

# Hurricane Ian Response

## Resident Coordinator's Office Situation Report No. 03

(September 28, 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 27 to 12:00 noon on September 28 (local time).

## Summary

- With an extensive diameter of 600 km, Hurricane Ian lashed the western provinces for more than 7 hours, causing serious damage to housing, agriculture, electrical, telephone and hydraulic services, among other sectors.
- So far, 2 deaths are reported in Pinar del Río. About 76221 people evacuated.
- Most of the country remains without electricity generation, a situation that affects all services, including water pumping. Pinar del Río, Artemisa, and Mayabeque remain completely without electricity service.
- In Pinar del Río, damage to houses is estimated to be very severe, yet to be quantified. According to preliminary figures, the hurricane-force winds caused five total and 68 partial landslides in Havana.
- Serious impacts on agriculture. Banana, cassava, coffee, and sweet potato crops are reported to be among the most severely damaged.
- Tobacco production, the livelihood of many families and a sector that represents 10.4% of the country's exports of goods, was severely damaged.



## Overview of the situation

Ian left the national territory after seven hours of damage, mainly in urban and rural areas of the provinces of Pinar del Río and Artemisa, although it also caused damage in Havana and Isla de la Juventud. For one hour and 30 minutes, the eye of the hurricane remained over the capital city of that territory, causing heavy damage to infrastructure, housing, agriculture, electricity, and telecommunications services. So far, 2 deaths have been reported.

Most of the country is still without electricity generation. Pinar del Río, Artemisa, and Mayabeque remain completely affected. Severe impacts occurred in telecommunications, especially in mobile telephony and data connection, limiting access to information in the most affected territories.

Floods due to heavy rains were reported in several localities of the affected territories, as well as sea penetrations and towns cut off from communication due to the overflowing of rivers.

Damages are currently being quantified in the housing fund of Pinar del Río province, which could be very severe. In Havana, hurricane-force winds reached 80 kilometers per hour (km/h), with gusts of 123 km/h, and accumulated rainfall of 118 mm. Five total landslides and 68 partial landslides have been reported. Artemisa reports 92 houses with some type of damage.

Tobacco production was seriously damaged, which could jeopardize the start of the 2022-2023 harvest and affect this livelihood that supports many families in the locality and accounts for 10.4% of the country's exports of goods.

## Humanitarian Response

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### National Authorities

The Cuban President, accompanied by authorities of the province of Pinar del Río, toured for the second time affected areas of the territory, mainly related to infrastructure, housing, agriculture, and tobacco production, all sectors strongly affected by the hurricane.

Brigades of electricians and service cars arrive in Pinar del Río from several provinces of the country to restore electric infrastructure. After the affectation that paralyzed the National Energy System, 224 MW have been recovered and electric power is being restored mainly in areas of the East and center of the country.

The General Staff of the Civil Defense decreed the recovery phase, which implies that authorities of the affected provinces evaluate the impacts in all sectors and the response to be implemented in each case.

Messages of solidarity were sent by the presidents of Mexico and Venezuela, who made themselves available to Cuba for possible aid.



### Sectors



#### Affectations/Needs

#### **Pinar del Río:**

- Serious structural damage to the waterproofing of the roofs and engineering systems of the Abel Santa María Hospital in Pinar del Río.

#### **Artemisa**

- Partial collapse of a roof in an office in the municipality of Guanajay, three health centers with damage to the roof in the municipality of San Antonio de los Baños and damage to the roof of the Bahía Honda home for the elderly.
- Damage to the window of the hemodialysis room of the Ciro Redondo García General Teaching Hospital and the roof of the Maternity Home was lifted.

#### **Response**

##### **Pinar del Río:**

Since early Monday morning, patients undergoing hemodialysis have been placed in the Augusto César Sandino municipal hospital.

##### **Matanzas:**

Stability in the provision of health services is guaranteed, while resources and personnel are ready to attend to any eventuality.



Source: El Artemiseño

#### **PAHO/WHO-UNFPA**

The PAHO/WHO Representation is in contact with its headquarters to send consolidated information on damages and to receive the necessary inputs for the response, such as emergency kits.

The UNFPA Office in Cuba made an official request to the Emergency Fund.



#### **Food Security**

#### **Affectations/Needs**

In Artemisa, the banana crop was severely affected. Of a total of 1,800 hectares, at least 1,500 are on the ground. More than 2,000 tomato and cabbage crops were also damaged.

On the Isle of Youth, agriculture accounted for losses in 92 hectares of crops, among the most important banana, pumpkin, cassava, coffee, and sweet potato. . Among other productions, 13.5 hectares of banana, 13 of pumpkin, 10.5 of yucca, 6 of coffee, 3 of sweet potato stand out. In addition, 16 tobacco curing houses were seriously damaged.

In the municipality of Alquizar, 60% of banana crops were devastated, and tomato and cabbage seedlings were affected with more than 2000 seedlings, as well as tobacco seedlings.

In Pinar del Río, heavy damage to agriculture is estimated and is currently being quantified by the authorities.

## **Response**

Authorities and inhabitants of Artemisa and Pinar del Río participate in the collection of affected crops to guarantee their rapid commercialization among the population.

