



Debris removal actions on access roads in the municipality of San Antonio del Sur, Guantanamo. October 2024. Source: Cuban Red Cross.

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Appeal: MDRCU010 | Country: Cuba | Hazard: Cyclone | Type of DREF: Response |
| Crisis Category: Yellow | Event Onset: Sudden | DREF Allocation: CHF 467,222 | |
| Glide Number: TC-2024-000192-CUB | People Affected: 320,000 people | People Targeted: 5,000 people | |
| Operation Start Date: 28-10-2024 | Operation Timeframe: 6 months | Operation End Date: 30-04-2025 | DREF Published: 01-11-2024 |

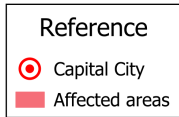
Targeted Areas: **Granma, Guantanamo, Holguin, Las Tunas, Santiago de Cuba**

Description of the Event

Date of event

21-10-2024

HURRICANE OSCAR 2024 | CUBA



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. Sources: Cuban Red Cross, IFRC. Produced by IFRC Americas, HDCC, IM Team.

Map of areas affected by hurricane Oscar. Source: Cuban Red Cross, IFRC.

What happened, where and when?

Hurricane Oscar impacted Cuba on October 20 and 21, 2024. The storm made landfall near Baracoa, in Guantánamo province, on 20 October, with winds reaching 130 km/h, classifying it as a Category 1 hurricane. Moving at 11 km/h, Oscar remained over Cuban territory for almost 24 hours before exiting near Gibara in northern Holguín province as a tropical storm with winds of 65 km/h. The municipalities of Baracoa and Maisí, along with other areas in eastern Cuba, were hit hardest by strong winds and heavy rains.

Preliminary reports highlight severe damage affecting homes, agriculture, electrical infrastructure, and state facilities, including warehouses, pharmacies, health centers, and schools. The impact in different provinces was as follows:

- Guantánamo: San Antonio del Sur recorded 353 mm of rainfall, with 275 mm falling within three hours. Imías experienced unprecedented flooding, and electrical lines were severely damaged. Agricultural losses and damages to health facilities are still under evaluation.
- Holguín: 48.6 mm of rain fell in just 12 hours, and reservoirs were at 73.3% capacity.
- Granma: Rainfall concentrated in mountainous areas, which remain under close observation.
- Santiago de Cuba: The economic impact was primarily on coffee production, with 32,000 cans of coffee beans collected to prevent humidity-related losses.
- Las Tunas: more than 14,000 residents were protected from the hurricane's threat.

These events unfolded in an already challenging context for the country, which is grappling with prolonged shortages of essential goods and an energy emergency characterized by fuel shortages and failures in power plants. Generators and renewable energy systems have been used to maintain access to basic services. Despite coordinated government efforts, significant humanitarian needs remain, worsened by the hurricane. Power, water, and telecommunications disruptions have increased the vulnerability of rural and coastal communities,



where infrastructure is fragile, and response capacity is limited.

Cuba's eastern provinces have a history of extreme weather events, such as the heavy rains of March 2023, which caused significant damage and displacement. However, the devastation caused by Hurricane Oscar poses a serious threat to long-term recovery, especially in key sectors like agriculture and energy. The widespread damage to critical infrastructure underscores the need for an urgent and comprehensive emergency response.



CRC volunteers conducting assessment in coordination with the Cuban Government to quantify affectations of Hurricane Oscar. Source: CRC. October 2024.



CRC volunteers conducting assessment in coordination with the Cuban Government to quantify affectations of Hurricane Oscar. Source: CRC. October 2024.



CRC volunteers supporting evacuation in the province of Las Tunas.

Scope and Scale

Hurricane Oscar, which struck eastern Cuba in October 2024, caused extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, and crops in the provinces of Guantánamo, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, and Las Tunas. Reports indicate that around 9,047 homes were damaged, with over 1,440 roofs partially destroyed and 527 completely lost, particularly in Baracoa and Maisí. Intense rainfall exceeding 300 mm in some areas within 24 hours led to severe flooding, river overflows, and landslides. In Imías, the main access road remains blocked, and 51 partial building collapses have further hindered rescue and recovery operations.

The hurricane also severely impacted essential services. The already fragile electricity supply was further disrupted, affecting access to potable water and food preservation. In Baracoa and Maisí, water systems were paralyzed by damaged infrastructure and turbidity, leaving 293,156 people—77% of the serviced population—without running water. Emergency teams are delivering water by tanker trucks to hospitals and key community services.

