

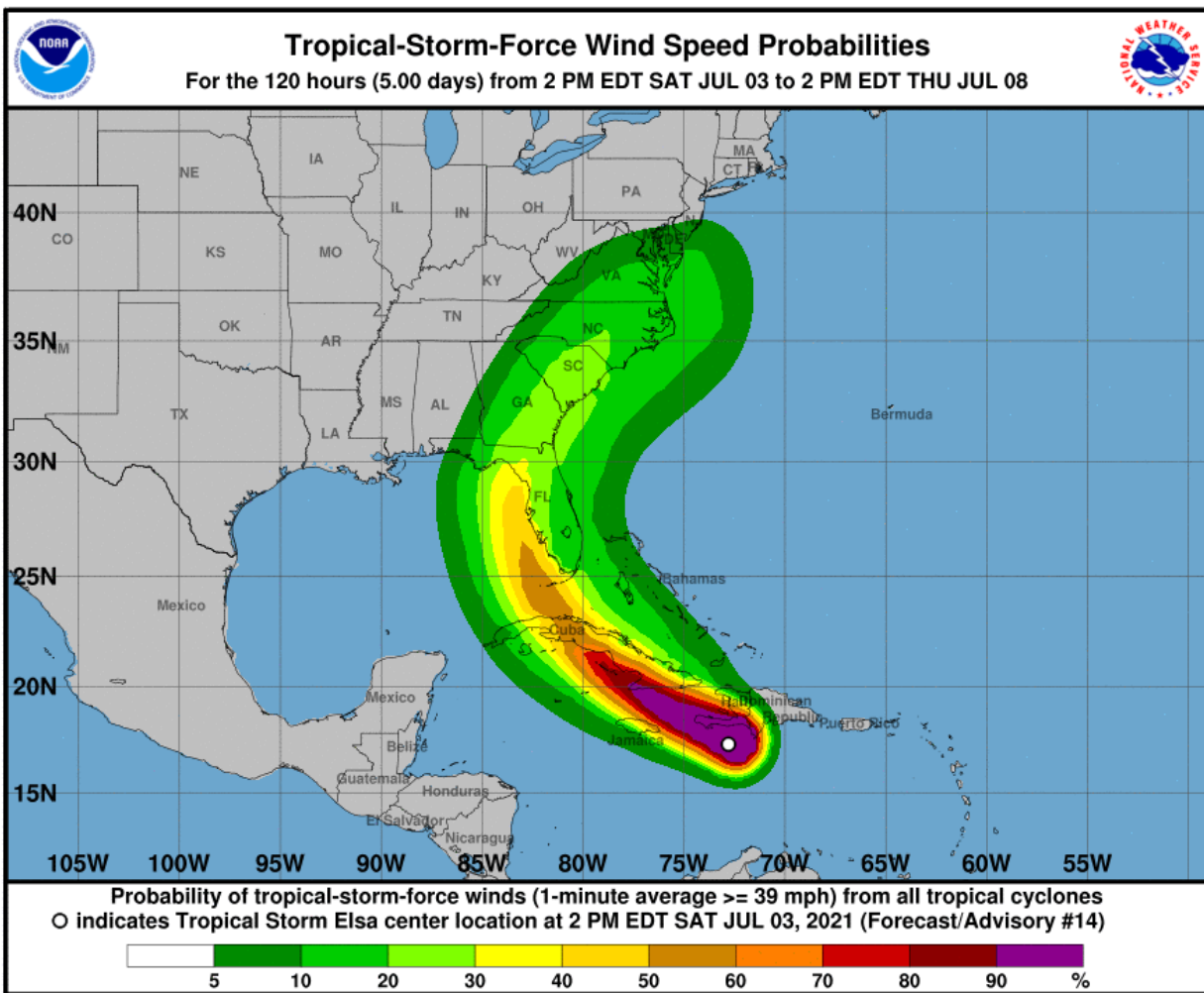
Office of PAHO/WHO Barbados and Easter Caribbean countries
Situation Report #2, 3 July 2021

Event: Tropical Storm Elsa (Hurricane)

Situation overview

At 800 PM EDT the center of Tropical Storm Elsa was located near latitude 17.8 North, longitude 74.7 West. Elsa is moving toward the west-northwest near 23 mph (37 km/h). An additional decrease in forward speed is expected tonight and on Sunday, followed by a turn toward the northwest Sunday night or Monday.

On the forecast track, Elsa will move near the southwestern peninsula of Haiti over the next few hours, and then move near Jamaica and portions of eastern Cuba on Sunday.



