

CARIBBEAN HURRICANES

CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY REPORT

2018

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for every child



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADRA	Adventist Development Relief Agency
C4D	Communication for Development
CCC	Core Commitments for Children
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CO	Country Office
CSSF	Comprehensive School Safety Framework
CSSI	Caribbean Safe School Initiative
DOWASCO	Dominica Water and Sewerage Company Limited
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECA	Eastern Caribbean Area
ECD	Early childhood development
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECHO	European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HAC	Humanitarian Action for Children
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HPM	Humanitarian Performance Monitoring
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LACRO	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
RTH	Return to Happiness
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WISS	Worldwide-Initiative on Safe Schools

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After category-5 hurricanes Irma and Maria struck causing devastation across the Caribbean in September 2017, UNICEF responded quickly to the emergency in the most affected areas of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands, Cuba and Haiti. UNICEF team members and partners hit the ground in several countries and territories to support joint needs and damage assessments. Pre-positioned supplies such as tents, family hygiene kits, recreational equipment, schools-in-a-box and early childhood development (ECD) kits were distributed. UNICEF and partners activated a multi-layered approach bringing immediate humanitarian relief to affected populations and providing longer-term recovery and resilience support.

In the **Eastern Caribbean**, UNICEF's humanitarian emergency programme focussed on ensuring access to key services: education, child protection and social protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and Communication for Development (C4D), through a combination of service delivery, technical assistance, communications and advocacy.

Initially, it was necessary to deal with the emergency's immediate aftermath, making sure that lives were protected, and basic needs were met, such as access to WASH facilities, prevention of the outbreak of water-borne diseases and the provision of shelter, whether through supporting the opening and running of official shelters or the provision of tarpaulins. In this phase, child protection interventions and lifesaving C4D messages were also critical.

Assistance then entered a recovery phase that included providing psychosocial support for children, child friendly and safe spaces, supporting the reopening of ECD facilities, establishing temporary learning spaces, supporting the return to school and rebuilding of water distribution systems. Furthermore, UNICEF worked with partners to deliver cash transfers to help the families of the most vulnerable children.

Finally, UNICEF placed efforts on building a longer-term that promotes the integration of multi-country and country interventions into programmes that support true recovery, sustainability and resilience. Special emphasis has been placed on the need to be better prepared for emergencies, with mechanisms put in place to ensure a rapid and effective response.

In 2018, UNICEF **Cuba** continued implementation of the Hurricane Irma Response Plan, leading the emergency response in WASH and education sectors. In the WASH sector, UNICEF has coordinated response efforts with sector and local authorities in the 14 most affected municipalities in four provinces to ensure that affected families have access to safe water purification and storage means, the necessary knowledge to prevent the spread of water and vector-borne diseases as well as appropriate hygiene conditions. In 2018, interventions were aimed at providing more long-term and sustainable solutions for water storage, seeking to increase resilience in affected communities.

In the education sector, the consequences of the Hurricane Irma were significant with 2,262 educational institutions seriously affected. In 2018, response actions focused on the rehabilitation of educational infrastructure to ensure rapid return to safe and protective learning spaces.

Furthermore, programmatic interventions in WASH, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Nutrition in schools have consolidated the humanitarian and development continuum, increasing risk perception and generating knowledge to address climate change. UNICEF Cuba implemented actions to address a situation of extreme drought in the province of Santiago through a joint programme to strengthen resilience of families and vulnerable groups affected by drought. The joint programme built on the hurricane response experience in promoting WASH and improved synergies among agencies and sectors.

Looking ahead, it is reassuring to know that leaders and other stakeholders in the region are more aware that building resilience to climate change and working to ensure that their countries and territories can react effectively to emergencies is imperative. For UNICEF and partners, it has been evident that programmes and interventions should include built-in resilience efforts, and an awareness of how climate change renders islands more vulnerable. This awareness means that systems, programmes and interventions need to be strengthened, made more flexible and more adaptive. It is in this spirit that UNICEF remains ready to support and serve the countries and territories of the Caribbean when disasters strike again.

HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

The economic repercussions in the Eastern Caribbean after category-5 Hurricanes Irma and Maria struck in September 2017 have been enormous. In Dominica, where the entire population of less than 80,000 people was directly affected by Maria, the World Bank estimates total damages and losses from the hurricane at US\$1.3 billion, or 224 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).¹ The total damage in the British Virgin Islands is estimated at around US\$3.6 billion, around three times its GDP.² For Antigua and Barbuda, needs assessments conclude total damage and losses caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria comes to US\$155 million.³ The total recovery needs for Dominica, Barbuda and British Virgin Islands have been estimated at over US\$5 billion.

Despite the destruction caused by the hurricanes, the people of the Eastern Caribbean showed remarkable resilience: recovering, rallying and rebuilding. It was made immediately clear that despite the fact that the number of persons under 18 was relatively low in Dominica - with nearly 20,000 children affected - the challenge to make sure they were all safe and secure was immense. Every one of the 541 children evacuated from Barbuda, the 4,000 children living in Anguilla, the 7,300 in British Virgin Islands and the 7,500 in Turks and Caicos Islands still required access to shelter, water, hygiene, education and a host of other issues. Dealing with a number of geographically dispersed small islands, each with its own specific situation, was a test of logistical dexterity.

Even though there were no major emergencies in 2018, children from Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, and Turks and Caicos Islands remained vulnerable as these islands recovered from the impact of the two major hurricanes of 2017. National child protection systems remained fragile and in need of workforce strengthening. While in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Dominica there were significantly more community members and teachers trained to support children's psychosocial needs in humanitarian situations, challenges remained. In Dominica, for example, there were limited options for the creation of child friendly spaces due to the fact that, as reported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), almost 5,000 houses and community structures were vulnerable to the elements.

Moreover, in Cuba, around 930,000 people - including over 176,000 children - were affected by Irma's intense winds, heavy rainfall and coastal flooding, with 14 municipalities needing support to ensure access to safe water purification and storage means, knowledge to prevent the spread of water and vector-borne diseases as well as appropriate hygiene conditions. In addition, the consequences were significant in the education sector with 2,262 educational institutions seriously affected.

According to estimations by UNICEF and partners, more than 1.4 million people – including over 357,000 children – living in the most impacted communities in Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands, and parts of Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti, were left in need of immediate humanitarian assistance after hurricanes hit in September 2017 (see Table 1).

