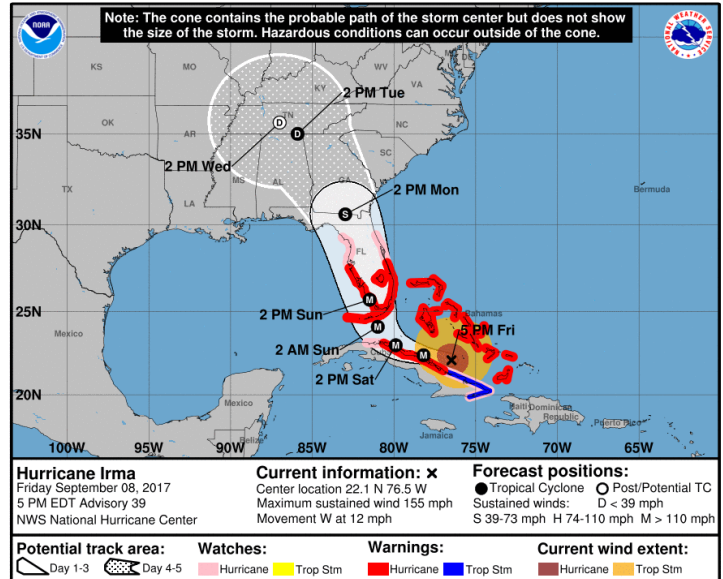




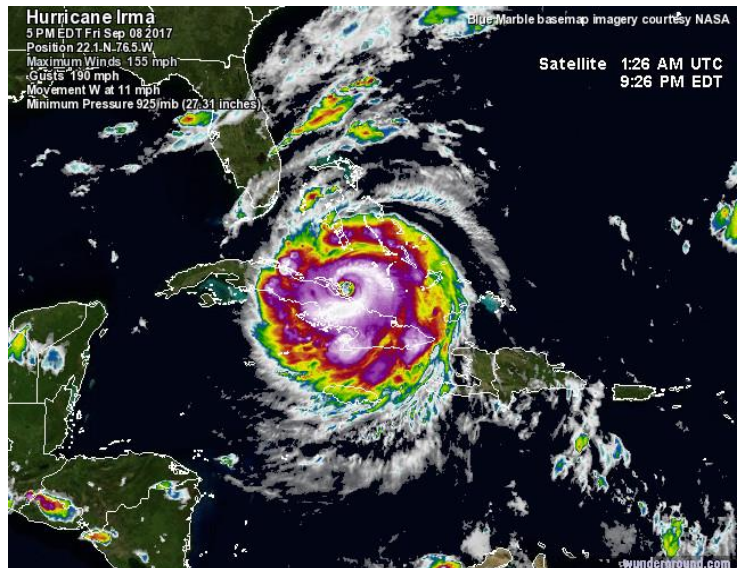
This report is produced by the Office of the Resident Coordinator. It covers the period from 14:00 hrs. on September 07th to 14:00 hrs. on September 08th. The next report will be issued on or around 09/09.

Highlights

- Hurricane Irma has hit the northern and central Cuban territories heavily since early this morning, causing tidal waves, coastal and river flooding, and fallen trees.
- 7.5 million people (66.9% of the population) are under the Hurricane Alarm Phase. The three phases of the Early Warning System cover the entire national territory, except for the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud.
- Over three million people are included in the Cuban Civil Defense protection plans to safeguard human life.
- Hurricane Irma is a potential threat to Havana, the capital, with a population of more than 2.1 million.



<p>7,5 million people are under the Hurricane Alarm Phase</p>	<p>67 medical and surgical brigades deployed in the potentially most affected zone</p>
<p>3 million people are included in the Cuban Civil Defense protection plans</p>	<p>+ 40.000 Tons of food protected in threatened areas</p>



Situation overview

The impacts of powerful Hurricane Irma were suffered in the eastern part of Cuba since early this morning with tidal waves, coastal and river flooding, and fallen trees.

