

# Huracan Ian response

## Resident Coordinator's Office Situation Report No. 08

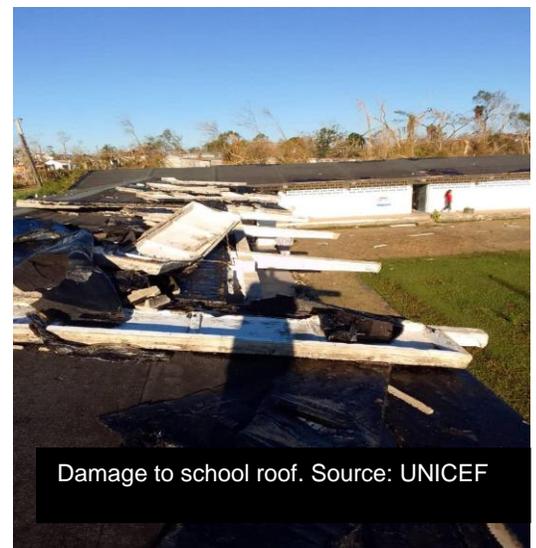
(October 4th, 2022)



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 3rd to 12:00 noon on October 4th (local time).

## Summary

- Nearly 90% of the population of Pinar del Río remains without electricity and seven municipalities are completely off. In Artemisa, that figure covers 34% of the inhabitants.
- Most of the water supply sources, dependent on electricity, are inactive, which keeps the distribution of the liquid and sanitation work in the territories very complex.
- Strong impacts on the heritage of Viñales, considered a UNESCO World Cultural Landscape. Thirty percent of the municipality's housing stock, as well as tourist facilities and schools were damaged. Authorities warn of the possible danger of loss of the infrastructure's heritage status.
- Significant environmental impacts on the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve, mainly in the natural area.
- More than 2,000 teachers are still teaching with damage to their homes, a quarter of them with total collapse.
- Alternative sources for cooking food, such as charcoal and kerosene, are scarce, which could worsen the population's access to food, in the context of lack of electricity.



Damage to school roof. Source: UNICEF



Warehouse with infrastructure impacts. Source: WFP

## Overview of the situation

---

Eight days after the passage of Ian, authorities recognize the complexity of the restoration of electricity service in Pinar del Río, where almost 90% of the population remains without electricity and seven municipalities remain completely blacked out. In Artemisa, service interruptions cover 33% of the clients. A significant number of water supply sources in need of electricity remain inactive.

In the press, quantifications of damages in the housing sector continue to be made public. In Artemisa, the most serious damage is concentrated in houses in mountainous and coastal areas. In Pinar del Río, there are reports of impacts on sites of economic, historical, and cultural importance in the Viñales Valley, considered by UNESCO as a Cultural Landscape of Humanity since 1999.

Thirty percent of Viñales' housing stock, its tourist facilities, and 34 of 37 educational centers were damaged. Authorities warn that emergency solutions based on zinc and fiber could endanger the patrimonial character of the area. At the same time, there is a shortage of traditional materials such as clay tiles and guano, which are distinctive to the area's architecture.

Environmental impacts in the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve are considerable, mainly in the natural area, caused mainly by fallen trees.

Education authorities continue to identify heavy damage to the sector's facilities, where not all schools have been able to resume the school year. Most of the facilities in municipalities such as Consolación del Sur suffered total roof damage. More than 2,000 teachers have been impacted by landslides in their homes, including a quarter of them by total collapse.

Access to food remains complex. In addition to the damage to commercial centers and facilities of the Family Assistance Systems, there is a lack of kerosene and charcoal for cooking, as an alternative to the lack of electricity. A significant number of sacks of charcoal got wet after being left uncovered in the warehouses where they were stored.

## Humanitarian Response

---

### National Authorities

As announced, most of the schools in the affected territories resumed the school year, either in the educational centers themselves or in alternative locations prepared for the emergency.

Pinar del Río managed to reestablish 82% of its communications service, and the sanitation works, as well as the pruning of trees, are speeding up the recovery in areas that were difficult to access until now.

Artemisa, a province on which an important part of the food distributed to the country's capital depends, is making progress in the recovery of crops such as bananas and cassava, and coffee plantations, as well as in the recovery of the infrastructure associated with the sector.

Two ships, scheduled to arrive in Cuba in a week, sailed from Venezuela with 400,000 food modules, fifty electrical transformers, conductor cables, and more than 22,000 square meters of zinc sheets. The Argentine government announced the shipment of water purification tablets and kitchen kits.

In addition to these contributions, NGOs, artists, cultural groups, and the Cuban cooperative and private sector sent food and other supplies to Pinar del Río.

A total of 22,419 people remains in evacuation centers or the homes of relatives, neighbors, and friends in the province of Pinar del Río. In this protected population, 214 people with disabilities, 1266 children, 194 pregnant women, and 604 elderly people have been reported so far. The municipality of Minas presents the most complex situation with 15,000 evacuees.

