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DREF Emergency Plan of Action Cuba: Tornado

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n°	MDRCU005
Date of issue: 18 February 2019	Expected timeframe: 3 months Expected end date: 17 May 2019
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow	
DREF allocated: 71,911 Swiss francs (CHF)	
Total number of people affected: 10,000 people in Shelters	Number of people to be assisted: 300 families (1,500 people)
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Cuban Red Cross (CRC) counts with 1 national headquarter, 47 000 volunteers, 381 staff members and 183 branches.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Civil Defense, Government Ministries (Health, Trade, Energy, Housing, etc.), European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO).	

<Click [here](#) for the DREF budget and [here](#) for the contact information.>

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On January 2019, an EF4 Tornado impacted Cuba in the Havana Province.

The extremely rare event generated winds up to 300 km/h and close to 20km through the Havana Province. The base of the tornado was 500 to 700 meters wide; strong winds being felt up to 1km from the center.

Major damages were recorded in 5 municipalities of la Havana: Cerro, 10 de Octubre, Guanabacoa, Regla and San Miguel del Padron. The original report of 4 deaths was later raised to 6 deaths and 195 injured.

Today 9,916 people remain in 16 emergency shelters or with relatives.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society.

The Cuban Red Cross, through its branch in the Havana mobilized 16 volunteers from its specialized group for Operations and First Aid with the aim to support the evacuation of the Gynaeco-obstetric Hospital of *10 de Octubre* (Hijas de Galicia).

120 volunteers remain activated to support the response operations in all the affected municipalities with the following activities: Relief distributions, sanitation and epidemic control. The Cuban Red Cross received the official request to respond on Thursday, February 7th, 2019.





Source: Cuban Red Cross

As auxiliary to their national authorities, the Cuban Red Cross has been included and has contributed to all coordination bodies at Province, Municipality and Community level.

The Cuban Red Cross has provided the following services since the beginning of the response operations:

- Search & Rescue, Evacuation of people and resources
- Rehabilitation work, Cleaning and sanitation actions in the city
- First aid and Psychosocial support to the people currently sheltered
- Contribution to the Preliminary damage assessment carried out by the National Health System. This contribution led to precisely define the list of needed NFI's and equipment.
- Activation of RFL service for people in shelter

The Cuban Red Cross is now seeking to provide material support to 300 families currently in shelters as a contribution to the national response to the aftermath of the tornado. The request is fully coordinated with the National Health System and represent a portion of the overall request shared by the national authorities.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has been in direct contact with the Cuban Red Cross since the beginning and has been analysing the situation to offer the best possible solution for the support 300 of the most affected families by the tornado. Initially the Cuban Red Cross responded with its own capacities and voluntaries and supported the National Government with the evaluation of needs and damages.

Since September 2017, the IFRC is supporting the Cuban Red Cross with the implantation of an Emergency Appeal operation serving the needs of 35,000 people in the areas of shelter, WASH, disaster risk reduction and restoring family link.

Following coordination with National Authorities, The Cuban Red Cross shared specific needs for 300 families.

The ICRC maintains constant communication with the Cuban Red Cross and IFRC regarding RLF activities and disaster management issues. The Canadian Red Cross is currently developing programmes with the Cuban Red Cross. The Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba cluster has developed the Cuba Operational Plan 2019 which summarizes the programmes to be implemented jointly with the Cuban Red Cross¹.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country²

The national and local authorities, organized within the Cuban Civil Defense System, were immediately mobilized on 27 January after the tornado hit. The rapid response allowed for the protection of mothers and children in the 10 de Octubre Obstetrics-Gynecology Teaching Hospital and the rescue and aid of people injured in areas impacted by the tornado.

A concerted effort was immediately made to restore electricity, water and telephone services severely damaged by the tornado as quickly as possible. Measures were taken to guarantee the distribution of water and food in the devastated areas and to intensify sanitation and epidemiological surveillance measures. Despite the efforts, challenges in services still exist in areas of the greatest impact.

The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba conducts a daily assessment of the response under the direct leadership of the Cuban President. National, provincial and local authorities are constantly visiting the most affected People's Councils and various industrial and productive sector facilities in an ongoing effort to evaluate the damage.

The network of public health institutions guarantees that the population in the areas where services have not been restored receive medical care, and specialized personnel guarantee psychological support in the People's Councils, where the impact was most devastating. The national legislation establishes provisions for salary coverage for victims in times of disaster and measures were taken to protect self-employed people.

As part of the response, priority is given to the affected population's access to construction materials and water storage tanks at subsidized prices. Accelerated construction of 212 houses for families who lost their homes has started and

¹ The Cuba Operation Plan 2019 is available upon request to the cluster.

