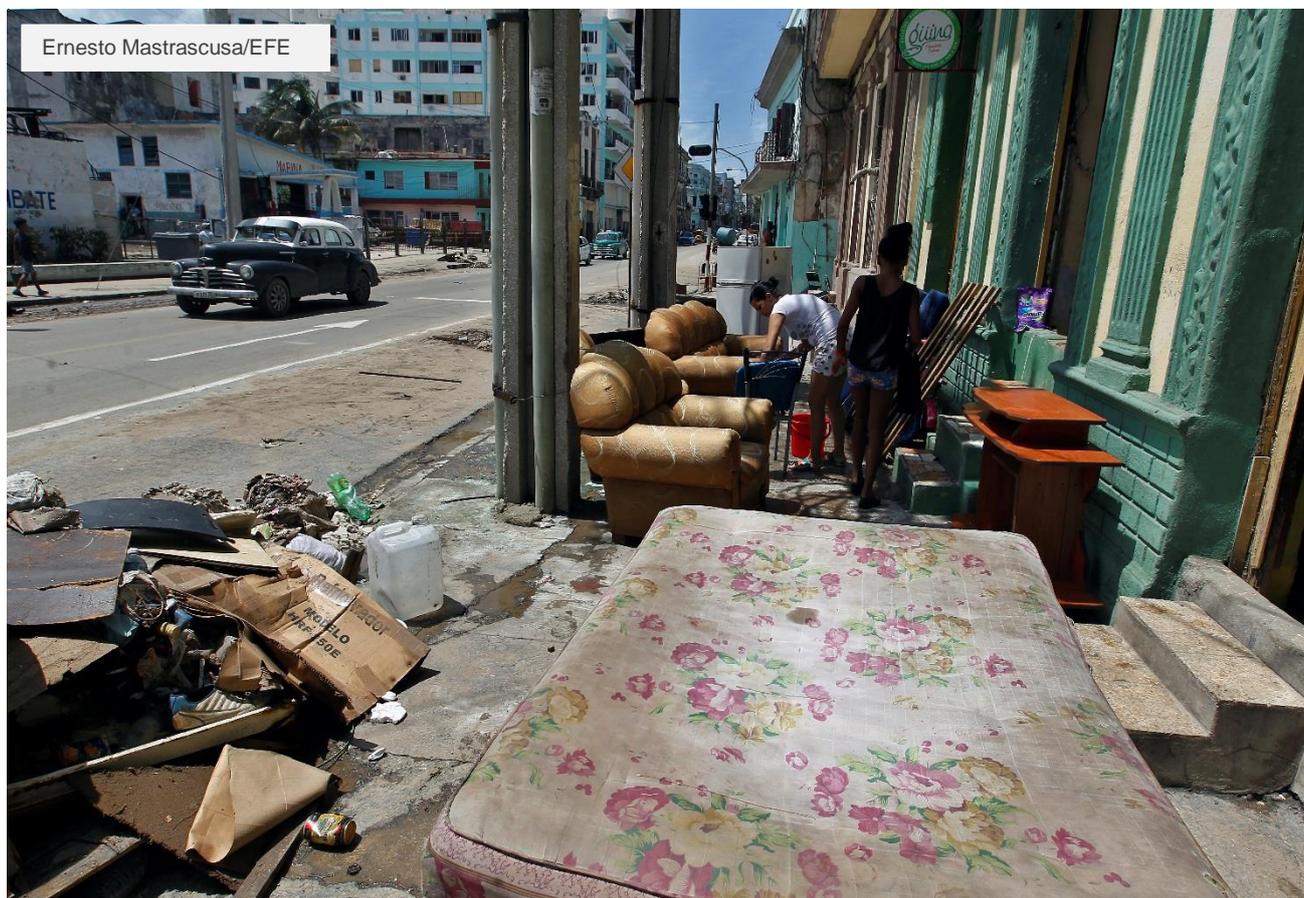




This report is produced by the Office of the Resident Coordinator. It covers the period from 14:00 hrs on September 22th to 12:00 hrs on September 25th. The next report will be issued on or around 27/09/17.

Highlights



- In Villa Clara Province, 400 educational centers were affected by Hurricane Irma.
- Cuba postponed its most important national visual arts event due to the damage caused by the hurricane in nearly 300 cultural institutions.
- Tourism facilities in Coco Key in Ciego de Ávila and Santa María Key in Villa Clara remain closed for repairs after the damage caused by Hurricane Irma.
- Caguanes National Park, with more than 22,000 hectares of ocean, keys, and mainland to the north of the central province of Sancti Spiritus, suffered severe damage due to winds and storm surge.