Over three million people are included in Cuban Civil Defense protection plans, which include the evacuation of vulnerable groups living in coastal settlements, isolated rural communities or unsafe housing to protection centers or the homes of neighbors or family.

*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.

In Guantánamo and Holguín Provinces, affected by Hurricane Matthew less than a year ago, heavy rains, sustained winds of 60 kilometers per hour, wind gusts of up to 90 kilometers per hour and waves of five to eight meters high were reported. Floods cover the entire northeast coast, from Maisí to Gibara where the community of Caletones is currently isolated.

The city of Baracoa was affected by a strong storm surge, damaging economic and housing infrastructure. The city is without electricity and severe damage is reported in the coastal community of Yumurí.

The hurricane advanced slowly along the northern coast of the island to Las Tunas Province, where there is already damage from strong winds. As it continues on parallel and close to the island's coast, Hurricane Irma will impact Cuba all day today, Saturday and Sunday.

The greatest threat remains at the point where hurricane is expected to shift to the north. As that point approaches the western part of the island, the potential threat to the Cuban capital, with a population of 2.13 million, increases. Hurricane Irma could persist for about 24 hours, pummeling territories near the turning point until it moves towards the Florida Peninsula. The direction after the turning point is also an important risk factor with a northwest orientation the most complex situation because its potential influence in Havana.

The Cuban Civil Defense has asked the population to maintain a high risk perception of Hurricane Irma. The call reminded the population of the need to take the required measures and to act quickly to reduce the risks associated with the three threats Hurricane Irma could bring: rain, wind and coastal flooding.

In all the territories of the country threatened by the impact of the hurricane, necessary measures are being taken to ensure the protection of human life and economic resources.

Humanitarian Response

National authorities

Eleven provinces, four more than yesterday, with a population of 7.5 million people are under the Hurricane Alarm Phase.

Every part of the national territory has been declared affected under one of the Early Alert System phases (except the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud):

- **Alarm Phase:** Guantánamo, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, Holguín, Las Tunas, Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Villa Clara, Santi Spíritus, Cienfuegos and Matanzas
- **Alert Phase:** La Habana, Mayabeque and Artemisa
- **Informative Phase:** Pinar del Río

National Civil Defense asked coastal community populations to move to safe zones. In the municipality of Maisí in Guantanamo Province, which was deeply affected by Hurricane Matthew last year, 82% of the population was evacuated. Evacuation centers guarantee food, medical support and safe, potable water.

Local defense councils in provinces assess the risks of sea, river and rain flooding as well as dams filling or landslides in mountainous areas.

Esteban Lazo, President of the Cuban National Assembly, is participating in monitoring the planning and response to the first impacts of Hurricane Irma already reported by the National Defense Council.

The Ministries of Defense and the Interior have activated emergency rescue brigades, equipped with technical experts and engineers, large transport and amphibious vehicles, as well as other forces ready to act during other types of contingencies.

Members of the Cuban Red Cross and the Radio Amateur Movement are already active in Defense Zone Councils.

Sectors



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Response:

- There is increased hydro-meteorological monitoring at the national level.
- In all evacuation centers, safe drinking water will be provided.
- The Electrical Union of Cuba is undertaking preventive measures to avoid damage to generators, which could disrupt the water supply.
- The Cuban Ministry of the Interior (MININT) distributed 187 tons of chlorine to ensure water purification in provinces that may be affected.
- In all provinces, intense efforts to clean sewers, prune trees, implement hygiene measures and collect garbage are underway.
- In Ciego de Avila, 32 pipes are ready to supply water to the population.
- Efforts are geared toward ensuring the availability of sodium hypochlorite for water purification.

UNICEF

- UNICEF is coordinating the purchase of 3 million chlorine tablets to support water purification efforts.

PAHO/WHO

- PAHO/WHO is estimating needs in temres analisis kits to ensure water quality.



