

Hurricane Ian Response

Resident Coordinator's Office Situation Report No. 07

(October 3rd, 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 October 2nd to 12:00 noon on October 3rd (local time).

Summary

- Most of the electric service customers in Pinar del Río remain affected. Out of 150 circuits, 144 are still without electricity. In Artemisa, 46% of the service is affected.
- In the seven most affected municipalities, 82% of the food distribution centers (community warehouses) suffered severe damage and 57% of the Family Assistance Systems (SAF), which complicates access to food, particularly among vulnerable groups.
- 35% of mobile telephony and more than 40% of fixed telephony in Pinar del Río remain interrupted.
- Health authorities warn of the need to increase epidemiological surveillance in the most affected areas, in the context of the high incidence of dengue fever.
- The water supply for the population of Pinar del Río, which depends mostly on water tankers and generators, is very complex.



Overview of the situation

95% of the province of Pinar del Río remains without electric service, which continues to complicate the supply of water and the re-establishment of telecommunications. Most of the population does not have access to information through the media or social networks, which has forced the authorities to promote alternative ways to publicize the evolution of the response actions.

Around 35% of Pinar del Río's population still does not have mobile telephony, while more than 40% of fixed telephony has not been restored.

Authorities agree that housing is the sector that will take the longest to recover, taking into account not only the magnitude of the damage but also the fact that at the time of Ian's impact, 6,000 families were still waiting for a solution due to previous damage.

Press reports update the impacts suffered by the fishing sector in La Coloma, the town where the hurricane entered the island. The company responsible for 70% of the country's fishing production lost a considerable amount of its decks, 13 vessels were sunk, and production lines, warehouses, and storage centers were seriously affected.

As the quantification of damages in the food sector increases, the severity of the damage to agriculture, poultry, swine, and livestock farming is confirmed, as well as the complexity of food distribution due to the damage suffered by warehouses and Family Assistance Systems, with particular impact on the most vulnerable sectors.

Humanitarian Response

National Authorities

In the last few hours, the Cuban president visited for the third time the province of Pinar del Río and toured the affected areas of the Isle of Youth, to assess damages, talk directly with the affected people, and orient response actions. According to reports, the authorities of that territory have been joined by a management team with representatives of all the ministries, who are helping to speed up the implementation of actions for each sector.

In the province of Artemisa, about 50% of the electric service has already been restored, while in the capital of the country the figure amounts to more than 95%. It is reported the regrettable death of two workers in the sector, due to accidents associated with the recovery work.

In Pinar del Río, 22 evacuation centers are still operating. Of the slightly more than one thousand people evacuated, it is estimated that some 400 no longer have homes to return to.

Progress is being made in the recovery of debris, which facilitates recovery work and access to places that are currently cut off from communication.

Priority is given to the distribution of food, including food from the basic food basket, and reinforcement donations that include products such as chicken, coffee, rice, bread, and cookies.

Educational authorities indicate that the school year will begin today where conditions are created and that alternative solutions will be provided in family homes or social institutions to relocate students whose schools are unable to restart their work.

From Mexico, Venezuela, and Argentina, supplies continue to arrive for the reestablishment of electrical networks. Colombian President Gustavo Petro- joined the other presidents who have made offers of help. NGOs, solidarity groups, and private sector businesses are delivering food, clothes, and toiletries to evacuation centers, as well as supplies especially useful for vulnerable groups, such as Fowler beds and wheelchairs.

Sectors



Affectations/ Needs

- Eleven hospitals, 118 family doctor's offices, and 43 health facilities have been reported with different types of damage in the affected territories. The most considerable damage was reported at the Abel Santa María Provincial Hospital in Pinar del Río.
- In addition to these damages, the Maternal and Infant Program also needs medicines, supplies, and vitamin supplements for the care of pregnant women and postpartum women.

Pinar del Río:

- Authorities warn of the need to monitor the epidemiological situation in the affected territories.

Response

- Outpatient appointments at the Abel Santamaría hospital will be gradually reestablished as intermunicipal transportation and access to the communities are restored.
- Progress is being made in the unblocking of the main access roads to the health centers.
- In San Luis, the 16 family medicine offices that were not affected are providing services.
- In La Coloma, the Integrated Medical Emergency System of Pinar del Río remains active for the transfer of patients with pathologies requiring hospitalization.

