

Former FSU star Rolle believes 'we are making an impact' in relief efforts in the Bahamas

Jim Henry, Tallahassee Democrat Published 10:18 p.m. ET Sept. 16, 2019



Myron Rolle is inspired by the tenacity and determination of Bahamians.

“The moral is high and people are thinking positively about how to rebuild and start over,” Rolle said in a text message Monday night. “No one is feeling sorry for themselves here which is encouraging. I am excited about this team that I am working with and it has been an amazing experience thus far.

“I think we are making an impact.”

Rolle — the former Florida State football star and third-year neurosurgery resident at Massachusetts General Hospital — arrived in the Bahamas last Wednesday to provide support of residents impacted by Hurricane Dorian. The Category 5 storm slammed into the northern Bahamas with winds of excess of 185 mph two weeks ago.

Rolle, a team member of the MGH Center for Global Health (CGH) Office of Global Disaster Response (GDR), is currently in High Rock on Grand Bahama’s southern coast.

Nearly every structure in the town – normally an hour’s drive from Freeport - was destroyed by Dorian, including the public health clinic that services most of the residents.

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Rolle said his team was tasked by the island’s Ministry of Health to set up a field clinic. The clinic is equipped with beds, medications, exam rooms and ultrasound machines powered by solar panels from Telsa, Inc., an American automotive and energy company based in California.

"Our clinic is in a more remote part of the island and so these local residents have not seen anyone for their medical care in weeks," Rolle said. "I have treated several patients so far. We also send mobile medical teams to small cays off of the main island by boat to give medical care there as well."



Former Seminole Myron Rolle accepts congratulations Friday during the FSU College of Medicine Match Day. (Photo: COLIN HACKLEY,FSU College Of Medicine)

Rolle, 32, was born in the United States, but describes himself as "a son of the soil" - his parents and three of his four brothers were born and raised in the Bahamas. And Rolle, a Bahamian American, has always thought of the Bahamas as his second home.

Rolle is scheduled to remain in the Bahamas for nine more days. His team has partnered with the International Medical Corps, a non-profit organization that has experience in disaster recovery efforts as well as sustainability projects in war torn parts of the world.

More than a thousand people are still missing and the death toll is at 50, according to reports. Tropical Storm Humberto moved away from the Bahamas on Saturday after dumping rain on parts of the island's northwest region.

"The hurricane has left the eastern part of Grand Bahama Island in ruins," said Rolle, who also has been sharing his experience across social media.

"The buildings are completely leveled, trees are in the streets, cars are swept away in the ocean, and many people are still without power and water. As a neurosurgery resident, thankfully no one has a need for a decompressive hemicraniectomy (surgical procedure to reduce brain swelling).

'But I am excited about helping my country!'

Rolle has maintained a presence in the Bahamas with youth programs and camps. He has also hosted the Myron L. Rolle Foundation's Wellness and Leadership Academy, Bahamas edition.