



**Final Report on Distribution of Standard Water-Survival and Water Survivor Box Aid**  
Grand Bahama Island, Commonwealth of the Bahamas  
Gifts-in-Kind Distribution and Utilization  
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## Introduction

### Background of the Disaster

Hurricane Dorian made landfall at Elbow Cay, Abaco Island in the Commonwealth of Bahamas on Sunday, September 1, 2019, at approximately 12:40 p.m. As a Category 5 hurricane, Dorian had winds of 185 miles per hour, gusts up to 220 mph and storm surges as high as 23 feet. The strongest hurricane to ever make landfall in the Bahamas, the storm hit on September 1, stalled over the islands, and remained for two days. Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency notes: Hurricane Dorian affected the north-western Bahama islands for an approximate total of 68 hours, with the southern eye-wall planted over Grand Bahama for about 30 hours. The unpredictability and unprecedented nature of this hurricane was record-making.<sup>1</sup> More than 76,000 people have been affected by Hurricane Dorian, while according to Government of Bahamas, there have been at least 70 deaths and many people are still missing.



*International Medical Corps' Emergency Response Team surveying the devastation after Hurricane Dorian.*

After a formal request from Bahamian Ministry of Health (MoH), an International Medical Corps' Emergency Response Team deployed to Grand Bahama within 48 hours to provide lifesaving healthcare, mental health, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to those affected by Hurricane Dorian. Although much of the communication networks, healthcare and water infrastructure has been restored, the water quality is still not within acceptable standards, there is a shortage of potable water and the lack of reliable transportation has led to inconsistent waste management practices — making your donation critical to high-quality emergency response efforts. The Emergency Response Team has distributed 139 of the standard water-survival boxes to households in Nassau, Grand Bahama and Abaco Islands so far, stored 60 standard water-survival and 40 water survivor boxes with the MoH to prepare for future crises, kept one to use for training in Grand Bahama, and plans to distribute another 60 boxes to households on Grand Bahama and Nassau Islands by the end of February 2020. Additionally, team members trained 87 healthcare staff and community members on routine maintenance and operation of the kits. The donated WASH supplies, including the solar power kits, will help local healthcare providers to keep doors open during and after future crises – enabling access for vulnerable people to lifesaving medical, such as insulin storage and ECG usage, and WASH services in response to the next emergency. Through the delivery of standard water-survival and water survivor boxes, International Medical Corps has enabled access to the basic needs of WASH for 473 men, women and children, with a further 204 total people expected to be reached by the of February 2020.

### International Medical Corps Responds: Partnering with Water Survival Box Limited and Rotary International

In response to the devastation of Hurricane Dorian, Water Survival Box Limited and Rotary International, International Medical Corps collaborated to distribute 200 standard water-survival boxes and 100 water survivor boxes to provide critically-needed WASH support for Grand Bahama, Marsh Harbour on Abaco Island and Nassau Islands.

### Arrival of the Standard-Water Survival and Water Survivor Boxes

On November 4, 2019, International Medical Corps, in collaboration with the MoH, received 200 standard water-survival boxes and 100 water survivor boxes at the Nassau Port from Rotary International and Water Survival Box Limited to support its emergency response efforts.

### Local Needs Assessment

<sup>1</sup> CDEMA. *Situation Reports*. Retrieved on 5 September 2019, from: <https://www.cdema.org/news-centre/situation-reports/1963-cdema-situation-report-6-hurricane-dorian-as-of-6-00pm-ast-on-september-5th-2019>

In Grand Bahama, in coordination with the Public Hospital Authorities (PHA), International Medical Corps' teams selected health facilities based on the recommendations from PHA where they were identified as the clinics with the greatest number of affected households and those that were most in need. Additionally, International Medical Corps' teams planned to distribute the standard water-survival and water survivor boxes to vulnerable groups, including to pregnant and nursing women, people with disabilities and older adults, who may have specialized needs for WASH after a disaster, particularly in terms of access to safe water for drinking, cooking and household hygiene.