PAHO/WHO-UNFPA

- A PAHO donation of more than 8 tons was delivered to the Abel Santamaría Provincial Hospital in Pinar del Río, consisting of 92 emergency response modules with gastable material, medicines, disinfectants, anesthetics, gloves, sutures, equipment, and basic devices for patient care. The contribution also includes a hurricane response kit with supplies for the health sector and field medical backpacks for the first level of care.



Affectations/Needs

- In the country's main fishing company, located in the town of La Coloma, 10,000 square meters of roofs were affected, and a total of 13 boats are reported sunk.
- According to reports from the Ministry of Agriculture, more than 8,500 hectares of crops such as bananas, sweet potatoes, cassava, corn, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, onions, chili peppers, and coffee were affected. In addition, poultry, swine, and fisheries were severely affected, where the company responsible for 70% of the national fish production was severely impacted.

Pinar del Río

- Sixty-eight percent of the wineries in the province were affected. This proportion reaches 82% in the 7 municipalities identified so far as having the greatest impact. In these places, tents or other alternatives are needed to maintain food distribution.
- Considerable damage was reported in the facilities of 57% of the Family Assistance Systems, community kitchens that serve vulnerable groups and low-income people. As a result, there are limitations in the assistance to some 885 people considered vulnerable groups in the territory.
- In poultry farming, 22 farms in 7 municipalities and 70 pig farms have been affected, with the death of 123 animals.

Artemisa

- Seventy-two cattle ranches are reported to have been affected with partial and total damage to roofs and structures.

Response

- The distribution of the standard food basket and the sale of food to the affected population continues.
- In all the territories, work is being carried out to rescue the affected crops that can be saved.

FAO and WFP

- WFP has confirmed with the Government the start of immediate food assistance to more than 500,000 people with the delivery of rice, beans, and oil for two months. The amount of the operation is estimated at US\$5 million. The response includes inputs to ensure food preservation and processing, such as mobile warehouses, kitchen kits, pallets, tents, and lighting towers for warehouses.



Affectations/Needs

- There are still serious difficulties in the water supply in Pinar del Río, where the municipalities of La Palma and Guane are considered the most critical areas because of problems with the generators on which the service depends.
- Only 8% of the municipality of San Juan y Martínez receives water through the aqueduct system, while the rest of the province of Pinar del Río is supplied through the use of generators for pumping or through tanker cars that do not achieve a daily frequency or have difficulties in reaching certain communities.
- The situation remains complex in Havana, where some 400,000 people are still without service.
- The alert is maintained for possible contamination of water sources, access to safe water, and hygiene conditions of affected families and communities, and those in evacuation centers.

Response

- Most of the 30 tanks with a capacity of 1,500 liters of water that entered the territory of Pinar del Río have been placed in the multi-family buildings of the Hermanos Cruz neighborhood. Additionally, more than one thousand 200-liter plastic tanks were sent to the municipalities of Pinar del Río.

UNICEF

- UNICEF, in coordination with national authorities, is coordinating the delivery of critical prepositioned items to advance initial water, hygiene, and sanitation response:

-12,755 10-liter water storage tanks benefit 6,376 families in the province of Pinar del Río.

-472 hygiene kits contribute to guaranteeing basic hygiene conditions for families affected by floods: 1,600 families in the town of Surgidero de Batabanó, in Mayabeque; and 632 families in the town of La Coloma in the municipality of Pinar del Río.

- In coordination with the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources, 7 5l/second motor pumps acquired by UNICEF have been sent to the province of Pinar del Río to support affected communities in the supply of water through tanker trucks and local wells.
- As part of the UN system's response, a water treatment pump to reach 5,000 people with drinking water and sanitation services will arrive in the country in the coming days.