Agriculture has suffered substantial losses, with key crops like coffee, bananas, and tomatoes devastated. Early estimates suggest that 982 hectares of crops and 43,858 cans of mature coffee beans have been lost, dealing a significant blow to the local economy and livelihoods.

More than 130,000 people have been evacuated across the five provinces. The Cuban Red Cross and Civil Defense teams continue to work tirelessly to safeguard affected communities. Damage assessments are ongoing, but the destruction is expected to have severe short- and medium-term consequences.

This disaster will likely have far-reaching effects on the lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure of impacted communities. Vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, are particularly at risk. The hurricane has exacerbated existing weaknesses in infrastructure and economic hardships, intensifying the struggle for recovery and deepening cycles of vulnerability. As the full scope of the damage becomes clearer, the need for comprehensive disaster preparedness and response strategies, particularly for the most vulnerable, has become even more urgent.

Source Information

| Source Name | Source Link |
|-------------|-------------|
|-------------|-------------|

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Presidencia y gobierno de Cuba | https://www.presidencia.gob.cu/es/noticias/en-guantànamo-se-concentran-las-principales-afectaciones-de-oscar |
| 2. Granma national news | https://www.granma.cu/ |
| 3. Informador News | https://www.informador.mx/internacional/Cuba-reporta-mas-de-mil-viviendas-afectadas-tras-el-paso-del-huracan-Oscar-20241022-0125.html |
| 4. Respuesta a Huracán Oscar - Reporte de Situación No. 01 de la Oficina del Coordinador Residente (21 de octubre de 2024) | https://reliefweb.int/report/cuba/respuesta-huracan-oscar-reporte-de-situacion-no-01-de-la-oficina-del-coordinador-residente-21-de-octubre-de-2024 |

Previous Operations

| | |
|--|-----|
| Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years? | Yes |
| Did it affect the same population group? | Yes |
| Did the National Society respond? | No |
| Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s) | - |
| If yes, please specify which operation | - |

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

-

Lessons learned:

In this operation, important lessons learned from previous emergency responses, such as Hurricane Ian in 2022, which devastated Pinar del Río, are being applied. During that event, the Cuban Red Cross launched an emergency appeal to assist vulnerable populations, realizing the need to allocate resources in a timely manner and pre-position supplies. This approach has been essential in optimizing response efforts.

Currently, a DREF operation (MDRCU009) is being finalized to address the flooding emergency in the northwest of the country, which has faced logistical challenges similar to past operations. One of the main obstacles has been the management of the supply chain, from procurement to rapid mobilization within the country. To overcome these challenges, a two-phase logistical strategy has been implemented: an initial phase involving the air shipment of low-volume items via charter flight to meet the needs of 750 families (2,475), and a second maritime phase for transporting bulkier items, such as mattresses and water tanks, which would be too costly to send by air. This dual approach will help optimize both costs and timing, ensuring an effective and efficient response.

Additionally, accountability has been recognized as crucial, facilitating the smooth implementation of activities and encouraging community participation. By integrating feedback and perceptions from the affected population, both outreach efforts and the response capacity are strengthened, ensuring that the operation better addresses the needs of the community.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

