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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Cuba: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n°	MDRCU006	Glide n°:	SS-2020-000143-CUB
DREF Date of issue:	3 June 2020	Expected timeframe:	4 months
		Expected end date:	31 October 2020
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow			
DREF allocated: 182,967 Swiss francs			
Total number of people affected:	3,830	Number of people to be assisted:	3,000 (600 families)
Provinces affected:	Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus and Villa Clara	Provinces/Regions targeted:	Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus and Villa Clara
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Cuban Red Cross (CRC) has one national headquarters, about 47,000 volunteers, 381 staff members and 183 branches.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Civil Defense, Government Ministries (Health, Trade, Energy, Housing), Defense Committees, Civil Society Organizations.			

<Click [here](#) for the budget. Click [here](#) for contacts.>

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Cuba suffered several hydrometeorological events that reached their highest intensity on 25 and 26 May 2020. Heavy rains, floods and strong winds particularly affected the central Cuban Provinces of Camaguey, Ciego de Avila, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus and Villa Clara.

Severe local storms:

On 25 to 26 May, a severe local storm brought tornados, hail falls, waterspouts and linear winds over 92 km/h.

A tornado event was registered in the province of Santi Spiritus with winds of 120 km/h. According to the Provincial Meteorological Centre in Sancti Spiritus the tornado was the most visible event of larger severe storms affecting the area.

Other severe local storms also significantly impacted the Provinces of Villa Clara, Ciego de Avila and Camaguey.



Cuban Red Cross (CRC) community teams support the replacement of the roofs damaged by the storm. Source: CRC, May 2020.

Heavy rains:

The severe local storms added to heavy rains registered in the country between 20 and 26 May in the Central Provinces of Cuba: Camaguey, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus and Villa Clara. As a result, flood events were reported in the area due to the intense weather events reported on 25 and 26 May.

The following precipitation was registered in the areas:

- Sancti Spiritus: Up to 148mm of accumulated rains in 3 hours
- Villa Clara: Up to 166mm of accumulated rains
- Cienfuegos: Up to 243mm of accumulated rains

In the five provinces of the country, damages reported mainly involve damages to house structure. Early damages assessment suggests the events have directly impacted at least 766 families.

Cuba remains affected by the pandemic by COVID-19 as the Atlantic hurricane season started on 1 June 2020. Threat of vector transmitted diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and Zika remains are additional concerns for the country as the rainy season is starting.

Summary of the current response**Overview of Host National Society Response Action**

The Cuban Red Cross coordinated with provincial, municipal and community authorities to provide an initial response to the population. Municipal and community response teams (GMOS and GCOS) were activated for the initial response, search and rescue and first aid. In addition, PSS and RFL brigades were also activated along with the volunteers of Cuban Red Cross' local branches, with the support of personnel from Provincial and Municipal branches.

The Cuban Red Cross volunteers also contributed to the rapid assessment in the affected areas of the country.

The Cuban Red Cross is now seeking support to provide material support to 3,000 people (600 families) as a contribution to the national response to the aftermath of the hydrometeorological events. The request is fully coordinated with the National Response System and represents a portion of the overall request shared by the national authorities.

The Cuban Red Cross is currently also responding to COVID-19 epidemic in the country. All actions developed by the Cuban Red Cross are to be closely coordinated and linked with COVID-19 National Response Plan. All actions designed by the Cuban Red Cross take into consideration measures taken nationally to control the epidemic, such as individual protection, social distancing and "stay at home" orders. Cuban Red Cross is allowed to operate and respond in this context in coordination with the national authorities. The National Society and volunteers, as a full part of the Defense Councils and response mechanisms in Cuba, is authorized to implement response activities in the country; provided personal and collective measures are implemented to prevent spreading of COVID-19.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has been in direct contact with the Cuban Red Cross analyzing the situation to offer the best possible solution for the support of 300 of the most affected families by the extreme weather events. Initially, the Cuban Red Cross responded with its capacities and volunteers and supported the National Government with the evaluation of need and damages.

