Project Number: 201104 | Project Category: Single Country IR-EMOP Project Approval Date: September 11, 2017 | Planned Start Date: September 11, 2017 Actual Start Date: September 20, 2017 | Project End Date: December 10, 2017 Financial Closure Date: N/A

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IR-EMOP-Regional - Assistance to Victims of Hurricane Irma in the Western Caribbean Standard Project Report 2017

WFP

World Food Programme in Panama, Republic of (PA)





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Regional Context

The 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season was the most active season since 2010, producing 18 tropical depressions, 17 of which further intensified into tropical storms. Six out of 10 hurricanes strengthened into major hurricanes.

Hurricane Irma strengthened into a category 5 hurricane on 5 September, heading toward the Caribbean islands. Irma made landfall in the Eastern Caribbean islands on 6 September and then moved on, affecting the Caribbean Islands further west—Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas and Cuba.

About sixty-five thousand people were affected across the western sector of the Caribbean, in addition to the countries with WFP presence (Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti).

For instance, in Turks and Caicos Islands the entire population was exposed to high wind zones and 70 percent of the households in South Caicos, 70 percent in Providenciales and 50 percent in Grand Turk were affected by Hurricane Irma.[1] The immediate provision of food supplies was identified as a top priority by both the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the local Department of Disaster Management and Emergency.

Activities

The Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) 201104, in line with WFP Strategic Objective 1 "End Hunger by Protecting Access to Food", addressed the immediate food needs of the people affected by Hurricane Irma in the Western Caribbean islands where WFP has no permanent presence (Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands).

Eventually, the impact of the hurricane on the Bahamas was smaller than expected—given the great geographical dispersion of the islands. WFP assistance under the IR-EMOP focused, therefore, on Turks and Caicos Islands.

WFP deployed one emergency programme staff from the WFP Regional Bureau in Panama to Providenciales (Turks and Caicos Islands), to complement the supply chain team deployed through the Special Operation 201106, in order to assess immediate needs, coordinate activities with the national government and other partners on the ground and contribute to emergency relief assistance.

High-Energy Biscuits (HEBs) were airlifted from Haiti to Providenciales to be further distributed to shelters and households in the most affected areas (Providenciales, North and Middle Caicos, Grand Turk and South Caicos). The emergency ration was designed to provide immediate assistance by covering the full energy requirement for five days.

WFP worked in close collaboration with the national authorities—especially the Department of Disaster Management and Emergency, the Social Development Department and the Department for International Development—complementing the national emergency assistance and thus contributing to meet the immediate needs of a larger number of affected people.

WFP also collaborated with UNICEF by providing technical assistance to the Social Development Department in the organization of joint distributions of relief supplies (HEBs, water purification tablets, blankets, etc.), ensuring efficient delivery, which allowed the beneficiaries to collect a more comprehensive relief package from a single distribution system.

In addition, WFP partnered with Mission of Hope in order to optimize resources. About 240 affected households were jointly reached in Grand Turk and provided with HEBs and other food and non-food items.

[1] Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, Situation Report #3, 8 September 2017.

Results

One emergency programme staff from the WFP Panama Regional Bureau was deployed to Providenciales (Turks and Caicos Islands) to ensure food assistance management and coordination with the Government and other humanitarian actors.



WFP distributed—through national and international partners—9.6 mt of HEBs, benefitting around 4,800 people in the most affected areas of Providenciales, North and Middle Caicos, Grand Turk and South Caicos.

Taking into account that distributions took place after Hurricane Irma and a few days before Hurricane Maria threatened the Turks and Caicos Islands, the HEB ration was increased from three to five days. Targeting prioritized, in agreement with the Government, the most vulnerable households. As a result of this operational decision the number of actual beneficiaries was lower than initially planned. This allowed WFP and partners to ensure timely assistance to populations already affected by Hurricane Irma, while at the same time preparing them for the next imminent risk of Hurricane Maria.



Annual Project Beneficiaries by Activity



GD: General Distribution (GD)





GD: General Distribution (GD)



Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned	
High Energy Biscuits	10	10	96.3%	
Total	10	10	96.3%	

Extra section

Supply Chain

In light of the severe hurricane season, WFP launched a series of IR EMOPs as well as a Special Operation, all of which covered a number of presence and non-presence countries. WFP launched IR EMOP 201104 on a no-regrets basis at a time when limited information was available on the level of the impact of Irma on the affected islands. WFP adopted a similar approach for Haiti, but when Irma shifted north having only a minimal impact there, HEBs purchased under a separate IR EMOP for Haiti were reallocated to IR EMOP 201104 thus saving time in the response.

Since the 9.6 mt of HEBs were dispatched from the WFP stock in Haiti, no external procurement processes for food commodities were needed. Damages to infrastructure across the region caused challenges to the overall response, which could be overcome thanks to the simultaneous launch of the Special Operation 201106.

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

No external or internal evaluations were conducted on this operation. However, an internal in-depth lessons learned exercise was conducted at the regional bureau level. Overall, the WFP response was perceived as positive and successful with some key lessons learned on how WFP could improve its response and opportunities concerning preparedness and partnership, such as

- Long-term collaboration with regional institutions like the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is crucial for ensuring rapid and smooth WFP support on food security, telecommunications and logistics. Therefore the strengthening of this relationship is of key importance.

- Proper previous consultations with the Government and other relevant actors in a country where WFP has no presence are critical when WFP wants to offer support based on real needs.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo © UNICEF/ Djani Zadi.

Island of Providenciales (Turks and Caicos). WFP-UNICEF joint distribution of High Energy Biscuits and other necessity items to the affected population in Providenciales after the passage of Hurricane Irma.

Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Total Beneficiaries	4,225	4,108	8,333	2,439	2,371	4,810	57.7%	57.7%	57.7%
By Age-group:									
Children (6-23 months)	192	183	375	111	106	217	57.8%	57.9%	57.9%
Children (24-59 months)	533	517	1,050	308	298	606	57.8%	57.6%	57.7%
Children (5-18 years)	583	575	1,158	337	332	669	57.8%	57.7%	57.8%
Adults (18 years plus)	2,917	2,833	5,750	1,683	1,635	3,318	57.7%	57.7%	57.7%
By Residence s	By Residence status:								
Residents	4,225	4,108	8,333	2,405	2,405	4,810	56.9%	58.5%	57.7%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)	8,333	-	8,333	4,810	-	4,810	57.7%	-	57.7%



Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)	3,333	-	3,333	1,924	-	1,924	57.7%	-	57.7%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distrib	oution (GD)								
People participating in general distributions	1,666	1,667	3,333	981	943	1,924	58.9%	56.6%	57.7%
Total participants	1,666	1,667	3,333	981	943	1,924	58.9%	56.6%	57.7%
Total beneficiaries	4,225	4,108	8,333	2,439	2,371	4,810	57.7%	57.7%	57.7%

Resource Inputs from Donors

Resource Inputs from Donors

			Purchased in 2017 (mt		
Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	High Energy Biscuits	-	10	
		Total	-	10	