Food Safety and Nutrition

Response/Preparatory measures:

+ 40,000 Tons
of food protected in
threatened areas

Potential damage:

- Local authorities are estimating that crops in coastal municipalities could be affected by the storm surge and destructive winds. In Granma, for example, local teams are harvesting those crops with the greatest risk of being affected by the storm surge, while measures are being taken to protect or relocate agricultural equipment.

Measures to protect crops and agricultural inputs:

- The Ministry of Industry is adopting security measures to ensure food security in the country.
- Authorities from potentially-affected provinces, especially municipalities along the northern coastline, are accelerating the implementation of measures to protect crops and livestock as well as undergoing an early harvest of crops for distribution to the population.
- Local authorities are also protecting agricultural inputs and equipment. In Sancti Spíritus Province, measures are in place to protect irrigation equipment as well as pig and poultry production facilities.

Province	Food Secured	Early harvest for distribution to the population	Protected cattle
Camagüey	More than 10,000 tons of rice, soybeans, salt and fertilizers	More than 80,000 liters of milk	NA
Granma	NA	More than 700 tons of coffee	NA
Holguín	Almost 17,300 tons of sugar More than 16,500 tons of honey	More than 800 tons of viands More than 145 tons of coffee	More than 28,600 head
Las Tunas	NA	Almost 2,700 tons of agricultural products	More than 20,000 head
Sancti Spiritus	NA	1,150 tons of food (including grains, fruits and vegetables)	28,000 head (of 44,000 to protect)

Source: Prepared from information published in national and local media.

- In the Ciego de Avila Province, conditions were created to guarantee the functioning of bakeries, food processing centers and other key structures. The production of bread, cookies and dry sweets was increased as well as the sale of eggs and the delivery of products from the government food basket (“canasta básica”).

FAO:

- FAO is closely observing the developments in order to stay up-to-date with the needs of national counterparts and to be able to provide a rapid and efficient response.

PMA:

- WFP has a contingency stock of 1,600 tons of food pre-positioned in Havana, Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba Provinces to support immediate assistance to around 275,000 people for one month in areas affected by Irma. Possible response scenarios are being assessed based on potential impacts and priority needs for assistance.



Infrastructures and Basic Services Rehabilitation

Response/Preparatory measures:

General information:

- The Cuban Electricity Union has 1,600 workers prepared for recovery efforts following the hurricane. The Union also has the technical personnel and supplies to address, in the shortest possible time, damage to the underground electricity service in Havana. Electrical poles have been identified in the municipalities that are expected to be most affected and brigades are ready to begin the electrical recovery process.
- The Ministry of Communications reports that Wi-Fi facilities will gradually be dismantled to maintain communication as long as possible.
- The communications system has 1,200 technicians, including 71 lineman brigades, prepared to start recovery efforts as soon as possible.
- The amateur radio operator network has been activated to guarantee communications with remote or isolated areas.
- Sewer cleaning, tree pruning and solid waste collection continue.
- Measures are being taken to avoid major damage to the national highway.
- Ships are being protected in coastal areas potentially threatened by the sea.

Environment:

- National Park Alejandro de Humboldt (Guantanamo): Specialists are protecting resources and facilities which suffered considerable damage due to Hurricane Matthew last October.
- Dolphins from the Cayo Guillermo Dolphin Recreation Complex (Ciego de Avila) were evacuated.
- Workers at the Golden Hill Gold Mine in Jobabo (Las Tunas) took steps to avoid dangers to people and the environment at the mine.

Heritage:

- Guantánamo: More than 200 museum objects and other items from the Provincial Museum and the Decorative Arts have been preserved to minimize damage in buildings with significant cultural heritage value.

Additional Info:

- Guantánamo: The protection of the roofs has been identified as a priority area as more than 20,000 were damaged during Hurricane Matthew last October.
- One of the main vulnerabilities in the territory is the availability of quality housing, with nearly 163,000 houses, 48% of which have been evaluated as being in normal or poor condition.

