



CUBA

HURRICANE IRMA

Three Month Report

DECEMBER 15, 2017



Liliana Jiménez/OPS

IMPACT KEY DATA



13 BILLION PESOS

TOTAL DAMAGES



MORE THAN 72 HOURS

OF DIRECT IMPACT
ON CUBA



10 MILLION

PEOPLE IN CYCLONE
ALARM PHASE
SIMULTANEOUSLY



1.8 MILLION

PEOPLE PROTECTED
(16% OF THE POPULATION)



12 OUT OF 15

PROVINCES
WITH IMPORTANT
AFFECTATIONS



158,554

HOUSES DAMAGED



3.1 MILLION

PEOPLE WITHOUT
WATER SUPPLY



980

HEALTH CENTERS
DAMAGED



2,264

EDUCATION CENTERS
AFFECTED



95,000

HARVEST CULTIVATION
HECTARES DAMAGED

KEY MESSAGES

- 1 Three months after the destructive hurricane Irma, the traces left on the northern coast of Cuba are still being felt in the affected provinces, where the basic conditions and livelihood of millions of people were affected.
- 2 Authorities have acted quickly by putting all available resources to meet immediate needs and recovery. The effects are so severe and widespread that it is urgent to continue accompanying these efforts in the affected communities.
- 3 It is essential and urgent to support the reactivation of the livelihood of affected people and to strengthen their resilience, with durable solutions adapted to the effects of climate change, to reduce vulnerabilities.
- 4 The United Nations System in Cuba, with the support of members of the international community, is accompanying national and local efforts. It is necessary to continue allocating funds for the recovery and satisfaction of the needs of the most affected people and territories.

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Introduction

When Cuba was facing the effects of a severe drought and was recovering from the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, which hit the east of the country on October 2016, Hurricane Irma severely impacted much of the national territory.

In the wake of the hurricane, 158,554 affected homes were reported (14,657 total collapse and 16,646 partial collapse; in addition, 23,560 suffered total roof losses and 103,691 had partial damage to the roof); 980 health institutions and 2,264 schools were affected; 466 poultry farms and 95,000 hectares of various crops were hit by Hurricane Irma; 246,707 telephone services and 1,471 data services and 537 kilometers of roads were damaged. With the total collapse of the National Electric Generation System, in the initial stage some 3,100,000 people had problems with water supply. Total Damages caused by the hurricane reached 13.6 billion pesos¹.

After three months of Hurricane Irma hit the north of Cuba, the attention to the affected populations and the recovery remain as priorities. Along with the reestablishment of basic services such as water supply, health, education and sanitation as well as work to promote the recovery of housing and food production, national and local authorities had to address the severe damage in key sectors of the economy, such as tourism, industry, electrical generation and roads.

The country has made considerable material and financial resources available for recovery, in addition to the transfer of specialized forces to the areas with the greatest impact.

However, the damage has been so serious and so widespread in the national territory that it is

imperative to continue accompanying the national efforts in the most affected territories.

The frequent rain that has fallen since September in a large part of the affected territories, has made recovery efforts more complex.

In the affected provinces, national and local authorities continue to provide assistance to the affected population, with priority for those who have lost their homes completely. However, in the face of considerable loss of goods and livelihood, additional support is required to reach families with some needs not covered yet.

In that sense, as a consequence of severe damages, the families that have completely lost their homes are kept in family homes and in evacuation centers. The authorities have implemented multiple measures such as subsidies for building materials for people whose homes were totally or partially destroyed. Loans with low interest rates and in 15 year terms of, have been destined to the purchase of materials and goods. The housing situation is complex given the accumulated housing deficit in the country, of about 880,000 homes.

Considering the seriousness of the damage to the housing sector, the completion of homes with partial and total affectations of roofs is scheduled for 2018 in some territories, and for 2019 in the rest. The authorities suggest that the new buildings should take into account the effects of climate change, such as high intensity hurricanes, severe droughts, sea level rise and coastal penetrations.

The combination of the drought that had affected the region for four years, loss of water storage capacity in homes and institutions and the rain that has occurred after the hurricane in September, increases the proliferation of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and the risk of diseases transmitted by vectors for the populations of the affected territories.

