



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 14th February to 12:00 hrs. on 20th February (local time).

Highlights

- Out of more than 190 injured people, eight remain hospitalized - three of them in serious conditions. The number of casualties caused by the tornado rose to seven.
- The Provincial Defence Council encouraged the completion of the certification processes for the affected populations. More than 7,000 families suffered severe damage to their houses.
- Over 7,000 families with damaged houses. 730 total collapses and 931 partial collapses were reported in the municipalities of 10 de Octubre, Guanabacoa and Regla.
- 47% of the damage suffered by the education centres and around 50% of the housing collapses are located in the municipality of the 10 de Octubre.
- The United Nations in Cuba presented an Action Plan to mobilize USD 14,391,461 in response to the urgent needs of 253,682 people in five affected municipalities.



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10 de octubre

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, Trabajadores and Tribuna de La Habana. Radio: Radio Rebelde, Radio Habana Cuba, Radio Reloj; Press agencies: Prensa Latina (PL) and Agencia Cubana de Noticias (ACN); Websites: Cubadebate y CubaSí; NTV y Mesa Redonda. Additional data from the official website of the National Statistics and Information Office.

Situation overview

Ever since the tornado hit 14 communities in Havana on January 27, the attention has been maintained on the affected populations. Priority and special care are given to the most vulnerable groups, such as single mothers with small children, pregnant or lactating women, persons with disabilities, sick people and elderly.

More than 7,000 families have been affected by the tornado. Local authorities are paying special attention to those families whose houses collapsed totally or partially. Around 1,000 people are currently sheltered in Government centres: safe places where they can receive food, toiletries and medical care.

Significant efforts are ongoing from both state enterprises and groups coming from various provinces aiming at facilitating the recovery process in key sectors and fields such as public health and education.

National media reported that, despite the damage, the population will be able to attend the coming Constitutional referendum that will be held on 24 February. A total of 27 polling stations, usually located in stores or in schools, were damaged by the tornado.

Humanitarian Response

National authorities

The Provincial Defence Council gathered this week to follow up and assess the damage and the recovery process. The President of the Council, Luis Antonio Torres Iribar, reported that, in order to assist the affected population, priority is given to housing construction and to the conversion of state properties into new apartments.

The President of the Asamblea Provincial del Poder Popular in Havana (provincial Government), Reinaldo Garcia Zapata, aims at processing as soon as possible all the current cases on affected populations.

García Zapata pointed out the lack of garbage collection in the areas affected by the tornado: especially in the municipalities of Guanabacoa, El Cerro, Diez de Octubre and Regla.

The Ministry of Transport is working to set up a specialized group to assess the damage to car windows. This would facilitate the purchase through state trading companies.

The vice-president of the Asamblea Provincial del Poder Popular, Tatiana Viera Hernandez, confirmed that natural and legal persons have donated four million pesos in CUP (Cuban Pesos) and 350,000 CUC (Cuban Convertible Pesos) to the affected populations.

International Cooperation

United Nations

The United Nations System (UNS) developed an immediate response strategy to the 27 January tornado. Basic items (pre-positioned in the country by UNDP, WFP and UNICEF) were made available to National Authorities and they have already been distributed, or are in the process to be distributed.

The United Nations has formulated an Action Plan in dialogue with National Authorities and their technical counterparts. The Action Plan foresees the mobilization of USD 14,391,461 in response to the needs of 253,000 people, located in the 14 communities that suffered the greatest impact by the tornado.

So far, USD 447,853 have been mobilized. Available funds were secured by various resident Agencies in Cuba (WHO, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) and they also include: USD 100,000 from the UN Office for the Coordination of

Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Emergency Cash Grant; CHF 100,000 from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); EUR 100,000 from the Italian Government.

The European Union

The Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations approved the mobilization of EUR 300,000 for the post-tornado response in Cuba.

Bilateral cooperation

A donation of 1,000 mattresses and 5,000 sheets of iron plates for roofs was sent this morning by the Government of Bolivia for the affected populations.

The Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation has earmarked EUR 30,000 to support its partners in Cuba through the recovery process.

Additional contributions from the Governments of Germany (100,000 CUC) and Czech Republic (10,000 CUC) have been confirmed.

Sectors



Damage:

- The number of casualties has risen to 7. The Ministry of Health reported that 19 health facilities were damaged.
- Out of the people injured by the Tornado, 8 are still hospitalized: three of them were still in serious conditions.

	Facilities
1	10 de Octubre Mother-and-Child Hospital
4	Basic Health Care Centres: 3 from 10 de Octubre Municipality and 1 from Regla Municipality
10	Family Doctor's Offices
2	Elderly homes
1	Pharmacy
1	Vector control Unit
19	TOTAL

Response:

- A significant reparation was made to the "Hijas de Galicia" Mother-and-Child hospital, in 10 de Octubre municipality, as part of the efforts of Government authorities at the national and provincial level.
- The Ministry of Public Health made a call to strengthen the epidemiological surveillance and control, as well as health promotion to prevent the insurgence of vector and water-borne diseases.
- Medicine students continue working on health research and education in the territories damaged by the Tornado.

United Nations in Cuba:

PAHO / WHO is working to mobilize the necessary funds to meet the identified needs for health institutions:

- Expendable material and medical supplies
- Equipment and supplies for vector control
- Non-medical equipment

- Medical equipment (incubators and respirators for the neonatology service)
- Bed sheets and mattresses

Source: Working meeting between MINSAP (Defence and Civil Defence - MINSAP) and PAHO/WHO; Cubadebate

Donors:

- In process the PAHO / WHO-COSUDE agreement for CHF 100,000.
- PAHO / WHO is still in dialogue with Global Links

UNFPA

The UNFPA response focuses on helping the country in restoring sexual and reproductive health services in the municipalities most affected by the tornado. The first Kits 3, 4, 6 A and 11 A are already at the airport in Havana (pending their extraction) and will be destined to meet the care needs of natural childbirth and its complications, obstetric surgeries, prevention and treatment of STIs/HIV and sexual violence, oral and injectable contraception.

