



This report has been prepared by the Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Cuba. It covers the period from 14:00 hrs. on 4th February to 12:00 hrs. on 7th February (local time).

Highlights

- The population of five municipalities was affected by the tornado that hit La Havana on the 27th of January travelling for 20 kilometres with winds gusts of 300 kilometres per hour.
- The affected population lived in the municipalities of Cerro, 10 de Octubre, Guanabacoa, Regla and Habana del Este. Damages were also reported in the municipality of San Miguel del Padrón.
- The President of Cuba and the members of the Council of Ministers appeared on Wednesday, January 6, on the national television to provide information on the damages caused in the Cuban capital by the January 27 tornado and about the recovery process.
- 9,916 people have been sheltered in 16 protection centres and in homes of relatives and friends. 18 people remain hospitalized, 5 of them in serious condition.
- 19 health facilities and more than 70 education sector centres were severely damaged. In addition, there were reported major impacts on the food industry and water and sanitation networks. More than 200,000 cubic metres of debris have been collected and 1,600 fallen trees.
- Big efforts were made in Cuba's capital to guarantee within a week the recovery of basic services - such as water, electricity and communications - for the citizens.



9,916

protected
people

19

health
facilities
severely
damaged

200,000

m³
of debris
collected

Note: All the information has been sourced from Cuba official press (TV, radio and press) and from statements by the Cuban authorities. Sources: Granma Newspaper, Juventud Rebelde, Trabajadores and Tribuna de La Habana. Radio: Radio Rebelde, Radio Habana Cuba, Radio Reloj; Press agencies: Prensa Latina (PL) and Agencia Cubana de Noticias (ACN); Websites: Cubadebate y CubaSí; NTV y Mesa Redonda. Additional data from the official website of the National Statistics and Information Office.

Situation overview

Institutions, public companies, civil society organizations, socio-cultural projects, churches, artistic and sportive groups, university students, self-employed workers and hundreds of people gather daily in the devastated areas to offer their solidarity. Help is expressed in different ways: supporting the collection of debris, building walls with bricks, donating or improvise a stage for an artistic presentation.

Professors and students of the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Havana provide professional support to those who lost everything or, without going to that extreme, suffered the trauma of the tornado. Medical attention, psychological support and the contribution of artistic groups also reached 16 protection centres where people who lost their homes are guaranteed accommodation and food.

Following the experiences of previous emergency situations, the education sector is looking for options to guarantee the continuity of the school year. A total of 11 facilities, including schools and children's circles, have been relocated due to the gravity of the impact. To the damages suffered by the structures and the buildings, it must be summed up the loss of school materials, which is more difficult to quantify.

Public Health, from its side, prioritizes the return of affected services and emphasizes the extreme hygiene measures and epidemiological surveillance.

Attention to the population is still ongoing in all the devastated areas and in the affected municipalities; including the damaged facilities and services. Intensive efforts are made to recover the "Hijas de Galicia" Maternity Hospital, that with its capacity of 286 beds hosts patients from 6 municipalities in the capital of Cuba.

Although some basic services such as electricity, telephony and water have been restored, the impact on the housing sector remains the main challenge.

More than 201,500 customers were left without electric service; 12,600 telephone services, mobile telephony and 23 wifi zones were affected. Severe damages were reported in the hydraulic and sanitary intradomestic networks. The tornado also hit the productive sector, including several industries and warehouses.

To date, 5,334 damaged homes have been registered and the number may increase in the upcoming days. The Oficinas de Trámite, open at the local level, register the damages case by case, and evaluate them to define which construction materials (or other products) are needed. Materials are then sold to each affected family at subsidized prices, with flexible payment conditions and credits for up to 15 years.

As part of the emergency response process to the people who lost their homes, the University of Havana made available a student residence with 70 apartments composed of either three, two or one room.

Humanitarian Response

National authorities

The President of the Council of State and Ministers, Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, appeared this Wednesday on the television program Mesa Redonda. He was accompanied by the Chief of Staff of the Civil Defence, the ministers and authorities of the Government and the Communist Party. The aim was to inform the population on the damages caused by the tornado and give information on the recovery process. The program was broadcasted live on national television and transmitted by radio as well as through Facebook and YouTube.

Summarizing the strategy adopted to face the impact of the tornado, President Diaz-Canel indicated that the main points were about saving lives, avoiding new victims, recovering basic services, collecting debris, caring for the victims, while planning and organizing donations and giving priority to the most vulnerable.

The president acknowledged the immediate response of the country's highest directives: the Civil Defence Staff, firefighters, rescue workers, emergency services, the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the population that has joined the recovery in each area.