UNDP:

- UNDP has made available 9,823 tarpaulins to national authorities, which are pre-positioned in the Las Tunas and Holguín Provinces. Of these, 894 are being used for the protection of food and basic necessities in stores. The remaining 8,929 remain available for the protection of families whose homes are affected by Hurricane Irma.
- Two UNDP experts will travel to the country to support the UNDP Office emergency response process.
- UNDP has proposed the possibility of budget revisions to current projects to redirect funds to emergency priorities, particularly on environmental issues.
- The Housing and Early Recovery Sector, led by UNDP with the support of IOM, UN Habitat and UNESCO, has begun to collect information on products needed for response, including: tarpaulins, mattresses, kitchen kits, sheets, roof tiles and tools. These actions will be coordinated with those of the United Nations agencies that work in the water and sanitation, food security and health sectors.
- The Second Chief of the National Civil Defense (EMNDC) presented the "Integral Operative Procedure for decision-makers on the organization and operation of the Early Warning System in the face of the threat of

extreme hydro-meteorological events" on the television program Information Roundtable, which was dedicated to Hurricane Irma yesterday. This report was prepared by the EMNDC in cooperation with the Institute of Meteorology (INSMET), the Institute of Water Resources (INRH) and the Environment Agency (AMA), and was supported by UNDP and the European Union, through cooperation projects. This instrument is very useful for the response to Hurricane Irma.

OIM:

- Communication has been established with the Regional Emergency and Crisis Advisor for the Americas, with Headquarters in Panama and Geneva.

**Health****Overview of health services in provinces likely to be affected:**

67 medical & surgical brigades
deployed in the potentially most affected zones

Most affected Provinces/Municipalities	Hospitals	Polyclinics	CFPN	Maternity Homes	Nursing Homes	Senior Care Centers	60 years old >		5 years old <	
							M	F	M	F
Camaguey (Nuevitas, Minas, Sierra de Cubitas, Esmeralda)	13 (2)	31 (6)	657 (143)	7 (0)	14 (4)	24 (4)	72,869 (13,730)	79,429 (13,834)	21,713 (4,141)	20,335 (3,881)
Ciego Avila (Bolivia, Morón, Chambas)	3 (1)	19 (6)	392 (141)	10 (1)	8 (2)	16 (3)	39,025 (11,028)	41,651 (11,881)	12,523 (3,481)	11,743 (3,170)
S.Spiritus (Yaguajay)	8 (1)	23 (4)	448 (76)	5 (1)	8 (2)	9 (nd)	47,508 (6,533)	50,211 (6,509)	12,753 (1,314)	12,026 (1,211)
V.Clara (Caibarien, Camajuani, Encrucijada, Sagua, Quemado y Corralillo)	13 (3)	37 (11)	837 (250)	8 (1)	16 (5)	26 (5)	86,521 (25,874)	95,861 (27,929)	20,090 (5,810)	18,541 (5,310)

CFPN: Cabinets of Family Physicians and Nurses

M: Male

F: Female

Response/Preparatory measures:

- Vulnerable population –pregnant women, elderly person, critic patients (ie., homodialysis, needing surgery, etc.) children under 5 years old- in zones with the highest likelihood of impact.
- Safety blood needs met in Camaguey, Sancti Spiritus y Villa Clara.
- Vulnerable populations are being protected (including women in the third trimester of their pregnancy, patients and the elderly), as well as medical and technological equipment, furniture and materials.
- Las Tunas: Attention to children has been ensured in Las Tunas Province. In the Provincial Pediatric Hospital Mártires de Las Tunas, beds are available to face any contingency and technical equipment is duly protected in addition to other kinds of resources and infrastructure. At Ernesto Guevara's General Teaching Hospital, there are medical and service staff on duty 24 hours a day, with the presence of most specialties and a priority of the coverage of surgical and clinical staff prior to any massive event of injured persons.

- Villa Clara: Medical and nursing care have been guaranteed at the three guard points in both urban and rural areas. Ambulances and oxygen tanks, among other resources, are ready for any eventuality.
- Ciego de Ávila: Around 200 beds are set up in the two most important hospitals in the province to receive any persons injured or affected by the hurricane. A medical-surgical brigade will be moved to the northern coast of the province to provide for any contingency. All polyclinics and medical posts are ready to assist those who may need it.