21-10-2024



| | |
|---|---|
| Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 bedridden patients were transferred from their communities to Protection Centers or relatives' and friends' homes. - 23 people received care, including physical and psychological first aid. - Support was provided to health institutions for the transfer of patients to other hospitals. - Health promotion activities were carried out in the municipality of Banes in coordination with National Health System Promoters, as well as in the Protection Centers. |
| Protection, Gender And Inclusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support given to 4 protection centers with 10 volunteers. - 3 Restoring Family Links (RFL) brigades mobilized with 10 volunteers. |
| Coordination | <p>The Operations and Relief Groups have been supporting the Defense Councils in the evacuation of families. Additionally, they assist the Cuban Fire Department in rescue and salvage operations and provide both physical and psychological first aid to the families of victims and affected individuals.</p> <p>Support in Protection Centers: Volunteers are active in 8 Protection Centers. RFL (Restoring Family Links) Brigades are working diligently in the field and in the Protection Centers.</p> <p>A total of 5,080 people have been evacuated by Cuban Red Cross volunteers. Of these, 591 people are currently housed in Protection Centers, receiving support from volunteers, while 4,489 individuals have taken refuge with family and friends.</p> |
| National Society Readiness | <p>The Cuban Red Cross mobilized 601 volunteers from the Operations and Relief Groups, RFL, Shelter Support, Psychological Support, and Amateur Radio groups. Additionally, 60 salaried staff members from the Cuban Red Cross were involved.</p> <p>Las Tunas: A total of 204 volunteers were mobilized. In the municipality of Majibacoa, support was provided to set up the Los Pinos Protection Center, where the Brigada 7 transported community members. Among them, three bedridden individuals were evacuated.</p> <p>Holguín: Support was given to fire departments to respond to emergencies and assist with rescue and salvage operations. In the municipality of Gibara, the GEOS group participated in the evacuation of 58 people from the community of "El Curita" and transported four bedridden individuals to the Gibara Polyclinic Hospital. In the municipality of Banes, health promotion activities were carried out by volunteers. Additionally, in the municipality of Frank País, 150 people were evacuated, and a mother and her newborn were transported to the Frank País Hospital.</p> <p>Granma: 126 volunteers were mobilized, with 10 members from the Specialized Group (GEOS) assisting the Fire Department in rescue operations. In Cauto Cristo, 4 volunteers supported 2 Protection Centers sheltering 325 people.</p> <p>Santiago de Cuba: The GEOS group was activated with 10 volunteers, providing support to the Fire Department.</p> <p>Guantánamo: A total of 83 volunteers were activated. Five members of the GEOS group conducted rescue operations in San Antonio del Sur, attending to and evacuating 23 people to safety. In Baracoa, they assisted with the aerial evacuation of a child with a cranial trauma. In Caimanera, volunteers supported the Protection Center and carried out health promotion activities. In San Antonio del Sur, they assisted with the transportation of medical supplies to restore services at the local polyclinic.</p> <p>A total of 8 Specialized Operations and Relief Groups were activated in the affected territories, involving 84 volunteers. Furthermore, 27 Municipal Groups (GMOS) with 258 volunteers and 37 Community Groups (GCOS) with 182 volunteers were also mobilized.</p> <p>Additionally, 19 Territorial RCF Offices were activated with 61 volunteers to provide support. Moreover, 16 volunteers were deployed to assist in 8 Protection Centers for</p> |



| | |
|--|---|
| | evacuated individuals, where they are working on Health Promotion and Restoring Family Links (RFL) services. |
| Activation Of Contingency Plans | The Cuban Red Cross activated its Disaster Risk Reduction Plan to address hydrometeorological events at both the National and Territorial levels. |

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

| | |
|---|--|
| Secretariat | The IFRC Americas Regional Office and Country Cluster Delegation for Cuba, Haiti and Dominican Republic are collaborating closely with the Cuban Red Cross through technical support for the development of this DREF Application. |
| Participating National Societies | Permanent communication and exchange of information with the Italian Red Cross delegation for Central America and the Caribbean. |

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

Fluent communication is maintained between the National Society and the ICRC delegation in Venezuela, which is in charge of monitoring Cuba.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

| | |
|--|---|
| Government has requested international assistance | No |
| National authorities | <p>During the Disaster Situation, the National Defense Council adopts general provisions that are mandatory, according to the demands of the situation. These provisions align with special legislation and previously approved measures and plans. To address various situations in different regions of the country, Regional, Provincial, and Municipal Defense Councils are activated, in accordance with Cuba's organizational structure. These councils implement the Disaster Risk Reduction Plans, which include various stages and phases designed to mitigate the effects of the disaster.</p> <p>In this context, the Institute of Meteorology (INSMET), under the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment (CITMA), is responsible for directing meteorological activities in Cuba. Its main mission is to provide reliable, authorized, and timely meteorological and climatic information, with the goal of safeguarding human life and reducing material losses from natural meteorological disasters, directly contributing to community well-being and the country's sustainable development.</p> <p>A Central Commission, sent by the government, is conducting a detailed assessment of damages in key sectors such as housing, agriculture, and other affected areas. The Ministry of Public Health, in coordination with the General Health Directorate of Guantánamo province, has reinforced Medical Brigades in the territories most severely impacted by the disaster.</p> <p>Additionally, a contingent of electrical workers has been deployed to the affected areas to assess and assist in the recovery of the electrical service. At the same time, intensive efforts are underway to clear the access roads to the municipality of Imías, which have been blocked by landslides, with the goal of restoring transit and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to the isolated communities.</p> |
| UN or other actors | The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Cuba has published Situation Report No. 01 on the response to Hurricane Oscar. The UN is focused on supporting the recovery of damaged infrastructure and delivering food and medical assistance to the |



most vulnerable communities, particularly those in areas difficult to access due to flooding and landslides.

