

Rotary



District 6860

September 2019

You can help with a gift to our Disaster Response Fund

Disasters can devastate a community, leaving people in urgent need of medical care, housing, and other services. **Following a natural disaster like Hurricane Dorian, your contribution ensures that we can deliver supplies, provide health care, and support rebuilding efforts.** By making a donation today, you can help Rotarians respond swiftly and effectively, bringing hope to those whose lives have been affected by disaster.

Your gift will be combined with that of other Rotarians to provide disaster recovery and support rebuilding efforts where the need is greatest so that, together, we can continue Doing Good in the World.

Make your donation at <https://my.rotary.org/en/disaster-response-fund>.

ShelterBox Hurricane Dorian Update

Hurricane Dorian, The Bahamas

September 3, 2019

The situation

Category 5 Hurricane Dorian has levelled destruction across the Bahamas. Reports suggest 13,000 homes have been damaged, infrastructure has been severely disrupted and communication lines are down.

The storm is still over the islands which means that full assessments have not been completed. There is currently limited data available from in-country sources and the Government of the Bahamas has not yet requested international assistance. The full extent of the damage will not be known until the storm has moved on and full assessments can be made.

The first focus for the government and organizations already in country will be on a search and rescue phase, ensuring the immediate safety and rescue of all people affected by the hurricane. This will be difficult and hampered by significant logistical challenges ♦ airports, ports and roads have been damaged, telecommunications are down, and we do not yet know the full extent of damage.

There are many agencies and organizations who are well placed to help in the Bahamas, including the government, the Caribbean ♦s regional disaster management agency (CDEMA), the local Bahamas Red Cross and the IFRC, who are all coordinating to support communities across the Bahamas. These organizations do not need to wait for the call for international assistance because they are already based there.

ShelterBox response

- ♦ We are closely monitoring the situation in the Bahamas and we are ready to respond if we are needed.
- ♦ We are working with Rotary International headquarters. Local Rotary sources have confirmed that damage to both communications and transport infrastructure will make detailed assessment difficult in the first few days and that future details will only emerge once Dorian has moved away from the area.
- ♦ We have aid prepositioned in Panama and an assessment team on standby.
- ♦ We need full assessments of the situation to establish if our emergency tents, tarpaulins, tools and other items will be needed and appropriate for people in the Bahamas.
- ♦ We need to understand more about how families have been affected. For example, if homes have been damaged but not destroyed then a shelter kit or tarpaulin might be able to help repair and weatherproof a home. There may be other options, such as local building materials or temporary accommodation that might be more suitable for families and a better solution to the aid we provide.
- ♦ We are not able to support people in the Bahamas until we have the right permissions from the government.

While we **do not** have a restricted fund established for Hurricane Dorian, any gift to our Deployments Essentials fund is restricted to gear and expenses directly associated with ShelterBox disaster responses. www.shelterboxusa.org/donate

I will keep you updated as we learn more, thank you.

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