

Response to Hurricane Matthew - Cuba

Situation Report No. 18 - Office of the Resident Coordinator

(as of 4 November 2016)



This report is produced by the Office of the Resident Coordinator. It covers the period from 14:00 hrs on 31 October to 14:00 hrs of 4 November. The next report will be issued on or around 8 November 2016.

Highlights

- There is a preliminary report by the *Consejo de Defensa de la provincia de Guantánamo* which evaluates the damages at 1,584 million Cuban pesos (*moneda nacional*) caused by the passage of Hurricane Matthew.
- Severe damages have been confirmed in the agricultural sector: 4,142 hectares of grains and vegetables were affected by Hurricane Matthew, which also devastated banana plantations in the municipalities of Baracoa, Maisí, Imías and San Antonio del Sur.
- In the municipality of Baracoa, 90% of 6,408 hectares of coconut and an important portion of the trees providing shade to 3,635 hectares of cocoa have been destroyed.
- After the ravages brought on by to the passage of Matthew, there has been frequent and incessant rainfall on the two most affected Municipalities: there have been 17 days of rain in Baracoa and 14 in Maisí, which has been aggravating the situation in those territories and delaying recuperation efforts.
- In Baracoa and Maisí municipalities, 21 per cent of telephone lines collapsed by the passage of Hurricane Matthew are still pending reconnection.
- Specialists confirm the depth of damages to the historical heritage in the city of Baracoa and estimate that the recovery will take several years.



Photo: Ecosystem Damage/Miriam Teresita Llanes



Foto: Water Conduits/ Periódico Granma Hydroelectric plant

Situation Overview

A month after the passage of Hurricane Matthew in the eastern zones of Cuba, there is a preliminary report by the *Consejo de Defensa de la provincia de Guantánamo* which evaluates the damages at 1,584 million Cuban pesos (*moneda nacional*) caused by the passage of Hurricane Matthew in the eastern parts of Cuba, such as reported by national television.

Local and national authorities continue to prioritize the selling of construction materials in order to recover the reconstruction of 38,000 damaged houses in the territory, as well as the production of food and the re-establishment of electrical services and aqueducts.

Local press agencies are reporting that the transportation of construction materials such as wood for the laying of tiles is delayed in reaching affected populations for the persistent rains which are assailing the areas since over a week.

It remains an urgent priority to restore damaged health infrastructure (local consultation offices, polyclinics, hospitals, maternal and eldercare facilities, pharmacies and traditional medication production plants) whilst intensifying efforts to ensure sanitation to prevent the outbreak of diseases.

Note: Information sourced from the official press of Cuba (TV, radio and press) and statements by the Cuban authorities. Sources: Periódicos Granma, Juventud Rebelde, Periódico 26, Ahora Sierra Maestra and Adelante. Radio: Radio Rebelde, Radio Habana Cuba, Radio Angulo, Radio Mambí, Radio CMKS; Press agencies: Prensa Latina (PL) and Cuban News Agency (ACN); Websites: Cubadebate. Other information taken from the official website of the National Bureau of Statistics and Information and other official documents.

In Baracoa, efforts are ongoing to restore hotels and rental properties affected by Hurricane Matthew for the start of the touristic season, which provides an important part of local incomes.

Humanitarian Response

National Authorities

The *Consejo de Defensa Provincial de Guantánamo*, along with other national authorities, has evaluated the state of the recuperation tasks in the province of Guantánamo.

Local authorities in the municipality of Baracoa reported that the rhythm of disaster assistance has increased, although it is still slow considering the damage level and the rapid depletion of materials such as asphalt tiles (*fibroasfalto*).

International Cooperation

Authorities of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment in Guantánamo province announced a commitment of thirty non-governmental organizations, to contribute to the recovery phase of the five municipalities affected by the cyclone.

National communication networks report that the United Nations System (UNS) in Cuba has mobilized US\$ 5.3M from the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) in order to make urgent needs items available for those most affected by the passage of Hurricane Matthew.