¹ Information from the National Defense Council.

Granma newspaper, September 28, 2017 and Cuban press (Cubadebate, Juventud Rebelde). Ricardo Cabrisas, Minister of Economy. National Assembly, December 21st. 2017.

In the damaged areas, where the agricultural sector produces a considerable part of the food consumed in the central and western parts of the country, it is expected that the recovery of some long-cycle crops will occur by mid-2018, which limits the availability of foods. Rainfall also hinders planting. Due to damage to the infrastructure, work is being done to repair facilities used for storage and distribution of food.

Although the medical attention has been provided uninterruptedly, the severe damages in the facilities of the health sector, important hospitals among them, require the continuation of actions for their complete recovery.

With national and local efforts in the affected territories, progress has been made in the revitalization of part of the damaged educational centers and work is being done on the rehabilitation of the rest, in order to guarantee the return of students to safe educational spaces.

The reactivation of livelihood continues to be essential and urgent to empower affected people and strengthen their resilience.

Resource mobilization

To accompany the country with these needs, the United Nations System in Cuba presented an Action Plan in response to Hurricane Irma. This plan includes assisting 2,151,080 people in five priority sectors: Housing and early recovery; Food security; Water, sanitation and hygiene; Health and Education. For its implementation, the complementary action of ten UN agencies is foreseen: FAO, IOM, UNIDO, UN HABITAT, PAHO, WFP, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF.

Three months after the hurricane, 17.5 million USD have been received out of the 55.8 million USD foreseen in the Action Plan of the United Nations System (UNS) in Cuba. The resources received have supported the satisfaction of the most urgent basic needs of severely affected people and have initiated the accompaniment to the early recovery of the most affected territories.

At this time there is a gap of 38.3 million USD to fully achieve the objectives of the plan.

Several international partners have joined the United Nations System, supporting the proposed projects within the Action Plan.

The UN agencies in Cuba are grateful for the contributions to date:

- The European Union Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Office (ECHO).
- The Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (COSUDE).
- The Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID).
- The Government of Canada.
- The Government of Switzerland.
- The Government of Italy.
- The Government of Belgium.
- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.
- The Government of Portugal.
- The Government of the Province of Quebec and
- On-line Funding.

