

Response to Hurricane Irma: Cuba

Situation Report No. 6. Office of the Resident Coordinator

(13/09/2017)



This report is produced by the Office of the Resident Coordinator. It covers the period from 14:00 hrs. on September 012th to 12:00 hrs. on September 13th. The next report will be issued on or around 14/09.

Highlights

- The First Vice President of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel, visited three thermoelectric power stations in western Cuba, which were hard hit by Hurricane Irma. The strength of the winds and coastal inundation affected the whole national electric power system.
- More than 3.1 million people remain without water service. Service has been restored in about half of the supply systems damaged by Hurricane Irma. Restoration of services depends mainly on the electric power system rehabilitation.
- Preliminary data shows severe damage to the housing sector. The hurricane damaged 95% of homes in Bolivia and Ciego de Avila's Municipalities.
- The loss of 10,000 hectares of bananas and other foods, vegetables, grains and fruit trees has been confirmed. Serious damage to poultry and pig production has also been confirmed. The damage significantly affects the daily life of local inhabitants in the affected territories.
- More than 1,700 schools were affected by Hurricane Irma's winds and rains throughout the country, 500 of which are in the capital city. Depending on the degree of damage, the school system has gradually restarted at all levels of education.



Photo: Juventud Rebelde



Photo: Dalia Reyes (Published in Social Media)



Photo: ACN

+ 3.1 million
people without water
service

1,700
schools affected

*Note: All the information in this report has been taken from Cuban official media (TV, radio, and press) and statements from Cuban authorities. Sources: Newspapers Periódicos Granma, Juventud Rebelde, Vanguardia, Invasor, Adelante, Periódico 26, Ahora, Sierra Maestra y Venceremos. Radio: Radio Habana Cuba, Radio Angulo, Radio Mambí; Press agencies: Prensa Latina (PL) y Agencia Cubana de Noticias (ACN); Web sites: Cubadebate. Supplementary data has been taken from the National Statistics Office website.

Situation overview

The 13 affected Cuban provinces are concentrating their forces on the recovery of vital services for the population and on the evaluation of the severity of the damage. Territorial teams have joined specialized brigades from the least affected provinces and the population, which help in the collection of debris and fallen trees and the cleaning of streets.

The reestablishment of electricity services remains one of the main priorities of the country, due to its impact on other services vital to the population, such as the public water supply, and their impact on the recovery of the rest of the economic sector. Authorities have reported the complexity of recovery because Hurricane Irma affected the integrity of the national energy system.

In the presence of serious impacts in the housing sector, the Ministry of Finance and Prices announced that priority will be given to granting subsidies to people whose homes were damaged.

Today, national media published recommendations on how to proceed at home after a hurricane. Among health and food councils, it is advised to move away from unstable buildings and structures, to stay away from damaged buildings, and to immediately move to the street if there is any abnormal noise that may indicate a danger of collapsing.

As part of the damage assessment, it was announced today that national specialists have estimated the effects caused to biodiversity during the hurricane, mainly in marine and northern coastal areas of the country.

Yesterday, the first airplane with humanitarian aid for people affected by the hurricane arrived from Venezuela. The cargo of 7.3 tons is composed of mattresses, water and canned foods.

Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, China, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela and Vietnam have expressed their solidarity and willingness to provide assistance to the island.

Humanitarian Response

National authorities

The First Vice President of the State Councils and Ministers, Miguel Díaz-Canel, visited the Antonio Guiteras Thermoelectric Power Plant in Matanzas today. The visit confirms the serious damage suffered by the country's largest thermoelectric plant, with a generating capacity of 330 megawatts per hour, and validates the work that has to be done to compensate for the damage in the shortest time possible.

Yesterday, Díaz-Canel visited the Máximo Gómez Thermoelectric Power Stations in Mariel and Santa Cruz del Norte, also hit by Hurricane Irma.

The Vice President met with the Defense Councils of the western provinces of Artemisa and Mayabeque to recognize the impact of Hurricane Irma on the territory and the progress of recovery efforts.

In an exchange with the press, the Vice President emphasized the need to restore the electric power and water supply because of its great importance to the population. It has also prioritized the rehabilitation of the housing and agriculture sectors.

