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## PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, **HOPE**



Hector Retamal/AFP/Getty Images

A girl walks on a street damaged in Hurricane Matthew, in Jeremie, in western Haiti, on October 7. The full scale of the devastation in the hurricane-hit country became clear as the death toll surged over 400 three days after Hurricane Matthew leveled huge swaths of the country's south.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance provides help for those impacted by the storm.

Hurricane Matthew has caused death and destruction across the Caribbean and southeastern United States, including more than 800 dead, thousands injured, and the destruction of communities and crops, especially in Haiti. Many impacted areas were still recovering from previous flooding and other disasters. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is supporting the delivery of emergency aid to those impacted, working with our partners in the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) and local staff who had been monitoring the completion of prior earthquake and hurricane projects.

In Haiti, PDA is leveraging long-standing church partnerships to assess damage and to develop long-term disaster recovery and rebuilding strategies. Ecumenical partner ACT Alliance has already issued an appeal for over \$1 million to assist relief efforts in Cuba, and is working with partners throughout the Caribbean to evaluate needs in Jamaica, the Bahamas, and beyond. After immediate needs are addressed, PDA will remain, drawing upon its strong relationships and effective prior development efforts in the region.

Throughout the southeastern United States, PDA has reached out to pastors and presbytery leaders in areas impacted by the storm. Extensive flooding and storm surges throughout the region have damaged many homes and churches. National Response Team members are mobilizing to visit affected presbyteries and to support local development of disaster response and recovery plans. In the coming weeks, PDA will begin deploying teams into as many as seven presbyteries and providing assistance to congregations mucking out as the waters recede.

**The needs for the response are great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP"—Give. Act. Pray.**

**Give:** Financial support for relief efforts can be designated for Hurricane Matthew by giving to DR000193. Gifts can be made [online](#), by phone at [\(800\) 872-3283](#), or by check, which can be mailed to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

**Act:** Learn how you and your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and [like us](#) on Facebook, [download resources](#), and share updates with your congregation.

**Pray:** Pray for those who suffered loss of family or home or for those who are working tirelessly to provide rescue, humanitarian aid, and spiritual and psychological support.

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