Additionally, the UN is working closely with the Ministry of Public Health to mitigate health risks associated with the floods, such as the increase in vector-borne diseases. The United Nations System has emphasized the importance of swiftly mobilizing resources to prevent a further deterioration of living conditions in the most impacted areas. This report highlights the UN's commitment to continuously monitor and respond effectively to this emergency.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The National Society, in its auxiliary role, has actively participated in various meetings with the National Civil Defense Staff to coordinate on-the-ground actions in case of emergency, as well as to identify and implement the necessary preventive activities, considering the changes in meteorological forecasts.

In accordance with Directive No. 1 of 2022 from the President of the National Council of the Republic of Cuba, Temporary Working Groups have been established to evaluate and analyze the damages. Based on these evaluations, tasks are assigned to the Central State Administration Bodies and auxiliary institutions like the Cuban Red Cross. These Temporary Working Groups coordinate their activities with representatives at the national, provincial, municipal, and Popular Council levels, ensuring a comprehensive and efficient response to emergencies.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Hurricane Oscar has created significant needs and gaps in the housing sector in the affected provinces, particularly in Guantánamo, Santiago de Cuba, Holguín, Granma, and Las Tunas. According to reports, more than 1,800 homes in municipalities such as Baracoa and Maisí have suffered severe damage, including partial or total loss of roofs, leaving many families without a safe place to stay. The strong winds and heavy rains have also caused damage to state infrastructure, including warehouses, stores, and pharmacies.

Some of the key housing needs include:

Temporary shelters: Thousands of people need to be relocated to shelters or temporary housing due to the collapse of their homes.

Building materials: There is an urgent need for materials such as zinc sheets, wood, and other supplies to repair or rebuild damaged roofs and structures.

Support for displaced families: Immediate assistance is required for evacuees, especially those staying in evacuation centers or with family and friends.

Additionally, due to the widespread damage to power transmission lines caused by the hurricane, many areas remain without electricity. This has increased the need for support with alternative energy solutions, such as the provision of generators and solar lamps, to ensure that affected families have access to basic lighting and electricity. These alternative sources are crucial for providing a minimum level of comfort and security, particularly in shelters and rural areas where restoring the power grid may take longer.

The gaps in housing after Hurricane Oscar include, first and foremost, the lack of adequate materials for the immediate reconstruction of damaged homes, particularly in the hardest-hit and most inaccessible areas, complicating repair efforts. In addition, there are limitations in the capacity of temporary shelters to house all displaced families for an extended period, increasing the vulnerability of these people, especially in the face of further adverse weather. Finally, there is a shortage of economic and logistical resources, which is slowing efforts to carry out necessary repairs quickly and efficiently, delaying the return to normalcy for many affected families.



Health

The identified needs in the health sector have worsened the situation in both public healthcare centers and affected communities. Water contamination has accelerated the spread of various communicable diseases, including diarrheal diseases, skin infections, diseases caused by poor food handling, acute and chronic respiratory illnesses, vector-borne infections, and arboviruses. These conditions are also affecting the supply of drinking water, both for human consumption and for animals.



To mitigate these risks, it is essential to conduct health and hygiene promotion sessions and ensure access to safe drinking water in the affected communities.

The floods have led to the loss of essential household items, further exacerbating the situation in impacted areas. Therefore, it is critical to provide primary health services, such as first aid, and to have personnel trained in health promotion, water, and sanitation, along with medical supplies to support the health brigades deployed in the affected areas.

Furthermore, the psychological effects on both volunteers and the general population must be considered. These effects may manifest in physical symptoms, such as fatigue, nausea, headaches, and gastrointestinal disorders, as well as changes in sleep and appetite patterns. Emotionally, signs may include anxiety, depression, burnout syndrome, exhaustion, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The severity of these effects will depend on individual vulnerability, social and family support, and the magnitude and duration of the crisis.

In light of this analysis, it is crucial to have trained personnel in the aforementioned areas and ensure access to protective equipment, biomedical supplies, mosquito nets, and other essential resources. This will enable a swift and effective response to any eventuality and ensure adequate support for the ongoing health response.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The water and sanitation needs and gaps following Hurricane Oscar are significant and pose a serious risk to public health in the most affected areas of Guantánamo, Santiago de Cuba, Holguín, Granma, and Las Tunas. The intense rainfall has contaminated many sources of drinking water, making it difficult to access safe water for human consumption and increasing the risk of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea and gastrointestinal infections. There is an urgent need to restore drinking water supply, particularly in vulnerable communities and temporary shelters.

