

# Hurricane Ian Response

## Resident Coordinator's Office Situation Report No. 05

(September 30, 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 29 to 12:00 noon on September 30 (local time).

## Summary

- More than 72 hours after the passage of Hurricane Ian over Cuba, all of Pinar del Río, 41% of Havana, and a significant portion of the rest of the territories are still without electricity.
- In Pinar del Río alone, 102 family doctor's offices, five hospitals, and 23 other health entities suffered damage.
- So far, 36760 homes have been quantified with total or partial impacts, although the figure is estimated to be much higher.
- There are municipalities with more than 85% of their housing stock affected.
- More than 6,000 people remain evacuated, many of them unable to return to their homes due to the severity of the damage.
- 338 commercial entities in Pinar del Río have suffered impacts, many of them dedicated to the sale of food, in addition to the serious damage to crops and agricultural infrastructure.



Photo: Brenda Castellanos/UNICEF



Health care institution affected. Source: Radio Ariguanabo

# Overview of the situation

---

The situation continues to be extremely complex in Pinar del Río, the province most affected by Hurricane Ian, which remains totally without electricity service. The lack of electricity impacts all services to the population of more than 500,000 inhabitants, especially water pumping and food processing.

According to press reports, 36,760 homes have suffered total or partial damage, a figure that is increasing significantly as the quantification of the impacts progresses. Partial reports indicate villages where more than 80% of their housing stock has been affected.

More than 72 hours after this event, it is known that several coastal communities continue to be impacted by the penetrations of the sea, which dragged resources, affected homes and damaged the personal property of several families still to be defined. About 50% of the population of the municipality of San Luis is cut off by land.

The severity of Ian's devastation can be calculated from the fact that many evacuees (3169 in Mayabeque and 2953 in Pinar del Río) have not been able to return to their homes, and a significant proportion of them do not have the conditions to return in the immediate future. The national press frequently highlights the testimonies of local people who have witnessed the passage of other cyclones, but they describe Ian as "a catastrophe without comparison, never seen before", after which "we lost everything".

In addition to the heavy damage to agriculture, livestock and poultry reported, there was considerable damage to the structure and roofs of farms and cooperatives, as well as to commercial entities (338 in Pinar del Río alone), making it difficult to distribute food through traditional establishments. Severe crop losses in Artemisa and Pinar del Río are expected to have an immediate impact on the food supply in Havana, which is highly dependent on supplies from these provinces.

## Humanitarian Response

---

### National Authorities

Pinar del Río continues to receive support in resources from the central government and from several provinces of the country, in addition to international organizations, the private sector and countries such as Mexico and Venezuela, with aid in the electricity, food and infrastructure sectors.

Authorities are focusing on the housing sector as the one in need of more attention, considering the magnitude of the damages and accumulated affectations even from previous cyclones.

The Electric Union announced that the eastern and western regions have been unified, which puts the National Energy System in better conditions to accelerate recovery. In addition to the material and human help from other provinces for the reestablishment of the electric service, brigades of workers of this sector from Mexico have also arrived. In the next few hours, a Mexican plane should arrive with 72,000 meters of cable, 7,000 insulators, among other important resources. Authorities indicated that, in the case of Havana, 59% of the customers already have the service.

It was also announced the imminent arrival from Venezuela of 300,000 bags of food, 52 electric transformers and 22,500 square meters of roofing.

## Sectors



### Affectations/Needs

- The Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP) reports structural damage including total collapse of the Family Doctor's and Nurse's Offices (CMF), partial and total loss of roofs (fiber cement and zinc tiles) and roofing (waterproofing blankets), false ceilings, windows, doors, broken glass in windows and doors, water tanks and hydraulic networks. In addition, generators of different institutions at all levels of health care were affected.
- The main damages are in the province of Pinar del Río and within this province in the municipalities of Pinar del Río, San Luis, San Juan y Martínez, Viñales.