## **FAO and WFP:**

- The FAO Representative is in permanent dialogue with the Minister of Agriculture to identify the main effects on agriculture and evaluate possible responses in the recovery phase.
- 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 for 60 days in the areas affected by Hurricane IAN. Possible response scenarios are being evaluated according to the support needs that arise. Temporary warehouses and pre-positioned food cooking kits are also available in Santiago de Cuba and can be made available for response at this time.



## **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

## **Affectations/Needs**

- According to the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources, more than 32,000 customers were affected by the water supply. In Isla de la Juventud, of the 20 water stations that supply water to the capital of La Pina, only eight remain activated.
- There is heavy flooding in La Coloma, the town where the hurricane entered, in San Juan and Martinez, and other areas of Pinar del Río province. Flooding is also reported in Batabanó.
- The overflowing of the Cuyaguaje River, in Pinar del Río, interrupted the passage between the Isabel Rubio Popular Council and the provincial capital.
- In Artemisa, the situation caused by the penetration of the sea 5 km inland, in the coastal town of Guanímar, is being evaluated.
- The low areas of Havana's Malecon also suffered sea penetrations, although this morning they began to subside.

## **Response**

- The use of tanker trucks is being reinforced to guarantee water supply to prioritized institutional targets and homes.
- The collection of solid waste generated by the hurricane's strong winds began. Sanitation was programmed in all affected territories of Pinar del Río and Artemisa.

## **UNICEF:**

- UNICEF, in coordination with national authorities, has prepositioned critical items that will allow for 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 Necesidades/afectaciones

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### Pinar del Río

- The conditions of the territory have only allowed for a preliminary assessment of the damage, but the damage is estimated to be substantial and severe in the housing sector.
- Severe damage is estimated considering the level of vulnerability expressed in the fact that 26% of the houses were in fair or poor construction condition and more than 50% corresponded to typologies II to IV (light roofs) susceptible to damage from strong winds such as those reported by Hurricane Ian.
- Ian significantly affected the electrical infrastructure of the territory. The entire province is without electricity. This situation seriously limits communications, fuel supply, etc., and therefore, recovery efforts.
- The town of Isabel Rubio is cut off from access to the capital city due to the flooding of the Cuyaguaje river.
- For its part, Pinar del Río reports more than 5 thousand tobacco houses affected, which could jeopardize the beginning of the 2022-2023 harvest and affect this livelihood that is the livelihood of many families in the locality.



Source: Cubadebate

### Artemisa

- More than 92 houses were affected in municipalities of Artemisa province. In the case of Havana, five total and 68 partial landslides were recorded.
- 53 state entities affected.
- 2 stadiums, the 26 de Julio provincial stadium and the one in the municipality of Guanajay, had their bleachers and roofs affected. In the first case, two towers fell.
- Partial collapse of the roof of the Mariel Museum.

### Isla de la Juventud

- The main effects on housing were concentrated in the rural communities of Cocodrilo, Julio Antonio Mella, and La Reforma, as well as on electricity service, with some 31,000 customers experiencing interruptions in electricity service.

### La Habana

- Five total landslides and 68 partial landslides.
- The most affected municipalities are 10 de Octubre, Arroyo Naranjo, Marianao, and Habana Vieja.
- More than 1,000 trees were blown down by strong winds.
- All electrical circuits in the capital were affected.

All impacted areas suffered severe damage to telephony, especially to mobile services, with more than 380 radio bases interrupted. Damage to fixed telephony and data services was also reported, affecting the communication of the affected populations.

## Response

- Electric brigades from all provinces support the west, distributed in the provinces of Pinar del Río, Artemisa, Havana, and Mayabeque. Work is being carried out to reestablish the national electric power system,
- On the Isle of Youth, resources are being delivered to recover the affected houses of the affected people, and the survey of damages in more distant places continues.
- 1,6221 people were evacuated in Havana, adding to the 60 thousand people in the other affected territories (Pinar del Río, Artemisa, and Isla de la Juventud).
- The Minister of Communications checked the recovery works of the sector in the province of Artemisa and informed us that they are working on alternatives for the re-establishment of the service. She also called for rational use of the services in the places where the radio bases have energy backup.

## UNDP and UNESCO

- 5790 pre-positioned tarpaulins were made available to the government in the country to support the affected areas.
- UNESCO has established contact with the Heritage Directorate of Pinar del Río and Viñales, a world heritage site, to ascertain the damage in the territories. This Directorate is currently quantifying the damages to apply to the Emergency Fund for Culture.



## Education

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## Affectations/Needs

Authorities of the affected provinces assess the damage to educational institutions. Preliminarily:

- 6 schools were damaged with partial roofing, as well as the Palace of the Pioneers in Guanajay province, Artemisa.
- Damage to the roof of three educational facilities in the municipality of San Antonio de Los Baños, Artemisa.
- 13 educational centers were affected in the municipality of San Cristóbal, Pinar del Río.

## Response:

- Classes continue to be suspended until further notice in most of the territories most affected, such as the provinces of Havana, Artemisa, Pinar del Río, and Isla de la Juventud. The decision was left to the consideration of local authorities, who will evaluate each particular case.

- Education managers and workers are working in the most affected municipalities to prepare the schools for the resumption of educational activities when it is decided.
- Work is being carried out at the Jesús Montané Oropesa University to renew teaching activities as soon as possible.

## 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.
- We began the process of acquiring 6,000 m2 of additional waterproofing blankets.
- Procurement of 46 additional early childhood kits (to benefit 2,300 children between 1 and 5 years of age).



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## 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).

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