

Response to Hurricane Irma: Cuba

Situation Report No.12. Office of the Resident Coordinator

(19/09/2017)



This report is produced by the Office of the Resident Coordinator. It covers the period from 14:00 hrs on September 18th to 12:00 hrs on September 19th. The next report will be issued on or around 20/09/17.

Highlights

- Hundreds of thousands of people remain affected after more than 72 hours of Hurricane Irma battering Cuba, which inflicted serious damage to the housing, energy, communications, agriculture, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and education sectors throughout the country.
- Cuba has postponed, for a month, primary elections in the country due to the emergency situation.
- Today, in Havana, the United Nations System in Cuba (UNS) presented a US \$55.8 million Action Plan to address the urgent needs of 2.15 million people.
- The United Nations System Action Plan contributes to the response and recovery in the Housing and Early Rehabilitation, Food Security, Water, Health, Education and Coordination Sectors.



Escambray Newspaper



Alejandro Ernesto/EFE

*Note: All the information in this report has been taken from Cuban official media (TV, radio, and press) and statements from Cuban authorities. Sources: Newspapers Periódicos Granma, Juventud Rebelde, Vanguardia, Invasor, Adelante, Periódico 26, Ahora, Sierra Maestra y Venceremos. Radio: Radio Habana Cuba, Radio Angulo, Radio Mambí; Press agencies: Prensa Latina (PL) y Agencia Cubana de Noticias (ACN); Web sites: Cubadebate. Supplementary data has been taken from the National Statistics Office website.

Situation overview

From Havana to the eastern provinces of the country, severe damage remains, mainly to the housing, agricultural, energy, telecommunications, education and transportation infrastructure sectors.

Several communities, mainly in the Western and Central Regions of the country, remain without electricity, which prevents the re-establishment of other basic services such as water supply, food production, and economic activities which are the main sources of income for the population.

Immediate sanitation and hygiene needs in rural cities and communities remain due to the accumulation of debris caused by the hurricane.

Humanitarian Response

National Authorities

The State Council postponed the first round of elections for Municipal Assemblies of the People's Power, until November 26, 2017, due to the serious damage caused by Hurricane Irma throughout much of the country.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, participated in the high-level forum of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York where he expressed gratitude for the offers of aid received from governments, parliaments, international organizations, and civil society.

National and provincial construction, energy and mining, and tourism authorities are visiting localities and economic centers impacted by Hurricane Irma in northern Matanzas Province.

In the Sancti Spiritus Province, the Head of the Defense Council of the Central Strategic Region decided to accelerate the allocation of resources to provide building materials to affected populations.

International Cooperation

The Governments of Japan, Bolivia and Colombia sent three aid supply flights with necessities and supplies for affected populations.

Surinam, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, China, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the Czech Republic, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela and Vietnam have all expressed their solidarity and willingness to provide assistance to the island.

Sectors



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Damage:

- Due to the accumulation of waste in the street, cleaning brigades continue with waste collection and sanitation activities in cities. In Havana, around 1.5 million cubic meters of waste have been collected, with around 20,000 cubic meters collected every day.
- Even though general stability is reported in the water supply system and all the pumping systems are connected to the National Electroenergetic System, there are still areas that need to be monitored and guaranteed water through delivery.
- Currently, 5,300 people still have their water supply affected in various municipalities in Matanzas and are receiving water through tank trucks.
- The water supply in Villa Clara remains insufficient, with the communities of Isabela de Sagua and Rancho Veloz still awaiting the reestablishment of services.
- In the Las Tunas Province, out of the total of 169,100 cubic meters of water generated from Hurricane Irma's rains, only 97,600 cubic meters have been collected. The most complicated situation in this regard is reported in Puerto Padre and Las Tunas Municipalities.

Response:

- Large scale mobilization at the street-level to carry out sanitation activities continues in cities.
- Generators have arrived to Villa Clara to support water pumping systems while electricity is restored, allowing the supply of water to the People's Council of Nguyen Van Troi in Caibarién.