Esteban Lazo Hernández, President of the Cuban Parliament, participated in a meeting with the Provincial Defense Council of Matanzas and visited the Antonio Guiteras Thermoelectric Power Plant, which has been severely impacted by Hurricane Irma.

The Guantánamo Provincial Defense Council, a province that less than a year ago suffered the devastating impact of Hurricane Matthew, urged the population to join recovery efforts in the most affected municipalities and announced the deployment of forces, resources, and specialized resources for other provinces in the country.

No new updates have been reported recently about the evacuated population. It is estimated that a significant number of people remain protected in specially-equipped facilities or neighbors' and friends' homes.

Among the evacuees, many still remain without communication due to flooding, flooding of rivers or road closures.

Sectors



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Damage:

- The Aqueduct and Sewerage Group (GEAAL) reported 2,770 non-functioning water supply systems, mainly due to lack of electric power. "There are 1,005 water supply systems serving 3,144,140 inhabitants," said the Director of Engineering of the Aqueduct and Sewer Group at the National Hydraulic Resources Institute (INRH).
- Camagüey Province is currently in the most unfavorable situation since many water supply systems work with power-generating sets.
- In the Central Region of the country, there are still severe impacts, especially in the northern keys, where power generators are currently used for pumping water, although water trucks are also used to guarantee the supply.
- It was also reported that the National Electro-energetic System has not begun the process of rehabilitation of the water systems in the Central Region. Three main water pipelines in Coco and Santa María Keys were affected.
- In Puerto Padre, Las Tunas, Hurricane Irma's strong winds damaged about 200 meters of pipelines, which will be repaired by the town's own aqueduct.
- In parts of Havana Province, some areas still lack electric power, although on a smaller scale, which limits water supply by pumping.

Response:

- Following Hurricane Irma, which affected almost all of Cuba's territory, the national authorities made a call today to observe hygiene and sanitation measures to prevent the outbreak of epidemics.
- A program was designed to guarantee sanitation in many areas, the distribution of water through water trucks, and the cleaning of cisterns with motor pumps.
- The re-establishment of the electric power service will be possible after the interconnection of 763 units of the national electric power system. Another 270 units operate with generators, seven with motor pumps and 138 by gravity, which benefits some 4,635,000 inhabitants.
- The President of INRH, Ing. Inés María Chapman, stated that the water supply service is fully restored in those provinces whose hydraulic infrastructure was less damaged, including Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo, Granma and Holguin. The most severe damage has been reported in Las Tunas and Havana. Accordingly, efforts are being made to provide water supply services to the population with the help of power generators and, where this is not possible, water trucks.
- On the other hand, the western part of the country has a more favorable situation since it does not report damage to infrastructure. Still, in some areas, power generator sets are used due to the lack of electricity, such as in:
 - **Pinar del Rio**, where 60% of the systems were recovered with the National Electro-energetic System (SEN);
 - **Havana**, where 80% of systems were recovered with the SEN;
 - **Artemisa**, where 60% of the systems were recovered with the SEN;
 - **Mayabeque**, where 63% of the system were recovered with the SEN.
- The Director General of the Electricity Company in Havana also stated that priority was given to water pumping aqueducts, such as Palatino, which make it possible to supply water to seven municipalities in the capital.
- In the Central Region of the country, there are still severe impacts, especially in the northern keys. In that region, so far, the generator sets are the main resource for water pumping, although water trucks are also used to guarantee the supply.
- In relation to the institutions with contaminated cisterns, the majority in the capital, the Minister of Education warned that, although their cleaning is being prioritized, it is necessary that children carry their own bottles of water.

- Artemisa Province is gradually returning to normal life after Hurricane Irma, with the restoration of essential services such as water and electricity.
- In Havana, all the water supply stations are ready for service, except two due to electrical problems that supply water to Santiago de Las Vegas, and 48 are working with generators. It was possible to stabilize the Southern Basin, the main source of the water supply of the city.
- In areas with lack of running water, "the service through pipes is being guaranteed" as in the case of Boyeros Municipality.
- Student organizations are supporting the Defense Councils of each territory in the collection of debris and fallen trees, pruning and sanitation.
- Two hundred seventeen cisterns were decontaminated in flooded areas in the municipality of Plaza de la Revolución and the rest will be completed on Wednesday. In the area of Centro Habana, this work will take longer because there are more than a thousand cisterns. Priority is given to the area from the Malecón to Colon, with the cleaning, chlorinating and filling of all the cisterns of schools and buildings.
- On Tuesday, 540 trucks belonging to the company of Communal Services and 12,542 personnel were undertaking sanitation works in areas most affected by Hurricane Irma.
- Sodium hypochlorite is guaranteed in all pharmacies in the country in sufficient quantities.
- In the provinces where there is still lack of power, the population's needs are being met through the supply of water in water trucks.

