

CONTEXT

The country of Dominica has been devastated by the passage of Hurricane Maria. The hurricane made landfall on the island on 18 September 2017 as category 5 hurricane, causing the death of approximately 26 persons and extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure. As per an aerial survey from the Pacific Disaster Centre of 6,770 of the 26,085 buildings in the country, 67% of buildings were damaged (moderately or severely) and 23% were destroyed. Many families who took refuge in pre-identified evacuation shelters (hereafter referred to as collective centers) across the country prior to and during the hurricane still reside in these centers.

To identify the existing collective centers and monitor displacement across the country, IOM established its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Dominica. The DTM aims to track population movement in Dominica through a set of tools including observation, cartography, key informant interviews, and physical counting. Preliminary site verifications of collective centers were completed on 6 October, compiling data gathered by the government as well as assessments by IOM teams, starting with the 143 official centres and expanding to new, unofficial collective centres. Rapid site assessments began on 11 October 2017. Assessments are ongoing with the first round of DTM to be published by 21 October 2017.

PRIORITIZATION

The Ministry of Education announced the first phase of school reopening on 16 October 2017. Therefore, IOM prioritized schools currently housing the displaced population in the first round of DTM assessment. 43 of the pre-identified collective centers were schools and 33 of these were housing displaced individuals on 6 October. IOM aims to provide basic information on these targeted schools to inform the government and general humanitarian community of the situation in these collective centers and support provision of assistance. **This report presents the results of assessments carried out from 11-14 October in 19 schools that are scheduled to reopen in the coming days.**

HIGHLIGHTS

- 14 of the 19 schools identified for reopening by 16 October are currently in use as collective centers.
- These 14 sites house **486 individuals** in **138 households**.
- 43% (210)** of these individuals present a **vulnerability**.
- All IDPs indicated the **destruction/severe damage of their house** as the main reason for remaining in shelters.
- Access to **sectoral services varies** in the collective centers, according to the key informants interviewed, with IDPs having access to certain services but not others (e.g. WASH, CCCM, Education, Health, Shelter/NFI, Food, Protection and Livelihood).
- 54%** IDPs indicated **being aware that their shelter will be closing** in the coming weeks.

MAIN RESULTS

Sites open and housing displaced individuals

14 of the 19 collective centers scheduled to reopen on 16 October 2017 are in use housing displaced people. Inhabitants in 5 schools have returned to their area of origin following news that the schools will soon reopen. The open sites house 138 households comprising 486 persons.

Vulnerabilities

Key informants indicated that 210 persons present vulnerabilities in collective centers, 43% of the total individuals remaining in collective centres. The most encountered vulnerabilities are: elderly persons (26%), single female headed households (15%) and persons with chronic illnesses (11%).

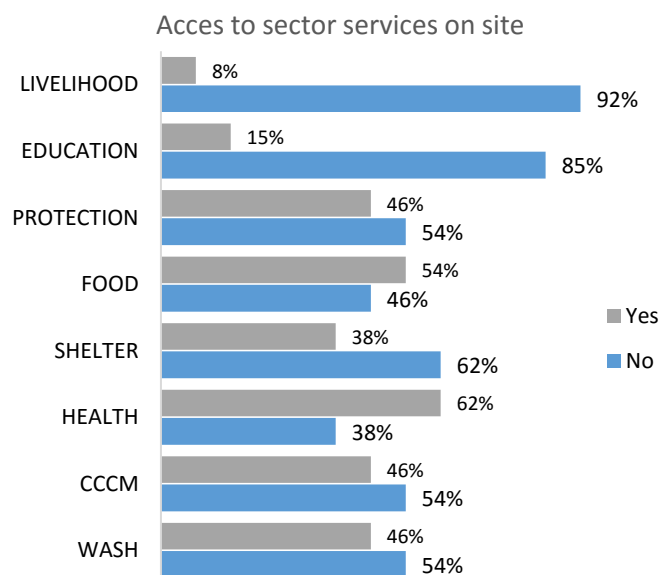
Site Management Committee

A reported 12 of the 14 occupied collective centers have a functioning committee managing the center.

Sectoral services in shelters

The availability of sectoral services within the shelters vary by sector. The graph below shows the availability of sectoral services in collective centers.

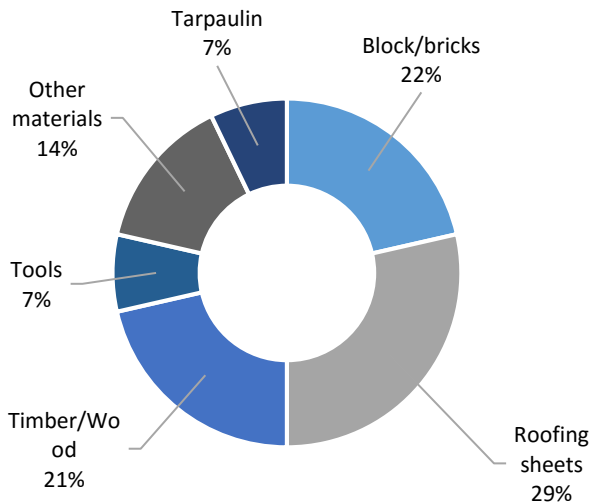
Graph 1: Access to sectoral services in assessed collective centres



Shelter

For all IDPs, the destruction or damage of their home is the reason preventing their return to their place of origin. Most report that having such shelter materials like wood, iron sheeting, construction tools and tarpaulins would greatly assist them to repair their homes.

Most needed shelter materials

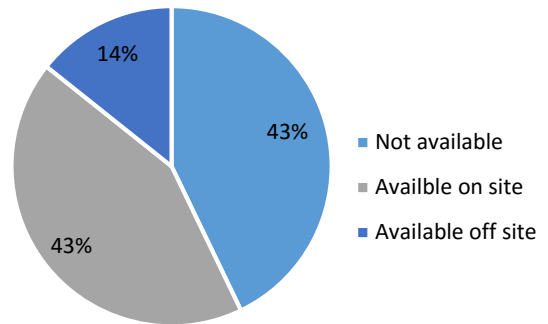


Food

Key informants in 6 of the 14 collective centers indicated not having access to food support, whether food distributions, vouchers, or cash based transfers (CBT). Food support is available on-site in six centers and off-site in two shelters.

Graph 2: Access to Food support in assessed shelters

Access to Food Support



Expected Closure

While in seven sites residents were aware of the plan to reopen the schools, thus closing the collective center where they had taken refuge, IDPs in six collective centers indicated not knowing whether the shelter will close in the coming days or weeks.

Way forward

- DTM activities will continue in all other identified collective centres in Dominica.
- A complete DTM report for the first round of assessment including additional sectoral information, site profiles, dataset, kmz files and narrative report will be published by Friday 20 October 2017.
- Complementary actions – such as basic flow monitoring – will begin on 16 October 2017, at the Woodbridge Bay Port

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Dominica are made possible by the contribution of the following donor:



For more information please contact caribbeanfieldcoord@iom.int or consult <http://rosanjose.iom.int/site/en/caribe>