Plan of Action Funding

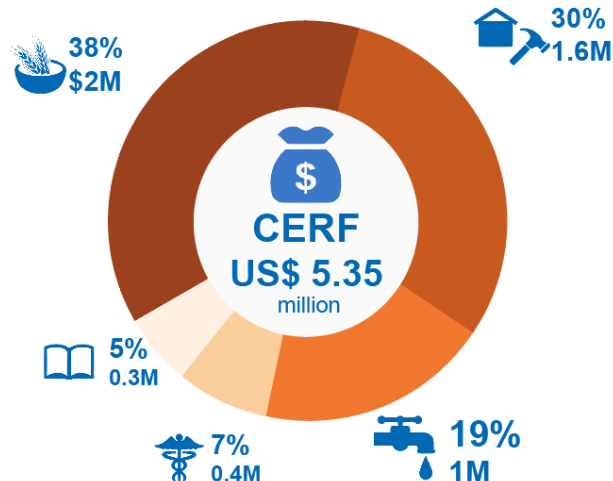
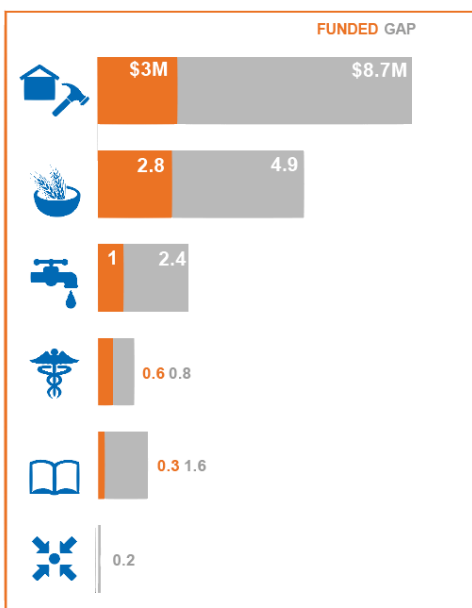
 **US\$ 26.5M**
required

28% FINANCED

\$7.5M

\$19M FUNDING GAP

Funding gaps by sector



Sectors



WASH

Damages:

- Although there is still no quantification of the damages to the WASH sector, an estimated 63 aqueducts have been strongly affected.
- In Guantánamo, damages have been reported to 13km of pipes due to flooding or landslides, 36km of electrical networks (primary and secondary lines), 662m² of roofs and 8 reservoirs.

Response:

- Water supply systems affected by Hurricane Matthew in Baracoa, Imías and Yateras municipalities have been restored this week.
- In Maisí, where 13 of the hydraulic systems required to provide water to populations and industries were out of service, the aqueduct in the Rubiero zone is set to start functioning promptly.
- There has been a substantial investment to substitute aluminum tubing for high-density polyethylene which is more resistant and durable.
- In pharmacies serving the affected municipalities, sodium hypochlorite is being distributed to the population for water purification in order to avoid the occurrence of diarrheal diseases.
- The efforts of the public health authorities to maintain good hygiene and sanitation conditions continue to help prevent the emergence of outbreaks to date.
- In the town of Veguita Prieta, in Maisi municipality, part of the pipes have been rehabilitated.
- The 34 mini-hydroelectric power stations affected by Hurricane Matthew have reinitiated their activities, servicing 5,420 inhabitants of Guantánamo living in areas of limited access located in Baracoa, Maisí, Imías, South San Antonio, Manuel Tames and Yateras municipalities.

UNICEF:

- The procurement process has been initiated for the CERF project, approved by OCHA's Secretariat, to support the WASH sector immediately in the four most affected municipalities: Guantánamo: Baracoa, Maisí, Imías and San Antonio del Sur.
- UNICEF with WHO/PAHO, UNDP, and UNHABITAT have launched a Plan of Action to support water treatment in order to provide safe water and ensure proper hygiene in Baracoa, Maisí, Imías, San Antonio del Sur, Yateras, and Manuel Tames in the province of Guantánamo, and Sagua de Tanamo and Moa in the province of Holguín.

OPS:

- Following the approval of CERF funding, WHO/PAHO focuses its efforts in procuring and sending to health institutions located in the 7 municipalities most affected supplies to ensure safe water and preventing water-borne diseases such as cholera or e.coli.

SAVE THE CHILDREN & OXFAM:

- NGOs are providing immediate assistance to 500 families affected by the hurricane through hygiene kits, hand washing, jerry cans, mattresses, tanks, water purification tablets, mosquito nets - with an initial budget of 200,000 Euros in the four most affected municipalities of Guantánamo Province.



Food Security

Damages:

- Food security of the most affected populations is still at risk, given the damages to agricultural production and to the facilities for food storing in the municipalities of Baracoa, Imías, Maisí, San Antonio del Sur and Yateras.

- According to the estimation of sectoral authorities in Guantánamo, Matthew has affected 4,142 hectares of root vegetables, grains and vegetables, and swept all banana plantations in Baracoa, Maisi, Imías and San Antonio del Sur, as well as 80 per cent of those of Yateras.

