

Flooding and Destruction in North Carolina

Situation Report #1

September 30, 2024

Project HOPE is deploying a team to respond to catastrophic flooding across North Carolina and the southeastern United States caused by Hurricane Helene, which has cut off entire communities, killed more than 100 people, and left more than 1.8 million people without access to electricity.

Situation Overview

Hurricane Helene made landfall along Florida's Big Bend region on September 26 as a Category 4 hurricane, causing severe storm surges along the Florida coastline. Helene continued north causing significant flooding in Georgia and southern Appalachia, especially in western North Carolina where some towns remain cut off from road access. Currently, 1.8 million people remain without power, 115 people have died from Helene's impacts, and more than 600 are still reported missing.

In Asheville, North Carolina and the surrounding areas, flood waters are now receding but the damage to communities and roadways is significant. As rivers rose rapidly and dams met their capacity over the weekend, many roads in and out of the region — including sections I-40 and I-26 — remain closed as they are blocked by landslides or severely damaged.

The severe flooding and power outages have impacted water systems in North Carolina, creating a large need for potable water and hygiene supplies. Buncombe County officials reported receiving their first shipment of water from three tanker trucks earlier today but reiterate that the area needs significantly more resources.

The State of North Carolina has mobilized the National Guard and has begun airlifting supplies to remote and inaccessible communities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency reports that more than 1000 people in North Carolina are being housed in emergency shelters. On Sunday, President Biden approved a Federal Major Disaster Declaration covering counties across western North Carolina.

Project HOPE is Mobilizing

Project HOPE is mobilizing a response team to deploy to impacted communities in western North Carolina. We are already in contact with local clinics that have previously worked with Project HOPE, as well as regional associations of Free and Charitable Clinics to identify the urgent needs of health facilities.

Early requests indicate a need for diabetes supplies, including test strips, oral

Key Updates

- **Severe flooding in North Carolina** following Hurricane Helene has caused widespread power outages, **cut off entire communities**, and disrupted access to potable water.
- **More than 100 people** have been killed and more than **600 remain missing** and unaccounted for.
- Lack of access to **clean drinking water** and **health care** increases the risk of infectious diseases in impacted areas.
- **Project HOPE is deploying** an emergency response team to North Carolina to provide immediate support to partners and affected communities.
- Our team anticipates **urgent health, water, sanitation, and mental health needs** in the communities most impacted by this crisis.

medication, and insulin — including cold storage support. Local officials have also publicly requested water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies, including significant quantities of potable water.

Project HOPE will coordinate with communities and shelters to connect individuals with medical services, identify gaps in health care delivery, assess mental health and psychosocial support needs, improve access to WASH supplies, and support frontline responders in delivering psychological first aid. As the impacts of this crisis unfold, Project HOPE anticipates urgent health, water, sanitation, and mental health needs.

Project HOPE has actively partnered with Free and Charitable Clinics across the southeast of the United States to empower health workers with the tools they need to provide care. As frontline responders to underserved and under-resourced communities, charitable clinics are critical to improving health equity, especially during emergencies. Project HOPE is committed to supporting local responses and partnering with local organizations.

In the United States, Project HOPE recently responded to Hurricane Ida in 2021, Hurricane Ian in 2022, and Hurricane Idalia in 2023 by providing surge staffing to health facilities, delivering urgently needed supplies to affected communities, and equipping health facilities with medicines and supplies.

For further information, contact media@projecthope.org