These SRH kits help reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality by guaranteeing the basic operational capacity of health services, especially in the case of delivery services and their complications. They also help prevent unwanted pregnancies, ensuring access to modern contraception and contributing to the prevention and treatment of STIs/HIV, especially in key populations. The capacities to face gender violence are also strengthened.

In addition to the USD 15,000 of its regular resources already allocated for the immediate response to the identified needs, UNFPA continues to mobilize other resources for SRH in the affected population and for the purchase of equipment for the 10 de Octubre Hospital of Gynecology-Obstetrics "Hijas de Galicia".

UNFPA has identified 188,014 beneficiaries. Among them:

- Women of reproductive age (15-49): 85,950
- Pregnant women: 3,005
- Adolescents (10-14): 17,903
- Adult and young men (15-49): 84,161



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Damage:

- No new information is available for this sector regarding the impacts of the tornado.

Response:

- Work continues to repair the damage to sanitary and hydraulic networks.
- Health authorities continue to promote compliance with the measures that guarantee the sanitary quality of drinking water, hygiene and garbage collection in the affected areas.

United Nations in Cuba:

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has pre-positioned collapsible tanks with a capacity of ten litres.
- UNICEF has mobilized 70,000 USD from the funds of its Regional Office to purchase 1,300 500Lt tanks.



Food Safety and Nutrition

Damage:

- A breach in agricultural food supplies was reported from the province of Artemisa. This situation may lead to shortages in the markets of Havana.

United Nations in Cuba:

- The World Food Programme (WFP) offered to support the government response through food assistance (rice and beans already prepositioned in the country) to nearly 60,000 affected people, who include vulnerable groups (children under 5, pregnant women and elderly above 65) in the most affected communities (“Consejos populares”).
- WFP continues its fund mobilization efforts to support the Government in replacing the ship crane for unloading grains in the dock “José Antonio Echevarría” (Regla municipality) that was damaged by the tornado and that used to supply wheat to the mill located in the same municipality.
- A contribution of EUR 100,000 by the Government of Italy was confirmed to support part of WFP’s response.



Education

Damage:

- 47% of the damage in educational centres was reported in the municipality of 10 de Octubre.
- The main damage included total roof and wall collapses; loss and breakage of windows, doors, water tanks and hydro-sanitary networks; waterproof roofs with asphalt blanket and perimeter fences.

Most affected municipalities:

- 10 de Octubre: 15 elementary schools, 7 basic secondary schools, 9 day-care centres, 3 special schools, 2 pre-university centres, a teachers’ facility.
- Guanabacoa: 4 nurseries, 2 secondary schools, 1 special school, 1 primary school, a polytechnic school and a teachers’ facility.
- Regla: 2 elementary schools, 1 children’s circle, 1 special school, 1 pre-university, 1 polytechnic and the Municipal Directorate of Education

Response:

- Out of the damaged educational centres, 29 were recovered.

United Nations in Cuba:

- UNICEF has early-childhood kits and pre-positioned school materials to support the education sector.



Infrastructures and Basic Services Rehabilitation

Damage:

- There are 7,800 affected homes, 730 total collapses and almost 1,000 partial collapses;
- The greatest number of total and partial collapses was reported in Diez de Octubre, with more than 4,000 houses damaged and 400 total collapses.

Response:

- To date, 1,745 houses – with their roofs, windows and doors partially damaged – have been restored.
- Work is being carried out to recover the 730 homes that suffered total damage to their structures and roofs.

United Nations in Cuba:

- The sector has coordinated response from various agencies of the United Nations System (UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, IOM), which are promoting an articulated strategy for the response.

UNDP

- On 20 February, 2,125 single mattresses and 700 double mattresses – funded by emergency funds (cash grant OCHA) – were shipped. These items will arrive in Havana in approximately 7 days, to benefit 3,525 people.
- UNDP mobilized additional emergency funds to purchase 3,525 towels and 3,525 sheets that complement the mattresses shipped.

OIM

- IOM is part of the coordinated response of the United Nations system to support and complement the efforts of the Cuban government to face the effects of the emergency caused by the Tornado that hit the country's capital on January 27.
- Jointly, IOM is mobilizing funds for immediate assistance to evacuees through the provision of basic non-food items.
- In addition, IOM is participating in the Housing and Early Recovery sector to mobilize financial resources through the Action Plan.

General Coordination

The United Nations Country Team in Cuba maintains close communications with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment (MINCEX), the main counterpart of the United Nations System (UNS) in the country.

UN agencies work to mobilize resources in response to the needs identified by the country in the sectors of: health, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) food security, education, housing and early recovery.

The UN Action Plan for the response to the January 27 tornado can be downloaded at the following link:

Action Plan [ES](#) ([EN](#))

Previous Situation Reports are also available:

Situation Reports ([ES](#)) ([EN](#))

Situation Reports No.2 ([ES](#)) ([EN](#))

Situation Reports No.3 ([ES](#)) ([EN](#))

Situation Reports No.4 ([ES](#)) ([EN](#))

Situation Reports No.5 ([ES](#)) ([EN](#))

Situation Reports No.6 ([ES](#)) ([EN](#))

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For more 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>