

Hurricane Ian Response

Resident Coordinator's Office Situation Report No. 01

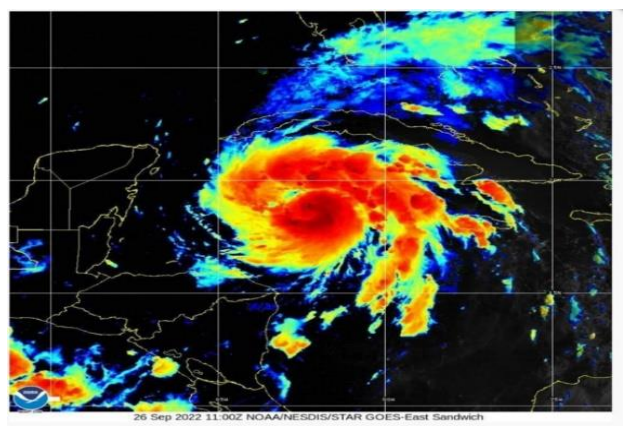
(September 26, 2022)



This report has been prepared by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cuba. It covers the period from 12:00 noon on September 25 to 12:00 noon on September 26 (local time).

Summary

- Ian, a category 1 hurricane, with sustained winds of 120 kms/h, will affect Cuban territory starting tonight (approximately 7pm).
- Strong impacts due to winds, rainfall and storm surges are expected especially in Pinar del Río and Isla de La Juventud, although the effects will cover most of the national territory.
- Cyclonic alert declared for the 6 western provinces - including the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud- and information phase for the central provinces.
- More than 61 thousand people evacuated residing in low-



6 Provinces affected	+61000 Evacuated
--------------------------------	----------------------------

lying areas, or populations with vulnerable habitat.



26 de septiembre de 2022 5:30 am
Centro de Pronósticos del Tiempo, INSMET



Overview of the situation

Ian is already a Category 1 hurricane and, according to forecasts, it could become a hurricane of great intensity (category 3 or 4) before impacting Cuban territory through Pinar del Río. The event will affect mainly the western part of the country from 7 pm this Monday, and its effects may be felt in most of the national territory. Up to midday on Monday, Ian had sustained winds of 120 km/hour, with higher gusts.

The Civil Defense declared a cyclonic alert phase for 6 western territories (Pinar del Río, Artemisa, Mayabeque, Havana, Matanzas, Cienfuegos, and the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud) and, an information phase for the central ones (Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila).

The Meteorological Institute forecasts **hurricane-force** winds, **rainfall that may reach 350 mm in Pinar del Río, and storm surges with flooding in low-lying areas**. In the case of the Isle of Youth, wave trains of five to seven meters in height are expected, associated with the passage of the event along the South Coast.

Institutions, organizations, and economic entities are implementing the measures foreseen in the disaster reduction plans at the provincial and local levels, including the protection of economic and patrimonial assets.

Humanitarian Response

National Authorities

This Monday, the President of the country called to prioritize the preservation of human lives and material resources. The provincial and municipal Defense Councils have been activated in the territories potentially affected, with the aim of prevention: a) evacuating all residents in vulnerable areas, b) avoiding losses in agriculture by bringing forward harvests, c) monitoring reservoirs, d) distributing food to the population and e) carrying out actions to ensure electricity and telecommunications to protect vital objectives.

On the Isle of Youth, the number of people evacuated amounted to 1300 in established centers, plus 121 families to the homes of relatives and neighbors. Pinar del Río estimates the protection of almost 50 thousand people, 44 thousand of them in the homes of relatives and friends. In Matanzas, the number of evacuees reached 11,822, 8479 of them also in family homes. Havana, for its part, also established the evacuation of residents in low-lying areas, including residents of the community of El Fanguito, due to the danger of overflowing the Almendares River.

School lessons were suspended until further notice in the areas most likely to be affected, such as the provinces of Havana, Artemisa, Pinar del Río, and Isla de Juventud. The decision was left to the consideration of local authorities, evaluating each particular case.

Interprovincial trips were suspended, including local trains in the provinces between Pinar del Río and Matanzas.

Sectors



Response/Preparatory measures

- **In Pinar del Río:**

Six medical brigades left for different destinations; 226 beds were freed up in the two provincial hospitals; medical offices were reinforced with medicines and medical assistance; outpatient medical consultations were suspended; non-emergency surgeries were suspended; all evacuation centers in the province were certified, and hypochlorite is available to prevent diarrheal outbreaks.