Additionally, due to the prolonged power outages caused by Hurricane Oscar, water pumping systems have been disrupted, leading to a critical shortage of water and worsening hygiene conditions in homes and shelters. The lack of proper sanitation services, such as drainage and sewer systems, also raises the risk of disease outbreaks and environmental contamination.

The heavy rains have caused flooding, resulting in the collapse and contamination of water systems. Water extraction and treatment systems, as well as distribution networks, have suffered structural damage, worsened by the lack of electricity in pumping stations, which has interrupted the potable water supply. This contamination has altered the physical, chemical, and microbiological parameters of the water, posing a direct risk of waterborne diseases for the affected communities. In response, efforts are underway to distribute water via tanker trucks, ensuring essential services to the population, health institutions, food distribution, and other critical sectors.

In this context, the distribution of hygiene kits has become crucial. These kits, which include essentials such as soap, disinfectants, sanitary towels, and personal cleaning products, are necessary to help people maintain basic hygiene practices and prevent the spread of diseases in an environment where access to clean water is limited.

The initial assessment by local authorities highlights the urgent need to prioritize a response to address water supply and quality issues, as well as the provision of essential hygiene supplies for affected communities. Moreover, the lack of electricity has worsened access to adequate sanitation services, resulting in poor hygiene conditions in shelters and homes. Areas with a high concentration of displaced people face a particular risk of disease outbreaks due to the lack of clean water and the disruption of sanitation systems.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Hurricane Oscar has created significant needs in terms of protection, gender, and inclusion in the affected provinces. One of the main challenges is ensuring the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable populations, such as women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly, who often face greater difficulties during and after natural disasters.

The key needs related to protection, gender, and inclusion are:

Safe access to illuminated spaces: Due to power outages, it is essential to provide solar lamps and other alternative lighting solutions to ensure safety in temporary shelters, common areas, and affected homes. The lack of lighting increases the risk of incidents and reduces the sense of security, especially at night.

Improvement of infrastructure: Destroyed homes and public buildings, such as schools and health centers, require urgent repairs. These infrastructures are not only critical for the physical protection of people but also provide safe spaces for families, especially the most vulnerable. Improving these structures is essential to ensure the inclusion of all sectors of the population in recovery efforts.



Support for women and children: It is important to ensure that displaced families, particularly those headed by women, have access to safe shelters adapted to their needs. In disaster situations, women and children face a higher risk of gender-based violence, so protection must be a priority in the allocation of resources and the creation of safe spaces.

Access to basic services: Restoring services such as potable water, electricity, and sanitation is key not only for reconstruction but also to prevent health risks in affected areas. Additionally, repairing educational and healthcare infrastructures will ensure that children and other vulnerable groups can access essential services as soon as possible.

In summary, ensuring the protection of the most vulnerable groups through infrastructure improvement, safe access to lighting with solar lamps, and the rapid restoration of essential services is key to the humanitarian response following Hurricane Oscar.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

The complex energy situation in the country has also affected communications and the transmission of real-time reports, making it difficult to coordinate the response effectively.

In addition, the lack of visibility and the shortage of personal protective equipment for volunteers compromised both the safety and effectiveness of rescue operations in flooded areas, impacting community trust in the Red Cross's actions. This situation highlighted the urgent need to improve the visibility of volunteers and equip them with adequate protective gear, such as waterproof coats, rubber boots, thermal suits, water helmets, headlamps, batteries, portable generators, and first aid kits, to ensure they can operate safely in any environment.

Finally, a critical need has been identified to ensure energy autonomy for both the central office and provincial branches through the installation of photovoltaic solar systems. This measure is essential to ensure effective management and coordination of the response to any future threats, providing a sustainable and resilient solution to potential energy emergencies.



Environment Sustainability

The environmental sustainability needs and gaps identified within the Cuban Red Cross branches following Hurricane Oscar are primarily focused on the lack of access to clean and resilient energy sources in their facilities and response operations. The prolonged interruption of electricity supply due to damage to transmission lines has directly impacted the branches' ability to coordinate humanitarian aid and provide essential services to affected communities.

One of the key gaps identified is the reliance on traditional energy sources, which are highly vulnerable to damage caused by natural disasters. The Red Cross branches, especially in rural or remote areas, face challenges in maintaining their operations without a stable energy source, putting the continuity of their services during emergencies at risk. The lack of electricity limits their ability to communicate, safely store food and medicine, and provide urgent medical assistance in critical situations.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Given the energy and fuel crisis that the country has been experiencing for several months, communication and access to the most affected areas has been very limited and damage assessments have been delayed.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF operation, the Cuban Red Cross aims to implement actions to reach 1,500 families (5,000 people) and assist the most vulnerable populations affected by Hurricane Oscar in October 2024 in the provinces of Guantánamo, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, and Las Tunas.