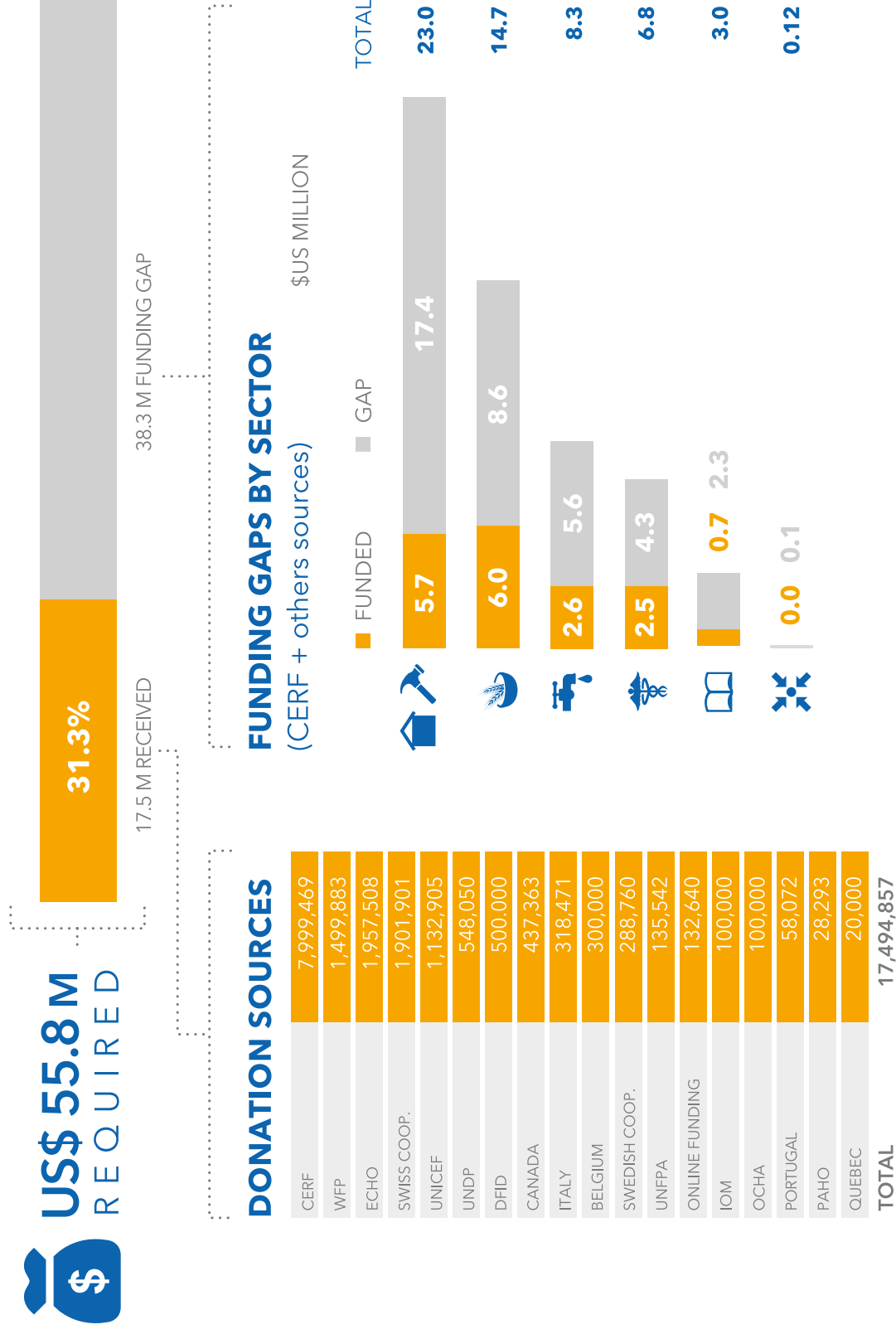
The Action Plan of the United Nations System in response to Hurricane Irma in Cuba can be found at:

