

# HURRICANE MATTHEW

*Desperate need for emergency aid*



## Hurricane Matthew is the most powerful storm to hit Haiti in generations, destroying homes and communities in its path.

The Category 4 hurricane struck Haiti on Tuesday causing massive destruction to the already vulnerable country. **It is estimated that 350,000 people need assistance and that 12,000 have been forced from their homes, and this number is expected to rise significantly.** A United Nations official in Haiti, Mourad Wahba, described the storm as **“the largest humanitarian event”** in the country since the earthquake that struck the country in 2010. At least 65 people have been killed and this number is expected to rise as the extent of the damage becomes clear.

Even though the storm has passed in Haiti, the devastation and destruction is not yet over. Communities are experiencing flash-flooding and mudslides that continue to rip houses apart and put families at risk of waterborne diseases like cholera.

The storm moved north through Cuba and the Bahamas with wind speeds of 230 km/h, causing 3 metre tidal surges and more than one metre of rainfall in some communities. Hurricane Matthew is now heading towards the United States.

**ShelterBox has aid stored in Haiti and Panama and a ShelterBox Response Team, including Canadian SRT Andre Bloemink, has been deployed.** The team has been in contact with the Rotarian Haiti Disaster Chair and will arrive in Haiti on Friday to begin assessing how we can assist the families devastated by Hurricane Matthew.

We believe that no family should be without shelter, and our teams will go to the ends of the earth to support communities who need it. As a Rotary Project Partner, ShelterBox remains the best Rotary way to support the families affected by disaster around the world. Rotary Clubs from coast to coast continue to make the work we do possible, 365 days a year.

ShelterBox is committed to the families affected by Hurricane Matthew in Haiti and throughout the region, and to other disasters around the world, but **we can't do it alone. We need your help.**

To make a donation to support our work in Haiti and around the world visit us online at [www.shelterboxcanada.org/donate](http://www.shelterboxcanada.org/donate) or call our office at 1.855.875.4661. Cheques can be mailed to ShelterBox Canada, 159 Jane Street, Office 2 Toronto, Ontario M6S 3Y8

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