Operation strategy rationale

The development of this DREF Action Plan is based on the preliminary data collected through the Initial Damage Assessments and Needs Analysis currently being conducted by the Government of Cuba, coordinated through the National Defense Council. The five provinces most affected by heavy rains—Guantánamo, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, and Las Tunas—have been prioritized in this intervention. In these regions, significant losses have been identified, including damage to homes, loss of personal belongings, and difficulties in accessing basic resources such as potable water. This information is complemented by data provided by provincial and municipal branches in the affected areas, secondary government reports, alerts, and reports from Cuban Civil Defense and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Cuba.

Based on preliminary figures from the assessments, the national government has requested the Cuban Red Cross to assist 650 families affected by the rains and reach 1,500 families (5,000 people) through hygiene promotion across the five hardest-hit provinces. The focus will be on shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene activities, prioritizing the most urgent needs to improve the living conditions of affected communities.

Procurement and export of materials to Cuba can be a lengthy process due to strict administrative procedures. The success of this operation relies on efficient logistics management by the IFRC logistics services.

Summary of the Intervention:

SHELTER:

Historically, cyclones have greatly affected the housing of Cubans. This type of event leaves mostly weakened structures and total and partial destruction of roofs. Taking this into account, the Government of Cuba prioritizes the reconstruction or repair of housing and looks to partners such as the Red Cross for support for the repair or replacement of affected roofs. In the past, training and workshops on safe roof installation have been held, which has developed the capacity of the National Society to form community brigades or roofing brigades led by the Red Cross. With this in mind, 650 shelter tool kits will be requested through this DREF to support the government's roofing reconstruction plan in the provinces affected by Hurricane Oscar. Additionally, non-food items will be distributed in order to supply basic necessities to people who lost everything due to the strong winds, rain and floods caused by Oscar. The items to be distributed are:

Procurement and distribution of 650 double mattresses.

Procurement and distribution of 650 kitchen sets.

Procurement and distribution of 1,300 solar lamps.

Procurement and distribution of 1,300 mosquito nets.

Procurement and distribution of 1,300 Tarpaulins.

Procurement and distribution of 650 shelter toolkits.

WASH (WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE):

taking into account the health risks associated with this event, a strategy will be developed hand in hand with PROSALUD Cuba, a governmental institution in charge of health promotion, in order to carry out health and hygiene promotion campaigns in the affected provinces. Taking into account the alliance with PROSALUD, which allows to have a greater reach, this DREF aims to reach 5,000 people who will benefit from health and hygiene promotion activities.

In addition, Hygiene Kits and 33 liter water tanks will be distributed to 650 families (2,145 people) in order to provide support on issues related to access and use of water.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:

With a view to building resilience in affected communities and their early recovery, the Cuban Red Cross seeks to implement an Extended Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (AVCA) and a rapid environmental analysis through the NEAT+ tool in 5 communities in order to develop community resilience plans and family Disaster Risk Management plans with climate and environmental considerations.

Training of volunteers will be included on both tool in order to increase the capacity of the Affected branches (25 volunteers)

CEA (COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY):

In all activities, the National Society prioritizes community participation and accountability. This includes implementing feedback mechanisms and creating a continuous cycle of community feedback review.

This approach is applied across all areas of the National Society's work and is overseen by the National Communications Department, ensuring community inclusion in every phase of the process. This includes key message dissemination, satisfaction surveys, and community feedback mechanisms to improve and strengthen future interventions.



- Support to the National Society with the identification of non-illuminated points that require priority lighting because they constitute risk areas for children, adolescents, women, the elderly and/or people with disabilities. This can be done through Rapid Social Mapping, focus groups, or interviews with key people in the community.

National Society CEA Strengthening:

- National Society capacity building in the creation and installation of a feedback mechanism for each humanitarian assistance distribution event.
- Support with the rapid analysis of feedback received in the five suggestion boxes to be installed.
- Integration of CEA concepts into the VCA.

NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT:

The Cuban Red Cross, under Directive 001 issued by the Cuban government, participates in all emergency response and preparedness activities in the Republic of Cuba, offering a large number of volunteers trained in various areas. Considering local limitations—ranging from market shortages to difficulties in acquiring products abroad—volunteers often carry out their tasks without adequate equipment or visibility elements. These elements are vital for gaining acceptance and recognition, as well as ensuring optimal conditions for humanitarian work. This DREF seeks to support the National Society in the acquisition of replacement equipment for the Emergency Operations Groups (GEOS) deployed during the emergency.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Through this intervention, the Cuban Red Cross aims to reach 1,500 families (5,000 people). To achieve this, the National Society will collaborate with the Risk Reduction Management Centers (CGRR) of local governments and Civil Defense, as well as with the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) and the associations for people with disabilities (ACLIFIM, ANCI, ANSOC). It is important to note that, according to the 2012 National Population and Housing Census of Cuba, the average Cuban household consists of 3.3 people. All sectoral needs and selection criteria will be determined in collaboration with the relevant authority to provide technical guidance and improve the beneficiary selection and implementation process.

Special attention will be given to vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The National Society's coordination with local associations will be key in identifying these vulnerable groups, which is part of a cross-cutting gender and inclusion strategy for the response.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The following vulnerability criteria are proposed for the selection of families to be reached with emergency response inputs in the different intervention areas.

- Families with total or partial loss of housing and personal belongings.
- Families with children and/or older adults
- Families with persons with disabilities
- Single women with children.

Total Targeted Population

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Women | 1,909 | Rural | 25% |
| Girls (under 18) | 1,818 | Urban | 75% |
| Men | 818 | People with disabilities (estimated) | 5% |
| Boys (under 18) | 455 | | |
| Total targeted population | 5,000 | | |



Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

| Risk | Mitigation action |
|---|--|
| Fuel Scarcity | Coordination with local authorities for the supply of fuel to ensure the implementation of CRC operations. |
| Delays in receiving humanitarian aid items: | Immediate involvement of Logistics in the procurement/supply movement strategy to meet established operational deadlines and usage of charter flight to advance a first phase of humanitarian aid. |
| New rains or storms hamper operational logistics. | Follow-up activities by identifying possible immediate actions to be taken. |
| Energy Crisis | Support to HQ and main affected branches with energy backup systems in order to guarantee their operability |
| Difficulty in coordination | Strengthen liaison with government agencies by establishing effective communication channels. Cross-checking information collected with data from secondary sources. |

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 296,609

Targeted Persons: 2,475

Indicators

| Title | Target |
|---|--------|
| # of families receiving relief and shelter support (kitchen sets, mattresses, shelter tool kits, mosquito, lamps, nets) | 650 |

Priority Actions

Procurement and distribution of:

- 650 double mattresses.
- 650 kitchen kits.
- 1,300 solar lamps.
- 1,300 mosquito nets.
- 1,300 tarpaulins.
- 650 Shelter Tool Kits



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 91,963

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

| Title | Target |
|--|--------|
| # of families reached with hygiene kits | 650 |
| # of families reached with 33 -litre water tanks | 650 |
| # of people sensitized through promotion campaigns | 5,000 |

Priority Actions

- Procurement of 650 Hygiene kits
- Procurement and distribution of 650 Water Tanks (33 gallons)
- 5 Hygiene promotion campaigns in affected provinces



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 12,514

Targeted Persons: 25

Indicators

| Title | Target |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| # of volunteers trained in VCA | 25 |
| # of VCA conducted | 5 |

Priority Actions

- Training of volunteers who will participate in the preparation stage in communities using the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment Tool (VCA) and NEAT+.
- Review and/or development of the VCA in identified and prioritized communities, along with the development and/or updating of community and family response plans.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 2,663

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

| Title | Target |
|---|--------|
| % of people satisfied with a dignified and quality distribution | 90 |



| | |
|---|-------|
| # of people reached through dignified and quality dissemination | 5,000 |
| # of feedback boxes/mechanisms established in the branches | 5 |

Priority Actions

- Post-distribution follow-up surveys
- Dissemination of key messages
- Design and printing of materials
- Establishment of a community feedback mechanism through suggestion boxes



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 12,780

Targeted Persons: -

Indicators

| Title | Target |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| # of monitoring visits carried out | 6 |
| # of communication visits carried out | 2 |

Priority Actions

- Conduct monitoring visits and monitoring NS strengthening
- Conduct communication visits to the field



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 50,694

Targeted Persons: 180

Indicators

| Title | Target |
|--|--------|
| # of volunteers receiving rescue equipment | 100 |
| # of lessons learnt workshop | 1 |
| # of first aid kits | 40 |