http://onu.org.cu/files/files/CUB_ActionPlan_ESP_20170918_4.pdf

http://onu.org.cu/files/files/CUB_ActionPlan_ENG_20170918_4.pdf

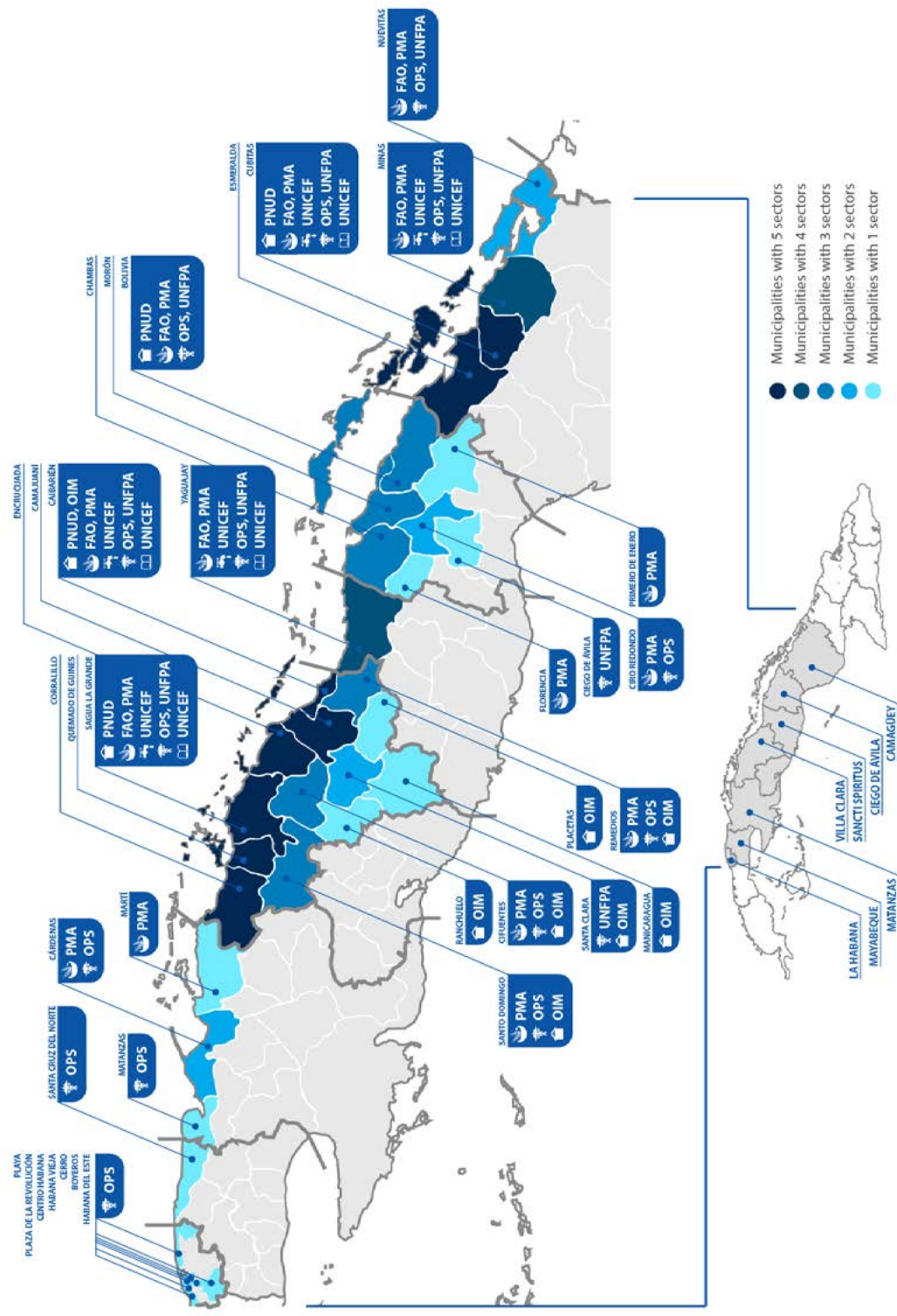
Action Plan of the United Nations System in Cuba. December 15th, 2017

FUNDING



Action Plan of the United Nations System in Cuba. December 15th, 2017

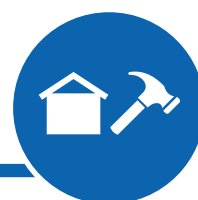
PRESENCE OF SECTORS AND AGENCIES IN THE AFFECTED TERRITORIES





 Julio Ortiz/PNUD

Housing and Early Recovery



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After the passage of the hurricane, 158,554 homes were reported to be affected, mainly in urban and rural settlements in the northern region. Of them, 14,657 total collapses and 16,664 partial collapses; 23,560 with total loss of roof and 103,691 with partial loss.

More than 1.9 million people were protected. Other families are kept at homes of relatives and friends. Assisting these families is a priority in the recovery process. The high number of housing damaged complicates the recovery and the return of affected families to their homes.

The Government is carrying out recovery works with the placement of roofs on houses that kept their walls, the creation of temporary facilities and the distribution of equipment for the local production of construction materials. Bonuses have also been implemented on the prices of construction materials, consumer goods and bank loans have been granted.

Target population:

212,000
people

Benefited population:

26,877
people

Resources received:

5,554,551 USD
(24.15% out of **23 million USD** required)