UNICEF

- UNICEF is preparing a proposal to immediately support the water and sanitation sector in the 8 most affected municipalities, Villa Clara (6) and Camagüey (2), through the OCHA emergency funding mechanism, CERF.
- UNICEF is working on a 6-to-18-month Action Plan that will focus on supporting access and treatment solutions to ensure safe water and hygiene in the most affected municipalities of Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila and La Habana, where more severe damage to the WASH sector were reported.
- UNICEF is coordinating the delivery of 3 million tablets of chlorine to ensure the quality of drinking water for households. Proposals are also being made for the purchase of 10-liter reservoirs to store potable water, for the purchase of hygiene kits, and to ensure the availability of communication materials with guidelines on hygiene and sanitation habits.

PAHO/WHO

- PAHO/WHO is making estimates to ensure the availability of a sufficient number of kits to analyze and guarantee the quality of water.



Food Security and Nutrition

Damage:

- Damage to the agriculture and livestock sector are being assessed, with losses of important crops, planned for the third quarter of 2017, confirmed, including: plantains and other tubers, vegetables, grains, and fruits as well as poultry and pigs.
- In the Central Provinces, mainly in the most affected municipalities of the northern coastline, damage to agriculture and livestock has impacted key local agricultural and fishery livelihoods. In some cases, damage involved ripe products or replacement animals.
- Over 400 hectares of rice were affected in the main rice production area in Villa Clara Province (Encrucijada Municipality), amounting to thousands of tons of lost production. In Camaguey Province, crops of plantains and yucca were almost entirely lost, as well as a significant portion of avocados, papaya and guava.

**+ 10,000
hectares**

of food production
damaged

Provinces and municipalities with the greatest estimated damages	Damage estimates to agricultural and livestock production		Damage to food production, processing and marketing capacities
	Tubers, vegetables, grains, fruits and others	Livestock, fishery and aquaculture	
Matanzas (Cárdenas, Martí)	More than 2,500 hectares of plantain and other tubers, rice and corn. 20% of citrus plantations, especially grapefruit (20,000 tons) and oranges (4,000 tons)	1,200 quails, and 1,400 eggs in incubation as well as poultry houses	Irrigation systems Covered warehouses
Villa Clara (Caibarién, Sagua la Grande, Encrucijada, Corralillo, Quemado de Güines, Camajuaní)	More than 8,000 hectares of plantain, rice, coffee, yucca, and dried corn 70% of sugarcane plantations and stored bulk sugar	Poultry and swine houses, 112,000 birds and 120,000 replacement chickens	Irrigation systems Rice mills Sugar mills Roofs of biscuit factories Over 40,000 zinc plates lost, covering the roofs of mills, workshops, warehouses and dairies. Warehouse storing nearly 5,000 tons of products.
Sancti Spíritus (Yaguajay)	More than 170 hectares of various crops, such as beans, tomato, plantain, sweet potato, corn, papaya, vegetables and other fruits	Breeding and feeding of pigs More than 800,000 juvenile fish of different species	Aquaculture infrastructure
Ciego de Ávila (Chambas, Morón, Bolivia)	More than 5,000 hectares of plantain, corn, cabbage, rice, beans and other crops More than 1,500 tons of citrus Soy		Trade and warehouse infrastructure
Camagüey (Minas, Nuevitas, Sierra de Cubitas and Esmeralda)	More than 3,000 hectares of plantain and yucca More than 3,500 hectares of assorted crops, especially corn Fruits: avocado, papaya and guava	The Jigüey Fishery Center in Esmeralda destroyed Poultry farms 5,300 birds	Unfavorable conditions for the production of eggs The food industry (meat and dairy), central warehouse, milk storing and cooling centers Trade and gastronomy infrastructure, bakeries
Las Tunas (Puerto Padre, Jesús Menéndez and Manatí)	More than 3,000 hectares of plantain, yucca, vegetables, corn, sweet potato, and fruits 5,000 tons of salt	Roofs of integral pig breeding centers	Trade and gastronomy units, warehouses

Response:

- The classification, storage, distribution and sale of recovered foods to the population, and mini-industries for the production of sweets and preserves, is ongoing. These products will be slated for animal consumption in the event of not complying with required health standards.
- The sale of processed foods is being prioritized in the affected areas, while authorities are ensuring that reasonable prices are being applied.