PAHO/WHO:

- PAHO/WHO is estimating needs according to different scenarios to ensure provision of essential lifesaving health services to the population.
- PAHO/Cuba emergency program is organizing response strategies ensuring communications with the Regional Emergency Operations Center to coordinate a comprehensive response in all affected countries.
- Mechanisms established to facilitate the flow of information and coordination with national authorities ensuring internal preparations to facilitate purchases to adequately respond to the country's needs.

UNFPA:

- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is estimating, according to municipalities that may be affected by Hurricane Irma, the possible need of "Sexual and Reproductive Health Kits" and "Personal Hygiene Kits" to support national authorities in providing necessary health care to the population in these municipalities.



Education

Response/Preparatory measures:

- Under the Hurricane Alarm and Alert Phases, it has been established that all educational institutions will temporarily suspend educational activities and measures have been taken to secure school materials and equipment.
- Actions have also been taken to secure materials and equipment in the different sport schools such as the Sports Initiation Schools (EIDE), the Physical Education Teachers' Schools (EPEF), the High-Performance Athletes Training Schools (ESFAAR) and academies throughout the country.
- Students have been asked to stay with their families at home or in safe places.
- Students staying at boarding schools and residences have been sent home, including more than 8,000 in Holguín, 3,200 in Santi Spíritus and 4,601 in Las Tunas Provinces.
- In the provinces considered at risk, schools have been established as evacuation centers: 101 in Villa Clara Province, 96 in Ciego de Ávila Province, 100 in Holguín Province and 97 in Las Tunas Province. These centers will become temporary shelters for disaster-affected populations.
- In the municipality of Caibarién, located in Villa Clara Province, the evacuation of 3,860 people to educational institutions as temporary shelters is currently underway.

UNICEF

- UNICEF is defining the required interventions to ensure the rapid return of children and adolescents to safe and secure learning spaces.

UNESCO

- UNESCO is working to identify possible damage to schools in affected municipalities to support the rehabilitation of educational centers and guarantee safe learning spaces.
- UNESCO will assess the extent of the damage to develop pedagogical strategies in order to overcome post disaster stress in students and teachers.



Logistics

Potential damage:

- Coastal flooding is expected as a result of Hurricane Irma, given the strong winds. Waves of up to nine meters high are expected in some areas, such as the coastal municipalities in Camaguey Province.
- Authorities in Las Tunas Province (in the municipalities of Amancio, Jesus Menendez, Manati y Puerto Padre) estimate that Hurricane Irma may lead to flooding not only in the northern coastline, but also in the southern low-lying areas, such as Guayabal

Response/Preparatory measures:

- In the provinces threatened by Hurricane Irma, local authorities are guaranteeing the resources to protect warehouses used for the storage of food and other key commodities. In Las Tunas Province, protection measures are in place for the resources stored in almost 160 warehouses, including those of the bulk sugar terminal in Puerto Carupano in the northern part of this area. In Cienfuegos Province, about 4,000 tons of commodities have been stored in the main port's warehouses to avoid potential damage.

WFP:

- WFP has five mobile storage units (MSUs) in-country that could be re-directed to the most affected areas to protect food slated for the population, in support of local authorities.
- In the municipalities of Baracoa and Maisi (Guantanamo Province), WFP has coordinated with local authorities to dismantle some of the MSUs donated during Hurricane Matthew response efforts.
- WFP is monitoring the potential impact of Hurricane Irma (winds, heavy rains and sea surge) on the infrastructure destined to the storage, elaboration and distribution of food to vulnerable groups, taking into account lessons learned from previous experience.

General Coordination

The United Nations Disaster Management Team in Cuba (UNDMT) met today with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment, the main counterpart of the United Nation System (UNS) in the country, to exchange on possible response strategies and geographical targeting. Under the leadership of the UNDMT, the UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) is working on a first draft of a response plan.

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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/>

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

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