

OPERATION UPDATE #1

Cuba | Hurricane Ian

Emergency appeal №: MDRCU008 Emergency appeal launched: 6 October 2022 Operational Strategy published: 2 November 2022	Glide №: TC-2022-00320-CUB
Operation update #1 Date of issue: 19 November 2022	Timeframe covered by this update: 6 October to 16 November 2022
Operation timeframe: 15 months (6 October 2022 to 31 December 2023)	Number of people being assisted: 25,000
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 9 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 1 million

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks CHF 9,000,000, is 34 per cent funded. Further contributions are needed to enable the Cuban Red Cross, with the support of the IFRC, to continue providing humanitarian assistance to the families affected by Hurricane Ian.



Cuban Red Cross staff, member of relief community team, assessing the families and households affected in Puerta del Golpe community, municipality of Consolación del Sur, Pinar del Río.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

Hurricane Ian made landfall on 26 September lashing the western region of the country, with sustained winds of more than 200 km/h and even stronger gusts, significant storm surge and coastal flooding. The impact of the hurricane left a trail of destruction as it crossed the country. Upon making landfall, Ian was classified as a category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale, with a diameter spanning 600 km.

The numbers that have been gathered indicate that some 3.2 million people were directly affected in the provinces of Pinar del Río, Artemisa and La Habana, as well as the Special Municipality Isla de la Juventud. Hurricane Ian affected the Cuban territory for six hours, wreaking havoc across several municipalities, including the capital of Pinar del Río Province, where the eye of the hurricane lingered for an hour and a half. Sea waters reached two kilometers inland in several coastal areas, with the height of floodwaters reaching 1.5 meters.

Reported damage is significant and it combines the complexity of the impacts in a major urban area with the loss of livelihoods in rural municipalities. 76,221 people were evacuated to centers set up by local government authorities while others relocated to the homes of friends and family, in compliance with the guidelines of the National Civil Defense General Staff. Despite the prevention efforts of authorities and the warnings issued to the population, this powerful hurricane left three people dead following its passage through Pinar del Río.

The assessments that have been carried out indicate critical damage to housing, access to drinking water and electricity, health and educational institutions, facilities that store or distribute food, thousands of hectares of crops, agricultural and livestock production and fisheries, i.e., the fundamental means of livelihood of the population of the affected municipalities. Major challenges persist for reestablishing electricity, which impacts several basic services, including running water, in addition to the damage caused to water reservoirs and distribution systems.

The complex situation creates the conditions for an increased risk of dengue and gastrointestinal diseases in a context where serious damages to health facilities have been reported. Immediate national efforts have been important to restore living conditions and the minimum operation of services, including a recovery strategy that looks to reduce pre-existing vulnerabilities. However, the damage is devastating.

Hurricane Ian hit Cuba amid a complex post-COVID-19 global context as the country faces economic challenges. Cuba is excluded from major international financial institutions and faces extremely limited access to international capital markets, making it very difficult to finance disaster response efforts and the country's development. In the aftermath of Ian's destruction, it is critical to support Cuba in its ongoing response and recovery efforts.¹

Summary of response

Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response

The Cuban Red Cross (CRC) works as part of the National Civil Defence System and in close coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP). The work of the National Society focuses on the Department of Operations and Relief, which is responsible for (1) actions in case of disasters and (2) developing prevention, preparedness/readiness, response and recovery actions in communities. Currently, CRC has 314 staff members and 47,000 volunteers participating in activities in 15 departmental branches and 168 municipal branches.

¹ [Plan of Action: United Nations System Cuba - Hurricane Ian Response \(October 2022\)](#)

Cuba has strong early warning systems and preparedness protocols that minimize the impact of hurricanes. Before Ian made landfall, CRC focused the attention on preparedness activities. CRC Staff and volunteers were activated 72 hours before landfall and have since had full access to the affected areas and communities. The National Society has a permanent presence in all affected provinces and has assisted communities in close coordination with the local authorities. A total of 1,664 volunteers and staff have been actively involved in the response. The role of CRC as an auxiliary to government allows the National Society to help coordinate evacuations and CRC teams began evacuating people on 24 September, three days before landfall.

Cuban Red Cross actions:

Since before Hurricane Ian made landfall, the volunteers of the Cuban Red Cross have been engaged in prevention work, family relocation to safe locations, rescue, and other more varied tasks.