Affectations identified by MINSAP up to 29/09

Municipalities	Damage caused by the hurricane
Isla de la Juventud	- Roof tiles were reported to have fallen from a nursing home, medicine warehouse, Polyclinic No. 1, and the Faculty of Medical Sciences.
<b>Province Pinar del Río</b>	
Los Palacios	- Loss of roof at the Elena Fernández polyclinic, doors and windows at 4 CMFs and loss of roofs at 2 pharmacies.
Minas de Matahambre	- Enrique Comallery Polyclinic affected roofs, doors, and windows, the hydraulic network including water tanks. - 5 CMF with total damage to roofs and 2 partial damage. - José Elías Borges Polyclinic affected roofs.
La Palma	- Affectation of the polyclinic roofs.
San Luis	- 2 polyclinics with loss of roofs and windows and damage to the hydraulic network. - 4 CMF with total collapse, 10 with partial roof losses and damage to doors and windows. - Grandfather's house with partial loss of the roof.
San Juan y Martínez	- 2 CMF with total collapse, 8 with total loss of roof and damage to doors and windows. - Municipal hospital with damage to roofs. - Modesto Gómez Polyclinic with damage to windows.
Guane	- 7 CMF with partial roof losses. - Municipal hospital and genetics department with damage to windows and total roof damage, respectively.
Sandino	- 3 CMF and rehabilitation room with partial damage to roofs. - Hospital Augusto Cesar Sandino's damage to the electrical network and partial damage to roofs. - Ernesto Che Guevara Polyclinic with damage to the roof.
Viñales	- 4 CMF and Municipal Unit of Hygiene and Epidemiology total loss of the roof. - Policlínico Fermín Valdés Domínguez Polyclinic total loss of ceilings, false ceilings, and windows. - Extended service at Puerta Esperanza affected doors and windows and damaged the electrical network and lighting fixtures.

Pinar del Río	<p>- The Abel Santamaría General Hospital is the most complex in the province of Pinar del Río. Facilities have been set up for emergency care, but scheduled health care activities have been suspended. The damage is considerable, with extensive damage to the hospital structure in roofs, doors, windows, false ceilings, the collapse of the electrical system, water, and lighting fixtures, as well as damage to furniture and medical equipment. A more detailed report from the health authorities is expected in the next few hours.</p> <p>- At the Turcios Limas, Pedro Borrás, and Raúl Sánchez polyclinics, there was structural damage to the waterproofing of roofs, windows, and doors, false ceilings, hydraulic installations, and lighting fixtures.</p> <p>- Justo Legón Padilla Maternity Home, hydraulic and electrical networks were affected.</p> <p>- 5 CMF with total collapse, one in danger of collapse, and 17 with partial damage to roofs, doors, and windows.</p> <p>- Other centers were identified with different types of damage, such as loss of roofs and windows, as well as breaks in hydraulic pipes and the electrical system.</p> <p>- Incidents were also reported in two homes for the elderly, including damage to windows, false ceilings, water connections, and elevated tanks. Damage to mattresses as a result of the rains.</p>
Province Artemisa	<p>- Two hospitals in the province suffered various damages, such as broken glass and the fall of an incinerator tower (San Antonio de Los Baños municipal hospital); while in homes for the elderly and pharmacies the winds lifted the waterproofing blanket.</p> <p>- On the other hand, in several medical offices there was damage to generators, partial damage to the roof, doors and windows, water tanks, and electrical and water networks.</p>
Province La Habana	<p>- Two hospitals had incidents related to the detachment of windows, damage to false ceilings, and damage to roofs due to leaks in waterproofing blankets.</p> <p>- Several hospitals and polyclinics reported damage to generators.</p>

- The Ministry of Public Health identifies a group of needs for the restoration of the infrastructure and vitality of these health centers, listing the most urgent items:
  - 5KVA three-phase electric generators, 20 units
  - Water pumps 1,5Hp- 30 meters, 100 units
  - Electrical wires # 10, 12, and 14, 20 rolls of each type
  - LED luminaires 32 and 9 double Watts, 5 thousand of each one
  - Water tanks from 1500 to 2000 liters with fittings, 500 units
  - 5Kg waterproof blankets with primer, 10 thousand meters
  - False registrable ceiling, 10 thousand meters
  - 8 mm plyer sheet for false ceiling with accessories, 10 thousand meters.

