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<http://www.wfp.org/countries>

SPR Reading Guidance



Assistance to Victims of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Jose in the Eastern Caribbean

Standard Project Report 2017

World Food Programme in Panama, Republic of (PA)



World Food Programme

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Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

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 ten 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 islands in the Caribbean further west.

About 200,000 people were affected across the Eastern Caribbean, including Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, the island of St. Martin/Sint Maarten, the British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, among others.

A few days later, Hurricane Jose, which was poised to represent a major threat to populations already affected by Irma, ultimately shifted north before entering the Caribbean, having significantly less impact than expected.

Less than two weeks after the passage of Irma, Hurricane Maria, the third consecutive category 5 hurricane, swept through the region. The islands most severely hit were Dominica, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

Hurricane Maria led to widespread devastation on the island of Dominica. The post-disaster needs assessment estimated that total damages amounted to USD 931 million and losses to USD 382 million. Combined, these figures amount to 226 percent of the 2016 gross domestic product (GDP) of Dominica. The extent of the damages to the island's infrastructure and main sources of livelihood was such that virtually the entirety of the population of 73,000 was directly affected, with significant implications for the food security situation.

Activities

The immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) 201105, 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 Eastern Caribbean islands where WFP has no permanent presence.

During the initial response, WFP staff deployed to several islands, including Sint Maarten; Antigua & Barbuda; and finally, Dominica after Hurricane Maria.

Ultimately, the intervention focused partly on Sint Maarten and predominantly on Dominica. The IR EMOP originally planned to distribute 20 mt of HEBs in the aftermath of the hurricane, to be followed by cash-based transfers using the national social protection systems already in place. However, the passage of Maria and the subsequent shift in focus to Dominica called for a revision of the initial plan. The amount of HEBs for immediate relief was increased. WFP and the government of Dominica integrated an in-kind distribution of mixed food rations (rice, pulses, oil, and canned fish) in the first month of response in Dominica, allowing the supply chain and the markets to resume adequate functionality, while preparations were made for an emergency cash transfer programme. The targeting and duration of the general food distributions were determined in collaboration with the government, taking into account complementary food assistance from other sources and thus ensuring equitable access for the affected communities. The emergency cash transfer (ECT) programme was designed to be delivered through the national social protection programme of the Ministry of Social Services, Family and Gender Affairs. It was developed with the Government in partnership with UNICEF and implemented, following the IR-EMOP, under a full-fledged emergency operation for Dominica (EMOP 201109).

In Sint Maarten

In Sint Maarten, WFP deployed emergency staff from the Regional Bureau, complemented by supply chain and emergency telecommunication capacities under the Special Operation 201106. WFP supported the government-led response, including emergency programme design, logistics, distribution planning and management, and civil-military coordination.

WFP reallocated high energy biscuits that had been pre-positioned in Haiti. In a first phase, the distribution of HEB was designed to provide immediate assistance by covering the full energy requirement for two days. A first batch of HEBs was distributed according to the government distribution plan and in partnership with the Samaritan's Purse, together with other relief items provided by other actors, including water, food, and tarpaulins. In a second phase, WFP agreed to channel the HEBs through the government institutional feeding programmes, and the ration was increased to cover fifteen days.

In Antigua and Barbuda

In Antigua and Barbuda, WFP deployed an emergency surge team to facilitate coordination with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Additional high energy biscuits were also sent from Haiti to Antigua as a regional support hub on a no-regrets basis to meet potential needs throughout the affected islands.

In Dominica

In Dominica, thanks to key contributions by the USA and the EU, WFP was able to support vulnerable households with emergency food assistance. In response to the Governments request for international assistance, WFP deployed an emergency surge team following Hurricane Maria. The team helped with the food and relief item pipeline management, distribution planning, beneficiary targeting and distributions in coordination with local authorities and other actors, while also identifying further assistance needs.

In the first phase, WFP dispatched HEBs from neighbouring Antigua and Sint Maarten to cover for the immediate needs of the affected population. In a second phase, an additional mixed food ration (rice, pulses, oil and canned fish) was purchased and shipped to Roseau from the Dominican Republic to stabilize affected areas prior to the reestablishment of market functionality.

Furthermore, WFP provided key technical assistance for setting up the ECT programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Services, Family and Gender Affairs and in close partnership with UNICEF, in preparation for the launch of EMOP 201109.

Results

In Sint Maarten

The Regional Bureau deployed emergency programme and logistics staff to support the Government in the coordination and management of food assistance.