- Priority is given to the rehabilitation of plantations by means of fertilization, irrigation and trimming, along with the preparation of machines, land and the management of seeds to quickly advance with planting, focusing on short-cycle crops.
- Work is in progress for the livestock recovery program.

FAO:

- FAO will focus on providing a rapid response for the early rehabilitation of food production in the most affected areas, supplying equipment, materials and inputs for the agricultural and fish production sectors. Some information on necessities is already being received.
- Direct communication with sectoral authorities is maintained in order to determine concrete needs as soon as possible.
- Regional and central offices are prepared for assistance. In the coming days, technical personnel will arrive to Cuba to support the coordination of assistance.

WFP:

- WFP has a contingency stock of 1,600 tons of food pre-positioned in Havana, Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba Provinces to support immediate assistance to around 275,000 people for one month in areas affected by Hurricane Irma.
- Given the extent of the damage to almost the entire national territory, this stock is not sufficient to support government efforts in covering the nutritional needs of the populations in the most-affected areas.
- Human and financial resources are being mobilized to purchase additional food.
- Prioritization exercises are being carried out, together with the Government, to focus WFP assistance in relation to food rations, prioritized population groups and times, and in the most affected areas.
- The WFP Headquarters and regional office are providing support to ensure timely assistance.

**Infrastructures and Basic Services Rehabilitation****Damage:****HOUSEHOLD**

Province	Household	Roof	Municipalities
La Habana*	4,288 damaged, including 157 collapsed, 986 partially collapsed, 818 with collapsed roofs and 1,555 with partially collapsed roofs		All 15 municipalities in the capital city
Matanzas			Cárdenas, Martí and Matanzas
Villa Clara			Corralillo, Quemado de Güines, Sagua la Grande, Encrucijada, Camajuaní, Remedios and Caibarién Corralillo: 1,170 damaged Placetas: 291 homes damaged and 20 collapsed Encrucijada: 70% of housing damaged
Sancti Spíritus	4,000 homes damaged, including 422 collapsed		Damage reported in eight municipalities with the most severe damage in Yaguajay and Sancti Spíritus
Ciego de Ávila			Bolivia: 95% of housing damaged
Camagüey	4,000 houses damaged, including 1,100 collapsed and 300 partially collapsed	2,500 roofs damaged	Esmeralda, Sierra de Cubitas and Nuevitas

Province	Household	Roof	Municipalities
Las Tunas	800 houses damaged, including 46 collapsed and 114 partially collapsed	75 roofs completely lost and 585 partially damaged	
Holguín	4,006 houses damaged, including 174 collapsed		Gibara, Antilla, Holguín and Banes
Guantánamo	875 houses damaged, including 73 collapsed		Baracoa, Maisí, San Antonio del Sur, Yateras and Caimanera

* "Given that this preliminary damage is over the approximately 117,000 houses still not restored after the passage of previous hydro meteorological events, the most efficient solution to the problem (except in very exceptional situations), is to boost local production of construction materials. This is the experience of the people of Guantánamo after the passage of Matthew", said Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdés Menéndez.

Response:

Havana

- 187 circuits have been reconnected, out of a total of 302, and 40 were ready for activation on Tuesday night.

Ciego de Avila

- About 33% of the affected 5,174 fixed telephone lines have been restored.

Cienfuegos

- ETECSA specialists have progressively restored more than 4,000 basic telephone lines.

Villa Clara

- Twenty-four of the 77 damaged circuits have been re-activated.

Ciego de Avila

- The Turiguanó-Cayo Coco Causeway has been restored.

Identified Needs

- We have identified, with the national authorities, the need to strengthen at least 33 mini-industries that produce materials in the 14 most severely impacted municipalities.