*Receipt of the water boxes and loading on the truck for storage and distribution.*

## Organization of the Distribution

### Phase One: Logistics and Partnership with the MoH



managed the distribution of the 200

*International Medical Corps' team unloading the water boxes for distribution at Eight Mile Rock Clinic.*

International Medical Corps and the MoH received the 200 standard water-survival and 100 water survivor boxes at the Nassau Port. Prior to distribution, teams arranged for the completion of an acknowledgement form detailing the content of the box (see Annex 1). Then, the MoH stored 60 water-survival boxes and 40 water survivor boxes in their warehouse on Nassau to prepare for future crises and hurricane seasons following the completion of the required paperwork. The MoH staff then arranged for 240 boxes to be brought back to the port and shipped by boat to Freeport, Grand Bahama.

Once in Freeport, International Medical Corps received, stored and remaining water boxes. Here, teams distributed 79 standard water-survival boxes to the pre-selected vulnerable households through healthcare clinics. Additionally, International Medical Corps will distribute 60 water survivor and 20 standard water-survival boxes in January and February for the residents and health staff, who also lost their personal properties, in High

Rock and Freeport who have not yet received any boxes. For to the standard water-survival boxes meant for Marsh Harbour on Abaco Island, the MoH transported 40 boxes from their Nassau warehouse by boat to where they were distributed by medical centers. Finally, the International Medical Corps' team kept one box to use for future trainings on Grand Bahama Island.

### Phase Two: Increasing Knowledge and Skills Through Training

In November 2019, International Medical Corps' WASH specialist conducted a training of the trainers for eight MoH Staff, four males and four females, using two methodologies to present the training contents to the participants: a presentation of WASH-relate topics and a hands-on demonstration that covered the installation, operation and maintenance of the filter. In Grand Bahama, the briefing and training were attended by representatives from PHA and International Medical Corps distribution team. Following the training, the newly trained staff members have increased awareness for 79 community members so far. The training covered the following topics:



*WASH Specialist facilitating the training with MoH staff in Nassau.*

**1. Introduction to the Family Filter:** The family filter was introduced participants by the newly trained MoH staff, including its capability to produce clean drinking water from biologically contaminated water through the removal of pathogens down to 0.01 microns. As well as the production of safe drinking water at the rate of 23.8 gallons of water per hour for the family filter and 79.4 gallons of water per hour for the community filter. The trainers also noted that the filter requires no spare parts, cartridge or electricity for the entirety of its functioning life of at least six years.



*WASH Specialist and Team Leader facilitating the training at Pearce Plaza Clinic.*

**2. Installation of the Filter:** Participants were shown the waterproof user manual for the filter. The filter was removed from its packaging and mounted to a water storage container as per the instructions. The participants filled the water container approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  full of water from the faucets of the MOH and mixed with earth collected from within the vicinity of the ministry to ensure that the water was contaminated for the demonstration.



*MoH trainees assisting the WASH specialist filling up box with water.*

**3. Routine Operation and Maintenance of the Family filter:** With the water storage container  $\frac{1}{4}$  full, the filter produced safe drinking water out of biologically contaminated water. Participants were also trained on the daily routine cleaning of the pre-filter as well as back washing of the family filter.



*WASH specialist showing the dirty water to be filtered during the demonstration.*

### Phase Three: Details of the Distribution

A distribution plan and training schedule for the recipients was created in coordination with the MoH wherein:

- 40 water survivor and 60 standard water-survival boxes will remain with the MoH in Nassau as contingency stock for future disasters;
- 79 standard water-survival boxes were to be distributed in Grand Bahama;
- 40 standard water-survival boxes were to be distributed to Marsh Harbour in Abaco;
- One standard water-survival box will be kept by International Medical Corps' teams for demonstration on Grand Bahama;
- 20 additional standard water-survival boxes will be distributed in January from the MoH; and,
- 60 water survivor boxes will be distributed in High Rock, Grand Bahama in February.