In Baracoa:

- 3,635 hectares of cocoa were damaged, 20% of the plants were destroyed, as well as nearly all shade trees.
- Of the 6,408 hectares of coconut plantation, 90% was totally lost. The plants that remain standing are severely damaged. It is estimated about 1 million coconut trees were felled by the force of the winds. Restoration of the coconut cultivation will take at least five years.
- Over 350,000 cocoa plants in nurseries have been affected, and over 600 tons of grain which was in storage or drying facilities have been soaked.
- Most of the production of the harvest was lost, and Jamal and Paso de Cuba, among other facilities have been damaged.

Response:

- In Guantánamo province, several short-cycle crops have been sown to mitigate the shortage of bananas and other agricultural products caused by Hurricane Matthew: over 1,356 hectares of pumpkin, sweet potato, tomato and other vegetables in areas of the five municipalities affected and the municipality of Guantánamo were planted.
- The Ministry of Agriculture approved the delivery from other provinces of 1,500 tons of agricultural products to the five municipalities affected and Guantánamo. In October, the allocation exceeded 800 tons.
- In the municipality of Baracoa cocoa is being recovered at a rate of 31 hectares per day. The restoration of productive plantations is expected to exceed two years.
- The recuperative strategy in Baracoa includes planting cacao, plantations of fast-growing species such as Jupiter (Piñon Florida), *higuereta* and banana. The coconut recovery strategy involved specialists from the National Agroforestry Group, Research Institute on Tropical Fruit Growing.
- Seeds in Baracoa and other provinces are being collected for nurseries. Areas traditionally used for coconut are being devoted to provisional crops.

WFP:

- WFP is following up on its emergency operation to assist the vulnerable population in the areas affected by the hurricane, comprising of 180,000 people. Due to lack of funding, assistance is currently focused on the four most affected municipalities of Baracoa, Imías, Maisi and San Antonio del Sur, which have a population of 157,000 people.
- In conjunction with government counterparts at national and local level, transportation and distribution of foodstuffs pre-positioned in Havana and Santiago de Cuba have is underway. Thus far, 763 metric tons of food (233 MT of rice and 530 MT of beans) have been mobilized for the province of Guantánamo. Of those, 499 MT (217 MT of rice and 282 MT of beans) were distributed to the population of the four most affected municipalities.
- In addition, 8.85 metric tons of fortified cereal were received in the municipalities of Caimaneras, San Antonio del Sur and Yateras (which are not receiving food through the WFP Country Programme).
- Vegetable oil and beans are being purchased to complete food assistance.
- WFP continues mobilizing funds for its emergency operation, amounting to US\$ 4.1 million. So far, contributions were secured from the Government of Canada and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

FAO:

- CERF funding worth US\$ 419.148 local food production will be supported for short-term crops, with the distribution of tools to crop-growers within urban and peri-urban agricultural zones in the municipalities of Baracoa, Maisi, Imías, and San Antonio del Sur in the province of Guantánamo.
- FAO will initially support 157,000 people from the four most affected municipalities in the province of Guantánamo with key resources and equipment, in order to resume agricultural production with particular focus on short-cycle crops.

- FAO will assist the farmers' livelihood rehabilitation in the most affected municipalities in Guantanamo and Holguin provinces, to ensure the resume of agricultural activities in the short term. For this purpose, funding from FAO is available, amounting to USD 500,000.
- It works to mobilize additional funds from other partners in the international cooperation to achieve the level of resources identified in cooperation with local institutions and the food industry.



Shelter and Early Recovery

Damages:

- National multidisciplinary teams and eastern Cuba Hurricane quantifies the impacts of Matthew in the Alejandro Humboldt National Park, Natural Heritage, whose preliminary assessment throws recoverable losses and allows the opening of five tourist trails.

Response:

Baracoa

- 3,919 families have been provided with construction materials. In Baracoa municipality 23,000 homes have been reported as affected.
- Of 2,430 houses collapsed, 75% have some roofing tiles, but do not have wood on which to mount them due to transportation delays caused by the constant rains.