UNDP

- The housing sector has been highlighted as one of the most affected. UNDP is already managing the purchase of zinc roof modules and related equipment, and is working with the National Program for Local Production of Construction Materials to identify major needs in the affected territories and strengthen local capacities.
- The 9,823 plastic roofing sheets, which are pre-positioned by UNDP, are being distributed gradually, according to the indications of the national authorities. These tarpaulins allow for temporary facilities for the affected population. Additional tarpaulins are being procured, but additional resources will need to be mobilized to purchase more. Likewise, UNDP has made US \$84,050 of regular resources available to the country to purchase 2,470 mattresses for affected families.
- UNDP has activated its emergency response mechanism and made available US \$500,000 for early recovery and US \$100,000 for coordination in the initial response phase. Two UNDP experts are in Cuba to support the UNDP Office in their response.
- These resources are in addition to those already made available from the reprogramming of the projects in implementation. Support will be provided for the mobilization of additional resources in the area of housing and early recovery. Given the magnitude of the impacts reported, it will be necessary to mobilize resources for housing reconstruction and impacts to livelihoods and the environment.
- The Housing and Early Recovery Sector, led by UNDP with the participation of IOM, UN Habitat and UNESCO, continues to prepare information on basic non-food needs for immediate response, including: plastic roofing sheets, mattresses, kitchen kits, sheets, zinc sheets for roofs, and tools. These actions will be coordinated with those of the United Nations agencies that work in the water and sanitation, food security and health sectors.



Damages:

General view of health services in the most affected provinces:

Most affected Provinces/ Municipalities	Hosp.	Polyclinics	FDO	Mat. Homes	Elderly Homes	Grandp. Homes	Pop. 60 & +		Under age 5	
							M	F	M	F
Camaguey (Nuevitas, Minas, Sierra de Cubitas, Esmeralda)	13 (2)	31 (6)	657 (143)	7 (0)	14 (4)	24 (4)	72.869 (13.730)	79.429 (13.834)	21 713 (4.141)	20 335 (3.881)
Ciego Avila (Bolivia, Morón, Chambas)	3 (1)	19 (6)	392 (141)	10 (1)	8 (2)	16 (3)	39.025 (11.028)	41.651 (11.881)	12 523 (3.481)	11 743 (3.170)
S.Spiritus (Yaguajay)	8 (1)	23 (4)	448 (76)	5 (1)	8 (2)	9 (nd)	47.508 (6.533)	50.211 (6.509)	12.753 (1.314)	12 026 (1.211)
V.Clara (Caibarien, Camajuani, Encrucijada, Sagua, Quemado y Corralillo)	13 (3)	37 (11)	837 (250)	8 (1)	16 (5)	26 (5)	86.521 (25.874)	95.861 (27.929)	20 090 (5.810)	18 541 (5.310)
La Habana (Plaza, Playa, Centro Habana, Habana Vieja, Cerro, 10 de octubre y Boyeros)	34 (25)	82 (43)	2.022 (914)	19 (5)*	33 (4)*	39 (7)*	197.168 (106.752)	260.774 (143.889)	52.240 (23.765)	49.297 (22.667)

FDO: Family Doctor's Office

M: Male

F: Female

* Institutions located in coastal municipalities.

Damage:

- In Havana, most of the affectations in the health sector facilities were registered in the Polyclinic "Marcio Manduley", Hospital "América Arias" and Hospital "Hermanos Ameijeiras". The later with damages in services of nuclear medicine, radiotherapy, clinical laboratory, imaging and ambulatory surgery.
- The essential health services in Havana are being provided in the usual places. Hospital América Arias and Hospital Hermanos Ameijeiras are the only ones still pending to restart their activities at full capacity.
- Main problems reported from provinces and territories are: ceilings, light roofs, fall of perimeter fences, collapse of walls, false ceilings, glassware, windows, and coastal flood damage.

Response:

- Works are being done to regularize the water supply and to avoid epidemiological situations that usually follow this type of meteorological phenomena.
- Priority is given to the power lines that feed hospitals and other important centers for the population.
- The Provincial Hospital "Dr. Gustavo Aldereguía Lima (GAL)" in Cienfuegos responds to medical emergencies although the outpatient consultations are still suspended. The infants hospitalized in the Provincial Pediatric Hospital were transferred to Hospital GAL accompanied by the medical staff and equipment.
- Health services are also ensuring medicines coverage and medical care. Family Doctors Offices keep striving in preventing epidemics.
- Health is working on the evaluation of the quality of water for consumption to be distributed to the population. State sanitary inspectors are located in every place where the water tank trucks are refilled, to monitor that the water contains the adequate amount of chlorine, to ensure safe water for the population.
- There is currently a campaign in course to prevent water and mosquito borne diseases on the medias.
- The epidemiological surveillances systems have been reinforced and there is an active search for unidentified fever cases.

