



## HURRICANE SANDY SITUATION REPORT #2

**November 9, 2012**

### I. SUMMARY

- Death toll reaches nearly 200: US – 113 deaths; Caribbean – 80 deaths
- Fuel shortages and Nor'easter slow down recovery in US
- At least 16 ELCA congregations damaged along the East Coast
- ELCA funds assessment team in Cuba and cholera work in Haiti
- Over \$350,000 raised for disaster response since October 31
- For more information: [www.ELCA.org/disaster](http://www.ELCA.org/disaster) and [blogs.ELCA.org/disasterresponse](http://blogs.ELCA.org/disasterresponse)

### II. SITUATION

During the last week in October Hurricane Sandy swept through the Caribbean and northeastern United States bringing heavy rain and winds which lead to widespread flooding and downed trees. Millions have been without power and many people had to evacuate from their homes. Deaths attributed to the storm number 113 in the US with another 80 throughout the Caribbean. The hardest hit areas were Haiti (60 deaths), New York (48 deaths) and New Jersey (24 deaths). Some of the hardest hit areas are still off-limits, making a full accounting of damages difficult.

**Northeastern US.** Emergency crews from New England to the Carolinas have been working around the clock to repair downed power lines and clear roads. Still 551,437 people are without power in New York, New Jersey and West Virginia (down from peak of 8,511,251). There are 119 shelters still housing 5,777 people throughout the region. Major Disaster Declarations have been declared in four states: New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

Slowing down the process has been a severe fuel shortage in places like New York and New Jersey, which makes transportation and heating difficult. The city of New York has begun a fuel rationing program to help address the issue. On November 7, a nor'easter brought snow, rain and wind to the already



*St. Stephen Lutheran Church in South Plainfield, N.J., offers heat and electricity to those who need it after Hurricane Sandy.*

battered region. This slowed down work crews and knocked out power for an additional 200,000 customers in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

**Cuba.** Arriving as a category two hurricane on October 25, Sandy made landfall in Mar Verde next to the city of Santiago de Cuba. After its five-hour passage immense devastation was left behind, particularly in the city of Santiago, the second largest in the country. Three million people were affected by the strong winds and rains that caused the total collapse of over 32,500 homes. Half of those affected have no access to clean water or sanitation. The situation is worsened as 615 health care centers and 2,106 schools were damaged.

**Haiti.** Coupled with the effects of Tropical Storm Isaac from last August, Hurricane Sandy brought the total affected by the two storms to 1.5 million people. The hurricane is attributed with causing 60 deaths. There has been major damage to an already weakened infrastructure as well as the agricultural sector (222,395 acres destroyed). 6,274 homes and 5,298 emergency shelters were completely destroyed. The situation has left 450,000 people at risk for malnutrition and has seen an increase in cholera cases reported (324 new cases).

### 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, over \$350,000 for our disaster response work has been given since October 31. With these gifts 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.

**Northeastern US.** Local affiliates and synods have been in conversation with congregations throughout the affected area helping to coordinate resources and assess damages. Due to some areas being still off-limits and downed communications, there are still some areas which have not been reached. To date, at least 16 congregations have been identified as damaged by the storm.

As soon as the storm had passed, ELCA congregations were already opening their doors to offer shelter, food and communication services. Trinity Lower East Side in Manhattan, N.Y., lost all of the stock in their food pantry due to Sandy, yet in the past week they have been able to coordinate with partners to get it refilled to again serve their community in need. As affiliates begin the process of recovery, ELCA Disaster Response will be there to make sure needs are met.

**Cuba.** In 2012 The Lutheran World Federation set up three Emergency Response Hubs in areas of the world prone to disasters, to help pre-position resources and staffing. One of those was in San Salvador, El Salvador, and was meant to meet the needs of Central America and the Caribbean. The ELCA has been a major funder and supporter committing \$250,000. This is now paying dividends as four staff from this hub are being deployed to help the Cuban Council of Churches to coordinate their response efforts.

The ELCA has committed \$11,021 to help with this coordination. The initial response has involved the council activating its Emergency Committee and providing relief to 360 families through food security, water and sanitation activities. The committee is also planning to support 1,000 families with psychosocial activities, shelter, roof reconstruction and livelihood restoration.

**Haiti.** The focus of the ELCA's efforts in Haiti is on cholera response and prevention. This work is being done with our companion the Lutheran Church in Haiti. The ELCA has had a leading role in this area since the devastating earthquake of 2010. In 2011 the ELCA worked to bring education and awareness to half a million people about the causes and preventative measures against cholera. A follow-up effort in 2012, after a new outbreak of cholera, funded a project to pre-position supplies and staffing for health and sanitation. The ELCA has committed \$26,412 to help continue this work through the current upsurge in cholera cases.

#### 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 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 [blogs.ELCA.org/disasterresponse](http://blogs.ELCA.org/disasterresponse).

## VI. CONTACT

Desk	Role	Name	Contact Information
ELCA International Disaster Response	Program Director	Megan Bradfield	<a href="mailto:megan.bradfield@elca.org">megan.bradfield@elca.org</a> x2291
	Program Interpreter	Matthew Ley	<a href="mailto:matthew.ley@elca.org">matthew.ley@elca.org</a> x2574
ELCA Domestic Disaster Response	Program Director	Michael Stadie	<a href="mailto:michael.stadie@elca.org">michael.stadie@elca.org</a> x2822
	Associate Program Director	Joseph Chu	<a href="mailto:joseph.chu@elca.org">joseph.chu@elca.org</a> x2863
	Administrative Assistant	Maria Maldonado	<a href="mailto:maria.maldonado@elca.org">maria.maldonado@elca.org</a> x2748
ELCA Global Mission, Companion Synod/Relationships	Manager for Companion Relationships, Latin America and Caribbean	Mary Campbell	<a href="mailto:mary.campbell@elca.org">mary.campbell@elca.org</a> x2618
ELCA Marketing Communications	Marketing Manager	Rachel Claman	<a href="mailto:rachel.claman@elca.org">rachel.claman@elca.org</a> x2955
ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal	Director	Dan Rift	<a href="mailto:daniel.rift@elca.org">daniel.rift@elca.org</a> x2757
	Associate Director	Audrey Riley	<a href="mailto:audrey.riley@elca.org">audrey.riley@elca.org</a> x2715