



One year report

Hurricane Matthew 2016



Thank you to our donors

In the words of Marie Yveline: "I would like to thank CBM from the bottom of my heart." Marie is included in a cash transfer programme, and plans to obtain medical help for her son and restart her small business.

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Cover photo: Jeanne received corn seedlings to restart her garden after Hurricane Matthew. She plans to sell the harvest at her local market.

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Introduction

On 4 Oct 2016 Haiti was hit by the most powerful Caribbean hurricane in nearly a decade. Hurricane Matthew, a category four storm, brought 230km/h (145mph) winds, heavy rain and dangerous storm surges. It devastated coastal areas in the north-west, south-west and south of the country, with the cities of Les Cayes and Jérémie experiencing extensive flooding, mudslides, and severely damaged roads and buildings. Official figures say 2.1 million people were affected and it left 1.4 million in need of humanitarian assistance. The storm also ravaged Cuba's eastern provinces before moving north, and was considered the strongest recorded hurricane ever to hit Guantánamo.

Persons with disabilities are among the most-affected by disaster, and are routinely excluded from relief efforts – both as recipients and participants. It is only recently that the specific knowledge of persons with disabilities have been recognised as an essential resource in ensuring an inclusive response.

While aiming for disability inclusion, a CBM response does not focus solely on persons with disability. Rather, where possible, our emergency programmes target the whole community. Reaching and involving all of society in our work ensures the effectiveness of our relief and early recovery processes is maximised and, leading on to longer-term interventions, will build sustainable inclusion and greater all-round resilience. Any country or region-specific response will also take the current CBM long-term strategy in the area into account, and align with it.

CBM's long-term presence in Haiti (currently working with partners on nine projects), and the obvious humanitarian needs, meant a response to Hurricane Matthew was essential. However, no partners were actively involved with CBM in the worst-affected areas, so direct implementation of response was necessary. This has meant setting up field bases, hiring new teams of staff, and developing all the coordination mechanisms to support them. As well as these restrictions, the major ongoing logistical challenges resulting from poor and hurricane-damaged infrastructure meant the activities took longer to start than would normally have been the case.

Despite the difficulties, a comprehensive and inclusive nine-month strategy in Haiti was developed. The broad objective was to ensure that people in the affected population, including persons with disabilities and their families, were able to access relief aid, psychosocial support and recover their livelihoods. The first phase consisted of two main tracks:

- Community-based protection and psychosocial support
- Rebuilding lives and services

As the response developed, new and existing staff were trained and equipped to implement the activities. At the same time, CBM Emergency Response Unit

(ERU) has been ensuring that the CBM Haiti Country Office (CO) has the capacity to deal with these new challenges and opportunities, and that the response and recovery work lays a strong foundation for longer-term strategies. CBM and partners will be working to together for months and years to come, to build more inclusive and resilient communities for all.

Key achievements

By September 2017, CBM and partners had reached 21,243 people (more than 30% of whom are persons with disabilities).

Key achievements include:

- Temporary field bases were set up and running in Les Cayes & Jérémie, two of the most-affected areas
- Team of community and social workers (including persons with disabilities) and psychologist were hired
- Psychological First Aid (PFA) training was conducted for the whole team
- 6537 persons with disabilities (54% of whom are female) were identified for potential referral to providers of basic and specific services
- 13 service providing organisations were identified
- 29 psychosocial support groups were run, reaching 313 people with 133 of these referred for psychosocial counselling
- A consultant psychologist provided further guidance and training to the psychologist and social workers, and developed monitoring and reporting tools
- DPOs were involved in focus group discussions, consultations and advocacy
- Eight schools and/or rehabilitation centres have been (or are still being) supported in reconstruction and restocking equipment and materials
- Livelihood project reached more than 5000 people with seeds, livestock, training, cash for work, with unconditional cash transfer ongoing
- CBM Haiti Country Office and temporary field stations were equipped with the logistics and human resources to ensure seamless response and recovery
- More than 7000 people in Cuba have access to potable water and 114 were trained in the use of water filters

Notes:

- The 6537 people identified have not all been referred for services, although many have received psychosocial and livelihood support
- Beneficiary numbers include family members where relevant
- Double counting (where people have benefitted from more than one activity) has been avoided

CBM and partners' response

Needs assessment and planning

The CBM Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and CBM Haiti Country Coordination Office (CO) were preparing for Hurricane Matthew several days before the storm made landfall. CBM staff and partners had been informed in advance, helping to ensure no direct loss of life. Once it was clear that this was a major event, a response was mounted.

Contact was made with the State Secretary for Inclusion of Disability (BSEIPH), other disability-specific organisations and Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) to ensure maximum inclusion and minimum duplication from the outset. Because of the breakdown of transport and communications, clear and reliable details on priority immediate needs were difficult to ascertain in the first weeks.