Progress

- 26,877 people benefited with 8,959 tarpaulins pre-positioned by UNDP and distributed by the Government. (UNDP)
- Between September 27th and November 18th, 24,015 tarpaulins were received in the country and other 5,799 on their way to received, for a total of 29,814 tarpaulins. Of this total, 19,814 will be distributed to benefit 59,442 people and 10,000 tarpaulins will be pre-positioned, as a reserve for future hydro-meteorological disasters. (UNDP)
- 2,800 mattresses were supplied to Villa Clara authorities for the municipalities of Remedios, Camajuaní, Encrucijada and Placetas (IOM) and 2,520 mattresses were distributed in four municipalities of Ciego de Ávila: Chambas, Morón, Venezuela and Bolivia (UNDP). In the country there are 12,718 mattresses to benefit the same number of people in the provinces of Villa Clara, Sancti Spíritus and Ciego de Ávila (UNDP).
- 2,800 bed sets were provided to the authorities of Villa Clara for the municipalities defined by the Defense Council, taking into account the needs: Caibarién, Encrucijada, Placetas, Remedios, Ranchuelo, Cifuentes, Santo Domingo, Manicaragua and Santa Clara. (IOM)
- In process of purchasing more than 300 kits of basic and professional tools for community work teams specialized in the placement of safe roofing. (UNDP)
- In the country, 3,060 sheets of galvanized zinc roofs which will cover 278 homes of 35 m2 and will benefit 830 people from Villa Clara and Ciego de Ávila. In the process of purchasing 60,396 sheets of zinc to benefit 5,490 homes (16,470 people) with roofs in Villa Clara, Sancti Spíritus, Ciego de Ávila and Camagüey. (UNDP).
- Signed the Early Recovery project: Revitalization of the local productive chain of construction materials in the provinces affected by Hurricane Irma, for 1.501,501 USD with funds from COSUDE, in order to promote 12 mini-industries of local production of construction materials in Sancti Spíritus, Ciego de Ávila and Camagüey, to acquire means of transportation for the transfer of materials and to create provincial workshops for the maintenance of the mini-industries equipment. (UNDP)

Urgent Needs

- Offer temporary shelter solutions using roof sheets for temporary facilities, as well as complete roof modules for safe housing recovery.
- Continue the distribution of non-food humanitarian goods (mattresses, sheets and basic life kits) that are already in the country for the families who have lost their homes and basic goods. Prioritize people who remain in temporary facilities, shelters or in relative's homes and receive modules of safe roofs.
- Support the restoration of basic services to the population.
- Expand the response to the demand of safe roof solutions for families with affected homes.
- Mobilize funds to address issues related to the resilience of the energy system of the affected communities, the re-animation of local tourism initiatives, the treatment of solid wastes and the territorial organization of the affected regions.
- Continue enabling mini-industries for local production of construction materials in the provinces most severely impacted by Hurricane Irma, near the affected communities and taking advantage of local resources. (UNDP)
- Develop new actions to mobilize funds to support local institutions in sustainable territorial planning in the productive and tourism sector, urban planning in the event of hurricanes and in training on resilient roofing.
- Continue actions to mobilize funds aimed at the introduction of water pumping technologies with renewable energy and the processing and reuse of debris.



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Food Security



WFP and FAO (leading agencies), UNDP

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Food availability remains affected by the severe damage caused to crops, livestock, fisheries and their infrastructures. The instability in the climatic situation, caused by the combination of a severe drought and the excess of humidity during the months of September and October, have significantly delayed soil preparation and consequently, the planting of new food crops.

Over 2,500 damaged facilities envisaged for food storage and other related products are also being restored.

Despite efforts to recover thousands of hectares of food crops damaged by planting short-cycle food crops to make them available to the population, harvests will take up to four months to recover.

Target Population:

930,000
people

Benefited population:

638,300
people

Resources received:

6,000,000 USD

(40.8 % out of **14.678,000 USD** required)

Progress

- A total of 638,300 people - 100% of the targeted population in the 22 municipalities - have benefited from the first cycle of monthly distribution of rice and beans (1,568 metric tons pre-positioned by WFP in the country). (WFP)
- The delivery of a second ration of rice, beans and vegetable oil has started. Rice and beans (1,560 metric tons) were borrowed from the food stock of the Cuban Government, while vegetable oil (195 tons) was purchased locally. (WFP)
- Five mobile storage units arrived in the country to strengthen the food storage capacities in the province of Villa Clara. Additionally, 540 pallets and 75 lightning equipments were purchased, and are estimated to arrive in Cuba in mid-January 2018. The purchase process of additional three mobile storage units has started. (WFP)
- More than 4,700 tons of additional food (rice, beans and vegetable oil) are being purchased and shipped or are already in Cuba. These commodities will ensure continuity to the food assistance provided to the populations of the 22 most affected municipalities - with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups. They will also allow to return the Government's loan and to replenish the food stock prepositioned by WFP. (WFP)
- A purchase process is ongoing for: 25,100 m2 of roof tiles for severely damaged agricultural poultry and pig facilities; 254 kg of short cycle crops seeds; and 307 rolls of greenhouses for short-cycle crops. (FAO)

