



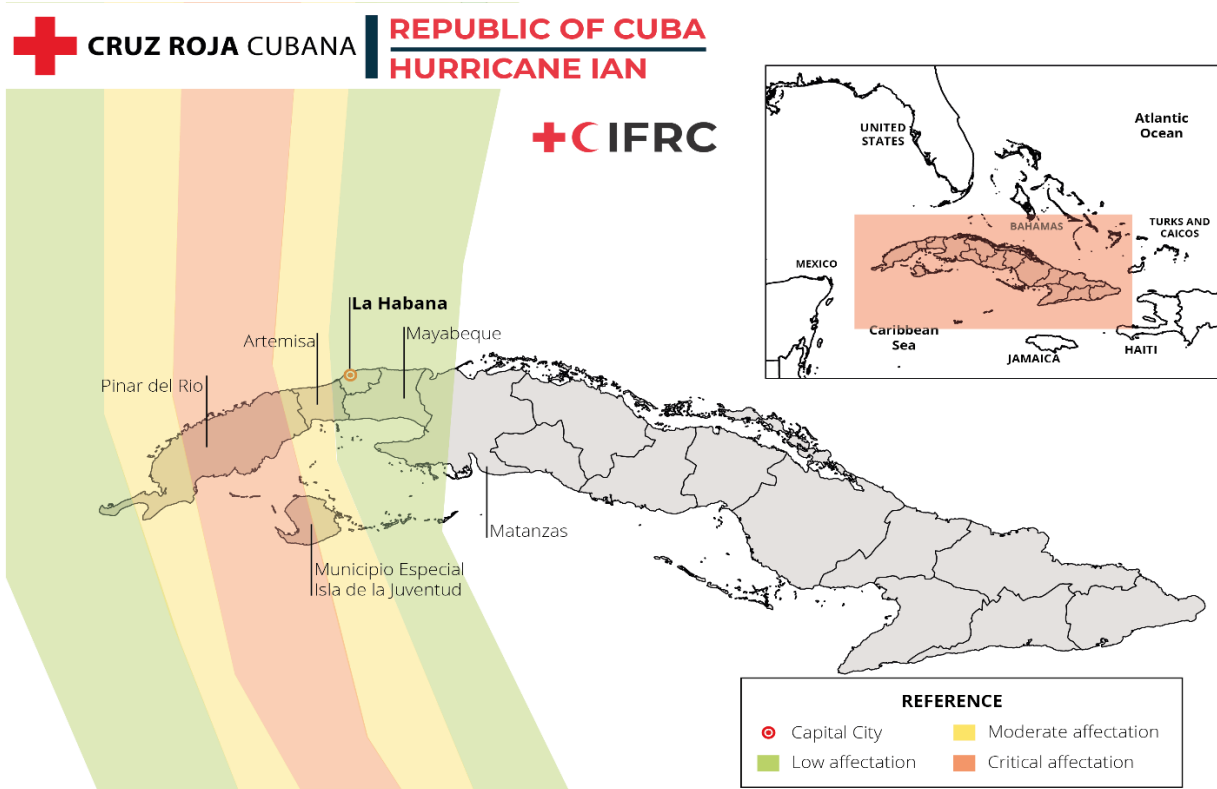
Photo: Cuban Red Cross volunteers providing rescue and evacuation services to the affected population at Batabano, Mayabeque. (Source: CRC- September 2022)

Appeal No: MDRCU008	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 9 million	
Glide No: TC-2022-000320-CUB	People affected/at risk: 500,000 people (100,000 families)	People to be assisted: 25,000 people (5,000 families)
DREF allocation: CHF 1,000,000	Appeal launched: 06/10/2022	Appeal ends: 31/12/2023

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 26 September, the Cuban Civil Defence declared a cyclonic alert for six western territories (Pinar del Río, Artemisa, Mayabeque, Havana, Matanzas, and the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud) and an information phase for three central territories (Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, and Ciego de Avila) in the Republic of Cuba. In the early hours of 27 September, Ian made direct landfall in Pinar Del Río province, battering large swaths of western Cuba as a powerful Category 3 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 185 km/h.

Ian left the country after seven hours of damage, mainly to urban and rural areas in the provinces of Pinar del Río and Artemisa, although it also caused damage in Havana and Isla de la Juventud. For one hour and 30 minutes, the eye of the hurricane remained over the capital city of that territory, causing heavy damage to infrastructure, housing, agriculture, electricity, and telecommunications services.



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Data source: government data sources, Relief Web, IFRC. Produced by IFRC CA Country cluster IM team. September 2022.

According to WFP-ADAM, nearly 600,000 people were exposed to wind speeds of 120 km/h or higher. As of 30 September, six western provinces have been affected, and more than 65,000 people were evacuated from high-risk areas. Local and international media outlets report that Pinar del Río, Cuba's westernmost province, bore the brunt of Ian's wrath, with significant damage reported across the province. Ian had reportedly killed at least three people and left thousands without power ([OCHA, 27 Sep 2022](#)).

