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Emergency appeal

Cuba: Hurricane Sandy

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Revised Emergency appeal n° MDRCU002

[GLIDE n° TC-2012-00180CUB](#)

8 September 2013

Appeal target (current): With this revised emergency report, the appeal is revised to CHF 5,765,921. [<click here to view the attached Revised Emergency Appeal Budget>](#)

Appeal coverage: 100% [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- On 27 October 2012, a [Preliminary Emergency Appeal](#) was issued seeking 5,453,220 Swiss francs to support the Cuban Red Cross (CRC) to assist 15,000 families (75,000 beneficiaries) for nine months.
- 550,000 Swiss francs were allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. On 5 November 2012, an [Emergency Appeal](#) in the amount of 12,223,402 Swiss francs was issued as a result of the extent of needs reflected in assessments.
- In April 2013, the appeal was revised to 4,860,041 Swiss francs to reflect lower distribution costs related to efficient beneficiary targeting (click [here](#) for this Revised Emergency Appeal).
- The [six-month update](#) for the operation was published in August.
- This revision presents a budget increase in accordance with the identified needs and reflects additional contributions received for the shelter component of this appeal and accordingly a budget adjustment.



In November 2012, the Cuban Red Cross started the distribution of non-food items to affected families such as this one in the community of Juragua, in Santiago Province. Source: IFRC

Summary: In response to the damage caused by the passage of Hurricane Sandy on October 2012, the Cuban Red Cross, in close coordination with local authorities, has been able to reach 10,967 families (28,157 persons) with non-food items such as kitchen sets, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, jerry cans, buckets, tarpaulins, and tool kits. In addition, volunteers at the community level visited 10,537 families to provide information on water treatment as household level as well as on the adequate manipulation of food, forestalling any major outbreaks of water related diseases. Finally, during the period covered by the report the National Society distributed a total of 6,000 tarpaulins and 2,500 shelter tool kits to allow families to complete basic and temporary repairs to their damage homes. The Cuban Red Cross has concentrated its efforts in the repair of damage roofs with the use of hurricane straps to reduce risks on the next hurricane season.

The emergency appeal budget is being revised a second time, increasing the budget to 5,765,921 Swiss francs to reflect additional contributions already received for the shelter component.

The National Society is also receiving bilateral assistance from the Norwegian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross who designed their emergency projects in line with the objectives of the previous plan of action, therefore reaching some 3,500 families more with their shelter objectives. Overall, the National Society plans to reach a total of 6,500 families bilaterally and multilaterally.

Additional support for development of the Cuba Red Cross in logistics, shelter and equipment for branches and volunteers has also been considered within the budget and will be provided before the end of the operation. Although there are no changes in the appeal components or their outcomes, the appeal budget has been adjusted to reflect the purchase of essential items (maps, office tools, etc.) for branches in need of such support. The Cuban Red Cross is currently evaluating the needs and will procure the items locally, as per their assessment.

The operation is expected to be implemented over 12 months, and will be completed by 31 October 2013. A Final Report will be available by the end of January 2014.

The IFRC expresses its sincere gratitude to the following Partner National Societies (PNSs) and governments for their support for this appeal: the American Red Cross, the Brazil Permanent Mission in Geneva, the British Red Cross (and British government), the Canadian Red Cross (and Canadian government), the Danish Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Irish Red Cross (and Irish Government), the Netherlands Red Cross (and Netherlands government), the New Zealand Red Cross (and New Zealand government), the Norwegian Red Cross (and the Norwegian government), the Swedish Red Cross (and Swedish government), the Taiwan Red Cross. The IFRC also gratefully acknowledges the Voluntary Emergency Relief Fund of the World Health Organization (WHO) for its contribution to this operation.