² Information provided by the United Nations System in Cuba

State institutions have authorized the use of facilities to be adapted for housing purposes. National authorities have adopted streamlining processes to deliver donations arriving for the affected population. The Government of Havana has provided two warehouses at the provincial level and ten in the most affected People's Councils to receive donations of clothing, shoes, food and other products sent by individuals and institutions from within Cuba. The daily distribution of donated goods is made with the support of community and trade union organizations.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

Health: Damages are reported in 19 health institutions. The most affected institution was the maternal hospital of Diez de Octubre (Hijas de Galicia) with a capacity of 286 beds that tends to patients from 6 municipalities of the capital, 196 patients were evacuated, among them 17 new-borns.

It also affected 4 polyclinics, 10 doctor's offices and the family nurse, 1 pharmacy, 2 nursing homes and 1 vector unit. Six deaths and 195 wounded are reported, which were treated in different health institutions, 18 are still hospitalized, of which 5 are in serious condition.

Attention to the population has been maintained in all the devastated areas and in the affected municipalities. Health workers from nearby units, medical students, firefighters and rescue workers from the Cuban Red Cross were added to the immediate evacuation response, which allowed the injured to be evacuated in a short period of time and to receive medical attention quickly.

The Health System prioritizes the restitution of affected services and calls for extreme hygiene measures and epidemiological surveillance to prevent the emergence of diseases of vectorial and hydric origin. The action of the National Revolutionary Police was present in guaranteeing discipline to carry out evacuation tasks in an expeditious manner.

Housing: 5334 affected houses are reported, the figure may increase in the next few days: 505 total landslides, 757 partial landslides, 804 total roof landslides, 1453 partial roof landslides, 1815 in typology I houses, have suffered some affectation. According to the response model of the Cuban government, most families are in host families or temporary solutions that the government provides. On the other hand, some of them are in their own affected homes.

The authorities have worked to visit damaged houses and are diagnosing the type of damage on a case-by-case basis, evaluating them and defining construction materials or other inputs such as water tanks necessary for each affected family, working to guarantee delivery through flexible payment mechanisms and credits of up to 15 years according to each case, as well as analysing free deliveries to the most vulnerable people such as women heads of families, low-income people, elderly people on their own, people with disabilities and social cases analysed by the commissions created for this purpose.

As part of the process of urgent response to people affected by the loss of their homes, the University of Havana delivered a student residence with 70 apartments.

Hydraulic resources: Severe damage is reported to the intra-domestic hydraulic and sanitary networks, as well as to water reservoirs on rooftops. But without damage to water sources.

Electricity: More than 200,000 inhabitants were left without this service, with damage to 39 primary circuits and 17,320 secondary circuits, two high-voltage towers, 4,156 damaged transformers and 24 damaged substations.

Telephony: More than 12,000 disturbances in the fixed service, mobile telephony was also affected and 23 wifi connection areas.

Parallel actions were carried out so that people could obtain electrical energy through generators located in different areas, for the supply of drinking water for human consumption and recharging of mobile phones, among other needs. Colossal efforts deployed in the capital of Cuba, by brigades of the capital itself and several provinces of the country that mobilized and worked together optimizing time, material and human resources, to ensure the result of having in just one week, the recovery of basic services of water, electricity and communications to the population.

Education: 78 damaged educational centres, 21 children's circles, two sports teams, two student residences and a municipal administration, 268 teachers were affected in their homes, 11 schools were relocated and there were centres that were reorganized in the undamaged parts.

Intensive work is being done with the support of construction brigades from other provinces for the recovery of educational centres.

Food: The main affectations of the food industry were in the wheat mill of Regla, the factory of biscuits of Guanabacoa, and in the plant of meat products in East Havana, was damaged the crane in the dock of Regla that extracts the cereals of the boats, to supply to the mill located in this municipality. More than 50 bakeries affected.

The rest of the industrial facilities in the affected municipalities were damaged by not having electricity from the first moments. In the evacuation centers have been provided free food to families there present. Ninety-nine food tents have been set up in the affected areas.

Transport: The main effects are concentrated in the automotive, railway and maritime ports. In air transport, the effects are not significant.

- **In the automotive branch:** two installations affected in roofs, structures and perimeter fences. There are also 48 means of transport of cargo and passengers affected, including 18 trucks, eight buses and 11 taxis.
- **In the railway branch:** overturning and dragging of empty containers, which interrupted traffic on the Central Highway. Considerable damage is reported on the central railway line, in the section of the Taíno engine factory, in San Miguel del Padrón.
- **Port maritime branch:** the cargo warehouses of the port of Havana were affected.