Identified needs:

- Information has been received from the Ministry of Public Health on immediate response needs. These include medicines such as; oral rehydration salts, first aid kits, doxycycline, water treatment tablets, tests to determine chlorine level, calcium hypochlorite for disinfection and rapid tests for diagnosis of cholera, malaria and E. Coli
- In addition, it is very necessary to acquire the supplies for protection against vector-borne diseases, impregnated mosquito nets and Temephos at 1%.

- It is also given priority to the re-establishment of water tanks and generators to ensure the vitality of the primary health care facilities.

PAHO/WHO:

- Dr. Juan Carlos Alonso, Advisor for the Program of Health Emergency (PHE) for the Central American Region, joined the working team at PWR/Cuba.
- Emergency funds are received to initiate the response to the priorities expressed by the Moh.

UNFPA

- UNFPA has prepositions in Panama 900 Hygiene Kits, and are in negotiations for its transfer to Cuba. In addition, USD 100,000 has been received from emergency funds with which additional Hygiene Kits will be purchased to distribution to pregnant women in the 14 municipalities most affected by Hurricane Irma, as well as contraception kits and delivery assistance severe obstetric surgeries. At the moment the calculations to define the quantities of each KIT are reconciled with the Ministry of Public Health.



Education

Damages:

- Classrooms across the country are expected to open their doors throughout the week. Schools that were not damaged have resumed their classes and those with partial damage will divide their classes into morning and afternoon sessions. In the case of severely damaged schools, students will be relocated to other facilities, including family homes or institutions, to be able to continue their classes.
- More than 1,400 educational facilities have been affected, most of them located in Havana, Villa Clara, Matanzas, Camagüey and Ciego de Avila Provinces. The latter has more than 50% of its facilities damaged.
- The primary level of education, with the largest number of schools within the education system, was the most affected.
- Although only two collapses are reported in the Holguin Province, partial damage to roofs and windows, contaminated cisterns, fallen trees, and damaged perimeter fences and walls have been reported.
- The country has a total of 10,698 educational centers, of which 510 served as evacuation facilities during Hurricane Irma.

+ 1,700
schools affected

LA HABANA

- There are around 500 schools affected in the capital.

CAMAGÜEY

- Several educational centers have been affected, especially their roofing, carpentry and waterproofing, which resulted in leaks and some structural damage.
- In the municipality of Esmeralda, 30 schools have been damaged.
- One of the priorities is to resume classes as soon as possible and therefore find alternative solutions for the 14,400 people who are in evacuation centers, especially those hosted in educational institutions.

ARTEMISA

- Eighteen schools were affected, mainly in Bahía Honda, Mariel and Candelaria, with three centers affected in each municipality. The most damaged institutions are José Ramón López Primary School, Baile Grito Mixed Center, the vocational school in Bahía Honda, and the Alegría de Vivir and Girón Victoria Daycare Centers in Mariel.

CIEGO DE AVILA

- One hundred and seventy-six educational centers were affected, with the most significant damage reported to roofing and carpentry. In the municipality of Bolivia, approximately 50% of schools report damaged roofs.

LAS TUNAS

- Seventy-six schools were affected, mainly in the north of the territory.
- Only José López Trevill Primary School, located in La Boca Beach, and Roberto Proenza from the Dumañuecos community in Manatí, will not resume classes in their own facilities. The first will do so in neighboring premises and the second in family homes.

HOLGUIN

- All school facilities are ready except two primary schools in Sagua de Tánamo Municipality, which suffered severed structural damages.

GUANTANAMO

- Partial damage has been reported in 17 schools, which are already undergoing repairs.