Urgent needs

- Complete the planned distribution of vegetable oil rations, in order to meet the food needs of the most affected communities and avoid the deterioration of their food and nutritional security.
- Contribute to restoring food access and availability, prioritizing the recovery of poultry production and of the most-demanded crops, focusing on sustainability and climate change adaptation.
- Support the improvement of food storage, processing and distribution in the most affected municipalities.
- Support livelihood recovery among farmers and fishermen.
- Contribute to restoring facilities for agricultural production and other agriculture related service facilities.



 Marta López Fesser

Water, sanitation and hygiene



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Irma provoked strong winds and coastal flooding, causing breaks in the hydraulic network, overflowing rivers and streams and the contamination of cisterns. It also caused big damage to the national electric power system, which affected the pumping of drinking water in the affected provinces.

Although much of the aqueducts have been recovered, the effects persist. It is necessary to continue implementing actions in the most affected communities to guarantee access to safe water through the availability of storage and purification means, and the promotion of hygiene habits at the household level to avoid the appearance of waterborne diseases.

Target Population:

2,097,865
people

Benefited population:

126,217
people

Resources received:

2,611,290
million USD

(31.3 % out of **8.3 million USD** required)

Progress

- 8.2 million water purification tablets were distributed for the communities and schools of Caibarién municipality, in the province of Villa Clara; and in the municipalities of Esmeralda, Minas and Sierra de Cubitas, in the province of Camagüey. (UNICEF)
- The Government is coordinating the distribution of 8.4 million purification tablets and 89,382 10-liter collapsible tanks for the municipalities of Sagua la Grande, Encrucijada, Quemado de Güines and Corralillo, in the province of Villa Clara. (UNICEF)
- Currently in distribution 3.5 million tablets destined to the municipality Yaguajay, in the province of Sancti Spíritus; and 60,196 10-liter collapsible tanks for Caibarién and Camajuaní municipalities, in the province of Villa Clara. (UNICEF)
- In the country 18,695 collapsible tanks of 10 liters for Sierra de Cubitas and Minas municipalities, in the province of Camagüey. On the way to the country 81,993 collapsible tanks of 10 liters for Nuevitas, in the province of Camagüey; and the municipalities of Bolivia, Morón and Chambas, in the province of Ciego de Ávila. (UNICEF)
- On the way to the country 15.4 million purifying tablets for Camajuaní municipality, in the province of Villa Clara; the municipalities of Bolivia, Morón and Chambas, in the province of Ciego de Ávila; and Nuevitas municipality, in the province of Camagüey. (UNICEF)
- In the process of purchasing 37,241 10-liter collapsible tanks for Yaguajay municipality, in the province of Sancti Spíritus. (UNICEF)
- In the process of purchasing 10,525 hygiene kits to guarantee access to safe water in the prioritized municipalities of the provinces of Villa Clara and Camagüey. (UNICEF)
- In printing process 200,000 copies of communication materials to promote messages and information on hygiene habits to be distributed to health centers, schools and families in the most affected municipalities. (UNICEF)

Urgent Needs

- Provide communities with safe water and supplies for treatment and storage.
- Promote hygiene practices at community level on handwashing, prevention of water and vector-borne diseases and on the correct treatment and storage of water.
- Continue the distribution of the inputs considered for safe storage and consumption of water at household and community levels.



 Liliana Jiménez/OPS

Health



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The damage to health services was severe. 980 health institutions were confirmed to be affected, including 71 hospitals and 122 polyclinics. The main damages were at the infrastructure level, in which recovery actions are kept.

The Ministry of Public Health is taking surveillance and epidemiological control actions in order to prevent the outbreak of waterborne vectors and gastrointestinal diseases. So far, no outbreaks have been reported.

Important support is required for the early restoration of health services that guarantee comprehensive, universal and quality access for the population.

