifer Samiotes, RN - Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
- Mia Concordia, LICSW - Social Services
- Jean Bernhardt, NP – Charlestown Health Center
- Jackie Kennedy-Harte, NP – Surgical Intensive Care Unit
- Myron Rolle, MD – Neurosurgery
- Carmela Berlin, RPh - Pharmacy

Situation Updates:

The team is working with partners on the ground to support the partially-destroyed Rand Memorial Hospital in Grand Bahama, assisting with field hospital setup, and conducting assessments and mobile medical operations in nearby communities. The team has been in regular communication with GDR Central Command, providing daily updates via WhatsApp. As of 13 September, the team reports no significant safety, security, logistics, or health issues.

Employees and Staff:

If you have questions or are an MGH employee interested in volunteering for domestic or international deployments to support medical operations after disasters, contact MGH CGH Global Disaster Response at globaldisasterresponse@partners.org.