According to information provided a total of 1,664 volunteers have helped in:

- As part of the Council of Civil Defence, CRC 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. Other services provided by the Cuban Red Cross include 557 people reached with Psychosocial Support (PSS) interventions, 145 people reached with first aid, and 173 people rescued directly by CRC staff.
- 523 volunteers clean up and rebuild communities across 4 provinces (Pinar del Rio, Artemisa, La Habana, and Mayabeque).
- The installation of three protection centers for affected families, in which 17 volunteers assisted.
- Damage assessments have been carried out by 43 volunteers, who have also identified homes with partial and complete roof loss, complete and partial collapse, and varied other needs.
- 57 volunteers have been actively involved in aiding social workers who oversee raising "social cases," such as single mothers with young children, elderly persons living alone, and people with impairments, among others.
- In the City of Havana, 17 volunteers have given blood, while 36 volunteers have helped build Cuban Red Cross emergency tents to support a total of 887 people.
- In three communities of Pinar del Rio Province, 180 cases have been attended because of the assistance given by 36 volunteers in immunization campaigns (COVID-19 and other vaccines) and HIV testing.
- A total of 75 volunteers have worked on initiatives to promote health, sanitation, access to clean water with a focus on dengue control, Sexual Transmission Infection prevention, information sharing with pregnant women and the elderly, and distributing donations gathered in the territories to the local populace.
- Hurricane Ian has thus far directly impacted 993 Red Cross volunteer's homes in the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Artemisa, and Mayabeque. The volunteers are nonetheless engaged and performing their humanitarian duties as it has been mandated.

IFRC actions:

- IFRC deployed a response team from Regional Office and Latin Caribbean Cluster Delegation on September 30 to support CRC on the humanitarian response.
- A relief flight arrived in Cuba on November 8 with following humanitarian supplies: 1,280 hygiene kits, 1,280 kitchen sets and 1,280 solar lamps. This humanitarian assistance will be distributed in the upcoming days.
- During the last weeks CRC staff and volunteers have worked on the assessments and targeting of 33 communities located in 9 "Consejos Populares" in San Juan y Martinez, which have been identified following the selection criteria stated in the Emergency Appeal.
- Procurement of roofing materials have already kicked off, currently IFRC procurement team is validating the offers received by the suppliers.
- The IFRC team has coordinated in-kind contributions from different Movement Partners based on the Mobilization Table.

- IFRC has mobilized an Operation Manager as part of the Surge Capacity scheme for 2 months, to ensure that there is a permanent presence in the country until long-term staff is assigned to the operation.

CRC teams and government authorities have visited the most affected territories. The strengths and resources of the government, national organisations and civil society are being used to respond to the crisis. Workers from all of Cuba's provinces continue to arrive in the west of the island to join the recovery effort while non-governmental organisations (NGOs), cooperatives, and small- and medium-sized private companies are joining the effort. In-kind donations continue to arrive in the most affected communities and national and provincial authorities have been coordinating the clean-up of debris, restoring the power grid, and attending to people in evacuation centres.

CRC fulfills its auxiliary role as part of the National System of Prevention, Mitigation and Response to emergencies and disasters. The Cuban Civil Defence System³ also integrates all levels, from nation to community, with measures for prevention, mitigation and preparedness. It is also responsible of the dissemination of guidelines on the protection of the population, their property and the national economy. The National Civil Defence General Staff is the main governing body of this system, in charge of overseeing compliance with civil defence measures and international conventions related to civil protection. It is also responsible for coordinating international cooperation and assistance during natural disasters.

Needs analysis

Needs analysis

According to the dialogue with CRC and the data that is available, the needs analysis has been updated as follows:

Health sector: Even though many of the healthcare facilities have not yet undergone rehabilitation, more than 99% of the health professionals in the province of Pinar del Rio have reportedly reported to work. Out of a total of 319 hospitals, 87 have reportedly been restored (27%), and work is still being done to restore the remaining hospitals. Despite this, medical facilities continue to offer essential services to individuals in need. The Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP) reported significant structural damage to health facilities located in the impacted areas, including a total collapse of some 22 CMFs (child and maternal health centers), partial or complete loss of roofs (asbestos cement and zinc roof tiles), roofing (waterproofing sheets) and false ceilings, broken glass in windows and doors, as well as damage to water tanks and lines and power supply sources since the generators of several health facilities were affected. The damaged health institutions in the most affected areas include 9 hospitals, 25 outpatient clinics, 106 family practitioner clinics and nursing clinics (CMF, child and maternal health centers), 8 pharmacies, 11 social institutions and 17 other institutions (nursing homes, maternity homes and others).

Shelter: there are around 100,000 houses that have been affected in the province of Pinar del Río alone with different level of damaged. Meanwhile, in the province of Artemisa, more than 9,000 houses have been affected. Out of the more than 100,000 impacted houses around the affected area, 5,374 have been rebuilt as of this writing. The worst delays are centered on the three most populous and severely damaged municipalities in the province of Pinar del Rio: Pinar del Rio, Consolación del Sur, and San Juan y Martinez. Likewise, there is considerable damage to water tanks due to the destruction of rooftop tanks and the considerable number of trees that have fallen, obstructing roads and damaging buildings.