Priority Actions

- Replenishment of PPE for Specialized Operations Groups (waterproof coating, rubber boots, water rescue helmets, life vests, waterproof lanterns, whistles)
- Replenishment of First aid kits
- Telephone cards for HQ and branches
- Conduct a lesson learnt workshop



About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

600 volunteers will be mobilized in the field for the various activities, along with 60 staff from national technical areas to support the operations. During the DREF operation, 100 volunteers will participate in distributions and hygiene promotion, in addition to the technical areas of the National Society.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Coordination has been maintained with the Regional Logistics Unit since the beginning of the DREF formulation to ensure that all the articles, items, kits, etc., included in the action plan can be delivered taking into account the time taken by the shipping companies and the time the Cuban Government grants import permits. The above taking into account that all purchasing processes will be done through the IFRC and following all the processes and protocols.

Based on recent operational experiences in Cuba, it has been observed that humanitarian goods typically take 1.5 to 3 months to reach the intended beneficiaries from the moment the Logistic Requisition is submitted for processing. Air Freight is being considered in order to mitigate long times of delivery by sea.

How will this operation be monitored?

This operation will be monitored through coordination between the Cuban Red Cross (CRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). A continuous monitoring system will be implemented, focused on the constant collection of data regarding the activities and outcomes of the operation. The CRC will be responsible for gathering information in the field, while the IFRC will provide technical support to ensure that the data is used effectively in decision-making.

The monitoring system will be based on predefined indicators and direct feedback from the beneficiary communities. Periodic meetings will be held to ensure the operation aligns with the established objectives and that resources are being utilized efficiently.

The IFRC will conduct regular monitoring visits to support the Cuban Red Cross in the continuous strengthening of its Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) capacities. These visits will also be closely coordinated with the Civil Defense Council (CCD) of Cuba and the IFRC's Americas Regional Office (ARO) team to ensure effective collaboration in tracking emergency operations. Through these visits, the latest monitoring systems used in previous operations will be leveraged, enhancing the Cuban Red Cross's ability to monitor the progress of its interventions, ensuring a stronger and more efficient implementation.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The Cuban Red Cross (CRC) communication strategy will focus on documenting and broadly disseminating the response activities, their impact on the community, and the coordination with key stakeholders. Both press and digital media, including social networks, will be utilized to ensure a steady flow of information about the operation's progress. However, given the connectivity and energy access issues in the country, formats will be adapted to the resources and capacities available.

In terms of support from the Secretariat, the Communications Unit will continue to provide technical assistance and training to the Cuban Red Cross to enhance and adapt its communication strategies in line with the operation's needs and the working context. This includes close coordination with the Cuban Red Cross and the Civil Defense Council (CCD), ensuring key information is communicated consistently, accurately, and timely, as well as coordination with the international press.

This support from the Secretariat will include the collection of photos and videos, the development of impact stories, reputational crisis management, and crisis communication training for local teams and the newly established communications unit of the CRC. The roles involved in this strategy include the National Society's communications team, the IFRC Regional Communications Manager, and CCD representatives. They will work together to ensure the operation's visibility, strengthen community trust in the response, advocate for humanitarian assistance in sanctioned countries, and demonstrate the IFRC's capacity to deliver it.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

**MDRCU010 - Cuban Red Cross
Cuba: Hurricane Oscar**

Operating Budget

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Planned Operations | 403,748 |
| Shelter and Basic Household Items | 296,609 |
| Livelihoods | 0 |
| Multi-purpose Cash | 0 |
| Health | 0 |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 91,963 |
| Protection, Gender and Inclusion | 0 |
| Education | 0 |
| Migration | 0 |
| Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery | 12,514 |
| Community Engagement and Accountability | 2,663 |
| Environmental Sustainability | 0 |
| Enabling Approaches | 63,474 |
| Coordination and Partnerships | 0 |
| Secretariat Services | 12,780 |
| National Society Strengthening | 50,694 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | 467,222 |

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Internal

30/10/2024

#V2022.01

[Click here to download the budget file](#)



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Dr. Carlos Ricardo Perez, Secretary General, Cuban Red Cross, carlperez@infomed.sld.cu

IFRC Appeal Manager: Elias Ghanem, Head Country Cluster Delegation, elias.ghanem@ifrc.org

IFRC Project Manager: Nicolas Segura, Coordinator, Disaster Risk Management, nicolas.segura@ifrc.org

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Nicolas Segura, Coordinator, Disaster Risk Management, nicolas.segura@ifrc.org

Media Contact: susana arroyo, Manager, Regional Communications, susana.arroyo@ifrc.org

[Click here for the reference](#)