A CBM Rapid Needs Assessment team – including CBM Accessibility Program Manager in Haiti and ERU staff – held several focus group discussions with persons with disabilities and DPO leaders at the BSEIPH office in Jérémie and Les Cayes (some of the worst-affected districts), and used these meetings to start planning an immediate and long-term response.



Renee showing CBM Community Worker Homer Auguste what is left of his house after Hurricane Matthew made landfall ©CBM/Abraham

Community-based protection and psychosocial support

In any disaster situation, persons with disabilities are among those most at-risk. They will have had extra difficulties in protecting their assets before the event, face more challenges to access mainstream relief and are at higher risk of being neglected or abused. To address this, a 'Community-based protection and psychosocial support' component of the CBM response was developed in Les Cayes and Jérémie. The aim is to ensure that **needs are accurately identified**, and that, where possible, **people are referred** to mainstream relief actors and existing services to access goods and programs developed for emergency or recovery. This work was done in close cooperation with the BSEIPH and local DPOs. The coordination with BSEIPH is particularly integral to ensuring long-term continuation of inclusive practice in the region. In practical terms, BSEIPH premises in Les Cayes and Jérémie were used as CBM temporary field bases,

with the agreement that these offices would be renovated as part of the programme. Identification of persons with disabilities had started within two weeks of the storm.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that after an emergency, the number of people experiencing mental disorders can as much as double within the population. At the same time, normal signs of distress within a population increase greatly¹. Because of this, the protection project included a



Psychosocial support group meeting, Les Cayes, Feb 2017 ©CBM

Psychological First Aid

(PFA) and '**psychosocial groups**' component, supporting people to overcome the trauma left by the hurricane.

To ensure coordination with other agencies, to avoid duplication of efforts, and to strengthen the understanding of inclusive response beyond CBM work, the team regularly engaged in **advocacy** at cluster level meetings. Examples include participation in food security cluster meeting led by WFP (World Food Program) and the Protection Cluster at the Departmental Emergency Center (COUD) in Jérémie. Advocacy materials (fact sheets) and posters giving technical advice on accessible reconstruction in both French and Creole were produced, and the high number of people identified for referral serves as a tool in advocating for inclusive response.

To ensure staff had required knowledge/skills in the specialised fields, trainings were conducted covering disability sensitisation, protection, inclusion, and disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). A further training on accessibility is still being planned.

By September 2017:

- A team of 16 community workers (including persons with disabilities), four social workers and one psychologist had been recruited and functioned as field staff
- 6537 persons with disabilities (54% of whom are female) have been identified for potential referral to providers of basic and specific services.
- 13 service providing organisations were identified
- For technical and logistical reasons, only 206 people have been referred, but the database exists and is in long-term plans of the CO

¹ <http://blog.cbm.org/mental-health-and-emergencies-cbm-partners-meeting-the-needs-of-their-communities/>

- A consultant psychologist provided further guidance and training to the psychologist and social workers, and developed monitoring and reporting tools
- PFA training was conducted for whole teams at both Les Cayes & Jérémie
- 29 psychosocial support groups were run, reaching 313 people with 133 of these referred for psychosocial counselling
- DPOs were involved in focus group discussions, consultations and advocacy

Rebuilding lives and services

Hurricane Matthew caused widespread **destruction of infrastructure** across Haiti. The first needs assessments conducted by the CBM team highlighted several specialised schools, orphanages and rehabilitation centres that were particularly affected. Subsequent visits and discussions over the following weeks better refined the best approach to be taken here, considering needs, resources and inclusive approach.



Assessing schools for reconstruction ©CBM

Tous Ensemble is a rehabilitation centre based in Les Cayes that works to improve the quality of life of people through health promotion/prevention and rehabilitation in the community. CBM supported Tous Ensemble in the purchase of therapy and rehabilitation equipment, and in the treatment and rehabilitation of people referred by the CBM community and social workers.

Center for Special and Inclusive Education (CESI) is a small, inclusive school in Les Cayes. CBM support allowed construction of a storage area and an area where all the children can play and have classes, and purchase of materials for children with learning difficulties.

L'Arche school for children with disabilities & vocational training centre in Les Cayes – which was damaged in the hurricane – is in the process of receiving support to repair their office, workshop & storage area. To be completed by the end of 2017.

Ecole Nationale Catherine Flon in Jérémie is in the process of having its roof and floors repaired, and some improvement in the accessibility of the school (ramp to enter the school, development of an accessible cabin in the existing sanitary block, and improvement in internal accessibility to let children with disabilities move safely between classes). To be completed by the end of 2017.