There has been restricted access to building supplies; for instance, there are 13 points of sale in the City of Havana without roofing materials. However, 15,000 tiles are expected to arrive in the coming days. Therefore, local manufacturing of building blocks, window frames, prefabricated tanks, and timber modules is promoted.

Electricity service: Since the service recovery has reached 89.52% of the overall impacted population, there are still some municipalities without electrical service like Pinar del Rio, San Juan y Martinez, as well as San Luis, whose rehabilitation has been much more challenging due to the limited access to the area.

Water sector: According to reports, 171 out of 176 water sources and networks (97 per cent) have already been renovated and are currently operational. The remaining systems to be rehabilitated are the most challenging due to access in remote areas. The lack of electric power supply for several days throughout the province of Pinar del Río, and a large part of other western territories, has affected the reestablishment of the water supply service. The situation in Pinar del Río several days after the passage of the hurricane continues to be complex. Water is being distributed in communities through tanker trucks in regular distribution cycles according to local authorities. Public institutions have also suffered major impacts in this sector: in Pinar del Río 102 family doctors' offices, the 5 hospitals and 23 other health entities were affected, including the loss of water tanks.

Agriculture and Livestock sector: While the recovery for the infrastructure of the poultry and swine program is being prepared, 23 hectares of land devoted to tobacco had been recovered and 423 houses have been repaired to cure the crop. The damage to the agricultural sector has affected the livelihoods of the majority of the population, basically related to tobacco, vegetable and horticultural crops, and livestock, with severe effects on the poultry, dairy and swine sectors, as well as fishing.

Operational risk assessment

Anticipated climate related risks and adjustments in operation

Bearing in mind that it is still hurricane season, it is important to continue monitoring hydro-meteorological activity in the Caribbean. Likewise, it is necessary to monitor reservoirs and watersheds to avoid any flooding. And as some homes have been severely damaged, but remain standing, it is necessary to monitor their roofs and structure (including walls) to avoid additional damage or physical damage to any people living in them.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

[MDRCU008 Operational Strategy](#)

At this stage there are no changes to the Operational Strategy.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

	Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Female > 18: 8,000	Female < 18: 4,750
		Male > 18: 7,750	Male < 18: 4,500
Objective:	<i>Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions</i>		
	Indicator	Actual	Target

Key indicators:	<i>Number of people provided with basic emergency shelter that is safe and that adequately enables essential household and livelihoods activities to be undertaken with dignity.</i>	0	25,000
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- On 8 November a relief flight arrived in Cuba with the following humanitarian supplies: 1,280 hygiene kits, 1,280 kitchen sets and 1,280 solar lamps. This humanitarian assistance has been transported to the province and will be distributed in the upcoming days.
- During the last weeks, dozens of CRC staff and volunteers have worked on the assessments and targeting of 33 communities located in 9 “Consejos Populares” in San Juan y Martinez, Pinar del Rio, which have been identified following the selection criteria stated in the Emergency Appeal.
- Procurement of roofing materials has already kicked off; the international tender was launched on 11 November. Currently the procurement team is working on the validation process of the applications from different suppliers.
- All the kits that will be distributed follow IFRC’s quality standards.

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of people assisted with roof repair to fix their damaged houses</i>	0	25,000

There has been discussion to define the technical specifications on the roofing following the constructions modalities in the affected areas and the “build back better” approach. It was agreed the content of the roofing kits based on the analysis from different shelter experts. It has been agreed the content of the construction materials that are necessary to attach the roofing kits. Initially 20 shelter brigades will be organized to work on the roof repairs.

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of staff and volunteers who completed training in emergency shelter and emergency household items</i>		

 Health & Care <i>(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	Female > 18: 8,000	Female < 18: 4,750
	Male > 18: 7,750	Male < 18: 4,500

Objective: *Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community level interventions and health system strengthening*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of people reached by CRC on health services in emergencies</i>	702	25,000

The CRC has strong capacity in supporting the communities while responding to emergencies. The Red Cross Movement response to the Cuban Red Cross during the COVID-19 pandemic strengthened the National Society’s capacity to work with communities. As part of the national response system, CRC volunteers are present immediately after a disaster with enhanced capacity in risk communication at the community level, psychosocial support, among other services.

Planned actions

- First aid training for volunteers
- Community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) training for volunteers
- Distribution of first aid kits to CRC local branches
- Health promotion at the community level
- First aid at the community level

During the first days after the impact of Hurricane Ian, CRC staff and volunteers were responding to primary health care, providing services, mainly on psychosocial social support, reaching 557 people and 145 affected people through first aid support. CRC continues to exercise its auxiliary role, supporting the Minister of Health with regards to the delivery of health services.