The number of women of reproductive age and pregnant women in Pinar de Río who require sexual and reproductive health or maternal health services is 125,660 and 2,800, respectively. The provincial data and the most affected municipalities are compiled in the following table:

Municipalities of Pinar del Río	Women of reproductive age	Pregnant women
Pinar del Río	41565	863
Viñales	6337	121
Sandino	7642	187
Guane	7627	153
San Luis	6746	178
Los Palacios	8479	211

San Juan y Martínez	9238	215
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>87634</b>	<b>1928</b>
<b>Total of the province</b>	<b>125660</b>	<b>2800</b>

## Response

Despite the collapse of some CMFs and damage to hospitals and polyclinics, emergency and urgent care services have not ceased to function, some of which have been relocated to other areas.

In addition to the medical supplies and consumables required to support and respond to the emergency to ensure health and disease prevention.

### Pinar del Río:

- The recovery at the Abel Santamaría Hospital began. We are working on the breakdowns of the circuits that provide service to the Abel Santamaría Cuadrado and León Cuervo Rubio hospitals. Priority is given to the re-establishment of the circuits located in hospital areas.
- In Consolación del Sur, ultrasound services and genetic consultations for pregnant women are resumed today.
- In the municipality of Sandino, the Public Health sector started the recovery of all its facilities. All the directors and workers are working to leave ready each one of the services that are vital for the population. Primary health care services continue to operate.

### Artemisa:

In the municipality of Artemisa, pregnant women who were receiving assistance in the maternity home were relocated due to difficulties with the roof.

### PAHO/WHO-UNFPA

The PAHO/WHO Representation maintains a dialogue with MINSAP authorities, who are waiting for other reports by provinces to provide more information, once all the data has been consolidated. Likewise, the Office in Cuba is sharing information with headquarters to receive the necessary inputs for the response, such as emergency kits.

The UNFPA Cuba Office has been in contact with the management of the Mother and Child Program and updated the main needs related to medicines, supplies, and vitamin supplements for the care of pregnant and puerperal women.

The UNFPA Office in Cuba is preparing a project to request emergency funds from the agency, for about US\$150,000. In addition, the agency will work to mobilize other resources to respond to the needs identified.

In addition, UNFPA met with officials from the Federation of Cuban Women to offer support to families and women in vulnerable conditions.



## Affectations/Needs

### Pinar del Rio

- The count of the substantial damage to agricultural production continues. It is reported that several crops are still without being able to count the total losses; damages associated with the dragging of the waters, the winds, and the overflowing of the rivers. Most of the banana crops are on the ground, and the rice farms in Los Palacios also felt the force of the wind.
- Damage to poultry is considerable, with 159 vessels damaged (75%).
- It is estimated that between 90 and 95% of the tobacco natural cure houses (12,500 total) have been destroyed or severely deteriorated. In San Juan and Martinez, 18 out of 24 were heavily damaged and two were devastated.

### Isla de la Juventud

- A total of 402.3 ha of viands, vegetables, and fruit trees were reported damaged.
- The most significant damages by crop are 119 ha of banana (53%), 44 ha of sweet potato (25%), 30.8 ha of wet paddy rice (17%), and 93 ha of corn (19%).
- Other damaged crops include pumpkin, cassava, okra, tomato, bell pepper, tamarind, and vegetables.
- One onion, five tomatoes, two bell pepper, and six coffee seedbeds were affected.
- Nineteen roofs were generally affected, with a loss of approximately 2,472 roof tiles, 24 zinc sheets, 15 fences, and four gutters.
- The poultry sector reports the death of 253 chickens.