UNDP

- A shipment of 9,000 tarpaulins and 5,740 mattresses purchased by UNDP for the emergency response has arrived on Sunday 6 November, within the framework of the Plan of Action.
- On 4 November, UNDP has signed a collaboration project with COSUDE worth US\$ 500,000 to safely recover 667 homes affected, including roofing solutions which can be quickly recovered. It is expected to benefit 967 families, about 2,930 people.
- UNDP is finalizing the acquisition of 14,925 tarpaulins, 7,500 kits kitchens, 12,060 mattresses and 7,500 bedding sets to meet the needs a portion of the affected population. Similarly, 15,004 sheets of CGI, 1,297 roofing modules and 122 tool kits and 32 specialized tool kits have been acquired to provide 14,300 families with a resilient and sustainable solution for their shelter needs. UNDP is working jointly with cooperation partners at the mobilization of additional resources.
- UNDP has elaborated, in collaboration with Cuban institutions, a programme for the rapid recovery of shelter for a total of US\$ 10M. UNDP invites partners to support this initiative which is aiming replicate the project within Guantánamo the home recovery project which was implemented in Santiago de Cuba in response to Hurricane Sandy.
- Other recovery initiatives have been identified, such revitalization of small industries of locally produced goods, the recovery Early Warning Hydro-Meteorological System as well as the recovery of the communication system, as well as other initiatives to revitalize the local economic infrastructure and recover affected areas with the ecosystems.

OXFAM

- Thanks to a US\$ 600,000 fund from COSUDE, OXFAM will provide 500 families with 70m2 of CGI sheets as well as materials to treat and store water.
- The response phase, in collaboration with Save the Children, includes the distribution of the following within the municipality of Baracoa:
 - 2,000 tarpaulins
 - 2,000 hygiene kits
 - Purification tablets for 6 months to 2,000 families
 - 2,000 250L water tanks
 - 2,000 jerry cans
 - 2,000 water filters
 - 2,000 mattresses
 - 8,000 mosquito nets

For the recovery phase, 500 families in the municipality of Baracoa will be supplied with:

- Roofing rehabilitation up to 70m2
- 250L water tanks
- Filters
- Equipment and construction tools

OIM

- With the help of UNDP, IOM is in the process of acquiring 2,840 sheets of CGI roofing and 820 mattresses.



Health

Damages:

- 120 health facilities have been confirmed as being the most damaged. Further data on the overall affectation to the sector not yet quantified

120

health centres severely damaged in 10 municipalities

Province	Municipality	Affected Polyclinics	Affected Hospitals	Affected CMFs	Affected Pharmacies
Guantánamo	Baracoa	3	1	25	15
	Maisí	1	0	41	13
	Imías	1	0	ND	5
	San Antonio del Sur	2	0	ND	2
	Manuel Tames	2	ND	ND	ND
	Niceto Pérez	1	ND	ND	ND
	Caimanera	1	ND	ND	ND
	Yateras	2	0	ND	ND
Holguín	Moa	2	1	ND	ND
	Sagua de Tánamo	2	0	ND	ND
TOTAL		17	2	66	35
<p>Baracoa: The Local Regional Production Centre of Natural and Traditional Medicine has been partially collapsed and has lost its roof. 29 pharmacies have structural damage or lost roofing, six of which are partially collapsed.</p>					

Response:

- Following the passage of Matthew, the process of ensuring better hygiene requires intensification, especially in the eastern zones of Cuba and in the most severely affected municipalities of Maisí, Baracoa and San Antonio del Sur.
- Sanitation education, community action, changing people's personal habits and vectorial barriers such as mosquito nets serve the purpose of supporting the previous measures.
 - Handwashing: when arriving home, before cooking and after going to the toilet.
 - Fruits and vegetables: must be fresh and in good state. It is imperative to wash them before consuming them.
 - Dry out anything which is out the air and which may accumulate rain and be used by mosquitos(Aedes aegypti) Destroy shells, bottles and cans.
 - Water treatment: there are two basic options for purification: boil at least one minute, then pass it to a clean container, and add drops of hypochlorite to each liter of water; let stand for 30 minutes.
 - Perform an autoexamintation.
 - Always cover trash and don't let it accumulate.
 - Keep containers upside down when not in use, such as buckets and pots.
 - The PAHO office in Havana received 15 boxes each with 25 cholera tests (375 total determinations). On the 31 October, it was delivered to the Ministry of Public Health.