Since March 2020, the IFRC is supporting the Cuban Red Cross with the response to COVID-19 global pandemic with funding of the Cuba Country plan managed by IFRC's Latin Caribbean Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) and funding of IFRC's global emergency appeal.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supports the Cuban Red Cross and supports its restoring family links (RFL) activities and COVID-19 response through ICRC regional delegation in Panama. ICRC and IFRC maintain constant coordination.

The Canadian Red Cross currently implements a disaster preparedness project and supports the COVID-19 response of the Cuban Red Cross.

Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions in country

The Provincial and Municipal Defense Councils were activated in all areas impacted to proceed to the immediate attention of the affected population in terms of supporting evacuation to safe shelters, food, care for pregnant women, children, people with disabilities and people of the third age and proceeded to deliver sheets for partial roof damage in some homes.

The electric company assured the return of the service in the first days. The governments delivered materials and tiles for the reconstruction of the damaged roofs in several communities, although all needs are yet to be covered.

The Cuban Red Cross coordinates and works with National authorities: Civil Defense, local government and Management Centres for Risk Reduction and the health system.

Civil society actors are also involved in coordination, planning and response with the Cuban Red Cross, such as: neighbourhood associations (CDR), women's association (FMC), people with disabilities' associations (ACLIFIM, ANSOC, ANCI) and social workers.

All plans of actions are designed and coordinated along with local governments, formal and informal leaders to favour better selection of people to be reached, giving priority to the most vulnerable.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

Geographical areas impacted by the events are as follows:

Provinces	Municipalities
Sancti Spiritus	Sancti Spiritus
	Trinidad
Villa Clara	Caibarién
Cienfuegos	Cienfuegos
	Cumanayagua
Ciego de Ávila	Ciego de Ávila
Camagüey	Florida
	Esmeralda

Damages from the hydrometeorological events include partial or extensive damages to houses, including the loss of roofs and household items such as personal belongings and kitchen/cooking items.

Losses of household water and sanitation are also reported with extensive damages to water harvesting systems and sanitation/hygiene structures.

Information provided by initial assessments suggest:

- Sancti Spiritus: At least 200 families affected with the loss of roofs and flooding
- Villa Clara: At least 30 houses partially damaged
- Cienfuegos: damages to houses in rural areas of El Nicho, El Naranjo and Aguacate
- Ciego de Avila: At least 76 households affected (damages to houses and loss of livelihood)
- Camaguey: 579 houses damaged

The response provided to the affected population considers COVID-19 pandemic, the start of the hurricane season and seasonal vector related outbreaks such as Chikungunya, Dengue and Zika.

To complement the actions taken by the Ministry of Health, local governments and Defense Councils; the following sectorial needs of the population have been identified:

- Health:
 - Vector control activities: distribution of mosquito nets in order to complement vector control activities implemented by the Ministry of Health and local governments
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):
 - Access to hygiene and safe water for handwashing
- Shelter:
 - Household items and roofing

Targeting

The Cuban Red Cross aims to provide support to 600 of the most affected families affected by the hydrometeorological events and whose housing has been significantly damaged. This selection process will be coordinated with the Cuban Red Cross along with local governments, Defense Councils, and civil society organizations.

All sectoral needs and targeting will be completed along with the relevant authority to provide technical guidance for the enhanced beneficiary selection and implementation process.

Estimated disaggregated data for population targeted.

No disaggregated data is available at this point of the operation for the 3,000 people targeted by the Cuban Red Cross. The Cuban Red Cross will provide disaggregated data along with the reporting of the operation.

