



This report has been prepared by the Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Cuba. It covers the period from 18:00 hrs. on 31th January to 12:00 hrs. on 4th February (local time).

Highlights

- The number of damaged houses has risen to more than 3,500. However, the number could further increase as the assessment of the impact of the tornado advances.
- Preliminary reports have indicated severe damages to the national economy as the tornado impacted areas of high industrial concentration.
- The Níco López Refinery and the *Empresa Integral de Servicios Automotores* (CEISA) are among the entities that reported serious damages.
- The Cuban President, Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, called for prioritizing the response to meet the needs of the affected population, speeding up solutions and channelling assistance as quickly as possible.
- The Provincial Defence Council created a Donations Centre for the reception of assistance (in-kind goods) from natural and juridical people, and slated to the affected populations.
- The Ministry of Public Health reported the death of two of the 13 critical injured people with critical conditions (out of the 195 people injured). Overall, six people died in the tornado on 27 January.



3,507
houses
partially or
totally
destroyed

**Over
4,800**
people are
protected

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. Additional data from the official website of the National Statistics and Information Office.

Situation overview

According to the assessment of the damage caused by the tornado - affecting several municipalities of the Cuban capital – the impact was so severe that Havana’s inhabitants started to refer to the weather event as "*The Tornado of the Century*".

The number of families left homeless or with severely damaged houses has yet to be defined. The initial number of affected homes raised from 1,901 to 3,513. The trend is still increasing as people report the damages of their properties to the Oficinas de Trámites, operating at the community level. More than 4,800 people have been protected: 4,783 people are currently living in homes of relatives and friends and 164 in state facilities.

The president of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources (INRH), engineer Antonio Rodríguez Rodríguez, reported that the water pumping in the affected areas has already been restored. He also estimated that more than 350,000 people could not receive water services following the passage of the tornado.

For those people without water (either due to breakdowns in the internal hydraulic system of their homes or because they water tanks got damaged), the state company Aguas de La Habana keeps delivering water by tank cars.

Workers in the electrical and communications fields worked last weekend to restore these vital services to the citizens. While electricity has been almost entirely re-established, the restoration of telephony is still at 65% and it faces a complex situation in the area surrounding the maternal hospital Hijas de Galicia.

Within a week after the disaster, the media are also beginning to report on the severe impacts on the Havana industry.

Some of the damaged plants are: the Níco López Refinery, the Empresa Integral de Servicios Automotores (CEISA) and the Empresa Comercializadora y Conformadora de Carpintería Metálica y PVC (Gepalsi). Assessments also observed the consequences in the Berroa Valley, a municipality in the Habana del Este, an industrial zone specialized in logistics and commerce that comprises more than 230 warehouses and 36 industrial centres and economic services.

The Donations Centre, opened by the Provincial Defence Council in the Ciudad Escolar Libertad, is receiving between 20 and 30 in-kind donations per day coming from state institutions, organizations and individuals.

Among the donations, there are 515 boxes of seasoned rice (delivered by the Catholic Church) 80 televisions and dozens of mattresses (provided by the company Palco) and other goods such as clothing and shoes, canned food, bottles of beverages, appliances, toys and other durable goods.

The national media reports of countless initiatives carried out by citizens in the areas of the disaster. Solidarity through social networks is expressed with the hashtag #FuerzaHabana.

Humanitarian Response

National authorities

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez is personally supervising and following up the Council of Ministers that is assessing the damage caused by the Tornado. Furthermore, he supervises the sectoral response, with emphasis on housing, food distribution and the restoration of basic services to the affected populations in the impacted areas.

Urgent measures are being implemented to address the impact on the housing sector. The Provincial Administration Council announced that 11 million Cuban pesos will be allocated to subsidize construction materials for the most affected municipalities: 3.5 million Cuban pesos for Regla, 3.8 million Cuban pesos for 10 de Octubre and 3 million

Cuban pesos for Guanabacoa. The provision aims at ensuring that territories have sufficient financial resources to approve subsidies to those requiring them.

Simultaneously, authorities launched a process to convert state-owned facilities into housing to provide shelter to the affected populations. In addition, work started to build 212 houses in the three most affected municipalities, through housing funds.

In order to facilitate the access to resources, subsidized sales of construction materials have been concentrated in the affected areas. In addition, procedures and payment mechanisms are more flexible, with loans extended for up to 15 years.

This set of measures also creates linkages between work centres and reconstruction of houses, prioritizing the most critical situations, such as those vulnerable people receiving Social Assistance and elderly people living alone.

The national press reported that employees being absent from work for tornado-related reasons will receive the corresponding salary for a period of one month. Self-employed workers located in the affected territories may apply to the Municipal Defence Council for a temporary suspension of their activity, as well as tax adjustments.

Through the national press, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment has communicated that the prioritised materials to provide support are: means for roof covering and water tanks. From abroad, financial donations are received through an account of the International Financial Bank 0300000005093523. An email address was enabled for assistance: donacionxlahabana@mincex.gob.cu

United Nations System

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

The United Nations Team for Disaster Management in Cuba (UNDMT) has activated its disaster response mechanisms and continues to analyze the main damage after the tornado.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is in close contact with the Office of the Resident Coordinator and is sending an expert to support in the response. Work is being carried out to draft a United Nations System Action Plan in response to the tornado.