Target population:
2,097,865
people

Benefited population:
9,560
people

Resources received:
2,494,131
million USD
(36.8 % out of **6.8 million USD** required)

Progress

- 40 tons of Temephos at 1% arrived the country and another 90 tons are in process of shipping. Doxycycline tablets were received. (PAHO)
- The first 37 Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) kits were distributed and the first 900 Hygiene kit, which directly benefit more than 9,060 people. (UNFPA)
- 61 kits Nb.4 of SRH containing modern contraceptives arrived the country and in the process of distribution 2,300 Hygiene kits, which directly benefit 25,175 people. (UNFPA)
- Four workshops were held, where 500 professionals were trained on the use of SRH kits. (UNFPA)
- Emergency medication kits (IEHK) are in the process of distribution to cover the needs of 60,000 people. (PAHO)
- 4,500 Manuals of "Procedures for sexual health and reproductive care of women" arrived the country, which are to be delivered to doctors and specialists of the primary level and to those who attend the SRH in the hospitals of the 4 most affected provinces. (UNFPA)
- Two containers of GlobalLinks with medicines and medical supplies are on the way to the country and three others are in process of being sent to the country. (PAHO)
- A first shipment of 39 kits Nb.4 of SRH containing modern contraceptives are in the process of shipping. Subsequently, a second shipment of 159 SRH kits will arrive. (UNFPA)
- Products for the control of water quality are in the process of purchasing which will be distributed to health facilities to prevent waterborne diseases. (PAHO)
- UNFPA monitoring mission, to three of the most affected provinces, was able to assess the effects of the hurricane and the actions carried out in favor of the SRH. (UNFPA)

Urgent Needs

- Restore the operation of critical services, including equipment, medicines, supplies and infrastructure.
- Guarantee the replacement of equipment, medical and non-medical furniture, supplies and medicines lost.
- Guarantee the supply of safe water in health institutions.
- Guarantee the monitoring of water quality, both in public institutions and for the population.
- Strengthen epidemiological surveillance and health promotion, to increase the risk perception of vector, water and other origin epidemic outbreaks.
- Develop campaigns aimed at mitigating mental health problems.
- Keep sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.
- Provide continuity to the care of patients with HIV, chronic diseases and their families.
- Acquire additional SRH and hygiene kits to expand attention to women and young people from municipalities not included in the first emergency actions.
- Acquire medical equipment for gynecological-obstetric hospital services in the affected municipalities. Two teams have been identified that are very necessary for the care of pregnant women hospitalized due to reproductive risks.
- Support is required for full recovery, with priority for vector control and water quality, needs identified by the municipalities health management.
- Coordinate educational and mental health joint activities, aimed at hygiene and food security, with the support of volunteers from the Red Cross and specialists in Health Promotion and Mental Health.



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Education



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A total of 2.264 education institutions (21,2 % of the country total) were damaged by Hurricane Irma. The main damaged affected carpentry, roofing and some structures.

A week later, school activities were re-established in a progressive way in the affected provinces. In order to continue the school cycle, different alternative places were enabled in people's houses and public institutions and timetables were re-scheduled.

Despite the Government efforts to recover the education facilities affected, the effects persist in the educational infrastructure, which makes it difficult to restore a safe learning space for children and adolescents as well as their participation in psychosocial support activities for students as well as their families and communities.

Target population:

220,566
people

Benefited population:

34,706
girls and boys younger than 18 years old

Resources received:

718,960 USD
(24 % of **3 million USD** required)