Response:

- Since the recovery phase was announced, extensive sanitation work is being carried out in all schools across the country with the help of teachers to create the best conditions possible for the timely return of students.
- Among the measures taken to facilitate the return of students to learning spaces are: 1) the return of resources/materials that were evacuated to be preserved; 2) the re-organization of the educational program to propose complementary educational activities and specific work sessions; and 3) the identification of facilities (i.e. family homes or schools) that can host the students from the 48 institutions that reported damage.
- Boarding school students are gradually returning to their schools, based on the programmed schedule for each province and on the availability of transportation.

UNICEF

- UNICEF is working on a project proposal to immediately support the return of children and adolescents to educational activities, in safe and protective learning areas, in the six most affected municipalities of Villa Clara (4) and Camagüey (2), through the OCHA emergency funding mechanism, CERF.
- UNICEF is also working on a proposed Action Plan that will focus on supporting the rehabilitation of schools and the upgrading of their water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, which will include all municipalities most affected in Santi Spiritus, Ciego de Avila and Havana Provinces, where the most severe damage to the Education Sector is reported.

UNESCO

- UNESCO is working to identify possible damage in schools in affected municipalities to support the rehabilitation of educational centers and to guarantee safe learning spaces.
- UNESCO is working on the development of a project, which complements UNICEF's activities, to ensure the preparation of teachers for the development and implementation of strategies aimed at post-disaster psycho-pedagogical care in the most affected municipalities.

**Logistics****Damage:**

- According to estimates, strong winds and coastal inundation affected warehouse viability and infrastructure in the most affected provinces (vital for the transportation and storage of food and other key products). Authorities are currently assessing the damage.
- A 400-meter landslide occurred on the Via Blanca, the highway that connects the eastern part of Havana to Matanzas Province, at kilometer 44.
- Damage was also reported on roads that provide access to the Central Region's keys ("cayos") along the northern coastline, which are among the most important tourism areas in the country. Six kilometers of pavement were destroyed on the road Cayo Coco-Jigüey; the "La Pasa", "Canaleja Uno" and "Canaleja Dos" Bridges in Cayo Romano are deteriorated; and access to Cayo Guillermo, Playa Pilar and Paredón Grande was also affected.

Response:

- A maintenance team is working on the Vía Blanca to re-establish connections. Given the complexity of the task, the work will take several days.
- The national railway connections between the western and eastern region were re-established.

WFP:

- In coordination with the Government, WFP is relocating five of the nine mobile storage units (MSUs) donated for Hurricane Matthew response in Guantanamo Province. The MSUs will be loaned and dispatched to Ciego de Avila and Villa Clara Provinces and will support local authorities to protect the food slated for the population. WFP is available to provide support in the assembling.
- Given the extent of the damage, WFP needs to mobilize additional funding to purchase other MSUs. WFP is in contact with its Headquarters and Regional Office to ensure timely and effective assistance based on national needs.

- Following the impact of Hurricane Irma, WFP is monitoring the damage due to wind, rain and storm surge on infrastructure for the storage, preparation and distribution of food to vulnerable groups, taking into account lessons learned from previous experience.

General Coordination

The UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) continues to analyze the damage caused by Hurricane Irma and define the most affected areas. As part of the response plan, it was agreed to seek an immediate application to the Emergency Cash Grant Funds from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In addition, the UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) is working on a first draft of the application to the Central Emergency Action Fund (CERF), a humanitarian fund established by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

UNETT is also working on a draft of the Plan of Action of the United Nations System (UNS) in response to Hurricane Irma.

UNS is holding a meeting today with the Diplomatic Corps in Cuba and international cooperation agencies.

For further information, please contact:

Cristian Morales, Resident Coordinator a.i., UN System in Cuba, moralesc@paho.org, Tel: +53 7 204 1492

Liudmila Curbelo, Coordination Officer, UN System in Cuba, liudmila.curbelo@one.un.org, Tel: +53 7 204 1513

For further information, please visit: www.unocha.org, www.reliefweb.int, www.redhum.org, www.onu.org.cu.

For further information, please visit:

Instituto de Meteorología de Cuba: <http://www.met.inf.cu>

Granma: <http://www.granma.cu>

Juventud Rebelde: <http://www.juventudrebelde.cu/>

Agencia Cubana de Noticias: <http://www.acn.cu/>

Cubadebate: <http://www.cubadebate.cu>

To be added to or removed from the distribution list, please write to: liudmila.curbelo@one.un.org