Table 1: Estimated population in need of humanitarian assistance
(Source: Estimated by UNICEF, based on official data)

Country / Territory	No. of people in need	No. of children in need
Subtotal Eastern Caribbean Area (ECA)	143,006	38,987
Anguilla	13,555	3,778
Barbuda	1,595	541
British Virgin Islands	28,054	7,367
Dominica	69,246	19,774
Turks and Caicos Islands	30,556	7,527
Cuba	930,000	176,700
Dominican Republic	49,500	16,000
Haiti	300,000	126,000
Total	1,422,506	357,687

¹ Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, *Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Hurricane Maria*, September 2017.

² ACAPS, OCHA, UNDP, *Regional Overview: Impact of hurricanes Irma and Maria. Conference supporting document*, November 2017.

³ Government of Antigua and Barbuda, *Hurricane Irma and Maria Recovery Needs Assessment for Antigua and Barbuda*, October 2018.

HUMANITARIAN RESULTS

The magnitude of the emergency and the geographical dispersion of the humanitarian needs, quickly surpassed the installed capacities in UNICEF's offices in affected countries and therefore additional support was required from several other areas of the organization. In response, UNICEF activated its Level-2 emergency procedure and a Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal⁴ was launched in September 2017.⁵ UNICEF's country offices (COs) in Cuba, Haiti and ECA, and the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) in Panama, were active parts of the disaster response efforts.

UNICEF's response strategy focused on providing immediate relief to affected populations through: the provision of, and access to, safe water, sanitation and hygiene supplies; prevention of the outbreak of water-borne diseases, particularly cholera; support for the reopening of ECD facilities and schools, and the establishment of temporary learning spaces where necessary; provision of psycho-social support for children; access to child protection services and necessary information on preventing harm, violence and health-related risks in post-emergencies; provision of cash transfers to cover basic needs for the poorest children and, support in the participation and engagement of families, children and adolescents in recovery efforts.

Although the Caribbean Hurricanes HAC appeal implementation period ended in December 2017, some activities continued throughout 2018. Despite considerable progress, the continuation of certain programmes remained critical to boost preparedness and social protection systems across the affected countries and territories. UNICEF continued to implement its regular programme in the affected countries with a reinforced lens on recovery and preparedness.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)				
Results	Country / Territory	UNICEF Response		
		Targets 2017	Total Results 2017 ⁶	Total Results 2018 ⁷
No. of people with access to safe water (reached on average)	Barbuda	720	720	720
	British Virgin Islands	208	208	1,308
	Dominica	11,550	11,727	12,580
	Turks and Caicos Islands	24,840	24,840	24,840
Subtotal ECA		37,318	37,495	39,448
No. of school children with access to functional handwashing facilities and soap in schools and learning / safe spaces	Anguilla	3,579	3,245	
	Barbuda	516	470	
	British Virgin Islands	5,742	3,278	
	Dominica	15,555	8,252	60
	Turks and Caicos Islands	6,269	4,012	
Subtotal ECA		31,661	19,257	60
No. of people provided with water purification and safe storage means	Cuba	560,315	560,315	56,786

After the hurricanes hit, UNICEF provided water sanitation tablets and cans in communities across the affected islands and, in **Dominica** immediately started distributing clean potable water. These measures reduced the likelihood of diseases spreading, always a dangerous possibility in periods of crisis when regular infrastructure has broken down and good hygiene practices cannot be observed. Also in Dominica, UNICEF forged a highly positive partnership with the Dominica Water and Sewerage Company Limited (DOWASCO), which swung into action quickly, provisionally rehabilitating water systems and trucking water to affected communities. This was much needed considering that after Maria struck, 43 out of 44 water systems were damaged and almost the entire population of more than 70,000 people was affected. According to a preliminary disaster and needs assessment by UNICEF and the World Bank, the cost of full rehabilitation of the water systems exceeds US\$50 million.

The DOWASCO partnership was well-coordinated and duplication of effort was avoided. UNICEF also co-led the WASH group with the Ministry of Health, spearheading partner coordination, identifying gaps and allocating roles according to comparative advantage.

⁴ UNICEF, *Caribbean Hurricanes - Humanitarian Action for Children*, October 2017, < https://www.unicef.org/appeals/caribbean_hurricanes.html >

⁵ The HAC was later revised in October to better meet the needs identified in the field.

⁶ 2017 results from Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands, as of 20 December 2017.

⁷ 2018 results from Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands, as of 28 May 2018. Results from Cuba as of December 2018.

In addition, UNICEF worked with the international relief organisation Samaritan's Purse and signed a service-delivery programme cooperation agreement. As well as supporting the trucking of water to communities thereby benefiting more than 12,000 people, UNICEF focused on WASH in schools, hygiene promotion (including supporting a campaign run by the Ministry of Health) and distribution of hygiene kits and water treatment products. UNICEF also contributed to the rehabilitation of the waste water treatment plant which was inoperable for three months following Hurricane Maria, meaning there was no sewage system during this time and a subsequent rise in disease in urban areas occurred.

Ensuring that children had access to water, sanitation and hygiene became one of the primary concerns in the immediate aftermath of the devastating hurricanes. A major success was the rehabilitation of three local water systems (Pichelin, Paix Bouche and Bellevue Chopin), which improved life dramatically for some 8,000 people. UNICEF provided DOWASCO with two 10,000-litre 4x4 water trucks to service these populations and to help them be better prepared for future events. As of late September 2018, nearly 67,000 people had permanent piped water and nearly 4,000 relied on water trucking services in Dominica.

In **Turks and Caicos Islands**, though on a smaller scale, UNICEF was also active in the aftermath of the storms. Sixteen (16) collapsible water tanks were sent to the territory, along with nearly 16,500 water purification tablets and 6,600 jerry cans. **Anguilla** received water tanks, mosquito nets and communication materials, fliers and WASH-related posters. UNICEF worked with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) on WASH projects.

In **Cuba**, as part of the 2018 early recovery phase in the Hurricane Irma Response Plan, UNICEF provided long-term water storage means with a view to increase household level resilience, reaching at least 56,786 people (28,960 women, 27,826 men), including 10,270 children under the age of 18 in the most affected municipalities in the Santa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila and Camaguey provinces.

UNICEF response in Cuba was designed in partnership with sector and local authorities to ensure consistency with the most pressing needs. It focused on procuring life-saving supplies while increasing the scale of the response in the most affected communities.

