

Hurricane Ian Response

Resident Coordinator's Office Situation Report No. 04

(September 29, 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 28 to 12:00 noon on September 29 (local time).

Summary

- After the passage of the devastating hurricane Ian, the total population of the two most affected provinces is still without electricity.
- Damage to housing is considerable. So far, only in three municipalities of Pinar del Río, 30,000 houses have been damaged. The rest of the territories are being quantified.
- The infrastructure associated with basic social services was severely damaged.
- The number of people killed by Hurricane Ian rises to 3.
- In addition to the serious damage to agriculture, the infrastructure of crop plantations and food commercialization centers have been severely affected.
- Some 5,000 people remain evacuated in Artemisa, Pinar del Río and Mayabeque.



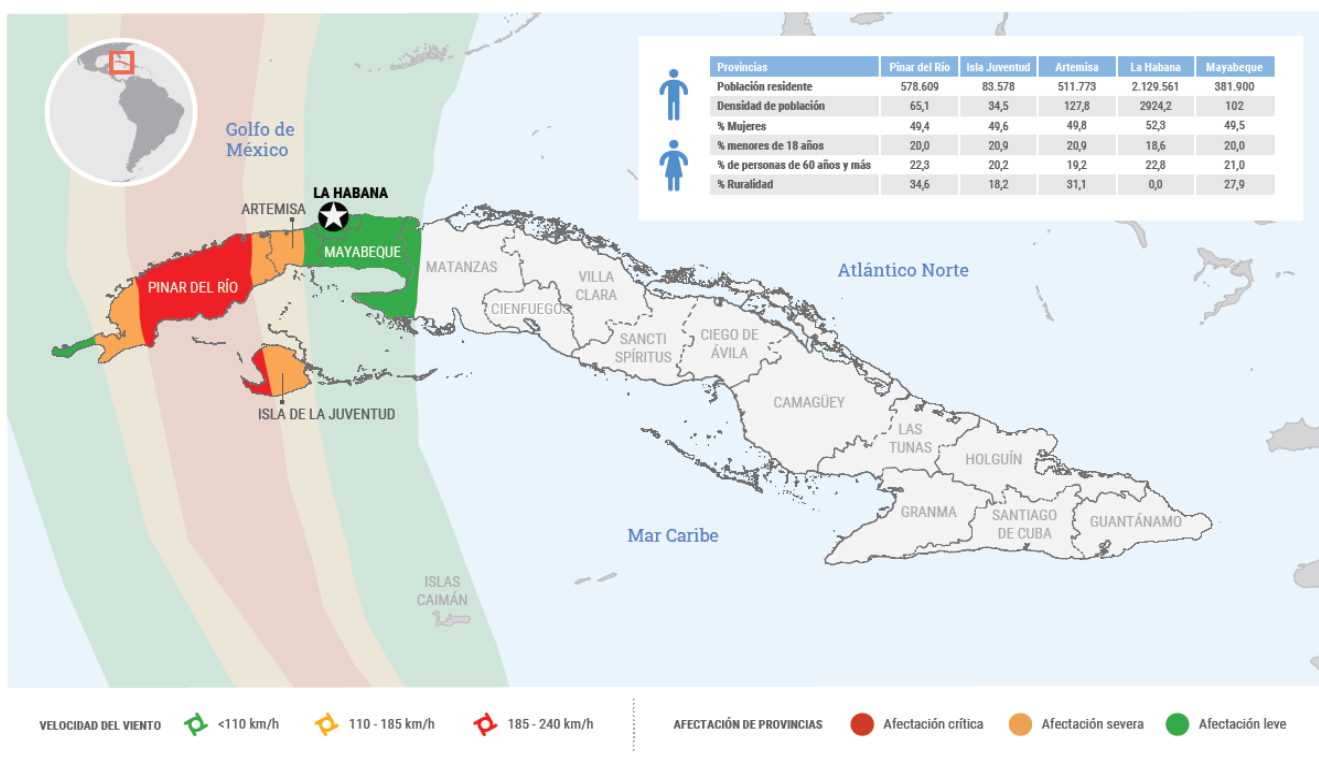
Overview of the situation

The situation remains complex throughout the western part of the country due to the impact of Ian. The tensions generated by the collapse of the national electric power system are easing with the return of service in some areas of the country but remain in the provinces that experienced the impact of the hurricane of great intensity.



