



This report has been prepared by the Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Cuba. It covers the period from 14:00 hrs. on 29th January to 17:00 hrs. on 31th January (local time).

## Highlights

- The Health Ministry reports that 72 people remain hospitalized because of the injuries suffered during the weather event on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January. Out of the injured people, 12 of them are in serious conditions.
- Around 200,000 people are concentrated in the 10 most affected communities from four municipalities of Havana.
- More than 4,783 people are accommodated in the homes of relatives and friends and 164 people are housed in state facilities.
- More than 144,000 customers remain without electricity in four municipalities in the Cuban Capital; and it is reported that 16,000 telephonic services have been compromised.
- The President of the Council of States and Ministers of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, prioritizes the response to the housing problem, including the adjustment of venues for injured people.
- The Cuban Government announces the opening of a bank account of the International Financial Bank to receive donations from abroad: 0300000005093523.



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Note: All the information has been sourced from Cuba official press (TV, radio and press) and from statements by the Cuban authorities. Sources: Granma Newspaper, Juventud Rebelde, Newspaper 26. Radio: Radio Rebelde, Radio Habana Cuba, Radio Angulo, Radio Mambí, Radio CMKS; Press agencies: Prensa Latina (PL) and Agencia Cubana de Noticias (ACN); Websites: Cubadebate. Additional data from the official website of the National Statistics and Information Office.

## Situation overview

The situation remains complex in the four municipalities that on 27 January were affected by a tornado without precedents in Havana's history, according to the Institute of Meteorology.

The tornado has damaged housing and basic services, such as electricity, telephony, domestic gas and water pumping, also affected by the power cut.

Water experts in Havana predicted that, once the collection of debris of streets, concrete, and houses is completed, there will be an identification of breaks in the hydraulic network.

Government officials of Havana City informed that the biggest damage is concentrated in the Communities of Luyanó, Tamarindo, Santos Suárez, Jesús del Monte, Vista Alegre, Guacanimar, Loma Modelo, Chivas- Roble, Mañana-Habana Nueva and Villa I, in the municipalities of 10 de Octubre, Regla and Guanabacoa, inhabited by around 200,000 people.

At least 4,783 affected people are currently staying in the homes of relatives and/or friends; whereas 164 people have been accommodated in state facilities. They could face challenges to replace their material goods and to adequately satisfy their nutritional needs.

Preliminary figures on the impact on housing so far amount to 1,901 buildings: 200 of them have completely collapsed, 379 roofs have fallen and 282 are affected houses of typology 1, considered the most resistant.

The Ministry of Public Health reports that 72 injured people remain hospitalised, out of which 12 in serious conditions. Given the severe conditions of the facilities in the four municipalities hit by the tornado, all services, equipment and patients were transferred to other areas in the city. The Directorate of Environmental Health of the Ministry of Public Health encouraged, through national media, to intensify the hygienic-sanitary measures to prevent epidemics.

According to the latest preliminary figures published by the Cuban national press, the following damage was reported resulting from the impact of the tornado of great intensity:

Injured people	195 people, of whom 12 in serious conditions
Evacuated people	4,783 in the homes of families and friends, and 164 in state institutions
Housing affected	1,901 (200 with total landslides)
People who received water by water tanks	22,553
Customers without electricity	144,000 (the customer can be a household comprising several people)
Damaged health institutions	19
Damaged education institutions	78 schools and 23 day-care centres

## Humanitarian Response

### National authorities

On 31 January, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez visited the municipality of 10 de Octubre, severely affected by the Tornado. The visit included an exchange with the health personnel who work to restore the services of the Mother-and-Child Hospital "Hijas de Galicia", as well as an exchange with the population to inform about the government measures for the sale of construction materials, relocation of the affected families and the restoration of vital services (i.e. electricity, water, food and solid waste collection, among other).

Díaz-Canel leads the daily meetings that the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba has been holding since last Monday, 28 January, to follow up on the assessment of the damage caused by the severe tornado and the status of the recovery phase.

The guidelines issued by the President of the Council of State and Ministers of Cuba prioritize the response to the housing situation that is affecting more than 4,000 people. The Government also stressed the need to collect detailed information on the number of people without a place to stay overnight to find a solution.

President Díaz-Canel invited to direct all the donations to the affected populations in Havana, reassuring that all the resources will reach their destination.

During the meeting on 30 January, it was reported that donations from abroad, either from governments, companies, non-governmental organizations or private individuals, have to be made through their embassies. The Cuban Government will be in charge of coordinating the arrival (non-dutiable) and distribution of the donations. The International Financial Bank has a qualified account number 0300000005093523 where it is possible to donate. In the national territory, the donations of resources are channelled through the Council of the Provincial Administration of Havana. For monetary donations, an account has been opened in the Metropolitan Bank with the number: 0598770003953216.

As announced by several ministries, measures to support the affected populations include:

- Thirty-one public telephones were set up to make free phone calls of up to three minutes' duration;
- Fourteen shops will start selling construction materials on 31 January. Products include materials for roofs and windows;
- The State Budget will fund 50% of the price of construction materials sold to tornado-affected people, whose homes are totally or partially destroyed.
- The stores of construction materials are located in the neighbourhoods.
- A 70% discount was authorized for retail prices of more than 1,000 water tanks to be sold to the affected people (action promoted by the Institute of Hydraulic Resources).

