



# HURRICANE SANDY SITUATION REPORT #1

**November 2, 2012**

## I. SUMMARY

- Hurricane Sandy slams Caribbean and US East Coast with rain, heavy winds and flooding
- 53 confirmed deaths and over 350,000 affected in Caribbean
- Millions without power and evacuated along the US East Coast, especially N.Y. and N.J.
- Internationally, ELCA is working with companions in Haiti and Cuba
- Domestically, ELCA is assessing the situation with affected synods and affiliates
- For more information: <http://www.ELCA.org/disaster> and [blogs.ELCA.org/disasterresponse](http://blogs.ELCA.org/disasterresponse)

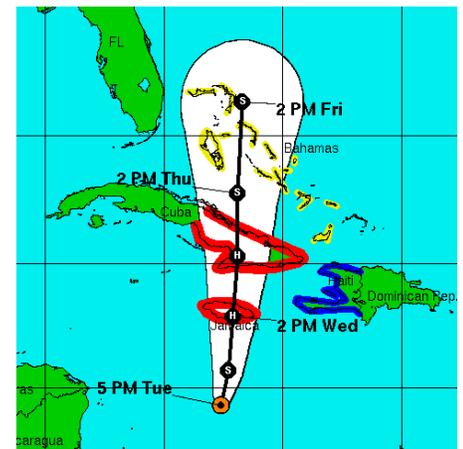
## II. SITUATION

Hurricane Sandy swept through the Caribbean October 23-26, 2012, crossing directly over Jamaica and Cuba. However, tropical storm conditions and severe rain and wind affected Haiti from October 23-27, hitting every region of the country.

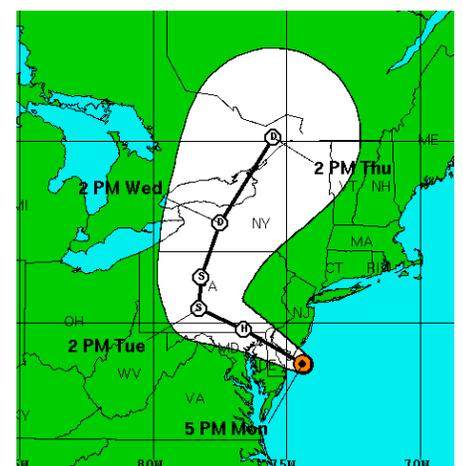
On October 29 Hurricane Sandy made landfall in the northeastern United States, bringing with it the same heavy rain and winds. As it crossed into the northeast it broke up into major storms bringing more rain, wind and in places heavy snow.

From the Caribbean to the northeastern US the effects of Sandy were felt as communities work to recover in the midst of widespread flooding and downed trees. Millions are without power and evacuated from their homes. Reports continue to be scattered as some communities are still unreachable and down power makes communications difficult.

**Haiti.** Severe flooding damaged and blocked infrastructure/roads, damaged/destroyed houses, caused loss of livestock and severe damage to agricultural fields. Evacuations have taken place in risk-prone zones and certain camps for Internally Displaced People. New outbreaks of cholera have been reported and more are expected in the coming days. There have been 52 confirmed deaths and 17,742 people evacuated into provisional shelters.



*Path of Hurricane Sandy (Oct. 23, 2012)*



*Path of Hurricane Sandy (Oct. 29, 2012)*

These effects are heightened as Tropical Storm Isaac struck Haiti in late August 2012 and the country has far from recovered. Food security is already highly threatened by the damages of Isaac. This is all taking place in the midst of a Haiti still recovering from the 2010 earthquake. Cholera still prevails in the country and there are risks of outbreaks in the days and weeks after the impact of the hurricanes. Livelihoods in highly vulnerable rural areas have been lost, and the affected communities have limited capacity to recover without external support.

**Cuba.** Hurricane Sandy hit Cuba on October 24 leaving 11 people dead. A total of 343,230 people were evacuated, 328,881 to private houses with relatives and neighbors and 14,349 to shelter centers. Many houses have partial or complete damage in roofs, walls and windows. The Cuban meteorological institute forecasted strong winds, heavy rain, flooding and sea surges of up to 24-foot high over the provinces of Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, Las Tunas, Camaguey and Sancti Spiritus. These are very vulnerable provinces and there is a concern that already wet soil will become over-saturated.