In the municipality of Sandino, there are 500 evacuation capacities created, with logistical and health personnel assurance. Communities possibly affected by flooding are being evacuated.

In the municipality of Consolación del Sur, all pregnant women over 34 weeks will be admitted.

- **In Havana:**

During the meeting of the Temporary Working Group, the importance of protecting pregnant women admitted to obstetrician/gynecologist hospitals, as well as minors receiving care in health services, was emphasized.

PAHO/WHO-UNFPA

The offices of PAHO/WHO and UNFPA Cuba are working together with their counterparts to prepare the response once the effects are felt.



Response / Preparatory measures

- The affected territories advance harvests of crops that can be harvested, such as plantain, pumpkin and cassava.
- Work is being done to protect irrigation machines and farmhouses for their preservation.
- The protection of animals to higher areas was initiated. Cattle are being moved to safe and elevated areas and poultry houses are being reinforced.
- In the forestry sector, 108 tons of charcoal have been frozen and lumber production has been accelerated.
- There are 3,000 tons of fertilizers already protected.
- Market sales are being increased to ensure rapid marketing of agricultural products.

WFP

WFP has a pre-positioned food reserve of over 2,000 tons available in various provinces of Cuba to support immediate food assistance for up to 275,000 people per 60-day period in areas affected by Hurricane IAN. Possible response scenarios are being evaluated as support needs arise.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Response/Preparatory Measures

- Work began on draining reservoirs and cleaning up sewers, and the areas most prone to damage were evaluated in all the affected territories.
- In Pinar del Río, reservoirs are above 90% of their filling capacity.
- In Artemisa, the territory stores 72.35 percent of its total water volume.
- In Isla de la Juventud, the reservoirs are at 81% storage capacity.
- In Pinar del Río, authorities confirm that hypochlorite is available, and its use is recommended to avoid diarrhea outbreaks. There are no difficulties with the operation of generators and water in the province's health centers.

UNICEF

UNICEF, in coordination with national authorities, has prepositioned critical items that will allow for an initial response in terms of water, hygiene and sanitation: 12,755 10-liter water storage tanks that will benefit 6,376 families and 478 kits that, if necessary, will guarantee basic hygiene conditions for 2,390 families.



Early Recovery and Housing

Response/Preparatory measures

- Pinar del Río is working to protect all existing tobacco, one of the main economic sectors of the province. Protection efforts include 33,000 tons of covered tobacco already in storage.
- Evacuations of residents in vulnerable areas of all affected provinces, including localities in Havana that may suffer flooding or overflowing of rivers (El Fanguito community, overflowing of Almendares River).
- The Provincial Center for Cultural Heritage of Pinar del Río advised the Municipal Museum Network and other facilities to ensure the protection of heritage assets and to immediately report any eventuality.

 **Education**

Response/Preparatory measures:

- Suspended school lessons until further notice in most of the territories most expected to be affected, such as the provinces of Havana, Artemisa, Pinar del Río, and Isla de Juventud. The decision was left to the consideration of local authorities, evaluating each case.
- Several educational centers are functioning as shelters for the protection of evacuees: the José Maceo mixed center on the Isle of Youth is sheltering 150 people, while the Martha Machado pedagogical school is protecting another 40.

UNICEF

There is a prepositioning for the immediate support of:

- 6 000 m2 waterproofing blankets for rehabilitation of roofs of educational centers.
- 140 school supply kits (to benefit 5,600 children between 6 and 18 years of age).
- 154 recreation kits (to benefit 13,860 children between 6 and 18 years of age).
- 38 Early childhood kits (to benefit 1,900 children between 1 and 5 years of age).
- 1,500 10-liter tanks for water storage in educational institutions, including homes of children without family support.
- The process of acquiring 6,000 m2 of additional waterproofing blankets was initiated.
- Procurement of 46 additional early childhood kits (to benefit 2,300 children between 1 and 5 years of age).



General Coordination

The United Nations System in Cuba, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, is monitoring the situation and the impacts caused, in order to activate the necessary response mechanisms. The United Nations Emergency Team (UNETE) emergency technical team, under the leadership of the WFP, is activated with the participation of UNS agencies, funds, and programs in Cuba, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

For further information, please contact:

Raul Garces, Communication Officer. United Nations System in Cuba

Email: raul.garcescorra@un.org

Tel: (537) 204-1513

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org, www.reliefweb.int, www.redhum.org, www.cuba.un.org

For more information, please visit

Cuban Institute of Meteorology: <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>

Periódico Girón: <http://giron.cu>

Periódico Victoria: <http://> <https://www.facebook.com/radio26cu>