WFP distributed - through the Government and Samaritan's Purse - 12.07 mt of HEBs, reaching over 9,200 hurricane-affected people. It also strengthened the capacity of the Government to coordinate the relief distribution of food and non-food assistance arriving in the country.

WFP also provided technical assistance in designing with the Government a two-month national post-disaster food voucher programme for the most vulnerable people affected by the hurricane.

In Dominica

In the early stage of the emergency, WFP's intervention bolstered the Government-led emergency response mechanism by direct assistance and through augmented technical capacity for coordination, food security assessments and distribution planning and management.

WFP distributed 17.28 mt of HEBs, along with 39 mt of food and non-food items and 66,000 litres of water provided by the Government and other actors, including UNICEF. This assistance reached approximately 33,900 people in about 50 locations across the country. With HEBs alone, WFP reached around 15,400 people in the most remote areas.

In the second phase, WFP distributed an additional 374 mt of in-kind rations, composed of rice, beans, canned sardines and vegetable oil, reaching about 29,500 people [1], roughly 40 percent of the total population, across 41 locations on the island.

The results of the post-distribution monitoring conducted in November showed that most surveyed households reported acceptable levels of food consumption (97.6 percent), with only a small percentage reporting borderline (0.8 percent) and poor (1.6 percent) levels. On average, household consumption consisted of 9 food groups; mostly cereals, meat/fish, milk and other dairy products, oil and sugar. In line with these findings, the average consumption based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) for surveyed households was 8.31, suggesting a limited adoption of extreme coping strategies to address food deficits at household level. These results reflect the effect of food assistance from the Government, WFP and other actors on the affected population.

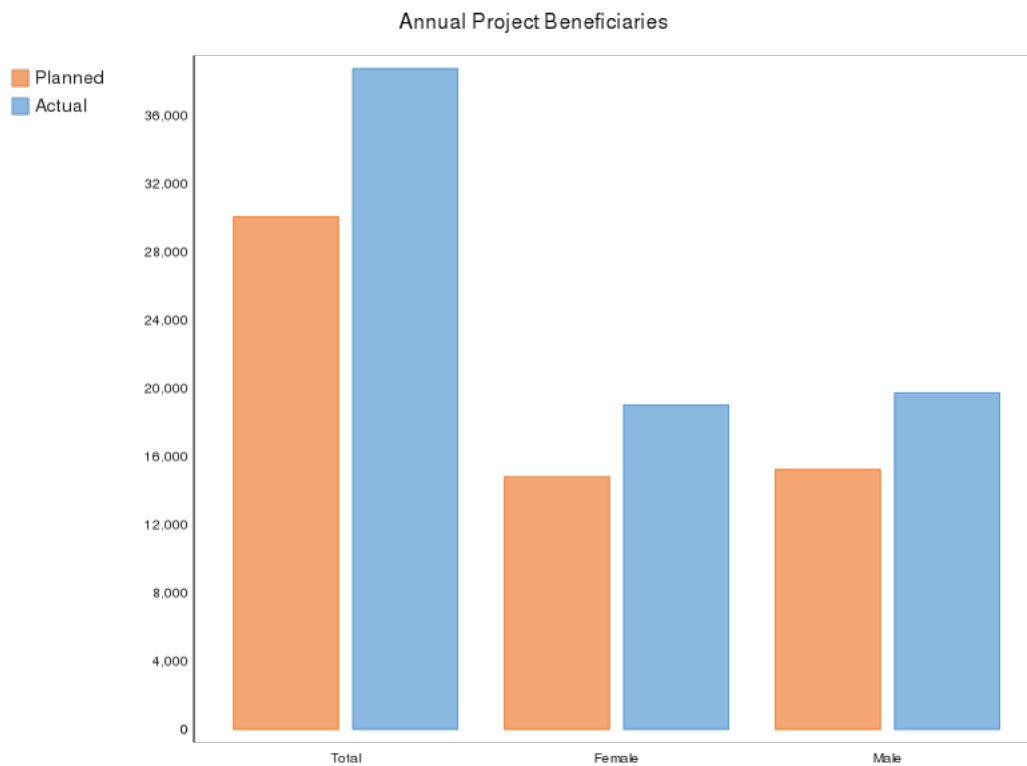
During the same period, WFP participated and played a co-leadership role in many Government-led coordination fora on food security and livelihoods, cash-based response and logistics and emergency telecommunications sectors. WFP direct food assistance helped to fill critical gaps; and WFP expertise and resources complemented food assistance and non-food items provided by the Government and other actors. Thus, WFP expertise in planning and conducting distributions was further leveraged to benefit the affected population well beyond the direct WFP assistance.