The Ministers of Health, Energy and Mines, Construction, Domestic Trade and Food, and the President of the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources presented the latest information on the progress of recovery in the above mentioned fields. In addition, the Ministers shared knowledge about the functioning of the Oficinas de Trámite whose aim is to assist the affected population and to take efficient measures.

President Diaz-Canel announced that a TV programme, similar to the one of the Mesa Redonda, is planned to be broadcasted next week.

Sectors



Damage:

- The number of casualties has risen to six. The Ministry of Health reported 19 health institutions affected.
- The Mother-and-Child Hospital in the municipality of 10 de Octubre was the most damaged health institution. This hospital has 286 beds. Before the Tornado, 196 patients were hospitalised, including 17 newborns in intensive care. The place was totally disabled and evacuated in a few hours.
- Out of these 196 patients evacuated, 38 are still admitted and none of them present risks to their lives.
- 195 patients were injured during the Tornado and they were treated in different health institutions. There are still 18 admitted, five in serious conditions.

	Facilities
1	10 de Octubre Mother-and-Child Hospital
4	Basic Health Care Centres: 3 from 10 de Octubre Municipality and 1 from Regla Municipality
10	Family Doctor's Offices
2	Elderly homes
1	Pharmacy
1	Vector control Unit
19	TOTAL

Response:

- Conditions were created for injured people. Help was received from workers of neighboring facilities and students. These actions were key in ensuring the evacuation of the first injured people.
- The Minister of Public Health commended the rescue workers, Cuban Red Cross, firefighters, and the role of the police in guaranteeing order during the evacuation.
- PAHO/WHO has mobilized an expert in the assessment of structural damage and accompanied the visits to the affected health institutions.
- The Ministry of Public Health calls for strengthening epidemiological surveillance and control, as well as health promotion to prevent vector and water-borne diseases.

United Nations in Cuba:

PAHO / WHO is working to mobilize the necessary funds to meet the identified needs for health institutions:

- Expendable material and medical supplies
- Equipment and supplies for vector control
- Non-medical equipment
- Medical equipment (incubators and respirators for the neonatology service)
- Bed sheets and mattresses

Source: Working meeting between MINSAP (Defence and Civil Defence - MINSAP) and PAHO/WHO Radio Clock

Donors:

PAHO/WHO is in dialogue Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for a donation of 100,000 Swiss Francs, and it is liaising with Global Links.

Source of Information:

Work Meeting between MINSAP (Defense and Civil Defense - MINSAP) and PAHO / WHO

UNFPA

Immediate response

- UNFPA's efforts focus on supporting pregnant women, women of reproductive age and adolescents of both sexes in the affected municipalities; support to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services that include delivery and complications, cesareans, attention to sexual violence, the supply of modern contraceptives and treatment for people with Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV; and the restoration of equipment for delivery and obstetric surgeries rooms of the two maternal hospitals affected.
- Assistance regarding SRH is prioritized among the populations and facilities of the four most affected municipalities of 10 de Octubre, San Miguel del Padrón, Guanabacoa and Regla, which comprise a beneficiary population of:
 - 153,762 women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years). Including 3,005 pregnant women and 571 women.
 - 32,081 adolescents of both sexes (10-14 years old)
 - 151,145 young men and adults (15-49 years old): These groups were added because they are direct beneficiaries of the care and treatment of STIs and HIV/AIDS and indirect beneficiaries of the contraceptive kits.

The strategic objectives of the response were reconciled with the Ministry of Public Health and its National Maternal and Child Health Program. Priority themes identified are:

- Assistance to natural childbirth.
- Assistance to the complications of childbirth and obstetric surgeries.
- Prevention and treatment of STI-HIV and sexual violence.
- Oral and injectable contraception.
- Equipment for delivery and obstetric surgeries rooms.

In order to respond to these needs, UNFPA is purchasing Hygiene Kits, to cover basic needs of pregnant women and their families, as well as Sexual and Reproductive Health Kits (SSR) 3, 4 5, 6 A and B, 11 A and B, to attend the needs of childbirth and its complications, cesareans, contraception, attention to GBV and to people with STI / HIV / AIDS.

UNFPA has mobilized USD 15,000 from its regular funds for Sexual and Reproductive Health teams.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Damage:

- More than 1,600 trees have fallen in the devastated areas. This has created complications and has prevented a smooth workflow.
- Domestic sanitary and hydraulic networks are still affected. In some cases, the severe condition of the networks prevents the regular access to water from households.