CUBA Provincias afectadas por el Huracán Ian

28 de septiembre 2022



Las fronteras y nombres mostrados en este mapa no significan reconocimiento ni apoyo por parte de las Naciones Unidas.
Fecha creación: 28 de septiembre 2022 Fuentes: WFP-ADAM, Sistema de las Naciones Unidas

Preliminary data indicate severe damage to housing. Images from national media show houses without roofs, without windows, or destroyed. At the same time, many families have lost much of their property, clothing, and food.

The damage to agriculture is serious, in addition to severe damage to the infrastructure of farms, cooperatives, and food marketing centers. The loss of liters of milk, a food supplement prioritized for children and the elderly throughout the country, is significant.

Losses in tobacco, the livelihood of thousands of people in Pinar del Río, and a key activity in the country's exports (10.4% of total exports of goods), are described as "disastrous" and compromise the start of the next harvest, scheduled for the second half of October.

Both Pinar del Río and Artemisa remain completely without electricity, which affects the implementation of other services, such as water supply, telecommunications, food production and distribution, and fuel sales, among others.

Damage to health and education infrastructure is very severe. More than 70 educational centers in Pinar del Río have been affected, more than half of them very considerably. Alternatives are being created for the restart of the school year in the municipalities most affected by the hurricane.

Humanitarian Response

National Authorities

Authorities of the country considered Thursday as a decisive day to accurately count the damages in the most affected provinces and to promote recovery tasks in strategic sectors such as electricity generation, water supply, and telecommunications.

Priority will be given to the supply of food to the population, as well as sanitation and cleaning of the main access roads, to guarantee mobility, facilitate the quantification of damages, and accelerate the delivery of resources. Authorities insist on guaranteeing that aid reaches the most affected people and those in vulnerable conditions.

Local transportation services are being reestablished, except in Pinar del Río. All airports in the country are open and operational. The maritime link between the Isle of Youth and Batabanó is still suspended, as well as transportation to Cayo Largo del Sur.

Institutions, universities, labor centers, as well as civil society organizations, are mobilizing to collect and deliver material aid to the victims. From Mexico, the Cuba Solidarity Movement set up a bank account to collect funds to be sent to Cuba.

Almost 5 thousand evacuees remain evacuated in the territories of Pinar del Río, Artemisa, and Mayabeque.

Sectors



Affectations/Needs

Pinar del Río:

- Structural damage to the waterproofing of roofs, windows, and doors, false ceilings, hydraulic installations, and lighting in polyclinics, hospitals, and family doctor's offices. In the latter, several have presented total and partial loss of roofs.

Artemisa:

- Several health centers suffered damage to generators, partial damage to roofs, doors and windows, water tanks, and electrical and water networks.



Response

- Despite the damage to some Family Doctor's Offices, emergency and urgent care services have not ceased to function in hospitals and polyclinics, some of which have been relocated to other areas.
- Stability in the provision of health services is guaranteed, while resources and personnel are ready to attend to any eventuality.

PAHO/WHO-UNFPA

The PAHO/WHO Representation is in dialogue with the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP) to identify priorities in the response to the emergency.



Food Security

Affectations/Needs

The Ministry of Agriculture quantifies so far 8,583 hectares of crops were affected, including bananas (5,233 ha), cassava (937 ha), sweet potatoes (27 ha), and others such as corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, onions, peppers, squash, rice, and coffee.

Data collected by territories:

Pinar del Río

Poultry farming: the diagnosis has not yet been completed due to difficult access to the sites, lack of communication, and lack of electricity. In 7 municipalities, 813,982 birds from 22 farms have been affected, equivalent to 80%. The roofs of 75% of the houses of these farms are totally or partially affected.



Swine: in seven municipalities, 11 units were affected with 70 damaged buildings, of which 22 were totally affected (31.4%) and 48 were partially affected (68.6%). 123 dead animals.

Other municipalities affected:

Consolación del Sur:

- The Genetics Company Camilo Cienfuegos reports 49 dead calves, 2550 liters of milk lost, 150,000 meters of roofs affected. Several cooperatives are recognized with severe damage to administrative infrastructure.
- 109 commercial units were affected, 2 gastronomy units were affected by falling trees in their areas, one Basic Food Unit was affected, and 9 units had their roofs damaged.

Los Palacios:

- At the Los Palacios Scientific and Technical Unit, the total loss of the roof of the rice seed warehouse, which is distributed throughout the country, as well as the roof of its "in vitro" cultivation laboratory, has been reported.

Viñales:

- 90 tons of stored food were lost. The Moncada poultry farm suffered damage to its roof.
- 25,000 birds and 40,000 units of eggs, an important food in the Cuban protein diet, were affected.
- Eighteen protected crop houses in the Plan Café base business unit were damaged, in addition to substantial losses in banana plantations.

