

ALERT

TORNADO



actalliance

Cuba

San Salvador, 30 January 2019

SITUATION
<p>During the night of Sunday the 27 January 2019, Strong winds and torrential rainfall battered parts of Cuba, including the capital city of Havana. Amid the stormy weather, a powerful tornado ripped through parts of the city causing significant damages. The severe weather has been blamed for at least four deaths while more than 190 others have been hospitalized with varying injuries, according to Reuters. The tornado has been classified as an F-3 by the Cuban Center for Meteorology, with estimated winds of 155-199 mph. The tornado is the strongest to strike Cuba in nearly 80 years, since a Category F4 tornado struck town of Bejucal in December 1940.</p> <p>Other reports from the city indicated that cars were overturned, trees were uprooted, and homes were damaged by the severe weather. As of Monday afternoon, around 500,000 people were still without power and 200,000 were without water as emergency crews continued repairs following the storm. Damage to Hijas de Galicia Maternity Hospital forced patients and staff to evacuate shortly after the storm on Sunday night. Dry weather is forecast in Havana from Wednesday into Friday, aiding in cleanup and recovery efforts following the storm.</p>
NEEDS
<p>The tornado has put the province in a state of crisis, the affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to safe water for human consumption and other uses, enough food, basic non-food items, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, safe shelter and community based psychosocial support. The dire situation is further compounded for the tornado affected people with vulnerabilities such as children, women, elderly, people living with disabilities, and pregnant and lactating women. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.</p>
STAKEHOLDERS
<p>Key stakeholders leading monitoring, assessments and rapid response in the region is: Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Civil Defense. The Cuban government is providing emergency supplies and is coordinating the response to the affected population, despite the lack of resources. The Cuban Council of Churches (CIC) is working in close coordination with the Emergency Committee of the Municipality of Havana in order to provide a proper response. Local churches are providing emergency response which includes water and food delivery for elderly population, pregnant women, breast-feeding women and people with disabilities. They are providing psychosocial activities as well and conducting the cleaning and restoration of common spaces. The active participation of affected people in humanitarian actions and in decision making and the respect for local capacities are essential parts in the response to this situation.</p>
ACT Alliance
<p>The Cuban Council of Churches is monitoring the situation and its emergency team is preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment. The Cuban Council of Churches has previous work in the affected area and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities. A RRF will be submitted to address the most pressing needs of the affected population.</p>

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)

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