## United Nations System

The United Nations team in Cuba maintains close communications with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment, the main counterpart of the UN System (UNS) in the country. The UNS is closely monitoring the situation to activate rapid response mechanisms to support the national authorities if required.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is in close contact with the Office of the Resident Coordinator. The United Nations Team for Disaster Management in Cuba (UNDMT) has activated its disaster response mechanisms and continues to analyze the main damage after the tornado.

The UNS has experience in international relief actions to increase urban resilience, management of collapsed structures and debris, as well as support the Health, Food Security and Education sectors during emergencies.

Today will take place a meeting of the United Nations System in Cuba and the Diplomatic Corps accredited in the country and international cooperation agencies.

## Sectors



### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

#### Damage:

- 22,553 people received water through tanker trucks;
- The need of collecting and removing debris remains. More than 25,300 m<sup>3</sup> of solid waste has already been collected.

#### Response:

- The Ministry of Health is prioritizing educational activities for the population to ensure all conditions to guarantee the quality of drinkable water.

#### United Nations in Cuba:

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has 10-liters collapsible tanks pre-positioned.



### Food Safety and Nutrition

#### Damage:

- The tornado affected 34 bakeries and 11 final distribution points to the populations ("bodegas").

#### Response:

- Authorities are prioritizing the delivery of food supplies.
- The municipalities affected by the tornado are opening new food selling points.
- Some of the priorities are: distribution of the "canasta familiar" (the monthly food basket for the entire population), the production of bread and pastry, the distribution of eggs, potatoes and fish.

#### United Nations in Cuba:

- WFP has made available to the Government a total of 1,606 mt of rice and beans that are pre-positioned in the country to support the affected population the event of natural disasters.



### Infrastructures and Basic Services Rehabilitation

#### Damage:

#### HOUSING

- A total of 1,901 houses have been affected. 200 houses have collapsed and 379 houses have lost their roofs, in addition to 282 of typology 1.
- The most damaged municipalities are: Regla, Guanabacoa, Diez de Octubre and San Miguel del Padrón.

#### ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONY

- More than 144,000 customers remain without electricity. Work continues to restore power as quickly as possible.
- It is confirmed that the number of telephone services affected amounts to more than 16,000.

**Response:**

- Nearly 83% of the damage in the electrical sector has been solved.
- More than 700 mattresses will be delivered to the victims.

**United Nations in Cuba:**

- The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) pre-positioned 9,499 tarpaulins for roofs, which have been made available to national authorities if necessary. Out of the total, 2,000 tarpaulins will be distributed.
- UNDP has experience in actions aimed to increase urban resilience in the capital.
- UNDP is focusing on actions to manage collapsed structures and debris. Debris are one of the main risks Havana may face, due to the conditions of buildings and its housing system in case of an extreme hydro-meteorological phenomenon or earthquakes.

**Health****Damage:**

According to assessments carried out until 29 January, 19 health institutions were damaged, including: a maternity hospital, four polyclinics, three doctor's offices and the family nurse, two nursing homes and a community pharmacy.

**UNFPA-PAHO/WHO have identified potential needs with national authorities for health institutions:**

- Supplies and materials to strengthen the structure and recovery of health services;
- Inputs and materials for vector control, in order to prevent epidemiological events. The Minister of Public Health, Roberto Morales Ojeda, announced that 516 health units suffered damages and that work is being done to restore them in the shortest time possible;
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as part of the Health Cluster, has been working to define the needs in terms of Sexual and Reproductive Health. So far, needs for Sexual and Reproductive Health Kits, Hygiene for pregnant women and their families and equipment for affected maternal hospitals have been identified.
- Discussions have started with the UNFPA humanitarian response office to mobilize the necessary funds to meet these needs.

Source: National Press and Working Meeting between the Ministry of Health and Civil Defense, and PAHO/WHO

**Education****Damage:**

- 78 schools and 23 children's day-care centres have been damaged
- The municipality of 10 de Octubre reported that 37 educational centres were damaged, comprising: 9 day-care centres, 15 primary schools, 3 centres for special education, 7 basic secondary schools, 2 pre-university schools and 1 teachers' residence.
- A teacher's residence and two primary schools are in critical state - each school has about 500 students enrolled.

**Response:**

- The Ministry of Education is taking measures to ensure the continuity of the academic year either in alternative locations or relocating students in other schools.

**United Nations in Cuba:**

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has early childhood kits and school materials also pre-positioned to support the education sector.

**Logistics****Damage:**

- A number of key roads in the affected areas are still closed. In particular, the Via Blanca will remain closed between the Guanabacoa roundabout and that of Cojimar, until the works to restore the electric system are finalised in the municipalities of Guanabacoa and Regla.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Consuelo Vidal-Bruce**, Resident Coordinator, United Nations System, Cuba.

Email: - [consuelo.vidal@one.un.org](mailto:consuelo.vidal@one.un.org) Tel: (537) 7204-1492

For more national information, please visit:

Instituto de Meteorología de Cuba: <http://www.met.inf.cu>

Granma: <http://www.granma.cu>

Juventud Rebelde:

<http://www.juventudrebelde.cu/> Agencia

Cubana de Noticias: <http://www.acn.cu/>

Cubadebate: <http://www.cubadebate.cu>