Artemisa

- Affected banana crops: 4,912 hectares, of which 1,978 hectares and 30,569 tons were affected.
- 7,529 hectares of cassava, corn, beans, pump fruit, rice, coffee, tomato, and vegetables were damaged. In addition, 50 tons of guava destined for mini-industries and 659 tons of avocado were affected.
- Fiber cement roof tiles damaged in agricultural facilities: 11,172 m² and 8,824 m² of zinc.
- Of 72 cowsheds, 12 are preliminarily known to have partial and total damage to roofs.

Mayabeque

- 961 hectares were damaged, in crops such as banana, cassava, sweet potato, corn, tomato, bell pepper, squash, cucumber, cabbage, onion, avocado, and beans. In addition, 30 hectares of rice were damaged.

Isla de la Juventud

- 92.8 hectares of crops were damaged, and six hectares of coffee were.
- Damage to canopies in 17 states.

La Habana

- Affected roofs of four agricultural units.
- 270 tons of bananas on the ground that are stockpiled.

- 72 tons of avocado trees on the ground. Efforts are being made to recover as much as possible.
- 160 t of cassava
- More than four million vegetable seedlings were lost and 3h already planted.

Response

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

- In the city of Pinar del Río, water is supplied by tanker trucks, but there are difficulties in meeting the needs of the entire city. The service problems especially affect those communities where the water supply is provided by electric pumps.
- In the Pinar del Río municipality of Sandino, the Unidad Empresarial de Base de Acueducto y Alcantarillado in Sandino suffered damage to the roof of the maintenance area, where the chlorinators are stored. Of the unit's 13 sources, only Río Verde, Bolívar, and Manuel Lazo are providing water service. The rest are waiting for fuel to start up the generators to improve water service to the population.
- Damage to the pipes of the distribution network hinders water supply in several towns on the Isle of Youth, where water is distributed by tanker trucks.
- The pumping and distribution of water for human consumption continue to be affected in Pinar del Río and Artemisa due to the lack of electric service. The supply is carried out using pipes.
- In Havana and Mayabeque, problems with the re-establishment of electricity services also affect the water supply.
- In Pinar del Río the reservoirs are not overloaded.



Source: Telepinar

Response

- Work continues to collect debris, unblock drains and supply water in pipes to the most affected provinces and municipalities by setting up pumping stations in the places where electricity has been re-established.
- In Havana, work is being carried out to prune trees, remove debris, unblock sewers, and other recovery tasks.
- On the Isla de la Juventud, sanitation work is being carried out and the water supply has begun to be rehabilitated.

UNICEF:

UNICEF, in coordination with national authorities, maintains critical pre-decided 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. Based on the information on damages and the dialogue with sectoral authorities, the most urgent needs in this sector were identified as follows.



Early Recovery and Housing

Affectations/Needs

- The national electric service continues to be severely affected, with an impact on services to the population and recovery actions.
- 380 radio bases interrupted in the country affect telecommunications and data networks. The greatest damage is concentrated in Pinar del Río, Artemisa and Havana, the provinces most affected by the weather event (52%, 42% and 38% of affected sites, respectively).

Affectations by provinces:

Pinar del Río

- The province remains without electricity in its entirety.
- More than 20 thousand houses were affected in a preliminary estimate in the municipality of Consolación del Sur.
- In Viñales, at least 48% of the housing fund was damaged.
- 95% of the 12 thousand existing cured tobacco houses were destroyed, a few weeks before the beginning of the harvest.
- 100 percent of the circuits are without electricity generation, which prevents water pumping.
- Widespread damage to telephone infrastructure.
- Community of Moncada remains isolated.

Artemisa

- 9,530 fixed telephony services are affected in the province due to power failures. 18% of the total.
- 75 services and 39 base stations out of 2,220 existing data telephone services.
- More than 90 houses with partial or total roof damage and 2 total collapses. The most significant damage was recorded in the rural community of Julio Antonio Mella, where it was reported that 60 of these properties suffered partial and total roof damage and one total collapse was reported.
- Maritime transportation from the Isla de la Juventud is suspended until further notice, due to the damage caused at the Batabanó berth.

La Habana

- 63% of the city's population of more than two million inhabitants remains without electric service.
- 154 water supply systems were affected by lack of electricity.
- 187 homes were affected. 5 total landslides, 108 partial landslides.
- More than 1,000 trees were downed due to strong winds.