The situation

On 25 October 2012, Hurricane Sandy hit land in Mar Verde (near the South-eastern city of Santiago de Cuba) and head North on the island until Punta Lucrecia in the Holguin province. Faced with this emergency, the national civil defence plan and the Santiago provincial defence council were activated and coordinated the preventive evacuation of 343,230 people. Despite these precautions, the hurricane caused eleven deaths and significant damage to homes. Over 194,767 homes were damaged and another 32,521 were destroyed, leaving thousands of people in need of shelter solutions. The city of Santiago de Cuba, in the path where the hurricane was strongest, experienced the heaviest winds. Storm surges took place on the South-eastern coast. In Siboney, 14 kilometres from the city of Santiago de Cuba, the waves reached up to 10 metres above the coastal barrier and sea surges reached up to 35 metres inland.

In addition, the central provinces of Villa Clara, Camagüey and Sancti Spiritus, although not affected by the strong winds, suffered intense rains related to the passage of the hurricane, with some 500 homes affected by floods and 4,000 persons evacuated preventively to collective centres.

With the support from other provinces in the country, most of the basic services and infrastructure of the affected area has been recovered, with the electricity and water supply returning to pre-disaster levels. The province's government and the beneficiary municipalities have made important contributions in transportation and fuel to

move the received resources. Community leaders provide support in the reception and custody of the goods provided for beneficiaries.

Coordination and partnerships

The National Defence Council, the state institution responsible for disaster response, leads the response efforts. The council provides oversight and guidance to the provincial defence councils responsible for identifying and selecting target population and implementing relief actions. The local branches of the Cuban Red Cross are part of these councils. Additionally, as the Cuban Red Cross branch president in Santiago de Cuba is also the provincial director of the Ministry of Health in the Santiago province, close coordination between the National Society and state efforts are prompt and effective.

The Ministry for Foreign Trade and Investments (*Ministerio del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera* - MINCEX) and the state's implementing agency for donations (*Empresa Ejecutora de Donativos- EMED*) are also channelling donations to the relief actions. The ministry receives donations and then ensures their prompt distribution once needs of affected families have been identified including roofing materials, non-food items, storage supplies, and water pumps.

In addition, the International Federation and Norwegian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross have personnel in the area to ensure that the operational needs of the National Society are covered and all actions properly coordinated within the Red Cross. In the case of IFRC support, as of 15 February, Sandy operation was handed over from the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit to the Country Office for Cuba and Santo Domingo to ensure a better integration of the mid and long term objectives of the Emergency Appeal with the long-term objectives of Cuba's country plan.

National Society Capacity Building: The Cuban Red Cross has ample experience working alongside the government authorities to assist in the rapid evacuation of families living in areas of risk. As part of the preparation to the arrival of hurricane Sandy, the National Society supported with the evacuation of over 300,000 persons. Once the hurricane had passed, the National Society's volunteers followed their clear procedures of emergency response, immediately engaging their resources in search and rescue, as well as assessment and clearing of debris actions. The CRC also prioritized the provision of psychosocial support to affected families and volunteers and hygiene promotion campaigns. Furthermore, the stock pre-positioned in Cuba through a DIPECHO project, as well as through projects with the Norwegian Red Cross, was fundamental in the rapid response of the Cuban Red Cross after the passage of hurricane Sandy. The National Society was able to assist families with non-food relief items such as hygiene kits, tarpaulins, mattresses among other.

Members of the Operations and Relief Groups have worked arduously in supporting the reception, transfer, handling, and distribution of resources.



Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

Thus far, the Cuban Red Cross, in close coordination with local authorities, has been able to reach 10,967 families (28,157 persons) with non-food items such as kitchen sets, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, jerry cans, buckets, tarpaulins, and tool kits. In addition, volunteers at the community level continue to support a large scale hygiene promotion campaign in the country, visiting 10,537 families to provide information on water treatment at household level as well as on the adequate manipulation of food. In addition, during the period covered by the report the National Society distributed a total of 6,000 tarpaulins and 2,500 shelter

One of the earlier relief distributions carried out by the Cuban Red Cross. At the moment, more than 10,000 families have been reached with non-food items in the areas of Santiago, Holguin and Guantanamo. Source: IFRC

tool kits to allow families to complete basic and temporarily repairs to their damage homes.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Outcome: Affected families from the provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Holguin and Guantanamo benefit from the distribution of non-food items to help them recover from the effects of the hurricane.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
10,000 families are reached with non-food items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Monitor and the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress: The Cuban Red Cross, in close coordination with local authorities, concluded the distribution of relief items, based on the specific needs registered during assessments, ensuring that, although not all families will receive the same items, all families will receive the appropriate aid, according to their needs.