Targeting

It is worth mentioning that the scheme managed by the Cuban government consists of developing a single action plan in which the different humanitarian organizations participate (including the United Nations system in the country) and in this way cover the needs of all those affected. To provide immediate support for national efforts, the United Nations System (UNS) in Cuba has deployed an immediate response strategy. This includes basic pre-positioned supplies in the country such as tents (UNDP), food (WFP), ten-liter capacity collapsible tanks and school materials (UNICEF) which have been made available to national authorities and some of which are currently being distributed.

The Cuban Red Cross aims to provide support to 300 of the most affected families that are currently sheltered and whose main habitation has been damaged. This selection process will be led by the government of Cuba with the support of the Cuban Red Cross as assistant to the public power. This assistance will consist of covering first needs through temporary shelter solutions, NFIs and technical assistance.

Targeting of population will be done in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health to provide immediate assistance to people based on criteria of vulnerability and special needs.

Scenario Planning

Bearing in mind that many of the people affected are concentrated in government shelters and in the homes of relatives, it is necessary to guarantee the hygienic conditions of these concentrations of people, since any complication can lead to public health problems.. It is for this reason that the response should be accompanied by campaigns to raise awareness of hygiene and diseases by vectors in order to keep under control any type of virus. Such action should be carried out by the Ministry of Health.

Being prepared for the occurrence of a new natural phenomenon is important, as it happened in last year. After Hurricane Irma in 2017, Cuba has faced Subtropical Storm Alberto, Hurricane Michael and now this devastating tornado. This keeps alarms and contingency plans active. Should the response to this event reach the middle of the year, it will be necessary to prepare for the 2019 hurricane season.

In all emergency responses in Cuba, the government plays a fundamental role since there is always a commitment and a great counterpart. In this sense, all times of execution of activities should be coordinated with the times of execution of activities carried out by the government in order to give a coordinated, timely and effective response.

Operation Risk Assessment

Procurement and export of material to Cuba can prove to be a lengthy process submitted to a strict administrative process. The success of this operation is submitted to well and timely managed logistics processes by the IFRC logistics services.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The Cuban Red Cross will contribute to the national response to the consequence of the impact of an EF4 Tornado in various municipalities of the Havana province. Operations of the Cuban Red Cross will bring support to 300 families.

Proposed Strategy.

The Cuban Red Cross, in close coordination with the Ministry of Health will distribute NFI to 300 families currently sheltered in order to support faster recovery. This response is to be a significant contribution to the overall national response to the effects of the tornado. Each family will receive the following items:

- 1 x kitchen set
- 4 x blankets
- 2 x Jerrycan (collapsible)
- 2 x Buckets with lead

Furthermore, the Cuban Red Cross will contribute to the vector control campaign carried out by the Ministry of Health with distributions of 1200 mosquito nets to the families currently in shelter. 4 mosquito nets will be distributed per family.

The Cuba Red Cross is also aiming at mitigating hygiene issues in the shelter with distributions of 300 family hygiene kit to the identified people currently sheltered. 1 hygiene kit will be distributed per family.

The Cuban Red Cross will offer post distribution monitoring and will capture beneficiary satisfaction in order to measure efficiency of the response and refer to any identified need to the Ministry of Health.

Operational Support Services

Human Resources

The Cuban Red Cross counts with 47,000 volunteer's country wide and 381 staff. The National Society for 2019 has a total of 7,000 insured volunteers which cost has been covered by the *Emergency Appeal (Cuba: Hurricane Irma MDRCU004)*. For this reason, there is no need to include in this DREF resources to cover insurance for the 50 volunteers who will be supporting the operation.

The operation will be implemented under direct supervision of the Cuban Red Cross' President Dr. Luis Foyo who will be the focal point for IFRC for the implementation of this operation.

The IFRC will monitor the operation through its Country Cluster Support Team for the Latin Caribbean and Haiti. One monitoring mission by the CCST will be carried out.

A PMER RIT will be deployed to Panama to support monitoring and report of activities. This resource will be integrated in the D&C team.

Logistics and Supply chain

Logistics activities aim to manage effectively the supply chain, including mobilization, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to the IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

All procurement related to this operation will follow the IFRC's standards procurement procedures and standards set by the Movement. Purchases will be made by a procurement officer from the IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) Panama.

The Cuban Red Cross will organize transport in country from port to distribution point. These operations will be completed in close coordination with the Ministry of Health.