As the assessment of the damage progresses, the devastating impact of Ian on western Cuba, especially in the province of Pinar del Río, has become increasingly evident. As per the latest Situation Report No. 7¹, more than 100,000 homes were affected, many of them having completely collapsed. Instead of decreasing, the number of people in evacuation centres is growing, as more people are taking temporary shelter in the homes of family and friends. Authorities agree that housing is the sector that will take the longest to recover, considering not only the magnitude of the damage, but also the fact that, at the time of Ian's impact, 6,000 families were awaiting solutions due to damage from previous emergencies. Additionally, 95 per cent of Pinar del Río province remains without electricity, which continues to complicate the supply of water and the re-establishment of

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/cuba/respuesta-huracan-ian-reporte-de-situacion-no-07-de-la-oficina-de-la-coordinadora-residente-3-de-octubre-de-2022>

telecommunications. Most of the population does not have access to information through the media or social networks, which has forced the authorities to promote alternative ways to publicise the evolution and progress of the response actions.

The infrastructure supporting basic social services has also been severely impacted. Agriculture suffered significant damage, as has the infrastructure to farms, cooperatives, and food marketing centres. Tobacco losses, which affect thousands of people in Pinar del Rio province and account for 10.4% of all items exported from the nation, have been described as "disastrous".

TARGETING

The Cuban Red Cross (CRC) aims to provide support to 5,000 families (25,000 people) affected by Hurricane Ian and whose housing has been significantly damaged. To date, no disaggregated data is available at this point of the operation for the 25,000 people targeted by the CRC. The CRC will, however, provide disaggregated data along with the reporting of the operation.

To carry out the selection of the target population, priority will be given to families with the following criteria:

- Damaged or destroyed houses
- Single-mother households
- Households with dependent elderly adults
- Households with children under five years of age and/or pregnant women
- Households with persons with disabilities

This selection process will be coordinated by the municipal and provincial branches of the CRC along with local governments, Defence Councils, and civil society organisations.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal (EA), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to support the CRC in the response to Hurricane Ian. The aim of the Appeal is to provide immediate humanitarian assistance, protection and recovery support to the most affected families living in Pinar del Rio province. The operation will support 25,000 people (5,000 households) for a period of 15 months.

Integrated assistance

With the EA, the CRC will provide emergency shelter support to families whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the hurricane, with an emphasis on building back better. For this, an initial needs assessment will be carried out to identify and prioritise families. Each of them will receive a shelter and roofing kit that meets the standard specifications for quality and durability.



Recognising the importance of technical assistance as an integral part of the shelter response, an educational programme – PASSA and shelter NIT trainings – will be implemented to enable families to decide the best way to rebuild their homes.



Health & Care including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

There is currently no detailed information on the impact of the hurricane on the health of the affected population, however, reports of damage to the health system, together with the risks due to flooding and inadequate housing, suggest the need to implement actions for health promotion, first aid, mental health and psychosocial support, hygiene promotion (including hygiene and the distribution of menstrual kits), safe water, sanitation, and vector control. In addition, to

contribute to the restoration of health services, this appeal will provide the Ministry of Health with equipment, solar panels or climate efficient energetic solutions, medical supplies, and support for infrastructure rehabilitation.

Protection and Prevention

The actions implemented by the IFRC network will be conducted according to the Minimums Standards on Protection, Gender and Inclusion which seeks to ensure the actions undertaken being implemented under the DAPS framework (Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety). This also includes safeguarding mechanisms on child protection and preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.



This operation will ensure meaningful participation of people in affected communities, such as community meetings, focus groups and key informant contacts. The information will help the National Society tailor interventions to the actual needs expressed by the community.

The operation includes actions aimed at community resilience and strengthening of the National Society's capacity in risk reduction. This includes, among others, analysis of capacities and vulnerabilities and contingency plans at the community level, support for evacuation centres, training for Volunteers in NEAT+, implementation of nature-based solutions in coastal areas and strengthening of the emergency operations centre of the National Society.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

IFRC Secretariat services



The added value of the Secretariat is to support procurement regionally through the regional logistics unit (RLU) in Panama given the context where it is extremely challenging to conduct domestic procurement as well as to transfer funds. Also important is the direct support of the Latin Caribbean Delegation and the HDCC Regional Unit which will immediately deploy an Operations Coordinator to support the development of the Emergency Appeal in addition to compiling the assessments from the field level given the limited access to information due to the political context.

National Society Strengthening

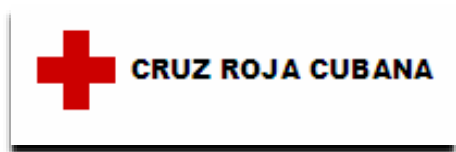


The Emergency Appeal operation will support the CRC in addressing some of the National Society response capacities' assessed gaps, which may include, volunteer development and duty of care, organisational development (equipment, trainings, coaching) logistics, and transportation.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach which includes response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY

Cuban Red Cross



Core areas of operation	
Number of staff:	314
Number of volunteers:	47,000
Number of branches:	15 departmental branches 168 municipal branches

So far in 2022, the CRC has successfully responded to the main disasters and crises that have occurred in Cuba, including the migration crisis in June, the blast at the Saratoga Hotel in May, and the fire at the Matanzas oil storage facility in August.