With this methodology that emphasizes the efficiency of the relief actions, the Cuban Red Cross has already been able to assist 10,967 families in 96 communities as stated in the table below, significantly surpassing the current target. In this regard, the main indicator for this outcome (10,000 families are reached with non-food items) has been completed, reaching 110% of the total target.

Challenges: Monitoring is being carried out in the provinces, but the problem with fuel is an important factor, in addition to transportation for the National Society, since in the country it is not easy to obtain parts for vehicles to be used for transportation in monitoring activities are not available, and it is necessary to rent them, or to have the volunteers find their own means to conduct the monitoring.

Shelter	
Outcome: 5,000 families from the provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Holguin and Guantanamo are assisted with their shelter needs.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<p>3,000 families are supported with the reconstruction of their damaged roof tops with roof repair kits.</p> <p>Families are provided with 5,000 shelter kits (including 2 tarpaulins each).</p> <p>3,000 families are given community training on techniques for house repair.</p> <p>Members of 6 communities in the 3 affected provinces gain awareness of weaknesses and resources regarding shelter safety at community level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of communities and specific beneficiaries in coordination with local government authorities. • Procurement of material for the reconstruction of damaged roofs, including galvanized sheets, hurricane straps, steel or timber beams and nails. • Provision of technical assistance and guidance to family members. • Supervision of the repair of damaged houses. • Reproduction of educational materials for repairing houses and on the Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA). • Training sessions on home repair. • Implementation of a PASSA promotion campaign for affected families in 6 communities.

Progress: The Cuban Red Cross is currently finalizing its shelter intervention with the support of additional contributions earmarked for shelter items which are needed for this operation. This accounts, accordingly, for the recently increased coverage of the appeal, and hence the need for his budget revision to undertake the planned procurement process of items for the roof-repair kits (zinc sheets, washers, nails and hurricane straps).

Eighty per cent (80%) of the first three loads of zinc sheets coming from the IFRC have been distributed in the provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Holguín and Guantánamo, the rest are stored in Santiago de Cuba. A load of Zinc sheets from the Spanish Red Cross which was received bilaterally has already been delivered to the beneficiaries. In total, this amounts to 68,603 zinc sheets, which have reached 1,654 people living in 40 different councils in the provinces of Santiago, Guantánamo and Holguin.

In conjunction with the Housing Institute, lists of beneficiaries were generated for each of the provinces, using selection criteria according to their degree of social vulnerability (elderly people, sick people, pregnant women, and single women with children).

To complement the zinc sheets, nails, tarpaulins and anti-hurricane tape have also been delivered to beneficiaries, together with tool kits for state and community roofing brigades, which have been delivered at the community level. The amounts of materials are delivered according to the technical data provided by the Housing Institute. To date, 2,229 roof-repair kits have been distributed in the Santiago, Guantánamo and Holguin. It is important to mention that all roof –repair kits were distributed to community brigades and to the roofer’s brigade in each of the provinces. That’s why in the municipalities the number of families is not directly reflected, but rather the benefit to the community as a whole.

Simultaneously, shelter specialists from Geneva’s office and the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) collaborated to create an informative flyer on the correct installation of roof sheets and hurricane straps that were distributed alongside the roof repair kits (see photo at right). However, this objective has undergone significant modifications mentioned in [the previous revision of the emergency appeal](#).



Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases is reduced through the provision of safe water as well as hygiene promotion amongst the population affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Access to safe water and hygiene kits are provided to 5,000 families (25,000 persons).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of communities and specific beneficiaries in coordination with local government authorities. • Procurement of materials in line with Federation procurement procedures.
10,000 families (50,000 persons) receive hygiene promotion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of chlorine tablets for a duration of 60 days, jerry cans, buckets, thermoses and water filters. • Distribution of hygiene kits. • Reproduction of educational materials for sanitation and hygiene promotion campaigns. • Hygiene promotion for affected families (50,000 persons).

Progress: The first key indicators supporting this outcome (10,000 families benefit from hygiene promotion actions) has been achieved and surpassed by 105%.

Meanwhile, the second indicator (5,000 families receive hygiene kits) has reached 76% completion, although it has been supported by the distribution of other key NFI which, assessments identified, were needed by the affected population, such as plastic buckets, water containers and chlorine tablets.

The water treatment plant ceased operation in February, however, given the situation of needs of the treatment of the water for the population affected, the CRC will continue with the dispatch of more chlorine tablets to distribute

in the affected areas. In this direction were included an additional dispatch of 1,000,000 chlorine tablets. The plant, which was installed in the Sagua de Tanamo municipality, produced over 700,000 litres of safe water with the assistance of 12 trained volunteers from the Holguin branch.

Alongside the distributions, the Cuban Red Cross has carried out 52,685 educational talks at community level on hygiene promotion to support the country's efforts to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases.

Over 1,600 volunteers have been mobilized to work alongside the health institutions, reaching a total of 10,537 families. One of the main topics covered with the educational campaign is the adequate storage and treatment of water with chlorine tablets. Given the strength of the community work of the National Society, and the country's interest to reach as many families as possible in the affected provinces with educational talks, the target of this objective remains the same with the current plan of action and budget revision.

Capacity of the National Society	
Outcome: The capacity of the CRC to assist with relief activities is strengthened.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Relief and operations teams are well equipped and trained to support authorities with preventive and relief efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out one National Intervention Team (NIT) training for volunteers. • Refurbishing and improvement of the CRC Emergency Operations Centre and branches. • Procurement of protective gear and visibility for volunteers at provincial and municipal level. • Procurement of a dispensary tent to facilitate volunteer's activity at community level.
The emergency operation is evaluated and recommendations are gathered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding of a lessons learned workshops with representatives from all the branches involved in the operation. • Hiring of an external consultant to conduct a final evaluation.
A Caribbean Disaster Forum on vulnerability to disasters is held in Cuba to promote peer-to-peers exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with governmental authorities the selection of participants and the topics to be discussed. • Select location of the event. • Report on the outcomes of the event.

Progress: At the moment, the National Society plans to work on risk reduction efforts in schools and homes for the elderly and will complete VCA trainings through the projects with the Norwegian Red Cross and through DIPECHO. Therefore, these objectives, that were part of the previous Risk Reduction component, are no longer part of the revised appeal, and the remaining activities of the risk reduction outcome, such as the refurbishing of the Emergency Operations Centres have now been integrated into the Capacity of the National Society sector.

The improvement of the national society's capabilities has been the most significant strength gained, because support is being provided from the bases of operation to the critical sites that have been identified. A National Intervention Team (NIT) training on Logistics was carried out with technical support from the IFRC Disaster Preparedness Reference Centre (CREPD), with facilitators from the IFRC, the CREPD, and two volunteers from the Guatemalan Red Cross. This activity has had great impact on strengthening institutional capacities and improving logistics aspects of the distribution systems. Twenty four (24) Cuban Red Cross volunteers from Cuba's 15 provinces participated in the course.

In addition, the Cuban Red Cross will hold a forum to promote partnership and collaboration in the Caribbean Region. During the forum, participants will follow a peer-to-peer approach to discuss the implementation of vulnerability and risk management proposals in regards to disasters affecting the Caribbean.