Réseau Associatif National pour l'Intégration des Personnes Handicapées (RANIPH), which is one of three national DPO networks, identified soon after the

storm that many schools catering to children with disabilities were severely damaged. CBM worked with RANIPH to support four schools (Sant Timoun Ke Kontan, Emmanuel Kant, Ecole des Enfants Sourds & Ecole spécial des Cayes) to purchase specific materials and equipment and to train school staff on inclusion.

Livelihood

In the weeks following the storm, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that in some of the worst-affected areas livelihood activities related to agriculture, livestock and fishing were almost completely destroyed. Likewise, during focus group discussions organised as part of the CBM RNA, persons with disabilities reported that they had been unable to prepare and protect their assets before the landing of the hurricane. In February 2017, five months later, the UN estimated that 1.5 million people are 'food insecure' while 280,000 are 'highly food insecure'².



Clearing fallen trees in preparation for planting season, March 2017 ©CBM/Louissaint

CBM and Fondation Nouvelle Grande'Anse (FNGA), a local foundation working in livelihood, education, DRR and environment, are working together on a project to kick-start essential livelihood activities in Grande'Anse and Sud departments. This intervention is restoring and improving agricultural production capacities of the most at-risk people, including persons with disabilities, female-headed households, older people, and people who have not received support from other agencies.

Clients were selected for different types of support, depending on their needs, including seeds, tools, goats, poultry and appropriate trainings. As well as this, appropriate 'cash for work' opportunities were carried out (for example, clearing fallen trees from arable ground) and an unconditional cash transfer scheme was developed and is ongoing. This cash (delivered as vouchers) will give people the independence and flexibility to decide how to ensure they recover economically; for example, they may pay school fees for children, restart their small business, use for essential commodities or repay a debt burden. Seed (corn, beans,

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http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/hti_humanitarian_snapshot_7fev2017_-_en.pdf

vegetables, fruit trees) and farming tools were distributed in time for the March planting season. Basic training and guidance was given, and successful harvests have been reported.

In April 2016 the project area in South Department was affected by heavy rain falls and flooding. Some newly-planted fields were washed out, so CBM and FNGA have responded by extending the cash transfer programme to the affected families.



By September 2017:

- 326 families received seeds and tools
- 418 people benefitted from a 'cash for work' activities
- 63 families' land was cleared of debris
- 335 families had received livestock
- 250 families were identified and are in process of receiving unconditional cash transfer
- 175 families were identified and are in process of receiving unconditional cash transfer as compensation for flood damage

Richie's mother, Martha, received livestock, and she thanks CBM wholeheartedly. "I was beginning to lose hope, but CBM has come and helped. I just want to be able to take care of Richie and give him what he needs CBM/Louissaint

Cuba - Improving access to drinking water

CBM has supported one Cuban partner - Council of Churches (CIC) – to ensure communities in the districts of Baracoa, Punta de Maisi and Imias have access to potable water. This short-term intervention involved the supply, installation, and training in use of 80 Portable Aqua Unit for Lifesaving 'PAUL' water filters. Carlos (pictured opposite) says, "It filters fast... and in these times after the catastrophe has helped us to prevent diseases".

By September 2017

- 80 water filters delivered and installed
- 114 people have been trained in the use of the PAUL filter
- 7429 people have access to potable water



©CIC

Moving forward

The projects described above were initially planned to finish by 15th August 2017 but, for various reasons, some have been extended to at least end of September and two reconstruction projects are expected to continue until the end of the year. The CBM Haiti Country Office is also in the process of developing longer-term work. This is looking to increase access to livelihood for the most-marginalised people, strengthen links between persons with disabilities and community services (using and building the capacity of DPOs), and improve disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures. These initiatives match the ongoing development strategy and maximises the impact of the emergency response and early recovery.

Partner list and abbreviations

CBM wishes to thank our partners, with whom we have implemented this emergency response:

- Center for Special and Inclusive Education (CESI)
- Council of Churches (CIC)
- Ecole Nationale Catherine Flon
- Fondation Nouvelle Grande'Anse (FNGA)
- L'Arche school for children with disabilities & vocational training centre
- Réseau Associatif National pour l'Intégration des Personnes Handicapées (RANIPH)
- The Office of the Secretary of State for Integration of Persons with Disabilities (BSEIPH)
- Tous Ensemble

List of abbreviations

BSEIPH - State Secretary for Inclusion of Disability

CESI - Center for Special and Inclusive Education

CIC - Council of Churches

CO - Country Coordination Office

DPOs - Disabled People's Organisations

DRR - Disaster Risk Reduction

ERU - Emergency Response Unit

FNGA - Fondation Nouvelle Grande'Anse

PFA - Psychological First Aid

RANIPH - Réseau Associatif National pour l'Intégration des Personnes Handicapées

UN OCHA - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

WHO - World Health Organization

More information

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CBM is a Christian international development organisation, committed to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in the poorest communities of the world irrespective of race, gender or religious belief.