

Alert note

Cuba, Huracan Ian
(October 1, 2022)

Completed by: Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba (CIC) and Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo (CCRD)

Date completed: October 1.

Forum: ACT Forum Cuba

Type of emergency: Hurricane

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 22nd of September

1. The nature of the emergency
<p>Since the 22nd of September, hurricane Ian has been impacting Cuba, particularly the provinces of Pinar del Rios, Artemisa, Mayabeque, the Special Municipality Isla de la Juventud, and La Habana. The hurricane has been leveled as a Category 3 with sustained winds of 205km/h and has caused landfalls, floods, damages to the infrastructure, housing, electricity and telecommunications services, crops, and the disruption of the provision of critical public and social services.</p>
The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information)
<p>As of September 29, the hurricane has caused extensive damage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfalls and floods have caused damage to the infrastructure, hospitals, and housing in Colima (Province of Pinar del Rio). • Severe telecommunication infrastructure destruction was reported in the municipality of Cocodrilo (Isla de la Juventud). • Power outage to the entirety of Cuba after a collapse of its power grid, which left 11 million without power. On September 27, 100 percent of the country's circuits were disconnected. • Damage to health and education infrastructure is severe. More than 70 educational centers have been affected. Alternatives are being created for the restart of the school year in the municipalities most affected by the hurricane. • Major damages in the planting and harvesting of various crops such as tobacco, beans, cassava, plantain, and avocado in Pinar del Río, Artemisa, and Isla de la Juventud, which will directly impact the livelihood and food security of many families. It is worth mentioning, the province of Pinar del Rio concentrates 75 percent of the national production of tobacco – a key export for Cuba – and 40 percent of beans. • In Pinar del Rio, all food storage and food reserves have been destroyed, including the dairy production infrastructure and cold storage. • Directly affected provinces continue to monitor the reservoir capacity of dams and release water, which can lead to the oversaturation of soils and cause damage to agriculture. • 3 million people have been affected by the hurricane, of which 500,000 are children, 700,000 are elderly people, and 100,000 are disabled people. At least three casualties have been reported and many people are missing, according to local news¹² and the UN Country Team³⁴ in Cuba. <p>The hurricane comes as Cuba continues to recover from one of the worst periods of financial hardship in the country's history, with the nation's ailing infrastructure already producing widespread power blackouts. The financial misery, along with ongoing political repression, sparked one of the largest protest movements in decades last year^{5 6}.</p>
2. Local and national capacity

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/27/us/hurricane-ian-cuba.html>

² <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/09/27/americas/hurricane-ian-cuba-blackout-intl-hnk/index.html>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/cuba/hurricane-ian-response-situation-report-no-02-office-resident-coordinator-27-september-2022>

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/cuba/respuesta-huracan-ian-reporte-de-situacion-no-04-de-la-oficina-de-la-coordinadora-residente-29-de-septiembre-de-2022>

⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/27/us/hurricane-ian-cuba.html>

⁶ <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/09/27/americas/hurricane-ian-cuba-blackout-intl-hnk/index.html>

All local, provincial, and regional actors, and the UN System in Cuba were immediately mobilized, and coordinated by the Civil Defense. Around 50,000 people in the Pinar del Rio province have been evacuated and 55 shelters have been set up. Actions are being taken to protect food and crops in warehouses.

Special brigades were mobilized and transferred from other provinces to work on the recovery and restoration of the electricity networks, although many of the forces for the restoration of electricity are not in Pinar del Rio but are also working on the restoration of the national electricity system. President Miguel Diaz Canel and other national authorities arrived to evaluate the actions to be taken.

The ACT Forum Cuba, in particular, two of its members Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba (CIC) and Centro Cristiano de Reflexión y Diálogo (CCRD) are coordinating the first response with church and ecumenical leaders, providing support to the affected people and their families, as well as evacuees with medicines, basic food, and spiritual accompaniment, all from local churches and other nearby provinces, ecumenical member organizations of the CIC (Evangelical Theological Seminary of Matanzas, Martin Luther King Memorial Centre, Reformed Presbyterian Church, Church of God, Iglesia Evangelica Libre, Confraternidad Obrero Estudiantil Bautista de Cuba – COEBAC, Latin American Mission Canada, Siervos Unidos Alrededor del Mundo, Iglesia de Cristo, Fraternidad de Iglesias Bautista, Iglesia Metodista-Obra Misionera de Berlin). In-kind donations are mobilized with the collaboration of other foreign FBOs. Mapping of existing emergency warehouse resources and operational capacities is available from the updated Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP).

3. Key needs and gaps

Humanitarian needs: access to food, safe water, medicines, family support services, and infrastructure for housing, schools, children's circles, grandparents' homes, old people's homes, and all kinds of public buildings.

Currently, the government and UN System in Cuba, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, continue to monitor the evolving situation and the storm's impacts to activate the necessary response mechanisms.

Due to the intensity of the hurricane, power outages, and damage to transportation and communication infrastructure, emergency response teams have been struggling to conduct a proper situation assessment and gather information.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium-scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large-scale emergencies</i>)	

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
CIC and CCRD	Isla de la Juventud (100 households/ 500 individuals including people with disability or any chronic diseases, pregnant women, children, and adults: 150 women, 80 men, 270 children)	Food security (75 hh)	Delivery of food items: rice, beans, canned meat, and milk	20 000 USD
		WASH (100 hh)	1 Water purification system Hygiene ítems.	6 000 USD 2 500 USD
		Health (50 hh)	Health kits: medicines, antibiotics, repellents, etc.	5 000 USD
		NFI (50 hh)	Delivery of NFI	15 000 USD

	Pinar del Rio Province (Municipalities of La Coloma, San Juan y Martinez, Viñales, Pinar del Rio y Puerto Esperanza) (300 households/ 1,500 individuals including people with disability or chronic diseases, pregnant women, children, and adults: 450 women, 360 men, 690 children)	Food security (150 hh)	Delivery of food items: rice, beans, canned meat, and milk	40 000 USD
		WASH (150 hh)	-1 Water purification system	6 000 USD
			-Artículos para la higiene: jabon y detergente.	5,000 USD
		Health (100 hh)	Health kits: medicines, antibiotics, repellents, etc.	5 000 USD
		Protection (300 hh)	Psychosocial support	17 500 USD
		Emergency Preparedness & Forum Capacity strengthening	Transportation support	20 000 USD
			Household reparations	5 000 USD
	Strengthening of forum members & Regional Emergency Committee by updating knowledge about Sphere and CHS	3 000 USD		
Total			150.000 USD	

4. Potential responses

CIC and the CCRD have operations in the affected territory. The CIC has capacities and expertise in Health, Food Security, Psychosocial Care, and WASH, and skills to respond to an emergency given its previous actions. The CIC has implemented 8 ACT Appeals and 3 RRFs since 2004. Both organizations have a sound experience in emergency response and are foreseeing to provide humanitarian support to 400 households and 2,000 affected people in sectors such as food security, WASH, Health, NFI, protection, and Emergency Preparedness & Forum Capacity strengthening. To that end, the ACT Forum Cuba will be applying for an RRF of 150.000 USD.