The first supplies were received by WHO technical staff:

- 1,000 mosquito nets impregnated with insecticide
- 30,920 water purification tablets
- 8,700 chlorine-testing kits

In response to the needs identified by national authorities:

With the approval of CERF funds for its implementation by WHO/PAHO in Cuba, a procurement process has been developed which will provide health institutions of seven affected municipalities with:

- More than 2 million tablets of Doxycycline
- More than 40,000 tablets for water tank disinfecting (various weights)
- More than 300,000 chlorine-testing tablets
- About 240kgs of calcium hypochlorite
- Cholera, malaria and e.coli rapid detection kits
- About 7,200 mosquito nets impregnated with insecticide
- 20 water pumps
- 60 water tanks of different volumes
- 8 electrical generators (5 kva and 10 kva)

Source: National press and technical offices of PAHO/WHO

UNFPA:

- In addition to the US\$ 81,158 agency funds, UNFPA received approval from the Central Response Fund Emergency (CERF) for the implementation of the project "Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for the affected population of the areas affected by hurricane Matthew", estimated to be worth US\$ 101,012. These resources will be used to purchase of Emergency Reproductive Health Kits, which provide contraception as well as birthing and maternal medical supplies, as well as for management of abortion and gynecobstetric complications attention. These funds provide coverage to other affected municipalities in the provinces of Guantanamo and Holguin, as Niceto Pérez, Manuel Tames and Caimanera, as well as completing those identified as most affected.



Education

Damages:

- No new information available regarding the damages in this sector.

Response:

- Over 100 of the 291 schools damaged by the hurricane have been rehabilitated, of which 85 operate smoothly after partial or total repairs. In the other cases, classes are taking place in premises adapted to respond to the needs. About 200 alternative learning spaces in households and government institutions are also hosting teaching and complementary educational activities.
- In San Antonio del Sur, Imías and Yateras, all the students participate in educational activities while in Maisi and Baracoa - the most affected municipalities – classes are imparted to 90% and 93% of children enrolled respectively.
- Educational resources have been dispatched from Ciego de Avila, Granma, Santiago de Cuba and Villa Clara, and from state-own companies producing these supplies.
- More than 100 special education students and 52 teachers were able to return to schools in the city of Baracoa thanks to skilled workers of the Camagüey's Office of the Historian (OHC).

Maisi:

- To ensure continuity in learning, alternative learning spaces, such as houses, continue to be used.
- Brigades made up of neighbors continue to contribute to the repair of schools and other institutions in the municipality.

UNICEF- UNESCO:

- The procurement process of the of the CERF project, approved by OCHA's Secretariat (CERF) has been initiated to respond to the immediate needs related to the rapid return of children and adolescents to learning activities in safe spaces in the four most affected municipalities of Guantanamo: Baracoa, Maisí, Imías and San Antonio del Sur.
- UNICEF and UNESCO have launched a Plan of Action that will focus on supporting the rehabilitation of schools and their water and sanitation services in the most affected municipalities: 6 in the province of Guantanamo (Baracoa, Maisí, Imías and San Antonio del Sur, Yateras and Manuel Tames) and 2 in the province of Holguín (Sagua de Tánamo and Moa), where the most severe damages in the educational sector have been reported.

**Logistics****Damages:**

- Grave damages are still being estimated to the municipal warehousing capacities following the Hurricane, which represents a challenge for the storage of food mobilized to supply the affected zones.

Respuesta:

- Efforts are ongoing to build an alternative connection between the municipalities of Moa and Baracoa, following the destruction of the bridge over the river Toa.

WFP:

- The 400 pallets purchased by WFP have reached the port of Santiago de Cuba. These assets will be used as temporary flooring in the five WFP warehouses in Baracoa and Maisi to protect food from social consumption (from affected stores and food donated by WFP).
- WFP is negotiating the purchase of roofing tiles for the repair of warehouses in the most affected municipalities. They are also considering buying other temporary warehouses.

General Coordination

The "Plan of Action for the United Nations System in response to Hurricane Matthew in Cuba" was presented on October 28 at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, by the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System (UNS) in Cuba.

The Action Plan can be found in http://www.redhum.org/documento_detail/snu-cuba-plan-of-action-matthew.

USD 26.5 million dollars are required to support 637,608 people to meet basic needs and provide essential response in the next 6 to 18 months. They are still pending urgent mobilization of 19 million USD dollars.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) approved an amount of USD 5.3 million dollars in the following sectors:

Shelter and Early Recovery: US\$ 1.6 million (UNDP)
 Food Security: US\$ 2 million (WFP & FAO)
 WASH: US\$ 1 million (UNICEF)
 Health: US\$ 0.4 million (PAHO/WHO)
 Education: US\$ p.3 million (UNICEF)

In addition to CERF own funds and agencies, Canada, SDC and WWF have contributed to this Plan.

Crisis Background

The press has confirmed severe damages in the shelter sector in Guantánamo due to Hurricane Matthew's passage in Cuba. It is expected that coffee and cacao plantations, of vital economic importance in the affected zones of Cuba, may take up to two years to recover. Eight ministers and four vice-ministers from 12 national offices remain in the affected municipalities to coordinate recovery efforts.

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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>

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