



# SITUATION REPORT

## Hurricane Irma



SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

### SITUATION

On September 6, Hurricane Irma made its first landfall affecting the Caribbean Islands of Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico, St Barthélemy, St. Martin, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos, and the US Virgin Islands. Approximately 5.5 million people in the region were affected by strong rains, winds and severe flooding brought on by the hurricane.

On September 10, Irma reached the U.S. mainland ripping through Florida damaging and destroying homes, leaving almost 7 million people without power, before making its way to through Georgia, Alabama, North and South Carolina before dissipating over Tennessee.

At least 80 deaths were reported, and significant damage and destruction to homes, livelihoods, infrastructure, and utilities were experienced across all areas in the path of the storm.



Trailer home destroyed by Hurricane Irma, in Villa Muñeco, Culebra. Debris from where a bathroom once stood, can be seen out in the open.

Photo: Yuisa Rios/FEMA

### RESPONSE

#### Domestic

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with local affiliates, synods and congregations on the ground in responding to this disaster. Lutheran Services of the Virgin Islands, Lutheran Services Florida, Lutheran Services of Georgia, as well as the Caribbean Synod, the Florida and Bahamas Synod the Southeastern Synod are all part of the Lutheran Disaster Response Network and we continue to work with them to coordinate the response.

ELCA members and congregations have opened their homes to shelter evacuees, collected funds and supplies for survivors and provided volunteer help to assist those who need it.

In Florida, the area hardest hit on the U.S. mainland, Lutheran Services Florida, is running the FEMA funded Crisis Counseling Assistance program along with caring for the nearly 50 staff impacted by the event.

ELCA Community Development Services is working with us and exploring opportunities for long-term engagement.

#### International

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the ACT (Act as Church Together) Alliance in responding to the devastation brought on by Hurricane Irma in Cuba. Our local partner—the Cuban Council of Churches will provide relief and recovery services in the provinces of Havana, Mayabeque, Matanzas, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila, Las Tunas, Camagüey, and Guantánamo. Holguín

The response plan includes distribution of food, personal and water purification system; livelihood recovery; psychosocial support; and child protection. hygiene



Follow us and stay updated on the latest with Lutheran Disaster Response