In early November IFRC shipped 20 standard first aid kits to Cuba as part of the support to CRC on primary health care.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Female > 18:	8,000	Female < 18:	4,750
Male > 18:	7,750	Male < 18:	4,500

Objective: *Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of people reached by WASH assistance</i>	0	25,000

The number of people reached will be reported in the next Operation Update once the hygiene family kits are distributed. There are ongoing discussions with CRC to increase the WASH assistance based on the availability of funds and support through in-kind contributions.



Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery

Female > 18:	8,000	Female < 18:	4,500
Male > 18:	7,750	Male < 18:	4,500

Objective:

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of people trained in DRR (vulnerability and capacity assessment or climate change adaptation, first aid, contingency)</i>	0	25,000

Nothing to report at this stage. Trainings on DRR will be discussed based on the availability of funding.

IFRC plans to support CRC with “riesgolandias” to strengthen disaster risk reduction at the community level, since CRC has successfully used this methodology in recent years.

Enabling approaches



National Society Strengthening

Objective:			
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of volunteers involved in the response operation that have increased their skills in response and management of operations</i>	0	500

Although the main attention from CRC is channeled to provide relief assistance to the affected population, there is an ongoing dialogue with CRC to define potential training for staff and volunteers that will increase the CRC capacity in different thematic areas.

Sessions on management of operations could be delivered in the upcoming months based on the availability of funds to carry out workshops for volunteers to increase skills and capacities.

There is an intention to maximize the role of the IFRC staff deployed to Cuba in terms of increasing capacities of the CRC. Since pressing the priority is to support the affected people by the impact of Hurricane Ian, in the upcoming months the content of the National Society strengthening will be further defined.

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of volunteers that received protection or visibility equipment</i>	51	500

51 sets of visibility materials (vests, caps and T-Shirts) have been shipped to Cuba to support CRC staff and volunteers in the daily basis activities.

There are commitments to support CRC staff with protection equipment based on the availability of funds.



Coordination and Partnerships

Objective:			
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of pledges registered</i>	7	15

Work on resource mobilisation/generation:

A RCRC Movement Partners Call was held on Tuesday, 25 October, hosted by PRD ARO. Regular information and fundraising resources related to this emergency have been shared with partners and potential donors since the day this Emergency Appeal was launched. The Partnerships and Resource Development Unit has maintained a regular dialogue with partners and donors and developed several funding proposals with the aim of securing needed resources for this emergency appeal.

Donors and partners to this Operation: AECID, Canadian Red Cross Society, Canadian Government, ECHO, Italian Government, Netherlands Red Cross, Spanish Government, Spanish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, USAID/BHA, Zurich Foundation.

Link to Donor Response document: (automatically updated weekly):

<https://go-api.ifrc.org/publicfile/download?path=/docs/appeals/Active/&name=MDRCU008.pdf>



Secretariat Services

Objective:

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of surge missions or deployments</i>	9	25

During the first weeks of implementation there has been a constant presence and support from IFRC ARO and the Latin Caribbean Country Cluster Delegation (CCD).

There have been 9 missions to Cuba from different members of IFRC staff: Disaster Management Coordinator (3) Head of Latin Caribbean Country Cluster Delegation (3), ARO Head of Operations (1) Finance Caribbean Cluster Delegation (1). As part of Surge Capacity an Operation Manager has been deployed for 2 months.

IFRC will keep supporting CRC through deployments across the whole operation to ensure that the CRC receives the support that is needed from the IFRC Secretariat staff.

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Logistics department provides constant support to the National Society's logistics unit for replenishment and other procurements</i>		

Regional Logistic Unit has been very active during the initial phase of the response. All the procurement of relief items will be processed internationally. It entails a heavy workload on procurement and shipment of relief supplies. Another key role that the Regional Logistic Unit has played over the last week is related to the support provided by different Red Cross-National Societies that have contributed through Gift in Kind donations. There is a contribution of Netherlands Red Cross of 1,382 kitchen sets, Canadian Red Cross with 50 tents and Spanish Red Cross with 3,000 kitchen sets and 9,129 tarpaulins. There is an ongoing dialogue with American Red Cross and British Red Cross around donations of different items based on the IFRC mobilization table.

D. FUNDING

Link to the donor response on the [IFRC GO Emergency Page](#).

Contact information

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

In the Cuban Red Cross

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

In the IFRC

- **Head of Country Cluster Delegation – Latin Caribbean:** Elias Ghanem elias.ghanem@ifrc.org
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- **Operations, Evolving Crisis 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 Mobilization and Pledges support:

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

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

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

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. 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.