In the past decade, the CRC has responded to major hurricanes that hit the island with a comprehensive intervention focused on shelter and other programmatic areas. More specifically, shelter support was provided to 7,000 families after the impact of Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and 10,000 families during Hurricane Irma in 2017.

When it comes to Ian, the CRC was highly active in terms of preparedness before the hurricane made landfall. Staff and volunteers from the National Society were activated 72 hours before the impact of the hurricane and have had full access to the affected areas and communities. CRC has permanent presence in all the affected provinces and have assisted the communities in close coordination with the local authorities.

A total of 1,664 volunteers and staff have been actively involved in response to the different activities. The auxiliary role of CRC towards the Government Institutions allows the National Society to organize coordinated actions related to evacuations. CRC teams began evacuations since 24 September, 3 days before impact of Hurricane Ian.

The National Society, as part of the Council of Civil Defense, has the mandate to be active in evacuation through their staff and volunteers trained in evacuation. In this event, 2,391 people that were at risk were evacuated by CRC. Cuba has very strong early warning systems and preparedness protocols that help minimize the impact of hurricanes in the whole island. Other services provided by the Cuban Red Cross include 557 people reached with PSS interventions, 145 people reached through first aid actions, and 173 people rescued directly by CRC staff

and volunteers. Overall, 3,266 people have been assisted so far. These are preliminary figures, and the amount will continue increasing.

There have been challenges in downloading information from the CRC in Pinar del Rio province due to the electricity blackout.

The CRC has mobilised the following teams: 188 people from Emergency Operations and Relief Groups (GEOS), 827 people from the Municipal Relief Operations Groups (GMOS), and 730 people from the Community Operations and Relief Groups (GCOS).

There has been solid and very close coordination with different local authorities at the community, municipal, provincial, and national levels. The CRC has been active in conducting evacuations and delivering response services in the following provinces: Pinar del Rio, Artemisa, Mayabeque, Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Ciego de Avila, Isla de la Juventud, and Habana.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC maintains constant support and coordination with the CRC through the Country Cluster Delegation for the Latin Caribbean, based in Haiti, and through the Regional Office for the Americas based in Panama. In addition, the Head of the Country Cluster Delegation and the regional disaster management coordinator were deployed to the country on 30 September to coordinate response actions for this operation. IFRC staff have visited the affected areas and met with local authorities to discuss and assess the impact of Hurricane Ian.

The IFRC has been in contact with Participating National Societies and the main donors of the Americas Region informing them of the current needs on the ground and the IFRC Network's response.

External coordination

Prior to the impact of Hurricane Ian, the CRC, in its auxiliary role to the public authorities, coordinated preparedness and response actions with government authorities at the community, municipal and provincial levels.

The Civil Defence Council is the institution responsible for the response to the disaster and leads the response efforts. The Council oversees and provides guidelines to the provincial defence councils which are, in turn, responsible for identifying and registering the affected population and the implementation of relief activities. The local branches of the CRC are part of these councils.

UN agencies (OCHA, UNICEF), the Pan-American Health Organization, and other humanitarian agencies are currently coordinating with the Government of Cuba to support the response to Hurricane Ian. The governments of Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela have expressed their willingness to help Cuba in its recovery efforts. To date, IFRC staff in the field have shared information and coordinated activities with OCHA and UNICEF.

Contact Information

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

At the Cuban Red Cross

- **Secretary General:** Dr. Luis Foyo, crsn@infomed.sld.cu
- **Sub Director at National Level:** Susana Llovet, crsn@infomed.sld.cu
- **Disaster Management Delegate:** Gonzalo Atxaerandio, gonzalo.atxaerandio@ifrc.org

At the IFRC

- **Head of Country Cluster Delegation – Latin Caribbean:** Elias Ghanem, elias.ghanem@ifrc.org
- **Head of Disaster, Climate and Crises:** Roger Alonso Morgui, roger.morgui@ifrc.org
- **Operations, Evolving Crises and Disasters Manager:** Maria Martha Tuna, maria.tuna@ifrc.org
- **Communications Manager:** Susana Arroyo, susana.arroyo@ifrc.org
- **Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting Manager:** Pradiip Alvarez (acting), pradiip.alvarez@ifrc.org

At the IFRC Geneva Headquarters

- **Senior Officer, Operations Coordinator:** Antoine Belair, antoine.belair@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

- **Head of Partnerships and Resource Development:** Mei Lin León (acting), meilin.leon@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:

- **Regional Head, Global Supply Chain:** Mauricio Bustamante, mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org
- **Regional Logistics Manager:** Stephany Murillo, Stephany.murillo@ifrc.org