Beyond the emergency response, the focus on resilience has been critical. UNICEF designed and implemented actions to address an extreme drought situation in the province of Santiago through a joint programme to strengthen resilience of families and vulnerable groups. As part of these joint actions, UNICEF Cuba worked with UNDP and WFP to develop a water management chain with articulated results and strengthened local-level partnerships among different actors, as well as engage in capacity strengthening and community participation and empowerment. Among the interventions for children were the provision of water storage tanks in education institutions and health centres and the distribution of fresh food in nurseries, boarding and semi-boarding schools. Through an educational communications campaign, "Always Safe Water" ("Agua Siempre Segura"), UNICEF promoted hand washing and the responsible use of water among all community members and helped empower adolescents as agents of change. Adolescents also received hygiene kits with water containers, water purification tablets, soap and buckets with lids.

Child Protection

CHILD PROTECTION				
Results	Country / Territory	UNICEF Response		
		Targets 2017	Total Results 2017 ⁸	Total Results 2018 ⁹
No. of children enrolled in psycho-social activities	Anguilla	1,689	1,475	
	Barbuda	240	225	
	British Virgin Islands	3,344	2,280	72
	Dominica	8,744	8,086	2,874
	Turks and Caicos Islands	3,085	976	
Subtotal ECA		17,102	13,042	2,946
No. of Return to Happiness (RTH) facilitators trained on psychosocial support in post-disaster situations	Anguilla	90	87	
	Barbuda	25	26	
	British Virgin Islands	315	141	64
	Dominica	1,056	1,219	65
	Turks and Caicos Islands	60	54	
Subtotal ECA		1,546	1,527	129

⁸ 2017 results from Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands, as of 20 December 2017.

⁹ 2018 results from Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands, as of 28 May 2018. Results from Cuba as of December 2018.

UNICEF's post-emergency child protection activities were extensive and included interventions such as appointing a child protection officer for one year (from March 2018) to support and strengthen the capacity of the Child Abuse Prevention Unit at the Ministry of Social Services in **Dominica**. In partnership with IsraAID, UNICEF trained more than 300 parents and caregivers in child protection concepts and principles and child abuse prevention.

Extensive work was carried out to ensure children across the affected countries and territories had access to child friendly spaces. These spaces are often part of the first response to crises and they were rapidly established by UNICEF across the islands affected by the hurricanes.

In addition to promoting safety, security and access to psychosocial support in a setting where relaxing, playing and having fun are key, the child-friendly spaces became a central pillar of UNICEF's efforts to reach often vulnerable children and allow a path of communication and cooperation with their communities. In Dominica for instance at one point there were 22 such sites, reaching more than 1,000 children. The intervention, run in collaboration with IsraAID, drew to a close at the beginning of May 2018.

Ensuring that children have their own friendly spaces goes beyond immediate emergency humanitarian response. In Goodwill, Dominica, working alongside the Ministry of Health and Social Services, UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of the Michael Daniel Memorial Park as a permanent safe space for children to enjoy recreational activities and participate in community life.

One of UNICEF's flagship interventions is the Return to Happiness (RTH) psychosocial support programme. Experiencing hurricanes of unprecedented magnitude must have been harrowing for many children who likely experienced almost unimaginable levels of fear, not knowing if they and their families would live through the storms. Many children woke up to find their possessions lost and their homes destroyed. They needed help to deal with these traumatic experiences.

RTH gives children an outlet to process what they have been through in a safe environment through creative play and performance. The programme is designed to decrease anxiety and increase a sense of security, satisfaction, wellbeing and hope for the future. It also aims to make children feel more supported by their family and their community. Across the **Eastern Caribbean** countries and territories, UNICEF prioritized carrying out RTH sessions and training workshops for facilitators. Within weeks of the hurricanes, they were up and running across the affected countries and territories.

Young children are not the only ones who have been severely traumatised by what they have experienced. Their parents and caregivers, their teachers and their older brothers and sisters also dealt with a great deal, and UNICEF explored ways to extend the RTH programme to these other groups. Concrete steps were taken in **British Virgin Islands**, for example, to broaden and deepen the RTH initiative to encompass older students, who have a different set of needs to their younger counterparts. During the week of 28 October 2018, principals, primary and secondary teachers, guidance counsellors and early childhood development providers met to explore how the standard RTH programme, normally aimed at the under 12, could be adapted for adolescents and how they could help to build their individual 'everyday' resilience to cope with shocks. Run by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Culture, the aim of the intervention is to train all 900 of the territory's teachers to meet the psychosocial needs of every one of the children with whom they interact. It is hoped this serves as a pilot project that can be adapted and expanded to other situations.

Protecting the most vulnerable

Although all children can be rendered vulnerable by extreme weather events and emergencies, some are more vulnerable than others. UNICEF has been instrumental in helping to support children who are living in homes and who have already faced being abandoned, neglected or abused. *Chances Home* - set up on the outskirts of Dominica's capital Roseau in 2011 to look after children who have been abandoned or sexually abused - suffered extensive damage during Hurricane Maria. The roof was blown off, windows and doors were damaged and very little could be salvaged. In the initial aftermath, UNICEF donated tarpaulins to cover the building and undertook an assessment of water and sanitation requirements to help make things more secure for the 20 children ranging in age from just five weeks to 18 years old.

Furthermore, UNICEF also helped to rehabilitate the *Rainbow Children's Home and Autism Centre* in Tortola (British Virgin Islands). After "Irmara", as the combined hurricanes have



©UNICEF/2018/Peters. Claudette cuddles one of her children at the Rainbow Children's Centre. UNICEF worked with partners to rehabilitate the Centre in Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

become known locally, the building was left functional but in very poor shape. Working with the Ministry of Health and Social Development and other community organisations, donors and NGOs such as the Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA), UNICEF helped rebuild the fencing around the compound which had been destroyed. This became a pressing child protection and security issue when displaced people from the local area arrived seeking shelter in the home and gained easy access.

In addition, UNICEF supported the rebuilding of the roof, the front gate and the windows, providing a generator, renovating the bathrooms and making the building wheelchair accessible.



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Before and after at the Rainbow Children's Home and Autism Centre, Totola, British Virgin Islands.

