



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
THE AMBASSADOR

Bridgetown, Barbados  
September 21, 2017

Prime Minister Keith Mitchell  
Chair  
CARICOM Heads of Government  
St. George's, Grenada

Dear Prime Minister Mitchell:

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, I wanted to express my sincere condolences to the Caribbean Community as the populations of your member and associate states now face the tremendous challenge of rebuilding their lives after experiencing nature's fury. The United States stands ready to assist in these efforts.

To date, we have invested over \$1.359 million to support disaster response efforts on the islands affected by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DART) have deployed to Antigua and Barbuda, St. Martin, and Dominica. We are working closely with the respective islands' emergency response and disaster services offices as well as the Red Cross to assess needs and coordinate the response. On September 8, an initial \$100,000 was provided to the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross for essential non-food relief items. Shortly after, on September 14 and 15, over 65 metric tons of procured relief commodities, including blankets, plastic sheeting, cooking essentials, and water containers, reached Antigua.

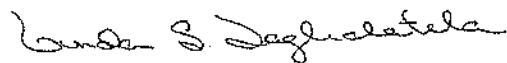
A relief flight bearing over 30 metric tons of relief commodities landed in the Bahamas on September 14, supplementing the \$100,000 emergency assistance funds requested by our Embassy to provide relief to the citizens of the archipelago.

This assistance enabled approximate 15,000 people in hurricane-affected households to meet their short-term needs.

Both Dutch and French St. Martin received an initial \$100,000 in assistance to meet urgent humanitarian needs on September 13. Our DART team continues to provide assessments and relief coordination. In addition to civilian government assistance, our U.S. military, working closely with the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), is transporting humanitarian personnel, relief supplies, and providing other critical logistics support. In particular, they facilitated the delivery and installation of eight lightweight water desalination units now providing up to 45,500 liters per day of safe drinking water to the local population.

As we survey the damage Hurricane Maria so recently wrought on the region, please know that the United States is mobilizing to provide additional assistance to Dominica and others. We will do our utmost to assist those reeling from these devastating events. We remain steadfast in our commitment to and cooperation with the Caribbean Community and look forward to working with you in further assisting your member states on their road to recovery.

Sincerely,



Linda Tagliatela

Dr. the Right Honorable Keith Mitchell  
Prime Minister  
Government of Grenada  
St. George's

Cc: Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, Secretary General of the CARICOM Secretariat