The Bahamas — An AI service that reaches the Family Islands



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A national average tells a public office little about a missing jetty, a delayed ferry or an application that never reached Nassau. This paper proposes island-level tests for public services and visitor forecasts, with dated local evidence and a route for correction.

The decision before local leaders

This paper proposes two starting points for The Bahamas. Before either begins, the service owner should agree on an existing comparison service, a way to challenge an error and the conditions for ending the trial.

Test a relief map on one Family Island using a paper copy and dated responder observations.

Proposed lead. Participating island emergency coordinator

What to measure. Record inaccessible features shown as open and time to distribute corrected copies.

Run the same enquiry from a Family Island service desk and the national online route.

Proposed lead. Participating social services supervisor

What to measure. Count cases resolved without another trip, and identify missing documents or contact details.

Local evidence in context

Indicator	Value	Observation	Source
Population	403,033	2025	World Bank WDI
GDP per person, current US dollars	39,455	2024	World Bank WDI
Residents aged 65 and over	12.1%	2025	World Bank WDI
People using the internet	92.5%	2024	ITU / World Bank

The year and geographic coverage belong to each observation. These figures describe the jurisdiction as a whole. Collect service-level figures before setting a cost target, staff requirement or digital access threshold.

Economic and social needs

Day visitors and overnight guests buy different things

The IMF's Bahamas consultation distinguishes the country's cruise market from its stayover market. Combining both in a single arrivals forecast can give a misleading signal to a small supplier deciding how much food to order. An economic trial should separate the two visitor streams, identify the port or island and compare forecast demand with sales that local businesses actually recorded.

Policy response. Report forecast errors by visitor type and location before a supplier acts on an automated order.

IMF, The Bahamas Article IV consultation, Country Report 26/031

Family Island service desks

The Department of Social Services lists Family Island sub-offices in its emergency contact directory. Those offices offer a practical starting point for testing a benefits enquiry beyond Nassau. An online assistant may answer promptly while leaving a resident to discover which papers or journeys are still required. The proposed measure is whether the resident completes the task, including a phone call or visit needed to correct the answer.

Policy response. Ask a participating Family Island office to check its own contact details, paperwork and fallback route.

Bahamas Department of Social Services, Family Island sub-office directory

Public institutions and environmental needs

Check which law has commenced

The official legislation register lists the Data Protection Act 2025 among principal Acts not in force at the time checked. A policy assistant that retrieves the newest title could tell a resident to use the wrong procedure. A proposed public-service pilot should ask a responsible officer to verify the applicable provision and commencement position, then date the answer and retain the source.

Policy response. Give every template about data rights a source, a review date and an officer responsible for corrections.

Bahamas legislation register, principal Acts not in force (checked November 2026)

Relief maps need island-level checks

The assessment of Hurricane Dorian examined damage on Abaco and Grand Bahama. A national storm image can show where buildings stood while leaving uncertainty about whether a dock is usable or a road is passable. For a proposed relief map, local responders should date each observation and retain a printable copy. An old entry that nobody has checked should carry an explicit warning.

Policy response. Require a named local verifier before a dock or access road is marked usable for a relief delivery.

IDB and ECLAC, Assessment of the Effects and Impacts of Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas

How the policy would change a decision

A bank pilots a model that ranks small-business loan files. Its review finds that customers who use a shared family phone are grouped as duplicates. A lending officer checks those files before the ranking can delay or block a loan.

- Record the source and purpose of each input. Test whether shared phone numbers, addresses or devices cause distinct borrowers to be merged.
- Compare the model with the current review process across islands, including places with small samples. Report uncertain results to the credit committee.
- Identify the applicable provisions and any commencement notice before sending customers a legal notice or changing their rights process.

The head of credit owns the ranking decision. Retain the trial results, the version of the model and the officer’s reasons for reopening a file. If the tool merges two borrowers, suspend automatic grouping. Find other affected files and restore each applicant’s original place in the queue.