*One of the training participants getting water from the filter.*

#### Phase Four: Distribution of the Standard Water-Survival and Water Survivor Boxes

International Medical Corps and the MoH facilitated training for the staff from four health facilities on Grand Bahama Island: Eight Mile Rock, High Rock, Pearce Plaza Clinic and Hawksbill Clinic. Following the training, the teams distributed the water boxes and for those who had no vehicles, the boxes were delivered to their houses.

In December 2019, three members of International Medical Corps' team, a WASH Specialist, Health Officer and Logistics Officer, visited Marsh Harbour to distributed the boxes and facilitate training for Marsh Harbour Health Clinic management and staff. As mentioned above, the receipt and transportation of the boxes in Nassau were done in close collaboration with MoH; while in Grand Bahamas, representatives from PHA assisted International Medical Corps in identifying recipients and organizing the training. For additional details of the distribution, including beneficiaries and locations, please see Tables 1 below.



*Briefing and orientation for the water box distribution team composed of International Medical Corps staff and representatives from the Public Hospitals Authority.*

**Table 1: Water Box Distribution**

| Type of Box                          | MoH on Nassau Island | Freeport and High Rock on Grand Bahama Island | Marsh Harbour Clinic on Abaco |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Standard Water-Survival Boxes</b> | 60                   | 100   | 40                            |
| <b>Water Survivor Boxes</b>          | 40                   | 60  | 0                             |



*Water box demonstration and distribution in Freeport, Grand Bahama and Marsh Harbour Clinic on Abaco Island.*

## Feedback

### General Reactions

The recipients seemed happy to receive the items as evidenced by their encouraging reactions during the training and also the positive feedback that was received when the staff collected information for the case studies below. Furthermore, the WASH specialist mentioned in his training report that the MoH, particularly the staff who attended the training, were grateful to the Water Survival Box Limited for the items received.

### Recommendations

The International Medical Corps' distribution team and MoH noted two observations for future disasters. First, it would be beneficial to have the wheels on the boxes so people could easily move them as the box is relatively heavy, especially in relation to older adults or people with mobility challenges. Secondly, it was noted that the MoH directed the pregnant and lactating mothers only to consume distilled water to ensure the safety of the mothers and babies.

### Case Study One

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Name                 | Dana   |
| Age                  | 38   |
| Gender               | Female   |
| Address              | Angelfish Carvel Beach   |
| Effects of the Storm | My house was flooded.  |
| How did the box help | "As we lost several housing items, the items replaced everything we lost." |

|                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Best item          | Kitchen Items                         |
| Anything not used  | n/a                                   |
| Additional request | Please pass on my thanks to the donor |

### Case Study Two

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Name                 | Shervene   |
| Age                  | 41 years   |
| Gender               | Female   |
| Address              | Newton Crest   |
| Effects of the Storm | My house was flooded.  |
| How did the box help | "This was a great idea, whoever came with this initiative. The materials were inside the boxes and the filter. Good staff and good quality." |
| Best item            | All  |
| Anything not used    | n/a  |
| Additional request   | n/a  |

### Case Study Three

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Name                 | Reuben   |
| Age                  | 67 year  |
| Gender               | Male   |
| Address              | High Rock  |
| Effects of the Storm | We lost our house completely.  |
| How did the box help | "Knowing that someone thought of us and giving us things that we really need after losing everything is beautiful. I was able to use the box with all my family. We were able to drink clean water and use kitchen staff and also the shelter staff as we are trying step by step to build our house from zero." |
| Best item            | All of the items   |
| Anything not used    | n/a  |
| Additional request   | n/a  |

### Case Study Four

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Name                 | Jewels  |
| Age                  | 19 year   |
| Gender               | Female  |
| Address              | Caravel Beach Dolphin Street  |
| Effects of the Storm | Floods filled our house.  |
| How did the box help | "Water filter helped a lot. It is very easy to use after the training. We didn't face any issues. And I was surprised by all those items inside the box." |
| Best item            | "All of the items inside the boxes. Everything in it is useful!"  |
| Anything not used    | n/a   |
| Additional request   | n/a   |