Scenario planning

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
The situation remains as it is today.	No additional needs	The Cuban Red Cross responds to the need of the population according to the Plan of Action.
COVID-19 epidemic worsens in the country and the region.	Access to communities is limited due to restrictions	The Cuban Red Cross implements the Plan of Action with existing restrictions. Significant delays in procurement and distribution can be expected.
Cuba is affected by a second disaster or epidemic (yellow category).	Additional response operation would be necessary for parts of the country; including areas covered by this operation	The Cuban Red Cross would develop an additional response and would probably request additional support from DREF.
Cuba is affected by a significant cyclonic event or hurricane (Orange or Red Category).	Country-wide humanitarian needs in all sectors of intervention	The Cuban Red Cross would develop an additional response and would request the launch of an EA for extended support to the country.

Operation Risk Assessment

The procurement and export of material to Cuba can prove to be a lengthy process submitted to a strict administrative process. The success of this operation is submitted to well and timely managed logistics processes by the IFRC logistics services.

COVID-19 epidemic has been affected supply chains globally for several emergency items due to national limitations such as limited economic activity and international transit. This situation could imply significant delay in the procurement and shipping process of items under this Emergency Plan of Action.

Transfer and use of funds by the National Society is strictly regulated and access to cash is limited.

COVID-19 Response

On 31 January 2020, the IFRC launched [global Emergency Appeal](#) (further revised in February, March and May 2020) to support its worldwide membership to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The last revision of the global Emergency Appeal is articulated around three key operational priorities: Health, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation; Socio-Economic Impact and National Society Strengthening.

As auxiliaries to public authorities, Red Cross and Red and Crescent National Societies are playing a key role in supporting national COVID-19 response focused on preparedness, containment, and mitigation against the pandemic. The global Emergency Appeal has a strong focus on National Society institutional preparedness in line with the changing humanitarian landscape due to the continuous and evolving challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus is also given to supporting National Societies to maintain critical service provision to people affected by humanitarian crises through new and ongoing emergency operations, while adapting to COVID-19. As such, the National Society actions

dedicated to COVID-19 and those conducted through new or ongoing operations will be mutually beneficial and built upon programmatic synergies.

The IFRC revised global Emergency Appeal complements both the UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan and is linked to the Strategic Preparedness and Response (SRP) Appeal of the World Health Organization (WHO), launched in February and the WHO revised strategy from April 2020 to support countries to improve their prevention and response.

This DREF funded operation is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and regional Emergency Plan of Action for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC Americas Regional Office, in coordination with global and regional partners. For more information please consult the COVID-19 operation page on the [IFRC Go platform](#).

As of 3 June 2020, Cuba has 2,092 confirmed infections and 83 deaths from COVID-19.¹ The Cuban Red Cross has 3,566 volunteers involved in COVID-19 response activities in the 15 Cuban provinces (158 municipalities). 276 CRC volunteers are actively supporting the response in 52 of the Ministry of Health's isolation centres supporting with case reception, nutrition, psychosocial support to patients and families, logistics, hygiene, and elaboration of materials. CRC has also been actively supporting the Ministry of Health to sensitize the population on issues related to COVID-19.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The Cuban Red Cross will contribute to the national response to the consequence of the hydrometeorological events in five provinces and provide support to 3,000 people with their emergency needs in the areas of shelter, health (vector-borne diseases) and water, sanitation and hygiene.

Proposed strategy:

The Cuban Red Cross will coordinate the implementation of the Emergency Plan of Action with national headquarters personnel.

Local implementation is to be done through the Municipal and Provincial Branches of the Red Cross, with existing personnel and volunteers. All actions will be strictly coordinated and implemented along with local governments (Management Centres for Risk Reduction-CGRR) and Civil Defense; as well as with the women's association (FMC) and associations of people with disabilities (ACLIFIM, ANCI, ANSOC), considering inclusion and gender as cross-cutting axes of the response. Enhanced beneficiary selection will be made in coordination with social workers, non-formal and formal community leaders, based on pre-existing list established by local committees.

The response strategy of the Cuban Red Cross aims to provide emergency assistance to favour the swift recovery of the affected population. The strategy takes into consideration the ongoing COVID-19 response in the country, the start of the hurricane season and potential mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and Zika.