Situation overview

The strong impact of Hurricane Irma caused severe damage to people's livelihoods, basic services, and infrastructure in rural and coastal communities in the Central and Western Regions of the country. Sectors such as housing, electric power generation, agriculture, communications, public health, education, culture, and sports suffered significant damage and recovery efforts are complex and costly.

Local governments are increasing measures to ensure food and water supplies as well as to protect essential goods for affected populations.

During the General Debate of the 61st General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Juan Antonio Fernández Palacios, the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations in Vienna, Austria, acknowledged the numerous demonstrations of solidarity and offers of assistance received from the UN System, governments, and civil society.

Humanitarian Response

National Authorities

The National Electoral Commission will extend the nomination of candidates for primary elections until October 30, postponing the process for one month as a result of Hurricane Irma.

The Vice President of the Council of State and Ministers, Ramiro Valdés Menéndez, confirmed that work on the Antonio Guiteras Thermoelectric Plant in Matanzas Province in the north of the country, which was seriously damaged by Hurricane Irma, continues.

The Provincial Defense Council in Villa Clara aims to adopt necessary measures to avoid fluctuations in the prices of food, transportation, and other vital goods and services for the population after the hurricane.

The Ministry of Culture will postpone, until 2019, the International Biennial of Visual Arts due to the serious damage caused by the hurricane to cultural institutions in 14 of Cuba's 15 provinces.

International Cooperation

The Government of Venezuela provided a second delivery of humanitarian aid. The cargo includes small format power plants, building materials, wood, electric transformers, and trucks, among other equipment and supplies.

Ten tons of aid from Ecuador arrived in Cuba to be distributed to affected populations, including mattresses, pillows, sheets and dressing room units, toilets, food, and construction supplies.

The General Confederation of Labor of Vietnam provided cash donations to the Cuban Workers' Center to help workers affected by Hurricane Irma.

The National Friendship Association Italy-Cuba will deposit funds in the bank account opened for this purpose at the International Financial Bank to support victims of Hurricane Irma.

Suriname, Argentina, Bolivia, Belarus, Colombia, Costa Rica, China, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the Czech Republic, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Vietnam expressed their solidarity and willingness to provide assistance to the country.

*Note: All the information in this report has been taken from Cuban official media (TV, radio, and press) and statements from Cuban authorities. Sources: Newspapers Periódicos Granma, Juventud Rebelde, Vanguardia, Invasor, Adelante, Periódico 26, Ahora, Sierra Maestra y Venceremos. Radio: Radio Habana Cuba, Radio Angulo, Radio Mambí; Press agencies: Prensa Latina (PL) y Agencia Cubana de Noticias (ACN); Web sites: Cubadebate. Supplementary data has been taken from the National Statistics Office website.

Sectors



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Damage:

- Despite the effort of over a hundred workers, damage to water pumping systems in Ciego de Avila and Sancti Spíritus Provinces remains.
- In Villa Clara, the Cloro Sosa Production Plan in Sagua la Grande was seriously damaged. Despite intense recovery efforts, normal production levels have not yet been restored.
- In Villa Clara, there are still limitations to reestablishing access to water in some locations. In Isabela de Sagua Municipality, 56% of the population does not have water supply services.

Response:

- In the capital, water supply services have returned to normal. Large-scale works have resumed, such as on pipe along Milagros Street in Diez de Octubre Municipality. Actions are in place to clear sewage across the city.
- The production and distribution of hypochlorite and aluminum sulphate, basic products to guarantee drinking water quality, are stabilizing in affected provinces, according to Vice Minister of Industry Eloy Álvarez.
- Aluminum sulphate is being distributed in Villa Clara and Camaguey Provinces, among others the ones with the lowest water supply service coverage. The chlorine plant in Villa Clara will gradually increase delivery levels of hypochlorite. Both the production and distribution are being coordinated with the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources and the Ministry of Public Health.
- In Villa Clara Province, the availability of hygiene products (soap, toothpaste, and floor cleaning cloths, among others) is being guaranteed. According to Larissa Torres Niebla, General Director of Empresa Universal de Villa Clara, the shop chain El Comercio has stocks adequate to satisfy the population's demands.