Education / Early Childhood Development (ECD)

EDUCATION / EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT				
Results	Country / Territory	UNICEF Response		
		Targets 2017	Total Results 2017 ¹⁰	Total Results 2018 ¹¹
No. of school-aged children and adolescents reached by schools (including re-opened schools and/or temporary facilities established)	Anguilla	2,875	2,875	
	Barbuda	557	616	
	British Virgin Islands	4,400 ¹²	3,266	2,308
	Dominica	8,156	7,833	3,038
	Turks and Caicos Islands	4,018	4,012	
Subtotal ECA		20,006	18,602	5,346
No. of children under-five with access to safe and secure learning/play environments that promote protection and well-being	Anguilla	846	682	
	Barbuda	60	60	
	British Virgin Islands	1,494 ¹³	350	1,061
	Dominica	1,735	716	
Subtotal ECA		4,135	1,808	1,061
No. of children attending schools equipped with critical learning and/or recreational materials	Cuba	97,532	108,703	67,591

Hurricanes Irma and Maria left the school systems on the affected islands in total disarray. Many school buildings were rendered unusable, having lost windows, roofs and equipment. In Dominica, for example, 83 per cent of schools reported some level of damage and 20 schools were used as shelters. About 39,000 children in Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, and Turks and Caicos Islands were not able to go to school for at least one month. Some schools were unable to open until two or even three months later. For UNICEF, getting countries back to a state where children could enjoy their right to education was paramount. In order to achieve this, UNICEF worked with partners to try to rehabilitate schools or learning spaces as quickly as possible. In **Anguilla, British Virgin Islands** and **Dominica** temporary learning and protective spaces

¹⁰ 2017 results from Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands, as of 20 December 2017.

¹¹ 2018 results from Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands, as of 28 May 2018. Results from Cuba as of December 2018.

¹² Target revised.

¹³ Target revised.

were set up under tents. In **British Virgin Islands**, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and others to establish such spaces for children between the ages of 3 and 8 in seven locations, reaching over 1,000 children.

As well as providing temporary school spaces, UNICEF delivered school supplies. Within the first nine months, 180 early childhood development (ECD) kits, more than 400 schools-in-a-box, almost 250 recreational kits and 88 tents were distributed. The European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) department also partnered with UNICEF in **Dominica**, funding 4,500 chairs and tables distributed among the primary and secondary schools most in need, in addition to school-based disaster risk management training.

By the end of 2017, the majority of schools in Anguilla and many in Dominica had re-opened. In Antigua and Barbuda, 100 per cent of school-aged children went back, although the secondary school in Barbuda did not open its doors again until February 2018. Nearly all of the children of Turks and Caicos Islands were back at their desks, as well as an estimated 90 per cent in British Virgin Islands.

Authorities were also left with the daunting task of estimating the number of children who had left their island in the aftermath of the hurricanes. In **Antigua and Barbuda**, UNICEF supported the MoE in processing data slowly coming in from schools as to the number of children actually returning for the second quarter of the 2017-2018 school year. Even more than a year after the hurricanes, many schools were still partially under tarpaulin. To address this limitation a shift system has operated in a number of schools, with children attending for either a morning or afternoon session.

UNICEF also worked to ensure that once the children returned to school they were able to get the best out of their education. For example, help was provided to **Barbuda** to organise the school curriculum for multi-grade teaching as well as to support leadership and coordination, emergency curriculum development and community engagement.

Once the initial and most pressing post-hurricane needs of children are met; once they have water and shelter and their schools have reopened, a slew of unforeseen requirements can emerge. This became clear in **British Virgin Islands**, where the shift system meant that for a number of children lessons finished at 12 noon, leaving some of the students under-occupied for a number of hours. As a result cases of anti-social behaviour, loitering, theft, fighting and vandalism started to arise. The Creative Learning and Arts Programme, spearheaded by UNICEF and the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports within the MoE, helped alleviate such challenges. This multi-faceted voluntary initiative has given hundreds of 12- to 15-year-olds constructive and engaging ways to cope with a truncated school day. Among other activities, they are able to play basketball, dance, take art classes, practice karate, participate in a media programme, and explore how to protect the environment.

Advancing in school safety in the Caribbean: a case study

The issue

Countries in the Caribbean are exposed to a wide variety of natural and man-made hazards, namely floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, volcanic eruptions, infectious diseases and climate change consequences. These hazards have compromised countries' poverty reduction strategies, hindered development gains and endangered educational systems. Their impacts are likely to be magnified by the expected effects of changes in global climate and potentially more frequent and severe extreme weather events. Low-lying states in the Caribbean are especially vulnerable to these effects, which pose significant risks to public safety, infrastructure and natural resources.

Disasters have a major impact on children, youth and education systems. The 2017 hurricanes affected over 2,200 school buildings in Cuba. Dominica had 83 per cent of educational infrastructure severely affected and children from Barbuda and Dominica had to be temporarily relocated to Antigua to attend classes. The initial and subsequent post-disaster assessments conducted by different partners including MoEs, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the UN System highlighted both the elevated level of vulnerability of the education system and the lack of programme and plan preparation to face the main threats in the region, as well as to resume the education system after the disaster. The impacts of disasters are likely to increase unless governments and communities improve their capacity to anticipate, prepare, adapt and become more resilient to such events.

Major strategies have been implemented individually in different countries across the region in order to improve school preparedness. Aimed at ensuring political commitment at the regional and national level, the First Caribbean Ministerial Safe School Forum was organized in April 2017 in Antigua and Barbuda. Main outcomes included a Regional Road Map on School Safety, and the Antigua and Barbuda Declaration on School Safety, which was signed by 12 Caribbean Ministries of Education.¹⁴ These documents guide the Caribbean Safe School Initiative (CSSI) that was launched in April 2017 during the Ministerial Forum. The CSSI is the suggested framework to advance school safety in the Caribbean, is the Caribbean contribution to the Worldwide-Initiative on Safe Schools (WISS) and

¹⁴ Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Guyana, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos, Virgin Islands.

promotes the partnership for advancing safe school implementation. Ministries of Education lead the implementation and receive technical support by international, regional and national partners.

UNICEF's contribution to school safety in the Caribbean

Building on the 2017 experience, UNICEF has worked to promote the safe schools programme's three pillars: safe learning facilities, school disaster management and risk reduction and resilience education. Resilience education aims to build the teaching of everyday coping mechanisms and preparedness into the curriculum.

In **Anguilla**, during a Return to Happiness workshop for 111 teachers, resilience education was an integral part of the training. UNICEF is working to ensure that such interventions are rolled out across countries and territories. Disaster management in schools is high on the agenda in **British Virgin Islands**, where UNICEF has been deeply involved in the implementation of the safe schools programme. This includes a partnership with the Department of Disaster Management for conducting a SMART schools inspection course for principals and teachers, which includes school-level preparedness plans. In addition, in **Antigua and Barbuda**, UNICEF has supported the MoE in the development of preparedness plans for successive seasons.