## Additional Photos

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*Demonstration and distribution at various clinics in the Bahamas.*

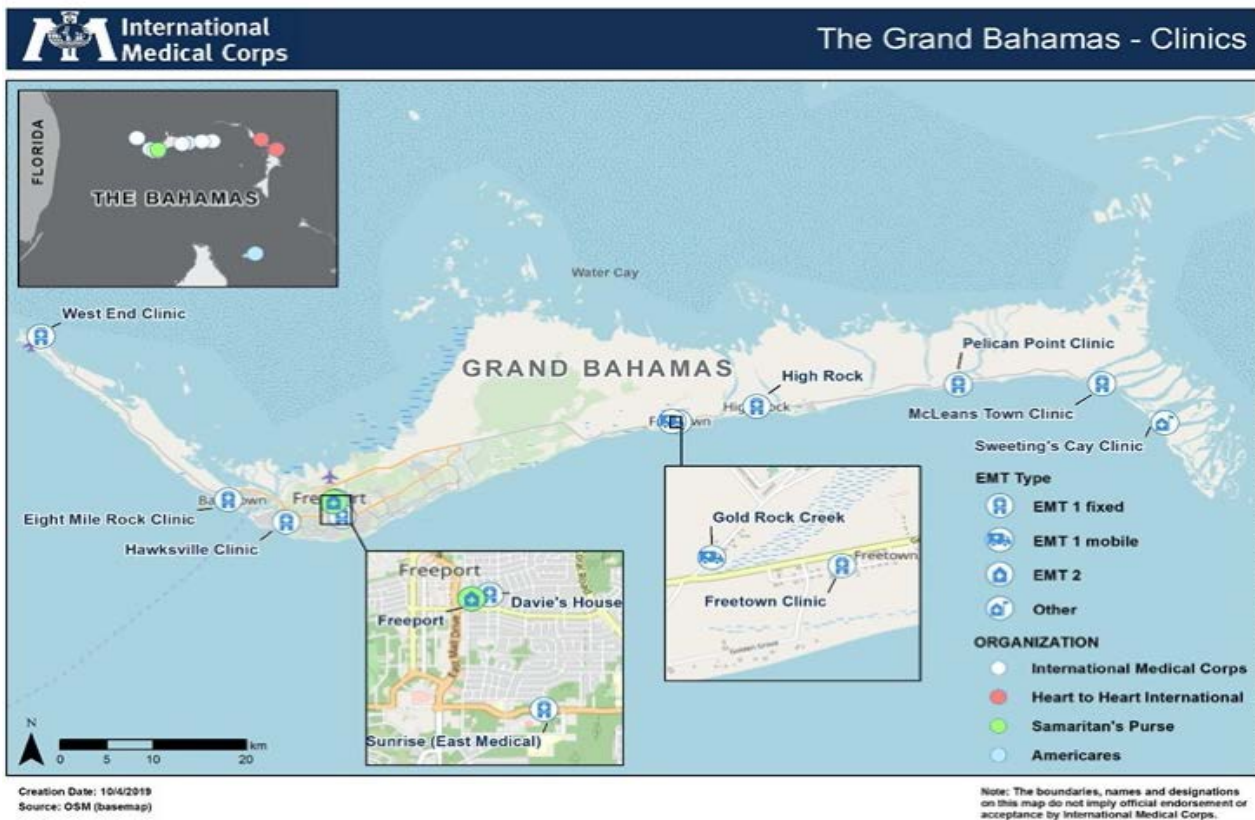
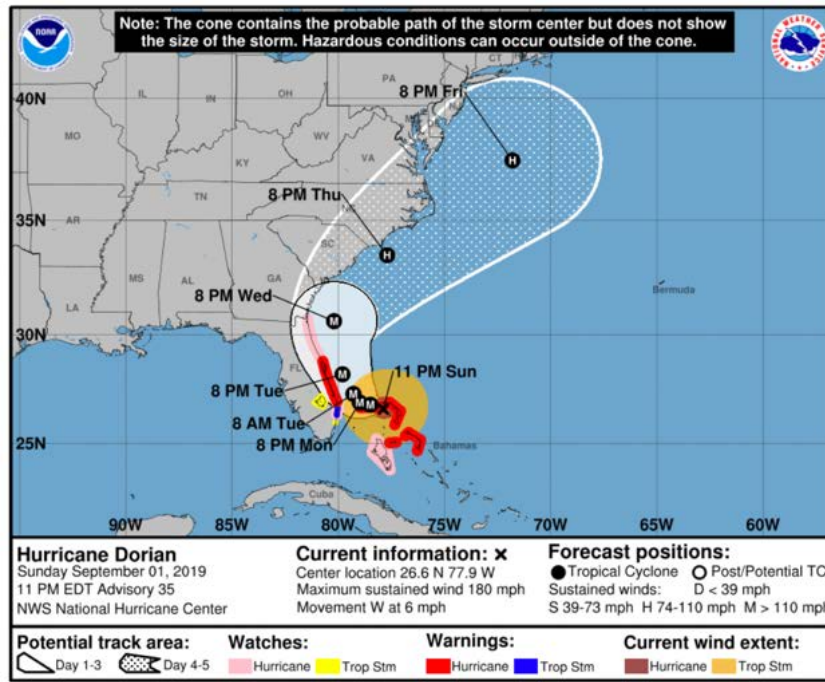
## Video Clips