The Caribbean Institute of Metrology and Hydrology (CIMH) projects a more northerly path for Elsa into The Bahamas after it passes through the Windward passage

On Friday 2nd July Hurricane Elsa was formed around 7:45AM. Elsa, the first named storm of 2021 in the tropical Atlantic, arrived as forecasters predicted just before 8 a.m. packing winds of 75 miles per hour, and hurricane strength gusts. This is first hurricane to hit the island in 65 years.

The Barbados Meteorological Service has forecasted that Barbados could be dumped between six and eight inches of rain.

Elsa continued its path west-northwest near 28mph and passed near or portions of Windwards islands or southern Leeward Islands.

Post impact

Barbados

All clear was announced at around 5:00 pm on 2 July. According to the Minister of home affairs and public information There is widespread damage to property. There are roofs that have come off, roofs have collapsed, houses have collapsed. There are downed power lines across Barbados, live power lines, downed trees, some roads are impassable”.

There was widespread power outage (75%) of the island. Power was restored to 60% capacity by Saturday mid-day. The Initial damage assessments indicate approximately 200 poles, 45 Transformers to be replaced and around 1 kilometer of wires to be restrung. There was also damage sustained to one of the power substations which serve some of the customers in the eastern parts of the island.



photo CDEMA

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley said that based on initial assessments, around 177 roofs had been damaged and at least seven homes had collapsed in the island of 287,025. The Health Minister also stated that some health facilities have been affected by the storm including leaking roof and damage

infrastructure. Hospital communication facilities, internet and phone services were down.

Aerial reconnaissance was taken by Regional Security Services and the CIMH. Water supplies of several households have been disrupted.

- Seaport and Airport have not been impacted.
- Six (6) shelters are open with a total of 20 occupant



Photo Reuters

Saint Vincent

Tropical Storm warning discontinued at 6:00PM
No reported damage to health facilities, except few leaking roofs minor flooding to covid-19 isolation facility.
Power outage in most facilities reported.
Lahars, or mudflows, continue to pose a dangerous threat to the river valleys surrounding

the volcano. Residents are asked to limit or avoid visiting these areas at this time. The heavy rainfall can result in flooding, lahars and mudflows especially in areas that had significant ashfall is anticipated. Electricity restored to Argyle Isolation Facility and working generator available onsite.

Saint Lucia

The Meteorological Service of St. Lucia has discontinued the Tropical Storm Warning for St. Lucia at 6:00 PM on July 1st and all clear was in effect from 9:45PM on 2nd July.

Preliminary report given by the health officials reflect that all health facilities are in good condition.

Preliminary report indicates that all areas receiving water from the John Compton Dam from Roseau to Cap Estate were experiencing a service interruption.

There is flooding and power outage in some communities.

The Prime minister has confirmed the death of 58 year old man after the house collapsed during the passage of Elsa.

The storm caused flooding, downed trees and power lines, loss of roofs and triggered flooding and landslides. Telecommunication services, internet, water and electricity and disrupted.

Grenada

The Meteorological Service of Trinidad and Tobago has discontinued the Tropical Storm Watch for Grenada And Its Dependencies. There are some flooding at the Grand Anse Medical Centre where PAHO CPS satellite office is housed. No damage to office equipment.

No structural damage to health facilities, preliminary assessment is ongoing
No injuries or death reported from the storm.

Dominica

The Tropical Storm Warning for Dominica has been discontinued as at 5:00 pm Saturday July 02, 2021.

- Reports of fallen trees and poles resulting in some road blockage.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The affected countries present a multi-hazard scenario, where in addition to the impacts of the tropical storm the Eastern Caribbean countries have been facing an ongoing COVID19 pandemic which have been saturating their already vulnerable health services for months.

It is also compounded in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines which is recovering from La Soufriere volcanic eruption.

PRIORITY CONCERNS

- Safe water supply and sanitation problems in areas affected by the hurricane and prior emergency (VCT)
- Low vaccine uptake for covid-19 (GRE, VCT) facilitate transmission
- Active cases of covid-19 and transmission in some counties if individuals continue attending evacuation shelter, e.g., Saint Vincent
- Mud flow (flooding) volcanic ash (VCT)
- Immediate need is tarpaulin and roofing material,
- Prolonged power outage affects vaccine cold chain if there are no backup generators

PAHO RESPONSE ACTIONS

PAHO Barbados and ECC has activated its Emergency Operation center and contacted ministry of health officials in each country to collect initial damage assessment

Mobilization of emergency supplies and medicines to most affected countries from the Panama humanitarian hub and strategic health partners if required.

Support in the rapid evaluation of health establishments relying on PAHO - Rapid Assessment of Health Facilities (ERES) tool.

Activation of emergency plans and support for the Ministry of Health, in addition to COVID19 response operation

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