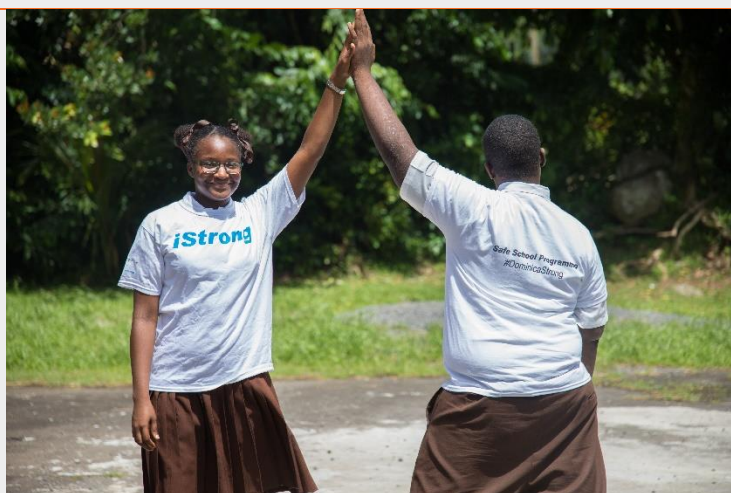
Dominica has also made great strides in getting all 73 schools to develop disaster preparedness plans. In partnership with the Government of Dominica and IsraAID, UNICEF support included training teachers, who in turn imparted knowledge to their students and fellow teachers in disaster risk management. Beginning in May 2018, students worked on their plan: mapping their school compound, noting hazards and vulnerabilities, as well as assessing capacity. Additionally, the training had an element of psychosocial support and resilience education.

As well as playing an instrumental role in disaster risk management in schools, UNICEF has supported the development of school building guidelines that render the buildings more resilient and able to withstand disasters in partnership with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Furthermore, UNICEF has invested great efforts to build more resilient education systems through the implementation of the "Safe School Programme" anchored on the CSSI. In 2018, a major regional training workshop brought together experts and practitioners to improve preparedness and response in education systems, strengthen capacity, reduce post-disaster impact on children, and ensure their right to a continued education. Held in Antigua and Barbuda, the three-day Education in Emergencies training was regional in scope and ambition with participants from 12 Eastern Caribbean countries and territories joined by counterparts from Belize, Brazil, Haiti, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname. Child protection and education officers - who need to work together in preparedness and response – attended alongside representatives from national disaster offices. The workshop was requested by country partners following a lessons learned workshop held in May 2018, aimed at reflecting on the emergency response during the Caribbean's turbulent 2017 hurricane season.

The event was organised by UNICEF (Eastern Caribbean, Regional Office and Headquarters) in partnership with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the European Union / ECHO, Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector, IsraAID, the OECS, UNESCO, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and included representatives from the Caribbean Development Bank, UNDP, UN WOMEN and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Since May 2018, an ECHO-funded project has been implemented to review national and regional education frameworks (legislations / policies / strategies and programmes), support the design and implementation of sub-regional and national protocols to prioritize the right to education in emergency preparedness and response plans, and to support selected countries' design and implementation of disaster risk management plans at school level. By the end of the project countries will not only have a more resilient education system through policies and programmes, but also one with clear guidelines and protocols to be adopted in case of an emergency. The project



"The preparedness sessions were very educational. I learned a lot and was fascinated by the amount I didn't know when I got into the programme. They taught us how to really prepare ourselves for disasters in practical ways. We were taught to look for possible hazards and we found plenty in our school. When tropical storm Isaac was coming I was kind of scared. But I also thought that I had to keep my mind clear and think of ways I can be prepared for the storm. The training taught me how to secure all of my personal documents and things in a safe place, so they wouldn't get damaged by any water. We felt more confident this time round waiting for the storm because we felt that there were concrete things we could do."

©UNICEF/2018/Harris. 15-year-old Kiana Pierre, who goes to Dominica Community High School in Roseau, took part in the preparedness planning, she felt ready when Tropical Storm Isaac was set to hit Dominica in September 2018.

will provide training on the "Safe School Programme" to at least 120 policy makers and technicians from Ministries of Education in at least 10 of 12 countries. Additionally, in five selected countries 160 principals, teachers and parents, and more than 6,000 primary-level students, will be fully involved in the implementation of the project at school level. It will involve at least 64 organizations among Ministries of Education (12), National Disaster Management Offices (12) and schools (40) and will reach more than 6,000 students.

As of January 2019, key technicians and policy makers from 12 Ministries of Education were mobilized and trained to design and implement the Safe School Programme in 12 countries. More than 200 key actors from Ministries of Education in the region have already been trained. The training sessions focused on preparedness and response, including a review of the resilience principles to be included in the education system and child protection issues. Sessions involved key actors from the ministries of education, national disaster management offices and child protection units at national level, as well as the two key regional bodies, the OECS, CDEMA and international organizations.

In collaboration with a regional partner, and in close consultation with all participant countries, a first draft of the Guidelines for Resilient Schools Facilities was finalized, based on national practices and knowledge, and was presented for comments and improvements to key actors in each country (planners and chief education officers). It is expected that the guidelines will be finalized and presented for endorsement to all the Ministries of Education in the first quarter of 2019.

These emerging progresses towards a more resilient education sector would not be possible without the generous contribution of public donors such as ECHO and Sweden. These resources, in combination with flexible thematic funds - which accounted for nearly 13 per cent of UNICEF investment in support to the education response and recovery efforts in 2018, have helped UNICEF work hand in hand with governments and inter-governmental entities not only to respond to the emergency but to build resilience across the region.

"As climate change continues to impact small island states like ours...we have become increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters. The need to find ways to mitigate such phenomena is paramount, hence the training could not have come at a better time to explore best approaches in education and child protection sectors."

David Cool, Education Officer and Champion for Disaster Risk Management in Dominica's Ministry of Education, participant in the Education in Emergencies training.

In **Cuba**, as sector leader and in coordination with the MoE, UNICEF continued implementing the Hurricane Irma response Plan in 2018. UNICEF Cuba's strategy, designed in partnership with sector authorities to ensure its impact, focused on the procurement of essential resources for the return of children to safe learning spaces. Throughout the year, as part of the early recovery phase, UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of infrastructure in 69 selected schools in the Santa Clara, Ciego de Avila and Camaguey provinces with the procurement of 56,000 square metres of waterproof covers. These actions supported the safe return to functional schools for some 67,591 children (32,945 girls and 34,646 boys).

During 2018, UNICEF strengthened its partnership with the Civil Defence through the joint design of a Guide for Families that includes guidelines on self-protection during disasters, as well as child protection issues. The guide - distributed through the MoE for all primary schools within the 68 most disaster-prone municipalities - contributes to Civil Defence initiatives at school-level. The guidelines, as well as practical knowledge, have also been shared with families within the school community to promote their participation in such programmes.