All actions of the Cuban Red Cross will be strictly coordinated with ongoing response operations to COVID-19 to guarantee the implementation of all health and protection measures in response operations.

All limitations for fund transfers and operational support are considered in the Cuban Red Cross operational strategy.

Shelter:

The damage to the houses were mainly roofs because of high winds, loss of household items and personal belongings due to the flooding in some areas. To cover the damages of roofs, the Government will be providing roofing sheets from their national reserve. The actions from the Cuban Red Cross will concentrate on providing household items to the affected population to cover their emergency needs and induce a prompt recovery.

Each household will be provided with the following items:

- 1 kitchen set
- 2 sets of bed sheets
- 2 towels

¹ [PAHO. Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\). 3 June 2020.](#)

Health:

The Cuban Red Cross proposes distributions of mosquito nets for families impacted in the flood areas to contribute to mitigation of any potential outbreak of mosquito-borne disease. The activity is complementing Ministry of Health and local governments' vector control actions.

Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya or Zika tend to spread during the raining season in Cuba due to excess of stagnant waters in urban and rural areas. The Caribbean has recently faced and responded to dengue outbreaks.

WASH:

The affected population will be provided emergency assistance to meet essential hygiene needs to maintain sufficient individual hygiene standards and mitigate COVID-19 spreading in the country.

Each family will be provided with the following items:

- 2 hygiene kits (to cover the needs of 1 family for 2 months)
- 2 14-liter buckets
- 1 250-liter water-tank with leads and pipes to store clean water and for handwashing

Volunteer support:

Under IFRC's 2020 Operational Plan for Cuba, 7,000 volunteers of the Cuban Red Cross have been insured for 2020.

All volunteers involved in this response will receive the required PPE and training in hygiene and prevention measures from COVID-19 operations.

The Cuban Red Cross has established an average of 25 volunteers to be mobilized per province to support the response. Considering that this operation will cover five provinces, 100 volunteers will be participating in the activities. The response relies entirely on CRC provincial branch volunteers, coordinating with municipal and community levels. All volunteers involved will be provided with visibility material.

Essential office supplies will also be procured to support the work of the Cuban Red Cross in its national headquarters and branches.

The Cuban Red Cross reports losses of about 100 tents deployed for COVID activities as the result of the heavy rains and floods. These tents were deployed along several roads of the country to provide, along with local authorities, sensitization and control for COVID-19. Replacement of tents will be done with COVID-19 funds and the 2020 operational plan.

Operational Support Services**Human Resources**

The Cuban Red Cross has 47,000 volunteers and 381 staff throughout the country.

The operation will be implemented under the direct supervision of the Cuban Red Cross' President Dr. Luis Foyo who will be the focal point for IFRC for the implementation of this operation.

The IFRC will monitor the operation remotely due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, through its Country Cluster Support Team for the Latin Caribbean and Haiti.

Logistics and Supply chain

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including mobilization, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage, and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to the IFRC's logistics standards, processes, and procedures.

All procurement related to this operation will follow the IFRC's standards procurement procedures and standards set by the Movement. Purchases will be made by a procurement officer from the IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) Panama.

The Cuban Red Cross, in coordination with national authorities, will organize warehousing and transport in the country, from port to distribution point. These operations will be completed in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and other authorities involved in the response.

COVID-19 epidemic has been disrupting the international supply chain; delays are to be expected for specific items.

Communication

All communication regarding the operation will be discussed and agreed with the Cuban Red Cross prior to any publication.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

The Cuban Red Cross is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the emergency plan of action and providing reports on the CRC's actions.

Additionally, the IFRC continental operations coordinator for the Americas, the Disaster Management coordinator for the Latin Caribbean and Haiti, CCST PMER senior officer and ARO's PMER unit will support the monitoring of the EPoA's activities.

One monitoring visit is planned (if feasible with COVID-19- related measures).

Administration and Finance

The implementation of this Emergency Plan of Action executed by the IFRC under the National Society's guidance and respect its decisions. With technical support from the finance departments in the CCST and in the Americas Regional Office (ARO)—and in coordination with the PMER unit.