UNICEF:

- UNICEF presented a proposal in the United Nations Action Plan response to Hurricane Irma for the immediate emergency response to support the families of the most affected municipalities in Villa Clara (six municipalities) and Sancti Spíritus (one municipality) through the OCHA emergency financing mechanism, CERF. This proposal also extends to Camagüey (four municipalities) and Ciego de Ávila (three municipalities), covering a total of 17 municipalities in the Central Provinces of the country.

UNDP:

- UNDP presented a proposal in the United Nations Action Plan response to Hurricane Irma to improve access to safe water and promote good hygiene practices at the community level in seven municipalities in Villa Clara, Sancti Spíritus and Ciego de Ávila Provinces.

UNIDO:

- UNIDO presented a proposal in the United Nations Action Plan response to Hurricane Irma to support the use of renewable energy sources for the pumping of water in seven municipalities in Villa Clara and Sancti Spíritus Province.

PAHO/WHO:

- PAHO/WHO presented a proposal in the United Nations Action Plan response to Hurricane Irma to support the actions of water monitoring and epidemiological surveillance in 27 municipalities.

**Food Security and Nutrition****Damage:**

- Severe damage to food production continues to be reported, especially eggs, pork, plantains, root tubers, grains, vegetables, fruits, honey and fish, in addition to harvest, storage, processing, conservation and distribution infrastructures (see annex below). For more information on the most affected areas from Camagüey to Matanzas, kindly refer to the table included in Situation Report 7.
- In the central provinces, mainly in the most affected municipalities along the northern coastline, local livelihoods (especially in farming and fishing) have been directly affected. In these territories, already affected by severe drought, concerns were raised regarding soil fertility given flood-related salinization.
- As a result, food availability and access of the population remains affected, with concerns on food security in the medium and long term.

Response:

- Despite the measures adopted by national authorities to restore the affected areas, sow short-cycle crops to cope with production shortages, and ensure the sale of food at reasonable prices in state facilities, it has been reported that the availability of certain agricultural products will be limited in markets and that the population's demand may not be satisfied in the coming months.

FAO:

- FAO has activated its Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) and is receiving US \$300,000 on behalf of the Government of Belgium. This will allow the Organization to provide an immediate response to restore food production in the most affected sectors, emphasizing immediate recovery for products consumed the most by the Cuban population (eggs, pork, vegetables, root crops and fish).
- Direct communications with sectoral authorities are maintained to be able to determine the concrete needs as soon as possible.
- In the coming days, technical personnel will arrive in Cuba to support the coordination of assistance.

WFP:

- WFP continues working on its US \$5.7 million emergency operations, which will ensure food assistance (with rice, beans and vegetable oil) to 664,000 people in 22 municipalities in Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Sancti Spíritus, Villa Clara and Matanzas Provinces. Particular emphasis will be placed on vulnerable groups,

namely children under five, children in primary boarding and half-boarding schools, the elderly, and pregnant and lactating women.

- WFP already released US \$1.5 million from its immediate emergency fund, ensuring a immediate food assistance to the most affected populations for 20 days.
- WFP continues to engage in consultations with the donor community to mobilize the remaining US \$4.2 million needed to cover the rations planned for four months.



Shelter and Early Recovery

Damage:

HOUSING

- Media reports quantify the number of homes damaged from Havana to Guantanamo at more than 104,000 (see Annex of current data on housing damaged by province).

Response:

ELECTRICITY

- Recovery work continues at the Antonio Guiteras Thermoelectric Plant with the extraction of some 10,000 cubic meters of debris so far.

UNDP

- The distribution of 9,823 pre-positioned tarpaulins continues. An additional 6,300 tarpaulins and 2,470 mattresses are being purchased.