This appeal also further extends support to help provide equipment (such as maps, office tools, etc.) that will improve the Cuban Red Cross branches' abilities to prepare and respond to emergencies, as well as to facilitate their general operation.

Logistics

Outcome: The local logistics capacity of the Cuban Red Cross Society to respond with relief items is strengthened with the support of standardized items prepositioned in the IFRC's zone Logistics Unit in Panama as well as enhanced with technical support	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Enhanced logistics capacity and technical support to facilitate the distribution of relief items to 35,000 families and other related activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the logistics mobilization table. • Management of the logistics mobilization for the appeal and maintenance of relations with donors. • Procurement of transport services through the ZLU transport network. • International procurement. • Pipeline management of in-kind goods.

Progress: The America Zone Logistics Unit has supported the Cuban Red Cross operation with the dispatch of the following non-food relief items that had already arrived in the country, as reflected on the logistics mobilization table. Please [click here to access the mobilization table](#).

In addition, a RIT logistician was deployed for one month at the start of the operation to assist with the import and distribution of goods.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The arrival of relief items to the affected provinces was highlighted in the main newspaper of Cuba, Granma, which related the efforts being carried out with the support of the IFRC, the Norwegian Red Cross, and the agencies of the United Nations. Similarly, the local newspaper of Santiago, Sierra Maestra, interviewed the Secretary General of Santiago's Red Cross branch. The National Society was able to emphasize the actions being carried out to ensure the adequate distribution of relief items, as well as the main measures that needed to be taken to reduce the risk of water related diseases. Overall, there were 22 media mentions through radio and written press. In addition, the Cuban Red Cross participated in a television broadcast alongside government officials to provide information on the correct use of the tarpaulins being distributed as part of the relief efforts.

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

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Contact information

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Click here

1. Revised Emergency Appeal budget [below](#)
 2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
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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 Disaster Response](#) 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.

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

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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EMERGENCY APPEAL

MDRCU002 Cuba Hurricane Sandy

16-Sep-13

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	3,947,095			3,947,095
Shelter - Transitional	0			0
Construction - Housing	0			0
Construction - Facilities	0			0
Construction - Materials	0			0
Clothing & Textiles	36,980			36,980
Food	0			0
Seeds & Plants	0			0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	123,084			123,084
Medical & First Aid				0
Teaching Materials	51,726			51,726
Utensils & Tools	150,469			150,469
Other Supplies & Services	6,064			6,064
Emergency Response Units	0			0
Cash Disbursements	0			0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	4,315,417	0	0	4,315,417
Land & Buildings				0
Vehicles	0			0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	1,070			1,070
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	82,827			82,827
Medical Equipment				0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0			0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	83,897	0	0	83,897
Storage, Warehousing	100,077			100,077
Distribution & Monitoring	225,945			225,945
Transport & Vehicle Costs	29,600			29,600
Logistics Services	208,615			208,615
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	564,237	0	0	564,237
International Staff	58,891			58,891
National Staff	67,039			67,039
National Society Staff	10,798			10,798
Volunteers	34,925			34,925
Total PERSONNEL	171,654	0	0	171,654
Consultants	64,505			64,505
Professional Fees	27,609			27,609
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	92,114	0	0	92,114
Workshops & Training	54,179			54,179
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	54,179	0	0	54,179
Travel	30,000			30,000
Information & Public Relations	18,501			18,501
Office Costs	11,769			11,769
Communications	18,083			18,083
Financial Charges	13,970			13,970
Other General Expenses	350			350
Shared Office and Services Costs	39,841			39,841
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	132,514	0	0	132,514
Partner National Societies				0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)				0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0	0	0	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	351,911	0		351,911
Total INDIRECT COSTS	351,911	0	0	351,911
Pledge Earmarking & Reporting Fees				0
Total PLEDGE SPECIFIC COSTS	0	0	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	5,765,921	0	0	5,765,921
Available Resources				
Multilateral Contributions				0
Bilateral Contributions				0
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0	0	0	0
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	5,765,921	0	0	5,765,921