

**Communications and Community Engagement**

**Thematic Messages for Affected Communities through Local Media**

**Gender Based Violence and Sexual Assault**

* Violence against women and girls, boys and men can have serious long-term and life-threatening consequences. These can include physical harm, reproductive health problems, sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancy. It can also affect the survivor's self-worth and quality of life, and expose her to further abuse.
* Sexual assault is a violent crime, an attempt to hurt or humiliate. It includes rape, attempted rape, incest, date rape, acquaintance rape, sexual harassment, stalking, fondling. It is any sexual act that occurs against the victim’s will.
* It can happen to ANYONE
* It can happen anywhere and at any time, in a public place or at your own home or office, day or night.

**What help can you receive from the Department of Gender Affairs?**

* Free individual counseling for victims of rape and sexual assault
* Free counseling for the families and friends of victims
* Referrals for perpetrators of rape and sexual assault to get help to change offending behaviours
* Temporary emergency shelter for victims and their children
* Information and referrals for specialized help, such as drug and alcohol counseling, other social services agencies’ support services and legal assistance.
* Victim Advocacy/Court Support: Information regarding legal rights, assistance submitting paperwork for protection orders, Spanish translator services in court
* Support Groups for Survivors of assault

**How can you access this help?**

* Call **911** in an emergency
* Call the Office of Gender Affairs and speak to a counselor on **(649) 338-2681 or 338-2686**
* Visit the Office of Gender Affairs at Franklyn Misick’s Building, Church Folly, Grand Turk
* Report anonymously by calling **Crimestoppers 1800TIPS**

**Emergency Cash Transfer**

**What is it?**

The emergency cash transfer is a programme to assist the most vulnerable households and children in Dominica affected by Hurricane Maria. The programme is aimed at contributing to the household’s basic needs. It is being implemented by the Government of Dominca with support of World Food Programme and UNICEF.

**Who is it for?**

This emergency cash transfer focuses on people within the community who have experienced immediate loss, as result of Hurricane Maria. It is intended for people who have been deprived of their main source of income and have to support people in their families especially the elderly, pregnant and breastfeeding women and children.

**What are the selection criteria?**

The selection has been undertaken through the community-based Beneficiary Selection Committees. Selection of beneficiaries has been done using specific criteria so that it is fair to everyone:

* Single-headed households with 2 or more children
* There are more than 2 dependants (children and/or elderly people) in the household
* The household consists of elderly people or elderly people caring for children
* There are pregnant/lactating women or children under 2 years in the household
* There are chronically ill or physically or mentally challenged people in the household
* The household is caring for a foster child
* The house was destroyed or severely damaged

**How much is it?**

* EC $240 for households with no children
* EC $375 for households with 1 child
* EC $510 for households with 2 children
* EC $645 for households with 3 or more children

**How long is the support for?**

This support will last for three months (ending in March 2018), and will be disbursed on a monthly basis.

**How will I receive the support?**

You will be able to collect the support (in cash) through your village council, or if you are living in Roseau, it can be collected from the Ministry of Social Services.

**What if I don’t agree with the decision of the Committee?**

You can approach your Beneficiary Selection Committee members, who will document and follow up on all questions and concerns.

* You can also contact the government through emergency hotlines: **245-5649, 266-3249, 266-3019 and 266-3906.**
* If you do not have credit to call the hotline, you can make a missed call to **245-5649** and you will receive a call back.

**Make You Water Safe and Controlling Rodents**

**During the hurricane season, pipes may be broken and may become contaminated.**

Water for drinking and domestic use should be free from all disease causing bacteria and poisonous chemicals.

**How can I make my water safe?**

1. Proper storage
   1. Store water in clean containers
   2. Ensure that water is kept covered at all times
   3. Do not store water containers which were previously used to store poisonous chemicals
   4. If you use a drum, cover the top with a clean bag or white sheet or plastic. Secure the sides tightly with a rope.
2. Boiling
   1. Boil water in a clean pot
   2. When water begins to boil, let it continue to boil for 3 minutes
   3. Keep containers covered

**How can I control rodents?**

1. **Look for evidence** – droppings, holes and gnawing on wood and plastic garbage cans, check walls and grass for signs of rodent footprints.
2. **Clean up** – Keep your surroundings clean**.** Ensures all litter, waster foods and rubbish are disposed of immediately – this provides shelter and food for rodents.
3. **Starve them** – rodents only need one ounce of food each day. Don’t make your garbage their food.
4. **Shut them out** – seal all holes and cracks in foundations, walls, floors, underneath doors and around windows.
5. **Wipe them out** – Trapping rodents is a perfectly acceptable method of control. Bait selection is important for trapping success. Peanut butter is the recommended bait.

**If your neighbor has a rat problem, so will you. Join forces. Team Up. For more information, Call Environment Health Department on 266 3468/3463/3466/3465**

*These messages have been adopted from agency specific IEC materials. As the country recovers from the impact of hurricane Maria, the population is utilizing local media as a source information and feedback on available support. This facts sheet will help media remain aware of available support and share the same with listeners of appropriate programmes. CDAC Network does not claim ownership of these messages.*