WFP, in collaboration with UNICEF, supported the Social Development Department (SDD) of the Ministry of Social Services, Family and Gender Affairs in setting up the ECT, building on the existing Public Assistance Programme

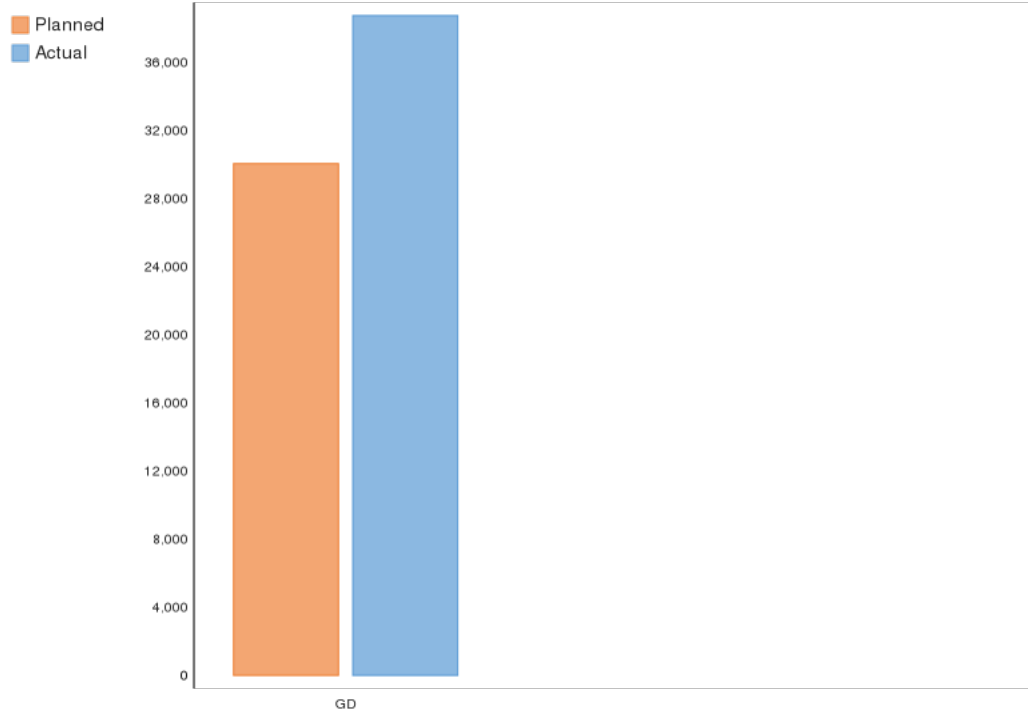
(PAP), the main social protection programme in the country.

A WFP-led supply chain and market assessment was conducted to verify the impact of the hurricane on local food markets and on supply chain functioning. The WFP programme team in Dominica also contributed to the food security targeting strategy of the Government to inform both the in-kind food distributions and the planned ECT. The WFP Panama Regional Bureau deployed staff for emergency programme and food security analysis to join a nationwide Post-Disaster Vulnerability and Needs Assessment (PDNA) led by the Government. It produced a better overall view showing which communities were the most affected, enabling better targeting.

[1] According to estimations there was a nearly complete overlap between the recipients of HEBs and in-kind rations.