As part of the Hurricane Irma response, UNICEF, UNESCO and MoE produced guidelines for teachers for socio-emotional recovery of children and adolescents affected by natural disasters. The manual for teachers includes methodological tools and practices to identify and mitigate psychological impacts seen in children following a natural disaster. The publication was validated at the International Disasters Congress in July 2018 and is now part of the training package for teachers involved in the DRR programme.

Social Protection

SOCIAL PROTECTION				
Results	Country / Territory	UNICEF Response		
		Targets 2017	Total Results 2017 ¹⁵	Total Results 2018 ¹⁶
No. of targeted children from the most vulnerable families receiving top up grants to cover basic needs	Dominica	6,000	1,124	5,029

In **Dominica**, a particularly innovative intervention spearheaded in this emergency response was the cash transfer programme, a key intervention towards UNICEF's overall goal of strengthening shock-responsive Social Protection systems. Unconditional transfers, where families are free to spend the money received on whatever they need to improve their

¹⁵ 2017 results as of 20 December 2017.

¹⁶ 2018 results as of May 2018.

situation, help empower them in a way that assures their dignity. Local economies are stimulated in the process and family and community resilience is promoted.

The three-month Joint Emergency Cash Transfer Programme, which started in December 2017, was run by the Government of Dominica with support from UNICEF and the World Food Programme. More than 8,000 vulnerable families benefitted, with UNICEF targeting some 6,000 children among those families who received a child-related top-up in addition.

Funds were spent on meeting basic needs such as food, clothes, school supplies and reconstruction materials. A number of recipients reported that the money had made a noticeable difference to their ability to cope with the adversity brought by Hurricane Maria. The intervention provided a good example of how multiple donors can partner on a project and achieve significant results.

In May 2018, cash transfer programme partners and implementers held a workshop in the capital Roseau to review the initiative take stock and explore how it could be improved, better monitored, expanded and scaled up, thereby enhancing understanding of how current social protection systems are set up to respond to emergencies. At the same time, UNICEF and WFP regional directors for Latin America and the Caribbean signed a memorandum of understanding strengthening collaboration in humanitarian and development engagement for the region. The two agency heads agreed to work together to support governments in the region to be better equipped to use a cash transfer system in emergencies and agreed to prepare feasibility assessments to determine how such a system could be adapted to different countries and contexts.

UNICEF and its partners have continued to examine lessons learned from the response to the hurricanes to strengthen and enable shock-responsive social protection programmes across the region and render them more able to cope with shocks. In late September 2018, UNICEF, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Government of **Saint Lucia** held a skills-building workshop that brought together social development and disaster management experts from seven countries and territories, including **Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands** and **Dominica**. The efforts to propose an OECS model on strengthening shock responsive systems have been important and will contribute towards building the resilience of small island developing states to address the evolving economic and social vulnerabilities of children in the region.



“The cash transfer programme is working well. We bought clothes, shoes, and a little shopping and groceries. It gives us a little bit extra to stretch... It comes in handy. You feel that you can buy certain things in town. It’s a good feeling... I appreciate it very much.”

©UNICEF/2017/Harris. Yvonne Hill Williams, grandmother and foster mother of five, speaking in Roseau, Dominica.

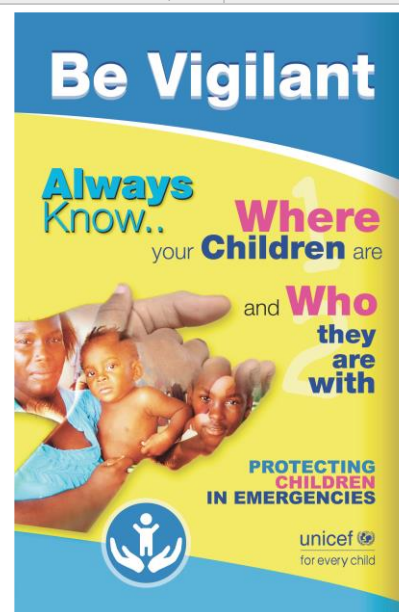
Communication for Development

COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D)				
Results	Country / Territory	UNICEF Response		
		Targets 2017	Total Results 2017 ¹⁷	Total Results 2018 ¹⁸
No. of children with access to information on good hygiene, and on safety and protection	Anguilla	3,778	3,778	
	Barbuda	541	415	
	British Virgin Islands	7,367	6,928	250
	Dominica	19,774	10,488	155
	Turks and Caicos Islands	7,527	4,901	
Total		38,987	26,510	405

In the weeks and months following the hurricanes, UNICEF actively collaborated with a range of partners to disseminate lifesaving information on hygiene, safety, protection and mental health through text messages, radio, social media and printed materials. During the first nine months following the hurricanes, nearly 27,000 children were reached with accurate information delivered in a simple, clear, and child friendly way. In **British Virgin Islands**, for instance, radio messages were aired in partnership with ADRA on hygiene issues and posters were displayed in public places. Immediately after the hurricanes, UNICEF used FLOW Telecommunications messaging and distributed 250 posters to shelters. Additionally, ADRA, UNICEF and the Environmental Health Department built on these materials in a holistic intervention, training community members on relevant hygiene issues, including at the Methodist Church in Sea Cow's Bay, Tortola. The Department of Social Development, a UNICEF partner, also put up posters in schools, grocery stores and food distribution points, while supporting the airing of radio messages on child protection and domestic violence.

Parents in **Turks and Caicos Islands** took part in C4D sensitisation sessions on child safeguarding in emergencies and helping children cope with the adversity they faced. In addition, UNICEF worked with the Ministries of Education and of Social Development and Health in **Anguilla** to provide health, hygiene and protection messages for children. Over 9,000 fliers and posters were distributed or placed in schools and other public areas.

An integral part of the C4D process is to develop materials that resonate with the target community and give them a sense of ownership of meaningful and culturally specific interventions. In **Dominica**, consultations were held with children and their families to identify key child abuse prevention messages leading UNICEF to work with the Social Welfare Division to build an appropriate C4D strategy. Similar consultations were held in **Antigua and Barbuda**. This community engagement drove further C4D and programmatic interventions in the humanitarian response phase.



Posters distributed across affected islands, with key messages on child protection in emergencies.

Results achieved from humanitarian thematic funding

In 2017, thematic funds were critical in order to scale up the response capacities contributing to several programme components including in WASH, education and WASH activities. Furthermore, country thematic funds received in 2018 through the United States Fund for UNICEF, were used in conjunction with non-thematic funds to boost support in the education sector.