People in vulnerable areas have been evacuated with special protection being provided to vulnerable populations including the sick, disabled and elderly. Emergency food has been transported to the area. Water-quality control, monitoring of dam levels, and evaluation of vulnerable houses and infrastructure, is also being conducted. The network of the health system has been also activated. There is a need for food, water, non-food items and psychological assistance.

**Northeastern US.** Hurricane Sandy made landfall in New Jersey on October 29, leaving behind a trail of destruction, floods, and power outages for millions of people across the northeast United States. The effects have been felt from the Carolinas to Maine, with effects being felt as far west as Ohio and Michigan. The major damages were along the coast in New Jersey and New York. Over 3.7 million people are still without power and 15,797 people are still in shelters. With rivers still cresting and heavy snows beginning to melt, the full extent of flooding also may not be known yet.

### III. COORDINATED RESPONSE

The ELCA is working both here at home and with international companions to meet the immediate needs of those affected as well as working to plan for long-term recovery. Thanks to generous gifts of ELCA members, we will be able to continue to support the efforts of companions in the Caribbean and our affiliates here at home. Also, through the generous gifts of time and resources we will be helping provide volunteers to meet the needs of our domestic response and continued recovery.

**Haiti.** Working through our membership in The Lutheran World Federation and with our companion the Lutheran Church in Haiti, the ELCA is working to drain the excess water to help reduce the risk of cholera outbreaks. The ELCA has had a strong presence in Haiti since the devastating earthquake of 2010. One area of this work has been around cholera prevention, education and response. In 2011 the ELCA worked to bring education and awareness to half a million people about the causes and preventative measures against cholera. In 2012 the ELCA helped fund a project to pre-position supplies and staffing

for health and sanitation. In this new need for cholera prevention and response the ELCA will continue to walk with the Lutheran Church in Haiti in their response.

**Cuba.** The ELCA is working with the Cuban Council of Churches, a partnership of 20 Protestant churches, to meet the needs of affected Cubans. The Council activated its Emergency Committee and is planning to provide relief to 360 families with food security, water and sanitation activities; also it is planning to support 1,000 families with psychosocial activities, shelter, mainly roof reconstruction and livelihood restoration. Four staff members from the Lutheran World Federation Disaster Hub in San Salvador are being deployed to help coordinate these efforts. The ELCA has committed \$11,000 to help with this staffing.

**Northeastern US.** The ELCA Domestic Disaster Response program has been in continued communication with synods and affiliates in affected areas. Many areas are still in the assessment phase of response, working to determine the full extent of damages and best ways forward. Part of this assessment work has involved a series of conference calls between responding affiliates and synods to ensure the response is carried out efficiently and efforts are not duplicated or needs missed. In these calls there have been reports of affected congregations and ELCA constituents; information will be shared once a full report can be made. Also, as long-term needs for volunteers become known these will also be shared.

#### IV. FUNDRAISING

The ELCA has opened a designated account (Hurricane Sandy) to receive gifts for response efforts to this disaster, as well as designated accounts for the specific US and Caribbean responses. One hundred percent – 100 percent – of all gifts contributed to these funds will be used entirely to respond to this disaster both for immediate needs and long-term rehabilitation of communities and livelihoods.

Contributions to this appeal can be made in the following ways:

- Give by phone at 800-638-3522
- Donate online at: [www.ELCA.org/disaster](http://www.ELCA.org/disaster)
- Send checks to:

ELCA Disaster Response  
39330 Treasury Center  
Chicago, IL 60694-9300  
Memo: Hurricane Sandy

#### V. COMMUNICATION

To help you share the severity of this situation and how to respond, the ELCA has produced a number of reproducible resources, found at [www.ELCA.org/disaster](http://www.ELCA.org/disaster) and elsewhere. These include:

- Worship resources for this disaster
- Blog posts of updated information: [blogs.ELCA.org/disasterresponse](http://blogs.ELCA.org/disasterresponse)
- Domestic response: [www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org)

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