



HURRICANE SANDY SITUATION REPORT #3

January 11, 2013

I. SUMMARY

- Eleven states and District of Columbia receive major disaster declarations
- Lutheran World Federation delegation visits East Coast of U.S.
- Case and volunteer management begins in New Jersey and New York
- ELCA commits over \$115,000 for response in Cuba and Haiti
- Over \$2.4 million raised for Hurricane Sandy response
- For more information: www.ELCA.org/disaster and blogs.ELCA.org/disasterresponse

II. SITUATION

In late October 2012 Hurricane Sandy brought heavy rain and winds to the Caribbean and northeastern United States. The path of damage was wide and in many areas intense with flooding, wind damage, heavy storm surges and a shortage of clean water in many regions. The hardest hit areas were in Haiti, Cuba, eastern New York and eastern New Jersey.

In the months since the initial impact of Sandy, much progress has been made and many individuals and communities have stepped forward as leaders within their local responses. Along with them many across the country and around the world have been moved to support this work. Within our work these acts are continual signs of the Spirit active among us that no disaster could ever overcome.

Northeastern US. Twelve states (Conn., Del., Md., Mass., N.H., N.Y., N.J., Ohio, Pa., R.I., W.Va., Va.) and the District of Columbia have received major disaster declarations making them eligible for federal funding to repair infrastructure. Of these states, five (Conn., Md., N.Y., N.J., R.I.) were approved for individual assistance, which helps those whose property was damaged beyond the coverage of their insurance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved over \$1.2 billion in aid to help individuals affected by Sandy. Of these the overwhelming majority are in New York (71 percent) and New Jersey (28 percent).

Cuba. Sandy hit the country as a category two hurricane on Oct. 25, 2012, and affected the country with heavy winds and rains for three days. The hardest hit province was Santiago de Cuba. 58,000 homes were destroyed

The Rule of 10

A helpful tool in determining the length of a disaster response is known as the "Rule of 10." The rule states that as you move through the first three phases of disaster response – the incident to the immediate response to the recovery – the average individual or community will take 10 times longer to move through it.

For Sandy, most people were in the incident phase for two weeks (14 days). This means the average length of immediate response would be 140 days (4.7 months) and the average length of recovery would be 1400 days (3.8 years). For communities and individuals more heavily hit these numbers will be even longer.

or damaged and 80 percent of the water system in the country was impacted. In total 890,000 Cubans were affected by the hurricane.

Haiti. Sandy brought more hardship to a country just beginning to recover from the effects of Tropical Storm Isaac in August 2012. In total Sandy affected 1.8 million Haitians, flooding or destroying 15,000 homes. One of the major effects was a spike in cholera cases after the hurricane, with over 1,000 cases reported. This is also heightened because 22 cholera treatment centers were destroyed by the heavy winds and rains.

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 \$2.4 million has been given for our Hurricane Sandy response work. With these gifts we have been able 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 are able to help provide volunteers to meet the needs of our domestic response and continued recovery.

Northeastern U.S. From Nov. 30-Dec. 1, leaders of the ELCA and a delegation of church leaders representing The Lutheran World Federation traveled together to areas of the United States impacted by Hurricane Sandy. The leaders met with about 200 ELCA members, pastors and residents, particularly in New Jersey and New York as they surveyed the destruction and damage of ELCA church buildings and residential homes. This historic event was a true sign of shared accompaniment between this church and our global companions.

The ELCA, through Lutheran Disaster Response, is helping fund the volunteer management, case management and long-term recovery work of our affiliates and synods in New Jersey and New York. Also, though some congregations have sustained physical damages, all congregations in the region have experienced the effects of Sandy. Through The Lutheran World Federation delegation and the continuous work of our local affiliates and a multitude of pastors, lay leaders and parishioners, this church has continued to minister both to these congregations and also through them, to their wider communities.

Cuba. An assessment team from The Lutheran World Federation Emergency Hub in San Salvador worked with the Cuban Council of Churches to create an appeal and planned response. The focus will be in Santiago de Cuba and Holguin and will provide food security and psychosocial support for 210 families, water and sanitation for 690 families, and shelter for 349 families. The ELCA has been a major supporter of the Emergency Hubs and gave \$11,081 to fund the assessment team.

Haiti. The ELCA has a strong presence in Haiti through our membership in The Lutheran World Federation and in partnership with our companion, the Lutheran Church in Haiti. The overall response is to both the effects of Tropical Storm Isaac and Hurricane Sandy. The Lutheran World Federation response is focused on livelihood assistance for 1,480 families, cholera prevention for 6,500 families, education and counseling for 3,900 people, and the restocking of emergency hygiene kits (7,500 people) and plastic sheeting (600 people) for vulnerable communities that become inaccessible in times of disaster. The Lutheran Church in Haiti is focusing its work on continued cholera prevention, an area it has taken a lead in since the first outbreaks following the earthquake in January 2010. The ELCA has committed \$115,000 to the continued cholera work of the Lutheran Church in Haiti.

IV. FUNDRAISING

The ELCA is receiving direct contributions to Hurricane Sandy for the response efforts to this disaster, as well as specific donations for areas of the U.S. and Caribbean. One hundred 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
- 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 and blogs.ELCA.org/disasterresponse.

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