Lastly, the IFRC disaster management coordinator for the Latin Caribbean and Haiti will provide technical support, guidance and monitoring to the operation, with support from the IFRC's CCST for the Latin Caribbean and Haiti and ARO.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Shelter

People targeted: 3,000 (600 families)

Male: 1,500

Female: 1,500

Requirements (CHF): 33,600

Needs analysis: The planned activities aim to provide a response to the most urgent needs of the people who have suffered a loss of household items and belongings.

Risk analysis: Individuals whose houses and belonging have been affected by the meteorological events will face difficulties in procuring such items locally. Also, the Cuban authorities seek to implement a “stay at home” policy to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, which would be supported by these activities. The risk of a second extreme weather event or cyclone is not to be dismissed as hurricane season is starting as of June 1st.

Population to be assisted: The Cuban Red Cross, in close coordination with the Ministry of Health, Local Governments and civil society’s organizations, will prioritize 600 families from the impacted areas based on vulnerability criteria to contribute to prompt recovery of families.

Program standards/benchmarks: Sphere Standards, when possible, and standards given by the Ministry of Health and local governments.

P&B Output Code	Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions								<i># of families who receive household item assistance Target: 600 families</i>								
	Shelter Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.								<i># of kitchen sets are procured, shipped and distributed Target: 600</i>								
	<i># of bed sheets are procured, shipped and distributed Target: 1,200</i>								<i>1,200 towels are procured, shipped and distributed Target: 1,200</i>								
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP005	Procurement of household items to the affected population (Kitchen Sets, Bed Sheeting, Towels)																
AP005	Distribution of household items to the affected population																
AP005	Monitoring of the use of distributed shelter and household items																

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 45,200

P&B Output Code	S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform																
	Output S1.1.1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected						# of volunteers that receive visibility Target: 100										
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP040	Procurement and shipping of volunteer visibility																
P&B Output Code	Output S1.1.2: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place						# of CRC flags procured Target: 50 10 # of printing toners are procured Target: 10										
		Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
AP042	Procurement and shipping Cuban Red Cross flags																
AP042	Procurement and shipping printing supplies																
P&B Output Code	Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured																
	Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.						1 monitoring visit is completed (if feasible due to COVID-19)										
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP046	Monitoring visit is completed (if possible)																

Budget

See [Annex](#) attached

Contacts

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Cuban Red Cross National Society

- Dr. Luis Foyo Ceballos, Executive President; crsn@infomed.sld.cu,

In the IFRC

- Jono Anzalone, Head of the Disaster and Crisis Department; email: jono.anzalone@ifrc.org
- Maria Tallarico, Head of Health Department, email maria.tallarico@ifrc.org
- Felipe Delcid, Continental Operations Coordinator; email: felipe.delcid@ifrc.org
- Diana Medina, Communications Unit Coordinator for the Americas; email: diana.medina@ifrc.org
- Elias Ghanem, Head of IFRC Country Cluster Support Team, elias.ghanem@ifrc.org
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At IFRC Geneva

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

DREF OPERATION

MDRCU006 - CUBA Floods

3/6/2020

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Clothing & Textiles	28,200
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	44,400
Utensils & Tools	54,000
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	126,600
Distribution & Monitoring	15,000
Logistics Services	15,000
Logistics, Transport & Storage	30,000
Volunteers	5,000
Personnel	5,000
Travel	3,000
Information & Public Relations	3,450
Office Costs	1,900
Communications	800
Financial Charges	1,050
General Expenditure	10,200
DIRECT COSTS	171,800
INDIRECT COSTS	11,167
TOTAL BUDGET	182,967

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	
AOF2	Shelter	35,784
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	
AOF4	Health	10,224
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	88,821
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7	Migration	
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	9,319
SFI2	Effective International Disaster Management	38,819
SFI3	Influence others as leading strategic partners	
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	
TOTAL		182,967