¹⁷ 2017 results from Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands, as of 20 December 2017.

¹⁸ 2018 results from Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands, as of 28 May 2018.

Other results

In June 2018, to enable response to natural disasters in timely and effective way, CDEMA and UNICEF entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to pre-position emergency supplies strategically across the sub-region thus extending the outreach and ensuring timely delivery of emergency supplies to affected communities.

UNICEF-procured emergency supplies were consigned to CDEMA for the sub-regional warehouses in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. CDEMA will take ownership to distribute these supplies for emergency situations in 12 countries and UK territories¹⁹ of the Caribbean sub-region. CDEMA will ensure that programme activities are conducted in compliance with all applicable national laws, rules and regulations and UNICEF Core Commitments for Children (CCC) in emergencies.

In **Cuba**, acknowledging the country's vulnerabilities to weather-related emergencies, UNICEF worked at the local level in the Jesus Menendez municipality in the province of Las Tunas, to promote nutritional resilience in high-risk communities due to their vulnerability to natural disasters. With the Institute for Nutrition and Food Hygiene, UNICEF supported the strengthening of communities' capacity to respond to disasters at the community level, at the primary health level and in schools. As a result, 47,938 community members gained knowledge on nutrition and feeding management in emergency situations, as well as practical guidelines to do so.

ASSESSMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Building on the response to hurricanes Irma and Maria, for UNICEF's ECA Office it was important to capture the vulnerability profiles of affected households, particularly of families with children. UNICEF advocated and provided technical support for data collection focusing on vulnerability needs assessment in **British Virgin Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica**, along with increased capacity for systematic management of information collected. These vulnerability profiles will improve the design and equity focus of social and cash transfer programs to increase coverage for the most vulnerable women and children. In **Dominica**, UNICEF works with WFP in building and strengthening the national Management Information System (MIS) of social protection programmes.

Natural disasters can negatively impact the goal of ensuring that every child learns, and the catastrophic effects of the 2017 hurricane season effectively exposed the vulnerability of the education sector in the Eastern Caribbean. To better understand the specific gaps and challenges, UNICEF partnered with CDEMA, the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector, OECS, UNESCO, UNISDR and IsraAID to convene a meeting of ministries of education across the region for an after-action review and SWOT analysis. The over 90 participants sought to identify key lessons learned and outline the way forward for countries and regional partners, based on the three pillars in the Safe School Programme of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework (safe learning facilities, school disaster management and risk reduction and resilience education). The three main lessons learned collectively by the countries centred on the need for psychosocial support for both teachers and students; the need to have updated intersectoral preparedness plans that clearly define roles and accountability and the need to secure important school records and protect information systems. The importance of advocacy, development of regional guidance, capacity building around education in emergencies, technical assistance and collaboration between countries to better implement the Comprehensive School Safety Framework (CSSF) was underscored.

In line with the 2017 Antigua and Barbuda Safe School Declaration, and propelled by the major impact on the education sector in five countries (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin islands, Dominica and Turks and Caicos Islands), 2018 saw a major focus on a review of the countries in relation to the CSSF. The assessment process (field visits, desk reviews and interviews), conducted by UNICEF, examined the level of implementation of CSSF - safety at the learning facilities, existence of national policies and teachers' and students' responses to risks and the specific challenges and capacities of each country. Insufficient focus on the development of emergency contingency plans, coupled with limited national capacity in this regard, were identified as the major challenges. To assist in addressing this, UNICEF together with its partners has been advocating and providing technical and financial support for a comprehensive approach to building capacities at the school level, developing emergency school plans and promoting the infusion of DRR and resilient education into daily teaching. Updated school safety plans, developed with student input, now exist for all 73 schools in Dominica and similar work is continuing in other countries.

¹⁹ Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Barbados, Virgin Islands (UK), Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Considering the significant gaps in terms of availability of data across the Eastern Caribbean, in 2018 UNICEF ECA invested in data generation and capacity development in partnership with the OECS, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Caribbean Development Bank, as well as with countries and territories. Nevertheless, further interagency efforts are needed, along with reinforced advocacy for unified approach and engagement.

In 2018, ECA Office continued monitoring and reporting on the implementation of UNICEF's response plan, via a situation, supply and Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) data tool, with monthly updates. In addition, and as part of the UNICEF ECA plan to enhance the overall implementation of UNICEF's Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), the office developed a HACT handbook for partners that will contribute to systematically increase partners' knowledge.

In **Cuba**, in order to support the most affected people and assist the Government's response and early recovery efforts, the UN System developed a plan of action with the participation of eight agencies with five priority sectors: shelter and early recovery, food security, health, WASH and education. The latter two sectors were led by UNICEF with the participation of other agencies: UNESCO (Education) and PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNIDO (WASH).

Throughout 2018 UNICEF Cuba continued with the mechanism established for monitoring response implementation, including systematic communication and coordination with partners, field monitoring and the use of quantitative tools. Direct dialogue with beneficiaries and local authorities during field monitoring missions has confirmed the appropriateness and use of the supplies received. These opinions will be considered in future response actions.

In June 2018, LACRO conducted a regional lessons-learned exercise on UNICEF's 2017 hurricane response, with key findings for improving the in-country and Regional Office's response capacity.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

By the end of 2018, UNICEF had US\$5.1 million available to support response, recovery and resilience efforts, including US\$2.1 million received in 2018 mainly allocated to education-related support. While funds received in 2017 were critical to ensure rapid deployment of staff, timely delivery of humanitarian assistance and establishment of key partnerships, additional funds available in 2018 have allowed UNICEF to extend strategic support and, particularly, to boost resilience efforts with emphasis on the support to national education systems.

Table 2: Funding status by sector (in US\$)

Sector	ECA		Cuba		Total
	Carry-Over	Funds received in 2018*	Carry-Over	Funds received in 2018*	
Education	1,775,394	1,911,593	276,945	207,413	4,171,345
Child Protection	291,079				291,079
WASH			349,194		349,194
Social Protection (Emergency Cash Transfers)	48,230				48,230
Cross cutting / Coordination	299,286				299,286
Total	2,413,989	1,911,593	626,139	207,413	5,159,134

*Funds received for the post-hurricane response under the LACRO HAC as the Caribbean Hurricanes HAC ended in December 2017.