Mayabeque

- Unquantified damage to homes, as well as to electricity, telecommunications, and water supply services, among others.
- Damage to the vegetation of the Escaleras de Jaruco Protected Natural Landscape.

Isla de la Juventud

- Around 30% of the electric service in the municipality has not been recovered.
- 114 houses were damaged in the most affected popular councils. In the rural communities of Cocodrilo, Julio Antonio Mella, and La Reforma, the greatest damage to the housing fund is located.
- Main radio base for TV retransmission and telephone services of the municipality with electric power from a generator. Damage to the distribution power line, which is difficult to repair due to its geographic location.

Response

- The delivery of material resources to the most affected places began, as well as sanitation.
- Work is being carried out to create three electricity generation islands in the west, center, and east to achieve synchronization of the main thermoelectric plants, which are currently disconnected from the system. Three other thermoelectric units are in the start-up process to cover the demand of the eastern part of the country, together with the already synchronized unit 1 of the Felton thermoelectric plant.
- Support to the province of Pinar del Río from other territories of the country includes the dispatch of 80 generators for the main telecommunications stations and the pumping of water in hospitals and other strategic places; 20 tank cars, pumps for wells, and maintenance brigades for hydraulic networks; high-pressure cars to work on obstructions.
- The Offices of Procedures have begun to operate, for the accounting of damages and the delivery of resources necessary for the recovery of the victims.
- Several municipalities, including the provincial capital Artemisa, are ready to receive electricity generation from the synchronization of the SEN.
- In Isla de la Juventud, the Housing Directorate has arranged the sale of construction materials such as asbestos cement and zinc roofing tiles, hooks, and cement, resources available in the territory, to begin this first stage of the recovery phase.

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

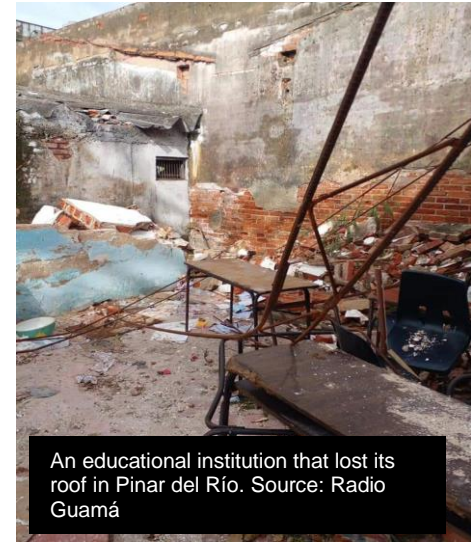
Affectations/Needs

The Ministry of Education and authorities of the affected provinces continue to evaluate the damage to educational institutions. According to preliminary information, 717 schools were affected, 300 of them on roofs.

The most serious damage is concentrated in the provinces of Pinar del Río, Artemisa and Havana. The provinces of Mayabeque and the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud report lesser damage.

Around 163 thousand students still do not have an official date for the restart of the school year in those territories most affected by Hurricane Ian: Artemisa and Pinar del Río. The most complex situation is presented by the latter province, with an educational community of 86,172 students and where the most severe damage to schools and basic infrastructure, in general, is reported.

The Cuban capital and the province of Mayabeque have not announced an official date for the return to classes, but it is expected to occur next week.



An educational institution that lost its roof in Pinar del Río. Source: Radio Guamá

Affectations by provinces:

Pinar del Río:

- Dozens of schools report considerable damage to roof coverings and carpentry (doors and windows).
- 38 education centers were affected in the municipality of Viñales, mainly in the roofs.
- 2 pre-university, 1 basic secondary and 1 elementary school, among the centers with the highest enrollment in the city of Pinar del Río, suffered considerable damage to carpentry.

Artemisa:

- 22 schools and one Palacio de Pioneros with partial damage to roofs and in the municipalities of San Antonio de Los Baños, Guanajay, and San Cristóbal.

Isla de la Juventud

- 6 schools with partial damage to roofs in the special municipality Isla de la Juventud.

Response:

- In most of the damaged schools, the study material base and audiovisual media were safeguarded.
- Most of the people evacuated from schools have returned to their respective homes and/or localities, except in those areas most affected. No exact figures are available to date.
- University and high school students are supporting recovery activities, especially in the provinces of Artemisa and Pinar del Río.
- By Monday, October 3, it is expected that around 180 thousand students in several provinces in the western part of the country will be back to school.

UNICEF

- We have a prepositioning for the immediate support of:
 - 6,000 m2 of waterproofing blankets for the rehabilitation of school roofs.
 - 140 school material 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 and 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).

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

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