The following needs were made public by the Municipal Administration Council:

- Pesca Isla Company, 200 blocks.
- 8 warehouses, 231 tiles for roofing.
- UEB beverages and soft drinks, 11 galvanized zinc roof tiles, and 12 meters of a ridge.
- CADENA del Pan, 118.5 square meters of ceilings, 10 false ceiling tiles for 112 square meters.
- Food Company, 50 galvanized zinc roof tiles.
- Food Subgroup, damage to 29 partial roofs. 2724 tiles, and 200 Blocks are required.

### Artemisa

- In Artemisa, the most significant damage was reported in 711 ha of cassava (18%), 255 ha of wet paddy rice (28%), 85 ha of beans (54%), 42 ha of pump fruit (14%), and 4912 ha of plantain (53%).

## Response

- The Internal Trade Directorate in Pinar del Rio informed about the beginning of the distribution of the standardized family food basket. In addition, several tons of chicken, sausage, rice, beans, oil, and potatoes, among other food products are sent to the territory.
- To speed up the distribution of the basic food basket, premises adjacent to the warehouses are used in case they have been damaged. Similarly, the authorities urge to increase the production

of bread and cookies and diversify food production from the resources that are already in the province.

- On the Isle of Youth, the livestock company recovered 90% of the damaged roof tiles, guaranteeing the operation of all the centers.

#### **FAO and WFP:**

FAO and WFP as co-leaders of the SAN cluster are working together with the UNETE inter-agency group, the RCO, and OCHA in preparing the action plan in response to Hurricane Ian. Within this action plan, it is planned to use WFP's prepositioning stock (2000 meters of assorted food) for immediate response.



#### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

##### **Affectations/Needs**

- In Pinar del Río there continue to be reports of great difficulties in the supply of drinking water in the province. Several redistribution points and water pumping were still without electricity, hindering the re-establishment of the service.
- Almost 33 thousand inhabitants are still without stable drinking water service in Artemisa. Authorities of the sector oriented to control the water supply with Aqueduct pipes and indicated that priority should be given to the municipalities of San Cristóbal and Bauta, which do not have electricity and have a minimum of water pipes serving the population.
- 90 percent of the population of Matanzas province did not have access to water distribution yesterday.

##### **Response**

- In Pinar del Río, several contingents from the provinces of Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, and Sancti Spíritus joined the already existing brigades to work on unblocking the roads. Twenty tanker trucks arrived in the territory to support the water service, in addition to the 28 already available. In addition, four pumps for wells, pumping equipment, high-pressure cars and brigades working in the overflows have been received.
- In Artemisa, 33 tanker trucks from different sectors of the economy are supporting the delivery of drinking water.

##### **UNICEF:**

UNICEF, in coordination with national authorities, is maintaining critical prepositioned items that will advance initial water, hygiene and sanitation response: 12,755 10-liter water storage tanks that will benefit 6376 families and 478 kits that will benefit 2390 families and 478 kits that, if necessary, will guarantee basic hygiene conditions for 2390 families.



### Affectations/Needs

- For the first time since the passage of the cyclone, the National Electric Power System was synchronized with the union of the isolated systems of the western and eastern regions.
- The electric service is still affected by a generation capacity deficit throughout the day for the whole country due to failures in several thermoelectric power plants. The availability of energy is 1879 MW and a maximum demand of 3050 MW, for a deficit of 1171 MW.