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Please view our year-end video at: <https://internationalmedicalcorps.org/video/thank-you-for-being-there-in-2019/>



Maps



Conclusions

**Thanks to Rotary International and Water Survival Box Limited** for being a key part of International Medical Corps' emergency response efforts in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Your support has been instrumental in **supporting access to clean WASH for 476 men, women and children** on Grand Bahama, Nassau and Abaco Islands so far. By working together effectively with the MoH and PHA, International Medical Corps is preparing Bahamian communities to become their own First Responders to future disasters – extending the impact of your donation for years to come. These programs can only be successful with the donations we receive from donors like you. International Medical Corps greatly appreciates your extraordinary support of our humanitarian work in the Bahamas.



Standard Water-Survival Box Distribution Form

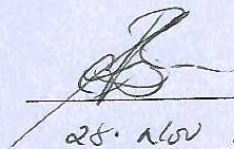
Name: Chrishelle Brown Age: 35 Sex: F  
 Address (optional): Hanna Hill E-MR.  
 Contact Detail (optional): (242) 727-7427  
 Location / Health Facility: Eight Mile Rock Clinic

Acknowledging receipt of the Standard Water-Survival Box with the following contents:

| Item                                | Quantity | Item                          | Quantity |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Box and lid                         | 1 pc     | Hygiene kit for females       | 1 pc     |
| Aqua filter- water-purification kit | 1 set    | Cable ties x 10               | 10 pcs   |
| Water carrier                       | 2 pcs    | Claw hammer                   | 1 pc     |
| Kitchen set                         | 1 set    | Nails x 100 @ 50mm            | 1 box    |
| Cotton material - 2 meter length    | 1 pc     | All-in-one (shovel, saw, axe) | 1 set    |
| Sewing kit                          | 1 pc     | Insulation tape               | 1 pc     |
| Scissors                            | 1 pc     | Galvanized wire               | 1 pc     |
| Solar lamp                          | 1 pc     | Lock knife                    | 1 pc     |
| Antiseptic wipes                    | 1 pc     | Tarpaulin 12' x 8'            | 1 pc     |
| Bandage - conforming                | 1 pc     | Pliers                        | 1 pc     |
| Fabric dressing strip               | 1 pc     | Rope - 30 meters              | 1 pc     |
| Soap tablets                        | 4 pcs    | Poncho                        | 5 pcs    |
| Toothbrushes                        | 4 pcs    | Pencils                       | 4 pcs    |
| Nailbrush                           | 1 pc     | Notepad                       | 1 pc     |
| Toothpaste                          | 1 pc     |                               |          |

Received by:

Name and Signature:



Date:

28. Nov 2019.