Table 3: Funding received and available by 31 December 2018 by donor and funding type (in US\$)

Donor Name/Type of funding	Programme Budget Allotment reference	Overall Amount*
I. Humanitarian funds received in 2018		
a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
See details in Table 4	SM189910	235,125
b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM180453	900,109
European Commission / ECHO	SM180370	637,714
Spanish Committee for UNICEF	SM180475	98,846
Spanish Committee for UNICEF	SM180120	91,974
Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		1,728,643
Total humanitarian funds received in 2018 (a+b)		1,963,768
II. Carry-over of humanitarian funds available in 2018		

c) Carry-over Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
Thematic Humanitarian Funds	SM149910	2,218,868
d) Carry-over of non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
European Commission / ECHO	SM170618	554,587
Canada	SM170651	110,229
UNOCHA	SM170513	86,183
Kuwait	SM170577	47,619
Lithuania	SM170546	10,754
UNOCHA	SM170493	5,516
UNOCHA	SM170500	5,023
UNOCHA	SM170470	1,341
UNOCHA	SM170469	8
Total carry-over non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		821,260
Total carry-over humanitarian funds (c+d)		3,040,128
III. Other sources		
EPF**	GE170023	470,207
Total other resources		470,207

* Programmable amounts of donor contributions, excluding recovery cost.

** 2018 loans have not been waived; COs are liable to reimburse in 2019 as donor funds become available.

Table 4: Thematic humanitarian contributions received in 2018

Donor	Grant Number	Programmable Amount	Total Contribution Amount
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM1899100004	235,125	247,500
Total		235,125	247,500

FUTURE WORK PLAN

Taking into consideration the shared interest in supporting the development of more resilient communities, States, national and regional actors, and building on lessons learned from hurricanes Irma and Maria response, UNICEF LACRO and CDEMA are preparing an MoU to consolidate a collaboration framework across all CDEMA's participating States: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Republic of Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands and the Virgin Islands. The mentioned MoE, to be signed in early 2019, will contain agreements on:

- Strengthened institutional collaboration - including promotion of innovative data collection instruments that include child, adolescent and youth for risk analysis and resilience building;
- Safe and resilient schools - including promotion and support to states to mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction within Regional and national education sector policy, plans and curricula;
- Psychosocial services -including advocacy for regional child protection policy reform and capacity development for front-line responders;
- Shock-responsive social protection -including enhancement of national social protection frameworks and systems to be prepared and respond in emergencies;
- Resilient WASH sector for sustainable services - aiming at strengthened system-wide risk reduction, preparedness and technical capacity in WASH.

One of the key findings of an After 2017 Hurricanes Review meeting held jointly with stakeholders from the child protection and education sectors in Eastern Caribbean, was that the education system, because of its natural link with children, was best positioned to implement Return to Happiness (RTH) programming to a wider cross section of affected children. Furthermore, another finding noted it was critical for the persons implementing RTH to have access to mental health/psychosocial support, as they too would have been affected by the emergency. In this regard, in 2019 UNICEF will continue to ensure that Caribbean countries have strengthened capacity to deliver mental health and psycho-social support services in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, supporting RTH trainings for teachers and by establishing partnerships with CDEMA and other UN agencies to develop a mental health and psychosocial support training along with a coordination package to be rolled out across the Caribbean sub region.

Furthermore, in the **Eastern Caribbean** UNICEF will continue working to fully mainstream the resilient principles in the education system through the Safe School Programme. The Safe School Programme allows combining emergency response and long-term recovery.

In **Cuba**, as part of its regular development programme, UNICEF Cuba supports a DRR project in schools implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education. This experience has been systematized in 122 communities vulnerable to natural disasters in 15 municipalities in five provinces of the country, reaching 24,000 girls and boys in 170 schools. For UNICEF's next Country Programme (2020-2024), the consolidation of this continuum will remain in force with a multi-risk approach.

As part of emergency preparedness actions and based on an analysis of lessons learned, UNICEF Cuba has ensured the pre-positioning of resources for immediate response. These items were critical for the immediate response to the high-intensity tornado that hit Havana in January 2019. In addition, UNICEF Cuba has designed a response plan for an earthquake scenario and discussions are taking place with national authorities to define UNICEF's specific support should that scenario materialise.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

On behalf of boys and girls in Anguilla, Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Turks and Caicos Islands, UNICEF expresses sincere gratitude to all governments, UNICEF National Committees and private donors for their continued support to the relief and resilience efforts after one of the most devastating disasters affecting the Caribbean in recent years. Thanks to their commitment and flexibility, UNICEF has been able to alleviate the suffering of thousands of boys and girls in the affected countries and territories, while working to build a safer environment for children and families.



©UNICEF/2018/Harris. Pupils from St Luke's Primary, Pointe Michel, Dominica, are enjoying their lessons in a temporary learning space. After the turbulence of Hurricane Maria that struck in September 2017, and destroyed or damaged 90 per cent of school buildings, the education sector has largely returned to normality with 90 per cent of children back at school. St Luke's was able to re-open in October. UNICEF and partners provided tents for temporary learning spaces, early childhood education kits and schools-in-a box.

ANNEXES

Two-pager reports

Two-pager narrative reports are provided for non-thematic contributions:

Spanish Committee for UNICEF	SM180120
Spanish Committee for UNICEF	SM180475
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM180453
Canada	SM170651

Human Interest Stories and Communication

Web stories

[Al centro del país. Unicef para cada niña y niño.](#)

[Visita UNICEF provincias afectadas por el huracán Irma](#)

[Xunta de Galicia: alianzas con UNICEF Cuba](#)

[BVI - After the storm. Blog by UNICEF's emergency coordinator who shares her thoughts one year after "Irmara" struck](#)

[Barbuda – Tayjah Beazer, 12, talks about life in a shelter in Antigua and her hopes for the future](#)

[Barbuda – my heart, my home. Family share their thoughts on returning home](#)

[Children in Focus, e-magazine published an edition on Safe Schools](#)

Facebook

[Video: Rehabilitación de círculos infantiles.](#)

[BVI – Jeremy, 14, talks about life after "Irmara" and how the UNICEF-supported after-school programme is helping him find normality](#)

[The Rainbow Children's Home in BVI benefits from rehabilitation efforts by UNICEF and partners](#)

[BVI: The principal of Jost Van Dyke school talks about returning to normality. \(Mrs Blyden was taking part in a UNICEF-supported Return to Happiness programme\)](#)

[BVI: A young guidance councillor welcomes the UNICEF-supported initiative to extend the Return to Happiness programme to adolescents and older children](#)

[Barbudans returning home](#)

[Ahijah Williams from North East Comprehensive talks about preparations for the start of DRM training in Dominica](#)

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Youtube:

[UNICEF CUBA - Kits para el desarrollo en la Primera infancia](#)

[UNICEF CUBA - En la escuela con el Kit Escolar de UNICEF](#)

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