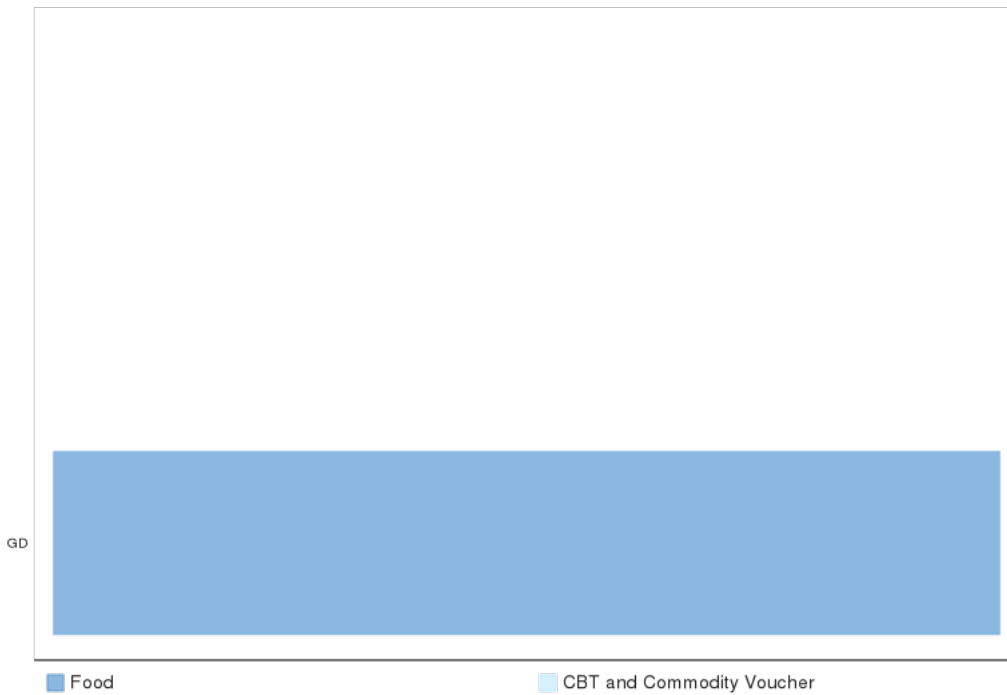


Annual Project Beneficiaries by Activity



GD: General Distribution (GD)

Modality of Transfer by Activity



GD: General Distribution (GD)



Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Beans	40	40	99.0%
Canned Fish	40	40	99.5%
High Energy Biscuits	29	29	99.9%
Rice	280	278	99.4%
Vegetable Oil	16	16	98.5%
Total	406	403	99.3%

Extra section

Supply Chain

The HEBs distributed as part of the immediate response were shipped from Haiti, where they had been prepositioned in preparation for Hurricane Irma. The 376 mt of mixed food commodities for the in-kind rations were purchased and shipped to Roseau from the neighbouring Dominican Republic. Dispatches, storage and transport to the distribution points were provided through the regional 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, nevertheless some key lessons learned on how WFP could improve its response and opportunities regarding preparedness and partnership, such as:

- Long-term collaboration with regional institutions like the CDEMA is crucial for ensuring rapid and smooth WFP support on food security, telecommunications and logistics, therefore strengthening this relationship is of key importance.
- Proper previous consultations with governments and other relevant actors in countries where WFP has no presence are critical to offering WFP support based on real needs and national priorities.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo © WFP/ Francesca Ciardi.

Salybia, Kalinago Territory, Saint David Parish (Dominica). WFP staff greet Secretary General António Guterres during his visit in Dominica in early October. Hurricane Maria caused widespread damage and destruction in the island, one of the poorest countries in the Eastern Caribbean. WFP's overall response was incorporated in a joint UN appeal to support the vulnerable population affected by the disaster.

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	15,239	14,819	30,058	19,735	19,015	38,750	129.5%	128.3%	128.9%
By Age-group:									
Children (6-23 months)	691	661	1,352	897	859	1,756	129.8%	130.0%	129.9%
Children (24-59 months)	1,924	1,864	3,788	2,504	2,391	4,895	130.1%	128.3%	129.2%
Children (5-18 years)	2,104	2,074	4,178	2,728	2,653	5,381	129.7%	127.9%	128.8%
Adults (18 years plus)	10,520	10,220	20,740	13,606	13,112	26,718	129.3%	128.3%	128.8%
By Residence status:									
Residents	15,239	14,819	30,058	19,735	19,015	38,750	129.5%	128.3%	128.9%

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)	30,058	-	30,058	38,750	-	38,750	128.9%	-	128.9%

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)	7,725	-	7,725	9,959	-	9,959	128.9%	-	128.9%

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 Distribution (GD)									
People participating in general distributions	3,901	3,824	7,725	5,067	4,892	9,959	129.9%	127.9%	128.9%
Total participants	3,901	3,824	7,725	5,067	4,892	9,959	129.9%	127.9%	128.9%
Total beneficiaries	15,239	14,819	30,058	19,735	19,015	38,750	129.5%	128.3%	128.9%

Resource Inputs from Donors

Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2017 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Beans	-	40
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Canned Fish	-	40
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	High Energy Biscuits	-	29
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice	-	280

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2017 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Vegetable Oil	-	16
		Total	-	405