Health

Damage:

- José Betancourt Lavastida, Director of Defense and Civil Defense of the Ministry of Health, stated during a press conference that 793 health facilities have been affected, including 61 hospitals, 117 basic health care centers, 82 social institutions, 301 Family Doctor's Offices, and 104 pharmacies, as well as 102 other institutions such as blood banks, optics, stomatology clinics, warehouses and 26 national centers.
- Some of the 61 hospitals with partial damage are:
 - Municipal and Psychiatric Hospitals in Gibara; Provincial Surgical and General Hospitals, in Holguín;
 - Puerto Padre General Hospital in Las Tunas;
 - General and Maternal Hospitals in Morón, Ciego de Ávila;
 - General Hospital in Yaguajay, Sancti Spíritus.
- In Mayajigua, Sancti Spíritus, the community pharmacy lost its roof.
- The five Family Doctor's Offices that collapsed after the hurricane in Villa Clara (one in Placetas, one in Camajuaní, two in Sagua la Grande and one in Quemado de Güines) have been temporarily relocated.
- Surgery and radiology services at Hermanos Ameijeiras and Camilo Cienfuegos Hospitals are still not functioning.

Response:

- Restoring electric power and water services to health institutions remains a priority. In places where the restoration of services is delayed, the current focus is on ensuring operations with generators.
- Despite the damage to the infrastructure of numerous facilities at all three care levels, the National Health System has maintained functional and essential services have continued to be delivered before, during and after Irma's passage.
- Family Doctor's Offices, basic health care centers and pharmacies were relocated. Of the latter, 240 were relocated to other health institutions and family homes.
- The battle against the Aedes mosquito, the diseases it transmits, and other epidemic outbreaks continues. Comprehensive sanitary measures continue to be carried out.

- The Ministry of Health recommends that Cuban families purchase sodium hypochlorite and exceed suggested measures for food handling. Sodium hypochlorite is available in all pharmacies in the country in sufficient quantities to prevent the occurrence of acute diarrheal diseases.
- The population of Las Tunas Province has joined other provinces in carrying out sanitation activities in the community and supporting hygiene practices in order to avoid infectious diseases, including leptospirosis, conjunctivitis, dengue, Zika, diarrhea and transmittable gastrointestinal diseases.

Identified needs:

- The Ministry of Health insists on the need for first line medications such as oral rehydration salts, first aid kits, Doxycycline, water treatment tablets, tests to determine chlorine levels, calcium hypochlorite for disinfection, and rapid tests for the diagnosis of cholera, malaria and E. Coli. Some other needs are medical supplies for protection against vector-borne diseases, impregnated mosquito nets, and Temephos at 1%.
- It is also a priority to re-establish the functionality of water tanks and generators at primary health care facilities.

PAHO/WHO

- The North American NGO Global Links is preparing the sending of five containers of equipment and medical furniture, as well as disposable materials to support health services that were severely impacted. To this end, PAHO/WHO is identifying funds to cover shipping costs which are much lower than the value of supplies sent by Global Links, an institution that has been collaborating with Cuba since 1996.
- The US \$200,000 purchase of 500,000 Doxycycline tablets, four tons of Temephos at 1%, and products for water quality control and treatment in order to respond to the emergency is underway.
- Daily exchanges among the PAHO Technical Team in Cuba, the Emergency Operations Center of PAHO Headquarters, and the Head of the National Defense and Civil Defense of the Ministry of Health continues as a follow-up to emergency responses and priorities.
- The delivery of six emergency kits (IEHK) with two additional kits to cover the needs of medicines in priority affected areas will be carried out upon arrival.
- PAHO is coordinating with the Regional Emergency Operations Center and the Cuban PAHO/WHO response team to implement immediate humanitarian response actions.

UNFPA

- UNFPA received approval for the purchase, with its own funds, of 37 contraception kits, and support to STI management, delivery assistance, and serious obstetric surgeries in health centers with gynecological services in the most severely affected municipalities. Additional information on these activities can be found in Situation Report 7.



Education

Damage:

- The primary education level was the most affected, having the largest number of schools, many of which are made of wood, have flimsy roofs, and are located in problematic areas, said the Minister of Education. She also highlighted that the damage is primarily to roofs, carpentry, and water tanks.
- The majority of affected educational institutions are located in the La Habana, Villa Clara, Matanzas, Ciego de Ávila and Camagüey, which have more than 20 per cent of their institutions affected.