Source: CAIA jurisdiction guide for The Bahamas. The worked example illustrates the proposal.

Can responders find the dock?

Hand local responders a printed map and ask them to find settlements, docks and shelters with the power off. Note which places the map omits and how long it takes a correction to reach the next shift.

The local pilot connects to Transport, logistics and disaster response. Review R11 · R18 in the regional risk register.

Implementation and public review

Stage	Evidence or decision	Proposed responsibility
Before the trial	Define a completed case and sample the current process. Include people who use the phone, desk or an offline route.	Participating island emergency coordinator
During shadow testing	Record inaccessible features shown as open and time to distribute corrected copies. Compare the same cases through both routes and record every override.	Participating island emergency coordinator
At the local decision	Count cases resolved without another trip, and identify missing documents or contact details. Record whether the result justifies a live trial and identify the person who can stop it.	Participating social services supervisor
After six months	Publish results by channel, the correction time, unresolved complaints and the decision to continue, revise or stop.	Local service owner

What partners can share

Other archipelagos could use the Bahamian damage survey as a starting point. The authorised response team keeps household names and addresses. Partners can compare repair priorities or counts that do not identify households.

Record the local approval, correction route and stop authority before exchanging results. Other jurisdictions can reuse the method and run their own tests. Regional recommendation 5.

Where to draw the boundary

An office adopting this proposal would still need to check its own powers, contracts and data permissions. Organisations named as possible reviewers or leads have not been appointed by this publication. Publish any accepted role and its date with the local trial record.

A 90-day plan for the first service

Test a relief map on one Family Island using a paper copy and dated responder observations.

Proposed pilot lead. Participating island emergency coordinator

A Family Island relief map shows a closed dock as open

Failure to test. A map combines an old photograph with a current alert and sends responders to a landing they cannot use.

Evidence to retain. Keep marked paper maps, the dated responder report and the time a correction reached each channel.

Pause condition. A blocked landing remains in the map issued for decisions.

When	Proposed action and evidence
Days 1–30	Participating island emergency coordinator agrees the eligible cases, existing service measures, staffed alternative and authorised decision owner. Record reviewers and a cost estimate in local currency for staff time, testing, access and recovery. Identify the funding source and who would approve it.
Days 31–60	Run the original and proposed routes on the same sample. Record inaccessible features shown as open and time to distribute corrected copies. Report counted errors and eligible cases by channel and language where lawful, plus the time from error report to correction.
Days 61–90	Witness the fallback, correction and restart before asking the accountable officer for a decision. Pause on the condition above. Record affected cases, unresolved issues, costs and the date for the next check.
Six months after live launch	Publish a lawful comparison with the baseline, including corrections, open complaints and the decision to continue, change or end the use.

Sponsorship, funding and the proposed lead’s acceptance require a recorded local decision. Share test methods with Caribbean partners using the local data permissions.

Sector guide · IDB and ECLAC, Assessment of the Effects and Impacts of Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas · Local evidence and sources · Regional high-impact use rules · Local risk scenario

Sources and method

The committee used published local evidence to select the four priorities and compared them with the Caribbean AI Framework's requirements for access, data, skills, oversight and adoption. Recommendations and stories are editorial proposals. This edition reports no results from a completed local pilot.

1. IMF, The Bahamas Article IV consultation, Country Report 26/031
2. Bahamas Department of Social Services, Family Island sub-office directory
3. Bahamas legislation register, principal Acts not in force (checked November 2026)
4. IDB and ECLAC, Assessment of the Effects and Impacts of Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas
5. World Bank WDI — Population
6. World Bank WDI — GDP per person, current US dollars
7. World Bank WDI — Residents aged 65 and over
8. ITU / World Bank — People using the internet
9. The Bahamas jurisdiction guide, Caribbean AI Association
10. The Bahamas pilot note, Caribbean AI Association
11. Caribbean AI Framework, consultation edition, 27 November 2026

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