Response:

- Efforts have been put in the restoration of the sanitary networks, placing tanks in multi-family residential buildings.
- The replacement of the water tanks in multi-family residential buildings in the municipalities of Regla, Guanabacoa and 10 de Octubre, is expected to finish this week.
- To this date, it hasn't been reported any epidemic outbreak. It has been reinforced an anti-epidemic action; as well as it has improved the sanitation in institutions processing food.
- Toiletries and other industrial items have been placed on the market.
- 9 trucks and a loader in the municipality of Cerro are undertaking a recurrent sanitation process.
- More than 200,000 cubic meters of debris have been collected, an average of 35,000 per day. 700 cleaning devices from different State Agencies were involved in the cleaning process.
- The Ministry of Health prioritizes monitoring and educational actions to promote the population's fulfilment of the measures that guarantee an healthy drinking water.

United Nations in Cuba:

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has pre-positioned collapsible tanks with a capacity of ten litres.
- UNICEF has mobilized 100,000 USD from the funds of its Regional Office to purchase 1,300 500Lt tanks.

**Food Safety and Nutrition****Damage:**

- According to Iris Quiñones Rojas, Minister of the Food Industry, the main structural damage to the food industry was identified in the "José A. Echeverría" wheat mill in Regla municipality, in the soda crackers factory "Albert Kunt" in Guanabacoa municipality, and in the meat products plant of the Mixed Bravo Company in La Habana del Este municipality.
- The remaining industrial facilities located in the affected municipalities also suffered damage due to the lack of electricity.
- More than 50 bakeries were affected
- The tornado damaged the crane located at the José Antonio Echeverría wharf in Regla, which is in charge of extracting the cereals from the boats to supply the mill located in that municipality.

Response:

- The Minister of the Food Industry, Iris Quiñones Rojas, informed that the plants located in the capital (with both local and national scope) have restored their production processes, while the recovery of other services continues.
- Free food and supplies have been guaranteed to families in evacuation centres, while 99 tents with food have been established in the affected areas. To date, more than 700,000 meals have been prepared according to the Minister of the Food Industry.

United Nations in Cuba:

- The World Food Programme offered support to the government response through food assistance, using the food prepositioned in the country (rice and beans). This assistance will support people whose houses were affected by the tornado, as well as vulnerable groups (children under 5, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly above 65) from the most impacted communities.
- WFP has pre-positioned 1,606 metric tons of rice and beans in the country and is engaged in dialogue with the Government to explore options to support the affected populations.



Education

Damage:

- 78 affected institutions, including the community that hosts more than 300 teachers from other provinces who work in the municipality of 10 de Octubre.

Response:

- Intense work is ongoing in 58 centres. Support is received from other provinces, according to information provided by the Minister of Education.
- 11 schools had to be relocated, including day-care centres and schools.
- In some affected centres, students were reorganized in the undamaged areas.
- 268 teachers suffered damage in their houses.

United Nations in Cuba:

- UNICEF has early-childhood kits and pre-positioned school materials to support the education sector.



Infrastructures and Basic Services Rehabilitation

Damage:

HOUSING

- 5,334 homes visited and reported as affected.

This data comprises:

- 505 total collapses
- 757 partial collapses
- 804 houses with total loss of the ceilings
- 1,453 houses with partial loss of the ceilings
- 1,815 typology 1 houses suffered some damage

Response:

- 4,812 out of the affected houses have already been visited and the type of damage has assessed.
- Tanks, building materials, roof modules and doors and windows were distributed. However, it is expected to take months to recover all the damage.

United Nations in Cuba:

UNDP

Immediate response

- In addition to making available 2,000 tarpaulins (temporary ceilings) out of the 9,499 prepositioned, the agency is in the process of purchasing 2,125 single and 700 double mattresses, using emergency funds secured (cash grant OCHA). 3,525 people will benefit from these activities.

General Coordination

The United Nations team in Cuba maintains close communications with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment, the main counterpart of the United Nations System (UNS) in the country. The UNS is closely monitoring the situation to support national authorities.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is in close contact with the Office of the Resident Coordinator and sent an expert to Cuba. In response to the Cuban UNS request, OCHA approved an Emergency Cash Grant valued at USD 100,000.

Work is being carried out to prepare a United Nations System Action Plan in response to the tornado, to be presented next week.

The UN agencies in Cuba has activated its disaster response mechanisms and prepared files for the mobilization of sectoral resources in response to the needs identified by the country

On 1 February, the UNS in Cuba met with the Diplomatic Corp accredited in the country and international cooperation agencies. To date, a contribution of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to the health sector has been confirmed.

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For more 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>