Response:

- Close to 10,000 schools, more than 92% of the total number of schools in Cuba, have already resumed classes. The schools that did not suffer damage have resumed normal teaching activities normally and those with partial damage will divide classes into morning and afternoon sessions. In centers with severe damage, students have been relocated.
- Cira Piñero Alonso, Vice Minister of Education, stated that more than 500 educational institutions have not been able to resume classes as they are being used as evacuation centers.

UNICEF:

- In the proposed Action Plan of the United Nations, UNICEF will focus its support on the rehabilitation of schools and the supply of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, which will include all the most affected municipalities in La Habana, Matanzas, Villa Clara, Sancti Spíritus, Ciego de Ávila and Camagüey Provinces, where the most severe damage to the Education Sector is reported. Educational and recreational materials will support the implementation of learning activities and socio-emotional support.

UNESCO:

- UNESCO will focus its support in guaranteeing the provision of socio-emotional, post-disaster support to children and adolescents, with the participation of parents and the community, in the 27 most affected municipalities.

**Logistics****Damage:**

- Authorities are still assessing the extent of the damage to warehouse viability and infrastructure in the most affected provinces, vital for the transportation and storage of food and other key products.
- The Port of Nuevitas (Camagüey Province) continues to receive vessels only during daytime hours until repair work is completed.

Response:

- Maintenance work on harbors, roads and warehouse infrastructure continues.

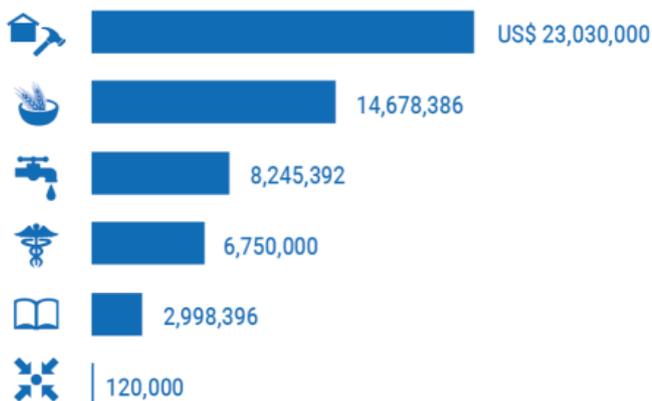
WFP

- To mobilize the resources needed to purchase additional mobile storage units (MSUs), WFP Cuba is consulting with its Regional Office and Headquarters (kindly refer to Situation Report No.11 for more information).

General Coordination

Today, 19 September, in Havana, the United Nations System in Cuba (UNS) presented a US \$55.8 million Action Plan to support recovery in the Housing and Early Rehabilitation, Food Security, Water, Health, Education and Coordination Sectors.

Plan of Action, UN System in Cuba: http://onu.org.cu/files/files/CUB_ActionPlan_ENG_20170918.pdf

Financing required per sector

The UNS Team is coordinating their efforts with the Government of Cuba to support the process of recovery and provide attention to the affected population.

Access link to previous situation reports:

	Spanish	English
Situation Report No. 1	https://goo.gl/4ndwXJ	https://goo.gl/MRWwsR
Situation Report No. 2	https://goo.gl/rvtMHP	https://goo.gl/qxr2zT
Situation Report No. 3	https://goo.gl/fXUgFU	https://goo.gl/AaAMyz
Situation Report No. 4	https://goo.gl/WYSyBj	https://goo.gl/cZerWK
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Situation Report No. 9	https://goo.gl/e9WV66	https://goo.gl/akD8mc
Situation Report No. 10	https://goo.gl/XqXvkE	https://goo.gl/ZjWca6
Situation Report No. 11	https://goo.gl/XqXvkE	https://goo.gl/ZjWca6