Affectations/Needs

Pinar del Río:

Housing:

- Of the estimated 100,000 houses affected in Pinar del Río, 4338 total collapses and 5911 partial collapses have been confirmed so far. As for roof damages, 11641 correspond to total roof collapses and 24258 to partial collapses, while 2223 temporary facilities are affected. In the community of La Coloma, as a result of the penetration of the sea, the water rose to the second floors of 20 buildings causing various damages to the structures.
- The latest reports in Havana estimate 1000 houses affected, 129 partial collapses, and 39 total collapses. Municipalities most affected: Boyeros (142); San Miguel del Padrón (104); Arroyo naranjo (82), Cotorro (75).
- In Artemisa and San Cristóbal, 1900 houses were affected.
- On the Isle of Youth, 359 houses were affected. 18 temporary facilities suffered landslides.

Electric Service:

- In Pinar del Río about 94% of the province remains without electric service. More than 8000 transformers remain disabled and more than 4200 electric poles are affected.
- In Artemisa, around 46% of the clients remain without electricity and 4231 transformers were out of service this Sunday.
- In Havana, an estimated 54 thousand people were still without electricity. 1,365 transformers are still affected.
- Difficulties continue to exist in meeting the demand for electricity in the country, with a deficit of 19.8% of the total demand at night.

Telecommunications:

- The mobile coverage deficit in Pinar del Río reaches 36%. In the province, 20,639 telephone lines remain without service, 23% of the total (89,226). Around 90% of the 1057 affected poles have not been recovered.
- 15% of the radio bases in Havana and Artemisa remain disabled.

Livelihoods:

- In the tourism sector in Pinar del Río, an important economic sector for the country, the winds caused by Hurricane Ian affected the roof of the Horizontes Los Jazmines hotel. In addition, the three main ecosystems of Viñales National Park were affected, as well as the ecotourism trails.
- In Havana, several hotel facilities suffered damage to their infrastructure, damage to railings, raised roofs, and fallen tiles.

Environment:

- The Cuban Environment Agency (AMA) informed UNESCO that the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve was severely affected, mainly in the natural area, mainly due to fallen trees.

Response

- Permanent work is being carried out in the provinces of Pinar del Río, La Habana, and Artemisa to reestablish the electric service. In Pinar del Río, the transmission lines to the capital city are being connected in order to be able to supply it with service, as well as to set up pumping points.
- The housing assistance system is being trained to collect information from the victims and process aid requests.

UNDP

- UNDP has made available to the government 5,790 pre-positioned tarpaulins in the country, of which more than 3,000 are already being distributed in the affected areas.



Education

Affectations/ Needs

- The Ministry of Education and authorities of the affected provinces continue with the detailed assessment of damages to educational institutions. Preliminary calculations estimate that at least 700 schools were damaged.
- In addition to the damage to roofs, windows, and furniture, a group of schools is functioning as evacuation centers for the affected population.
- So far, it is estimated that more than 80% of the schools in Pinar del Río have been affected by Hurricane Ian; of these, 396 schools have suffered considerable damage, about 53% of the existing schools in the territory, and more than 2,000 teachers have had their homes damaged.

Response:

- Wherever conditions were created in the affected territories, teaching activities were resumed on Monday.
- The Provincial Directorate of Education in Pinar del Río organized for today, October 3, a Family Orientation School associated with each educational center to provide information on the upcoming resumption of the school year.
- In Artemisa it was reported that schools may be attended without the usual school uniform due to the electricity and water supply situation.

UNICEF

We have a prepositioning for the immediate support of:

1. 6,000 m2 of waterproofing blankets for the rehabilitation of roofs of educational centers.
2. 140 school supply kits (to benefit 5,600 children between 6 and 18 years of age).
3. 154 recreation kits (to benefit 13,860 children between 6 and 18 years of age).
4. 438 Early Childhood Kits (to benefit 1,900 children between 1 and 5 years old).

5. 1,500 10-liter tanks for water storage in educational institutions, including homes of children without family support.
6. We are in the process of acquiring an additional 11,000 m2 of waterproofing blankets.
7. Procurement of 46 additional early childhood kits (to benefit 2,300 children between 1 and 5 years of age) has begun.



General Coordination

Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator and with the technical support of OCHA, the United Nations System in Cuba (UNS) is formulating an application for resources from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

It has been agreed with the authorities to formulate a Plan of Action of the United Nations System in Cuba, to which other international cooperation actors who wish to support the response to Hurricane Ian through the United Nations in the country may contribute.

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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/>

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