Communication

All communication regarding the operation will be discussed and agreed with the Cuban Red Cross prior to its publication.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting

The Cuban Red Cross is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the emergency plan of action and providing daily reports on the CRC's actions.

Additionally, the IFRC continental operations coordinator for the Americas, disaster management coordinator for the Latin Caribbean and Haiti, CCST PMER senior officer and ARO's PMER unit will support the monitoring of the EPoA's activities. Since the Cuban Red Cross has active an Emergency Appeal (*Cuba: Hurricane Irma MDRCU004*), the monitoring visits proposed under this DREF will be performed jointly with the scheduled monitoring visits of the emergency appeal.

Administration and Finance

The implementation of this Emergency Plan of Action executed by the IFRC under the National Society's guidance and respecting its decisions. With technical support from the finance departments in the CCST and in ARO—and in coordination with the PMER unit.

Lastly, the IFRC disaster management coordinator for the Latin Caribbean and Haiti will provide technical support, guidance and monitoring to the operation, with support from the IFRC's CCST for the Latin Caribbean and Haiti and ARO.



Health

People targeted: 1,500 people

Male: 750

Female: 750

Requirements (CHF 4,125)

Needs analysis: The Caribbean is currently threatened by a serious Dengue outbreak as case have multiplied over the last few months; therefore the Cuban Ministry of Health is running a vector control campaign to which the Cuban wish to contribute with the provision of mosquito nets to 300 families affected by the tornado.

Population to be assisted: The Cuban Red Cross, in close coordination with the Ministry of Health, will prioritize 300 families from those currently sheltered based on vulnerability criteria in order to contribute to prompt recovery of such families.

Programme standards/benchmarks: Sphere Standards, when possible, and standards given by the Ministry of Health are met.

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced	# of families who see reduction of Dengue risk Target: 300 families															
P&B Output Code	Health Output 2.1: Epidemic prevention and control measures carried out.	# of families who receive mosquito nets Target: 300 families															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP021	Procurement and transport of NFI to Cuba	■	■	■	■												
AP021	Mosquito Nets are distributed to the families in Shelter in order to mitigate dengue risk					■	■	■	■								
AP021	Monitoring of the use of distributed household items									■	■	■	■				



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 1500 people

Male: 750

Female: 750

Requirements (CHF 29,125)

Needs analysis: The planned activities aim to improve living conditions of people currently in shelters with limited access to drinkable water and hygiene product. These activities aim to provide a response to the most urgent needs.

Population to be assisted: The Cuban Red Cross, in close coordination with the Ministry of Health, will prioritize 300 families from those currently sheltered based on vulnerability criteria in order to contribute to prompt recovery of such families.

Programme standards/benchmarks: Sphere Standards, when possible, and standards given by the Ministry of Health are met.

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome 3: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	<i># of families who benefited from improved access to water and hygiene products</i> Target: 300 families															
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 3.1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population	<i># of families who receive water storage solutions (jerrycans + bucket)</i> Target: 300 families															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP026	Procurement and transport of NFI from Panama	■	■	■	■												
AP026	Jerrycans and buckets are distributed to 300 families in shelter					■	■	■	■								
AP026	Monitoring of the use of distributed household items									■	■	■	■				
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 3.2: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population	<i># of families who receive a family hygiene kit</i> Target: 300 families															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP030	Procurement and transport of Hygiene kits from Panama	■	■	■	■												
AP030	Distribute 300 hygiene kits, sufficient for 1 month to 1,500 people.					■	■	■	■								
AP030	Monitor use of hygiene kits									■	■	■	■				

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF 19,772)

P&B Output Code	Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured																
	Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained	<i># of monitoring visits take out by the CCST</i> Target: 2															
		<i># of people deployed to support this DREF operation</i> Target :1															
	Activities planned	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

	Week / Month																
AP046	Monitoring by IFRC DM and/or Operations manager																
AP046	PMER/IM RIT Support the Operations																

Budget

Please see budget [attached](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Reference documents

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

In the Cuban Red Cross:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.

DREF OPERATION

MDRCU005 - Cuba Tornado 2019

18/02/2019

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Clothing & Textiles	7,848
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Ustensils & Tools	24,451
Other Supplies & Services	6,943
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	39,242
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	6,037
Transport & Vehicle Costs	0
Logistics Services	11,023
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	17,060
International Staff	8,050
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	0
Volunteers	0
Protection equipment	0
Other Staff Benefits	0
Total PERSONNEL	8,050
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	0
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	0
Information & Public Relations	1,207
Office Costs	302
Communications	604
Financial Charges	1,057
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	3,170
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	4,389
Total INDIRECT COSTS	4,389
TOTAL BUDGET	71,911