## Sectors



### Health

---

#### Affectations/Needs

- The most considerable damage continues to be reported at the Abel Santamaría Provincial Hospital of Pinar del Río. Another 10 hospitals, 118 Family Doctor's offices, and 43 health facilities suffered different types of damage.
- 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.

#### Response

- This Monday, outpatient consultations and diagnostic tests began at the Abel Santamaría Hospital in the municipality of Pinar del Río. A group of deputies verified the recovery and the services provided by the hospital in the different areas.
- 100% of pregnant women at the Raúl Sánchez Polyclinic in the municipality of Pinar del Río are being reevaluated.
- In Minas de Matahambre, the Family Doctor's and Nurse's Offices are open and are working to reactivate the internal medicine ward.

#### 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 disposable 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

- Severe damage to the agricultural sector affects the availability of food for the population: eggs, bananas, and other foodstuffs, basic grains, vegetables, fruit trees, and others. Losses of other crops such as coffee are still being counted.
- Damage to productive infrastructures, farms, and others of this type is reported.
- There is also damage to food collection, storage, processing, conservation, and distribution centers, as well as to the conditions for access and processing: warehouses, bakeries, markets, stores, commercial and gastronomic establishments, sources, and means for cooking, among others.
- The effects have an impact on food security in the medium and long term. In the western provinces, especially in Pinar del Río, Artemisa, and the locality of Cocodrilo of the special municipality Isla de la Juventud.

### Pinar del Río

- In the municipality of Minas de Matahambre, significant damage was reported in the Unidad Empresarial de Base (UEB) Ganadera. Damage includes roofs, the rustic cow milking shed and the egg production shed.
- So far, 24 hectares of banana, vegetable, pumpkin, guava, and avocado crops have been damaged.
- In the municipality of Viñales, the most pressing concern is associated with the lack of alternatives for cooking food, since the lack of electricity is compounded by the unavailability of kerosene or charcoal.

### Artemisa

- In Artemisa, 7,939 hectares of crops were affected by Hurricane Ian. The greatest damage was caused to banana (5,600), cassava (1,226), corn (269), beans (115), and avocado (102) plantations.
- Eleven crop houses suffered partial damage, as well as 11 172 square meters of fiber cement roof tiles and 8 824 square meters of zinc roof tiles.
- Partial and total damages are reported on the roofs of some 25 poultry farms in the territory, as well as in 7 of the 18 units of the Pork Company of Artemisa.

### Response

- The Commerce authorities of the province of Pinar del Río are planning an additional distribution of food for the population with products such as rice, beans, potatoes, pasta, and cans of meat and sardines.
- Uninterrupted work is being carried out to harvest in time for distribution in the most affected areas.

## FAO and WFP

- WFP has confirmed with the Government the beginning of immediate food assistance to more than 500 thousand people with the delivery of rice, beans, and oil for two months in the 11 municipalities of Pinar del Río and the most damaged communities of Artemisa, Mayabeque, and Isla de la Juventud. Today, the distribution of oil to the beneficiaries of the main municipality of Pinar del Río began. The amount of the operation is estimated at 5 million dollars. The response includes inputs to ensure food preservation and processing, such as mobile warehouses, kitchen kits, pallets, tents, and lighting towers for warehouses.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Affectations/Needs

- A significant number of territories in the province of Pinar del Río continue to receive water from tanker trucks, including the capital city where work is being done to re-establish the services of the 17 wells that supply water to the city.
- In Artemisa, out of a population of 65,553 people, 59 percent were affected to some extent by the effects of Hurricane Ian on the distribution and pumping of drinking water. 33 pipes served some 24,346 people in the territory. Most of the water supply sources that remain inactive are associated with a lack of electrical power.
- The reservoirs were filled to 78 percent of their total capacity and discharged Buena Vista, Laguna de la Piedra, Bahía Honda, La Coronela, Maurín, Combate de Río Hondo, San Julián, and La Paila.

### Response

- Sanitation works continue in all the affected provinces.
- In Pinar del Río, four pumps were installed to reestablish the 17 wells that supply water to the capital city and shorten the water distribution cycles in the territory.
- In Artemisa, 14 generators were enabled to keep in operation the same number of water supply sources in the municipalities of Mariel, Bahía Honda, Alquizar, Caimito, Güira de Melena, Guanajay, and the provincial capital.

## UNICEF

- Already delivered to the province of Pinar del Río the supplies prepositioned to support the water, hygiene, and sanitation response: 12,755 10-liter tanks for water storage, benefiting 6,376 families in the province of Pinar del Río.
- 472 hygiene kits were delivered to help guarantee 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.
- Seven 5l/second motor pumps, acquired by UNICEF in coordination with the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources, are already in Pinar del Río to support affected communities in the supply of water through tanker trucks and local wells.