Annex



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Province	Current situation and response
La Habana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 367 blocks in Havana are undergoing sanitation efforts, which include the revision and decontamination of water tanks and the collection of solid waste. • The waste resulting from the hurricane has been quantified at 1.5 million cubic meters. A large part of the micro-landfills have been collected in the capital and every day approximately 20,000 cubic meters of waste are collected, exceeding the capacity of community services. • Even though general stability is reported in the water supply system and all the pumping systems are connected to the National Electroenergetic System, there are still areas that need to be monitored and guaranteed water through delivery.
Matanzas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While 90% of the population is receiving water supply services, 5,300 people remain affected in various municipalities, still receiving water through water tank trucks.
Cienfuegos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water supply is currently reaching 97% of the population.
Villa Clara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the province, 81% of water services has been restored. • The Hanabanilla-Jibacoa Dam rose from 21% to 50.4% of its total capacity. • Electricity is being provided to 73.8% of the population in the province, allowing for the pumping of water, mainly in the capital of Quemado de Güines Municipality as well as in two circuits in Zulueta Municipality. However, the service has not been reestablished yet in Isabela de Sagua nor in Rancho Veloz. • Generators have arrived to Villa Clara to support water pumping systems while electricity is restored, allowing the supply of water to the People's Council of Nguyen Van Troi in Caibarién.
Sancti Spiritus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water supply has been restored in the southern part of the province. • Yaguajay has been the most affected municipality in the territory, where pumping stations that supply Las Llanadas, Perea, Venegas, San José, Seibabo, La Legua, Itabo, Río, and Juan Francisco, among others, have been affected.
Camagüey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Santa Cruz del Sur, one of the most affected municipalities, drinking water is being provided to distant communities. • Nearly 110,000 cubic meters of solid waste have been collected in Camagüey Province.
Ciego de Ávila	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring the water supply is one of the prioritized tasks in the territory. • A significant number of pipes carrying water, especially in Baraguá, Primero de Enero, Bolivia and Venezuela Municipalities, are being restored.
Las Tunas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Las Tunas Province, out of the total of 169,100 cubic meters of water generated from Hurricane Irma's rains, only 97,600 cubic meters have been collected. The most complicated situation in this regard is reported in Puerto Padre and Las Tunas Municipalities.
Holguín	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Community Services Agency is prioritizing the collection of more than 38,000 cubic meters of solid waste in the territory.


Food Security and Nutrition

Main damage on agriculture/livestock	
Agriculture	Livestock
More than 50,500 hectares of productive land	More than 145,000 animals
<p>Crop production: Plantain - 26,915 hectares Rice - 1,900 hectares Yucca - 4,520 hectares Corn -12,569 hectares (nearly ready for harvest) Citrus -123 hectares Other crops - Beans, coffee, cocoa, tobacco, soybeans, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, avocado, papaya and other fruits.</p> <p>Sugarcane: Over 300,000 hectares of losses, representing over 40% of the existing plantations nationwide. Note that this is a preliminary assessment and that this figure may be higher.</p>	<p>Animal production: Poultry - 71,800 laying poultry Pig - 75,000 outdoor breeding animals, with 866 deaths of pigs</p> <p>1,600 deaths of cows, mostly calves Other production including beekeeping, goat and others.</p>
<p>Related infrastructure: 300 irrigation systems 22 growing houses entirely and 52 partially damaged Rice dryers</p> <p>Over 40% of the 56 sugar mills will be operational for the next harvest.</p>	<p>Related infrastructure: 383 damaged poultry houses, of which 77 with entirely damaged roofs 370 affected swine farms, with 15,000 m² damaged roofs 553 cattle facilities affected, including 147,000 m² of damaged roofs 89 windmills affected</p>


Shelter and Early Recovery

Current data on housing damaged by Irma:

Province	Households	Roof	Municipalities
La Habana*	4,288 damaged, including 157 collapsed and 986 partially collapsed	818 with collapsed roofs and 1,555 with partially collapsed roofs	All 15 municipalities in capital city
Mayabeque	1,450 damaged		
Matanzas	2,800 damaged, including 200 collapsed		Cárdenas, Martí and Matanzas
Cienfuegos	574 damaged, including 130 collapsed		
Villa Clara	More than 33,000 damaged, including 1,657 collapsed		Santa Clara, Sagua la Grande, Corralillo, Quemado de Güines, Encrucijada, Camajuaní, Remedios and Caibarién
Sancti Spiritus	10,600 houses damaged		Damage reported in eight municipalities with the most severe damage in Yaguajay and Sancti Spiritus
Ciego de Ávila	More than 16,000 damaged		Bolivia: 95% of housing damaged
Camagüey	27,200 houses damaged, 2,886 collapsed and more than 1,376 partially collapsed	13,000 of these with collapsed roofs	Esmeralda, Sierra de Cubitas and Nuevitas
Las Tunas	4,000 houses damaged, 199 collapsed and 445 partially collapsed	430 with collapsed roofs and 2,833 with partially collapsed roofs	
Holguín	4,006 houses damaged, 174 collapsed		Gibara, Antilla, Holguín and Banes
Guantánamo	875 houses damaged, 73 collapsed		Baracoa, Maisí, San Antonio del Sur, Yateras and Caimanera

 Education

Province	Damage	Recovery and return to school
La Habana	Five hundred schools were affected.	Of the 500 affected schools in the province, 128 have recovered.
Matanzas	One hundred and ten schools remain affected and unable to resume classes.	Of the 511 educational centers in the province, 401 centers resumed their activities, while the remaining centers will resume 2017-2018 school year activities as soon as the conditions allow for it. Classes have resumed in the Marti Municipality.
Mayabeque	A total collapse is reported in the Santa Cruz del Norte Special School in Mayabeque Province.	The relocation of students of the collapsed school is underway.
Villa Clara	More than 300 schools affected in the province. In Santa Clara, 109 out of the 150 educational institutions have been affected.	Teaching activities resumed on Monday, 18 September.
Sancti Spiritus	A total of five total collapses have been reported, among which is the Municipal Department of Education in Yaguajay. In Yaguajay 41 educational centers were affected, with major damage to carpentry and roofs. Out of the 63 institutions, 22 classes resumed in alternative areas, given the damage to infrastructure.	
Ciego de Avila	One hundred and seventy-six educational centers were affected.	
Cienfuegos	More than 60 schools were affected.	Difficulties initiating recuperation efforts are reported in the mountainous municipality of Cumanayagua in remote and isolated areas due to flooding.
Camagüey	Of the 31 education centers in Esmeralda Municipality, 28 suffered damage and 12 of them are in a critical condition. The Minister of Education confirmed that Esmeralda Municipality is one of the most affected territories. The Education Office of Jaronú People's Council is one of the most affected.	The Provincial Defense Council is prioritizing the distribution of resources for the recuperation of schools. Of the 15,000 people evacuated in Camagüey, 90% evacuated to education sector buildings. It was expected that all rural schools in Camaguey opened on Monday, 18 September. Trainees in sectors related to construction, electromechanics and agriculture will support recovery efforts. Students from the Dagoberto Rojas Polytechnic Institute in the community of Brasil will resume classes in the annex classrooms and will be linked to workforces to repair schools.
Las Tunas	Seventy-six schools were affected, mainly in the north of the territory.	The José López Trevill and Roberto Proenza Primary Schools in Manatí will resume classes in neighboring places and family houses respectively.
Holguín	A total of three collapses have been reported. With the exception of the Ángel Romero and Antonio Maceo School in Naranjo Dulce and the El Predio School in Sagua de Tánamo, which suffered total collapses, the rest only suffered partial damage.	More than one hundred schools from primary, secondary, pre-university, and professional, technical and early childhood education were restored. It is expected that 90% of technical and structural conditions in all damaged schools will be addressed by the end of September. All the educational centers in the province have resumed classes, except for two.
Guantánamo	Partial damage has been reported in 17 schools.	All affected schools are undergoing reparations.
Artemisa	Eighteen schools were affected, mainly in Bahía Honda, Mariel and Candelaria, with three centers affected in each municipality.	Classes will continue by relocating students to classrooms and areas not affected.

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For further information, please visit: www.unocha.org, www.reliefweb.int, www.redhum.org, www.onu.org.cu.

For further 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/>

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