### Affectations by provinces:

#### Pinar del Río

- The impact on the housing sector amounts to 36,670, according to preliminary data. In the municipality of San Juan y Martínez 85% of the housing stock is affected.
- Some 15,000 of the 32,000 people living in the municipality of San Luis were isolated due to trees falling on the roads.
- Mobile telephone communications are still affected, for which 25 emergency radio bases are available.
- 3578 poles were damaged in the city of Pinar del Río for a 9.35 percent availability of telephone services. 7 communities completely interrupted.
- The tobacco sector, an important source of employment in the province and among the main exportable products of Cuba, accumulates 10,000 houses of tobacco cultivation destroyed and the loss of 8,400 tobacco seed beds.
- Numerous cultural institutions in the province of Pinar del Río:
- The José Jacinto Milanés theater in the city of Pinar, one of the eight great theaters preserved from the 19th century in Cuba, suffered severe damage.
- The San Juan y Martínez movie theater reported considerable damage to the roof.
- Damage to the movie theater, the house of culture and the library, as well as the support unit for cultural activities.
- Deterioration in the automotive park and the cinema, music, book and lyrical theater warehouses on the roofs.
- Significant damage to the stadiums of Pinar del Río, La Palma and San Juan y Martínez and other sports facilities in the territory.
- The national park of La Güira is devastated.

#### In Viñales, a World Heritage Site:

The Provincial Directorate of Heritage reports in the Prioritized Zone for Conservation, whose infrastructure is considered heritage in its entirety, the following preliminary data:

- - 5 partial roof losses, a total collapse, and affectations in the consulting of medical offices.
- - 6 food stores with total roof losses.
- - Total collapse of 32 tobacco houses.

## Artemisa

- 400 people relocated to shelters.
- Damage to the International Film School in San Antonio de los Baños.
- Damage was reported in the Las Terrazas sustainable development rural tourist community in the Sierra del Rosario.

## La Habana

- Around 60 percent of the capital city's electric service consumers remained without service, with consequent effects on water pumping and telephone services.
- 12 hospitals, out of 25 in the city, were without electric service.
- There were reports of 114 downed poles, 42 damaged transformers, and 248 failures in the electrical networks.

## Isla de la Juventud

- 359 homes affected.
- 4 rural circuits still without electricity.
- Minor infrastructure damage in the tourism and fuel sectors and in the construction materials industry.
- Loss of the fishing pier in the community of Cococrilo.

## Respuesta

- Electricity is guaranteed for the operation of the Abel Santamaría Cuadrado hospital in Pinar del Río, as well as the availability of energy for the operation of water wells and water transmission points.
- The Ministry of Construction announces the shipment of materials for the recovery of houses in Pinar del Río. Territorial authorities informed that the government will cover up to 50 percent of the construction costs associated with the houses.

## 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 to 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 provincial authorities continue to assess the damage to educational institutions. Of the 717 schools affected, more than 300 have damaged roofs.
- In a more detailed evaluation, educational authorities in Pinar del Río report 425 affected facilities, including 396 schools. Damage to the provincial education directorate, nine municipal directorates, eight municipal warehouses, six pioneer palaces, and five pioneer camps stand out.

- Schools of all educational levels in the municipality of Viñales have been affected. Out of a total of 10, six were affected by the loss of roofs and carpentry, for 60%.
- In Minas de Matahambre there are 31 schools affected out of a total of 48 institutions: 1 total collapse, 4 with total loss of roof, and the rest with enough damage to the roof and carpentry that cannot be recovered.
- In Consolación del Sur, 72 schools affected, 47 with severe damage. Alternatives are created for the restart of the school year.
- No official date has yet been announced for the return to school in the provinces of Artemisa and Pinar del Río, with a community of 163,000 students. The most complex situation is presented by the latter province, with an educational community of 86,172 students and more than 50% of its schools affected.

#### **Response:**

- The Cuban capital and the province of Mayabeque have not officially announced the return to classes, but it is expected to take place next week.
- By Monday, October 3, the remaining provinces affected by the hurricane (Cienfuegos, Matanzas, and the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud), as well as the University of Havana, will be back to classes.

#### **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 children's homes without family support.
- We began the process of acquiring an additional 6,000 m2 of waterproofing blankets.
- waterproofing blankets.
- Procurement of 46 additional early childhood kits (to benefit 2,300 children and adolescents).
- 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](mailto:raul.garcescorra@un.org)

Tel: (537) 204-1513

For more information, please visit [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org), [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int), [www.redhum.org](http://www.redhum.org), [www.cuba.un.org](http://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>