The UNS has experience in international relief actions to increase urban resilience, management of collapsed structures and debris, as well as support the Health, Food Security and Education sectors during emergencies.

Last Friday, February 1st, took place a meeting of the United Nations System in Cuba and the Diplomatic Corps accredited in the country and international cooperation agencies.

Sectors



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Damage:

- 29,666 cubic meters of debris and other rubble have been collected.

Response:

- The water supply remains stable
- Monitoring of water quality continues to avoid a complex epidemiological situation in the affected territories.
- Although the pumping system has been restored, many people still do not have water at home because their internal networks were damaged or their tanks were lost. Staff from the Municipal Government and the Institute of Hydraulic Resources carry out field visits to assess damage case by case, and channel support.

United Nations in Cuba:

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has pre-positioned collapsible tanks with a capacity of ten litres.



Food Safety and Nutrition

Damage:

- Gastronomic and food trade centres are still affected by the damage caused by the tornado.

Response:

- Authorities continue to prioritize the supply of food, setting up more than 60 tents providing processed food in the most affected communities. Emphasis is placed on monitoring food safety during processing and sale.
- Priorities include the regulated sale of meat products, eggs and canned food items.
- More than 400 tons of food were sent from the province of Artemisa to four agricultural markets of 10 de Octubre municipality, in addition to the 150 tons that are sent daily to the capital.

United Nations in Cuba:

- 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.



Infrastructures and Basic Services Rehabilitation

Damage:

HOUSING

- According to the last available data, 3,513 houses have been strongly affected. Out of these, 2,873 already count with a technical sheet that will better channel the response.
- The number of total and partial housing (type 1) collapses is still 342 and 282, respectively.
- Restoration work has already begun in all 144 dwellings.

ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONY

- More than 144,000 customers remain without electricity. Work continues to restore power as quickly as possible.
- It is confirmed that the number of telephone services affected amounts to more than 16,000.

Response:

- Five days after the tornado hit the capital, the electrical services of the most affected municipalities are restored: 10 de Octubre is at 98%, Regla at 95% and Guanabacoa at 99%.
- Half of the landline telephony service has been restored, while five of the 48 damaged mobile telephony radio bases have yet to be put into operation.

United Nations in Cuba:**UNDP****Immediate response**

- UNDP has provided 2,000 temporary roof coverings (tarpaulins) that are being distributed, out of a total of 9,499 that the agency has pre-positioned in Cuba and has offered.

Resource Mobilization

- UNDP is mobilizing resources together with the United Nations System to address needs in the housing sector:
 - Mattresses: 6,690 personal and 2,000 of two places;
 - Sets of sheets for the same number of mattresses
 - Kits of kitchen: 1,550
 - Windows: 6,460
 - Doors: 3,230
 - Tools and equipment for the reconstruction brigades and equipment for the local production of construction materials

The agency has support capacities to mobilize resources address to attend the early recovery, anticipated from the emergency promoting urban resilience, considering the complexities of densely populated urban areas:

- o Recovery of houses with safe roofs that have preserved its walls.
- o Strengthening the capacities of construction entities with specialized tool kits for safe reconstruction.
- o Strengthening of capacities for the management of collapsed structures.
- o Development of capacities for the proper handling and recycling of debris.
- o Revitalization of mini-industries of local production of building materials prioritizing the use of recycled debris.
- o Strengthening technical assistance and reconstruction control capacities, fostering Urban Resilience.

**Health****Damage:**

- 1 Mother-and-Child Hospital, 4 Polyclinics, 10 Doctor's and Family Nurse's Offices, 2 Elderly Homes, 1 pharmacy and 1 vector control unit).

Response:

- Restore the operability of critical services (infrastructure, equipment, medicines and supplies).
- Strengthen epidemiological surveillance and health promotion (including mental health).

- The epidemiological situation is kept under control and vector-control measures have been implemented in the affected areas.

UNFPA-PAHO/WHO have identified potential needs with national authorities for health institutions:

- Inputs and materials for vector control and monitoring: clinical and stereoscopic binocular microscope, aspersors, rechargeable flashlights, TF-39 and 160 thermonebulizer equipment, 1% Temephos, insecticide spray.
- Equipment for neonatology service: neonatal incubators and ventilators (spontaneous, non-invasive and high frequency).
- Medical supplies: Emergency kits, serum injectors, blood injectors, central-venous catheters and absorbable chrome sutures.
- Equipment: Water tanks of 600 and 2500 lts, water pumps with a capacity of up to 30 m, 10 kVA electricity plants and impermeable root sheet with primers - rolls of 10m2.
- Linen and others: sheets, green cloths and foam mattresses for patients.

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

UNFPA

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is working to mobilize the necessary funds to import the following items:

- Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Kits 3, 4, 5, 6 (A and B), 11 (A and B)
- Hygiene kits for pregnant women and their families
- Equipment for affected maternal hospitals (Guanabacoa and Diez de Octubre).



Education

Damage:

- 78 schools and 23 day-care centres remain damaged.

Response:

- School classes continue in the affected areas. Staff from the education sector prioritizes visits to households whose children are not able to attend classes, to ensure they do not lag behind.

United Nations in Cuba:

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

For more information, please contact:

Consuelo Vidal-Bruce, Resident Coordinator, United Nations System, Cuba.

Email: consuelo.vidal@one.un.org Tel: (537)7204-1492

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>