Progress

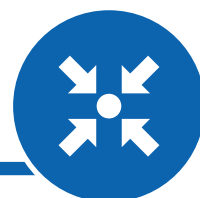
- Actions to continue supporting the re-establishment of teaching spaces are prioritized as well as the promotion of education activities for girls, boys and teenagers in kindergarten and school centers in the most affected communities. (UNICEF)
- 218 early childhood development kits, 595 kits for schools in a box and 265 recreation kits were distributed in the municipalities of Encrucijada, Sagua la Grande, Quemado de Güines and Corralillo, in Villa Clara province, and in Yaguajay, in Sancti Spíritus province. (UNICEF)
- 146 recreation kits and 328 school in a box kits are distributed for the municipalities of Caibarién and Camajuaní, in Villa Clara. (UNICEF)
- 115 early childhood development kits, 292 school in a box kits and 131 recreation kits devoted to kindergartens and schools for the municipalities of Esmeralda, Sierra de Cubitas and Minas in Camagüey province, are in the country. 117 kits of early childhood devoted to kindergartens in Caibarién and Camajuaní municipalities in the province of Villa Clara, are on its way to Cuba. (UNICEF)
- A new shipment with school supplies for the municipalities of Bolivia, Morón and Chambas, in the province of Ciego de Ávila, and Nuevitas, in Camagüey is in purchasing process. (UNICEF)
- 14,500 square meters of waterproofing covers for schools in Villa Clara and Ciego de Ávila province are in purchasing process, as part of the efforts for rehabilitating the affected education infrastructure. (UNICEF)
- A teacher's manual has been drafted with the objective of providing social-emotional support in educational institutions, and also to influence on families and the communities where they are. (UNESCO, UNICEF)

Urgent Needs

- Provide school and recreational materials for the implementation of learning activities in a protective environment and appropriate for social emotional support.
- Rehabilitate the education infrastructure in the affected municipalities to guarantee the development of educational activities in safe spaces. Replacement of carpentry in 80 schools and 100,000 m2 of roofs were sealed.



General Coordination



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The United Nations System (UNS) in Cuba continues working in an articulated way to respond to the priorities established in the Action Plan, together with national and local authorities.

This accompaniment has focused on the five sectors included in this progress report, supporting the country in responding to the most urgent needs of 2,151,080 people in the 33 most affected municipalities.

Through the monitoring mechanisms implemented, the communication and coordination between the agencies with the national authorities is maintained and information about this response is made available for the international community.

The monitoring and coordination of actions is carried out from the Office of the Resident Coordinator together with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Resources received:

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(0% of **0.12 million USD** required)

Progress

- Updated information management tools are elaborated which allow members of the international community to be informed about the main needs and progress, through their periodic publication on the UNS website in Cuba: <http://onu.org.cu/subsection/huracan-irma/>-
- The report "Cuba, response to Hurricane Irma. Urgent needs after 1 month" was prepared and shared with key actors and partners of the international community. It can be consulted at: http://onu.org.cu/files/files/Informe_Respuesta_Huracan_Irma_-_CUBA5_2017-10-18_2.pdf
- Follow-up on the implementation of the Action Plan, in particular the Central Emergency Response Fund of the United Nations (CERF), is maintained.
- Inter-agency mechanism of coordination, follow-up and monitoring is established, which is shared with UN agencies and national authorities every two weeks.
- Identification process of lessons learned in the response of the UN System in Cuba to Hurricane Irma is initiated.

Urgent Needs

- Support the mobilization of 38.3 million USD for the most affected people in housing and early recovery, food security, water, WASH, health and education.
- Keep a minimum inter-agency coordination structure that guarantees the effectiveness and efficiency of the response, which includes:
 - Guarantee the continuous monitoring of the Action Plan implementation to shorten the deadlines and reach the affected populations as soon as possible.
 - Continue strengthening inter-agency articulation and complementarity within each sector of the Action Plan.
 - Make field visits to follow-up the response in the most affected locations.
 - Continue documenting lessons learned and good practices of the United Nations for a timely and comprehensive response.



HOW TO HELP?



ACTION PLAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE IRMA.

To support 2,151,080 million people severely affected by Hurricane Irma,
in the 33 most affected municipalities, contact the United Nations System:

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HOUSING AND EARLY RECOVERY SECTOR

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23.0 million USD

Required financing

17.4 million USD

Financial gap



FOOD SECURITY SECTOR

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14.7 million USD

Required financing

8.6 million USD

Financial gap



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE SECTOR

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8.2 million USD

Required financing

5.6 million USD

Financial gap



HEALTH SECTOR

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6.75 million USD

Required financing

4.3 million USD

Financial gap



EDUCATION SECTOR

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3.0 million USD

Required financing

2.3 million USD

Financial gap



COORDINATION SECTOR

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0.12 million USD

Required financing

0.12 million USD

Financial gap