

SITUATION REPORT

Hurricane Maria



SEPTEMBER 21,
2017

SITUATION

Less than two weeks after Irma rocked the Caribbean Islands and the US Atlantic coast, Hurricane Maria formed, tearing through a similar path as Irma. Many of the small Caribbean islands were hit a second time, causing more widespread damage and exacerbating damage already done by Irma.

We know that there significant damage and destruction in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands but we have yet to hear reports of the extent. We have been continually contacting colleagues, congregations, and friends. In a report from the ground in Puerto Rico, Rev. Idalia Negron, Assitant to the Bishop and DEM of the Caribbean Synod said, "Continue praying because now the storm [is bringing] 10 more inches of rain we already had 25 inches."

She also reported that there is a 7 pm curfew for all residents. We have heard that similar practices are in place for many of the impacted islands for the safety of the residents



RESPONSE

We invite you to stand by our neighbors on the during this time. Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those left homeless or otherwise affected by this disaster for years to come.

ONE MORE THING...

It was almost a year ago that Hurricane Matthew devastated the populations of Cuba, Haiti and the southern U.S. Atlantic Coast.

Internationally, Lutheran Disaster Response provided \$150,000 contribution for immediate relief and reconstruction activities.

In Haiti, 1,000 people received personal hygiene kits; 450 families participated in cash-for-work activity where debris cleared and lands were prepared for the season early this year. Seeds were also provided to 675 families to help initiate agricultural production for consumption and additional income. 21 homes were also rebuilt and repaired with foundation and secured roof.

In Cuba, 110 families received a month's worth of food supply; 150 families received personal hygiene kits; 173 farmers were provided with seeds; 80 water tank filters were distributed in 8 communities benefiting more than 9,800 individuals; irrigation systems were repaired and a windmill was constructed to help pump and water in the fields.



Photo: DKH/Thomas Lohnes



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