## Early Recovery and Housing

### Affectations/Needs

#### Pinar del Río:

- In Pinar del Río, 22,419 people have been affected housing: 1,168 people remain in evacuation centers; 21,101 people are in family homes; 670 are being cared for in temporary facilities and, of these, 1,266 are children, 604 are elderly, 194 are pregnant women and 214 are disabled. In continuity with the process of certification of damages to the housing sector, estimated at 100 thousand affected houses, 5064 are total collapses and 6655 partial collapses, a figure that should continue to grow in the coming days.
- In the municipality of Viñales, 3400 houses have already been affected, which represents 30% of its housing stock.
- In Minas de Matahambre, 5044 damages in the residential sector have been certified: 179 total collapses; 237 partial collapses; 961 total roof damages, and 1667 partial roof damages.
- Some 548,600 people remain without electricity. About 90% of the electricity services are still interrupted. While power has been reestablished in the municipal capitals of Sandino, Guane, Mantua, Los Palacios, and the provincial capital, the municipalities of San Juan y Martínez, San Luis, La Palma, Viñales, Mantua, Minas de Matahambre, and Consolación del Sur remained blacked out at the close of business on Monday.
- Damages in the electric sector include 4506 poles, 106 kilometers of conductors, and 846 transformers.
- About 20% of the province's communications services remain affected, with an impact on those that depend on the recovery of the electricity sector.
- In addition to the damage to the roofs, viewpoint, windows, and stained glass windows of the Los Jazmines Hotel, the Rancho San Vicente and La Ermita Hotels, emblematic facilities of the Viñales Valley, inscribed on the list of Cultural Landscape of Humanity since 1999, were also significantly affected.
- Authorities of the Viñales Conservancy Office informed that to face the recovery after the disaster, the territory faces the scarcity of traditional materials such as clay tiles or guano, which have long distinguished its architecture and are among the elements taken into account for its declaration as World Heritage.

#### Artemisa:

- Some 8,000 homes in Artemisa have been affected so far. The main damages are reported in the mountain and coastal areas of the province and are mainly related to the loss of roofs.
- Around 34% of the electric service is still interrupted. The greatest damage is concentrated in the municipalities of San Cristóbal and Bahía Honda, with some 113,800 inhabitants.
- Approximately 15% of the radio bases to guarantee telecommunications service coverage have not been recovered.
- Previous damage to sewage infrastructure, housing, roads, and coastal strip management has increased the vulnerability of the territory.

## **Isla de la Juventud:**

- In the community of Cocodrilo, six total collapses, five total deck collapses, and 20 partial deck collapses have been reported.
- Fishing activity, the main livelihood of the population, continues to be interrupted due to damage to the community's dock.

## **Response**

- The process of certification of damages to the housing sector continues. Authorities prioritize the cases of individuals and families in vulnerable conditions.
- Electricians from Granma and Guantánamo provinces arrived in Pinar del Río to extend the work of repairing power lines in other municipalities.

## **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**

- More than 300 of the 717 schools affected by Hurricane Ian suffered damage to their roofs. The damages, which are mainly concentrated in Pinar del Río, Artemisa, Havana, and the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud, require for their recovery 81,000 m<sup>2</sup> of waterproofing blankets, of which 57,102m<sup>2</sup> in Pinar del Río and 11,000m<sup>2</sup> in Artemisa.
- In a more detailed evaluation, educational authorities in Pinar del Río reported that more than 80% of the province's schools were affected by Hurricane Ian. Of the total, 320 schools show considerable damage, about 53% of those existing in the territory. The damages are concentrated in carpentry and roofs (detachment of blankets and loss of light roofs).
- San Luis, San Juan y Martínez, Pinar del Río, Viñales, Minas de Matahambre, La Palma, and Consolación del Sur are the most affected territories in Pinar del Río, where more than 2,000 teachers suffered damage to their homes.
- In the municipality of Consolación del Sur, 44 of the 74 existing schools were left without roofs and another 24 had structural damage to windows and carpentry. In addition to the 485 teachers with total roof collapses in their homes, another 1,853 reported damages of various kinds caused by the hurricane.
- Yet an unspecified number of the more than 340 schools affected in Pinar del Río had to set up temporary classrooms in nearby houses or workplaces.
- In Artemisa, of the 163 educational centers, 151 restarted the school year with construction work pending. In the municipality of Bahía Honda, at least two family homes have classrooms to guarantee the continuity of classes.

**Response:**

- Classes resumed on Monday, October 3 in Artemisa, Havana, Mayabeque, Matanzas, and the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud, with an educational community of more than 564 thousand students.
- As of this Tuesday, October 4, 280 schools and kindergartens in Pinar del Río resumed classes and were ready to open their classrooms. Alternatives continue to be sought to restart teaching in all educational institutions in the shortest possible time.
- The Minister of Education announced that the use of school uniforms will be made more flexible, considering that many children and adolescents lost their clothes and study materials during the hurricane.
- The Ministry of Education decided to send all the cooperation provided by UNICEF to the province of Pinar del Río.

**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 are in the process of acquiring an additional 11,000 m2 of waterproofing blankets.
- Procurement of 46 additional early childhood kits (to benefit 2,300 children between 1 and 5 years of age).



## 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.

**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>