UNICEF

- UNICEF is prioritizing actions to prevent morbidity and mortality caused by water quality and sanitation deficiencies as well as the prevention of diarrheic, waterborne and vector-borne illnesses in the communities and schools most affected by Hurricane Irma.
- Adding to the delivery of 2,772,000 chlorine water-purifying tablets as part of UNICEF's immediate response, another 3,784,950 new tablets have been purchased to be distributed to national authorities during the second recovery phase.
- In order to satisfy safe water storage needs, 60,196 10-liter collapsible tanks have been purchased through Copenhagen Supply Division and their arrival is expected in the following weeks.
- These priority actions have been implemented in close collaboration with MINCEX, INRH, MINSAP, MINED, and provincial and municipal authorities.

UNDP

- In the United Nations Action Plan response to Hurricane Irma, UNDP presented a proposal focused in seven municipalities in Villa Clara, Sancti Spíritus, and Ciego de Ávila Provinces to improve access to safe water and promote good hygiene practices at the community level.

UNIDO

- UNIDO presented a proposal in the United Nations Action Plan in response to hurricane Irma to support the use of renewable energy sources for the pumping of water in seven municipalities in Villa Clara and Sancti Spíritus Provinces.

PAHO/WHO

- To prevent epidemiological outbreaks of waterborne and vector-borne illnesses, PAHO/WHO presented a proposal to support the monitoring of water quality and epidemiological surveillance in 27 affected municipalities in the United Nations Action Plan in response to hurricane Irma.



Food Security and Nutrition

Damage:

- The Ministry of Agriculture confirmed that more than 600 poultry farms throughout the country were partially or entirely destroyed. The most affected provinces are Villa Clara, Ciego de Ávila, and Camagüey, where more than 60% of the damage occurred.
- Information on the amount of coffee lost is still being updated in the mountainous areas of Escambray, extends throughout Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, and Sancti Spíritus Provinces. In the latter, over 1,700 hectares have been reported damaged, representing an estimated loss of nearly 80 tons.

Response:

- Repair work on poultry houses focuses mainly on roofs, having restored more than 50% of the damaged facilities (approximately 320). Laying hens are receiving supplementary foods with preventive medicine to avoid illness. Provinces less affected by the hurricane continue supporting the recovery of the most impacted areas. For example, the poultry feed mill in Pinar del Rio has extended working hours in order to support production in poultry farms.
- Authorities stated that the government food basket will place a particular emphasis on the distribution of eggs.
- The recovery of greenhouses for the growing of short-cycle seeds and guaranteeing the rapid growth of seedlings has been identified as a priority in order to revive vegetable production before the end of the year.
- The production of biological pesticides has been increased in order to prevent the appearance of pests.

FAO

- FAO is mobilizing resources to complement the US \$300,000 granted by the Government of Belgium for restoring the production of foods most required by the population.
- Immediate and medium-term necessities are being determined in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Food Industry and Fisheries.

WFP

- With the US \$1.5 million available from its immediate emergency response fund, WFP has begun the distribution of rice and beans to 647,000 people, covering 20 days, in coordination with local institutions of the 22 most affected municipalities in Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Matanzas, Sancti Spíritus, and Villa Clara Provinces. Particular emphasis will be placed on vulnerable groups, including children under five years of age, school-aged children, the elderly, and pregnant and lactating women.
- A EUR 300,000 contribution from the Government of Italy was confirmed in support of WFP's emergency response.
- To mobilize the remaining US \$4 million needed to cover the rations planned for four months, WFP continues to engage in consultations with the donor community and with its Regional Office and Headquarters.



Shelter and Early Recovery

Damage:

- Approximately 125,000 houses from Havana to Guantánamo are reported damaged (see Annex on Current data on housing damaged by Hurricane Irma). Of these damaged homes, 33% are in Villa Clara Province.

ELECTRICITY

Villa Clara

- Currently, 35.5% of inhabitants in Caibarién, 36.7% in Camajuaní, 33.3% in Corralillo, 36% in Encrucijada, and 41.3% of Remedios remain without power.

Sancti Spíritus

- In Yaguajay, a municipality that suffered extensive damage, 26% of power remains to be restored. Lines are being repaired by brigades brought in from Cabaiguán, Sancti Spíritus, and Taguasco Municipalities as well as Havana Province.

COMMUNICATION

Villa Clara

- While 80.6% of telephone services have been restored, 2,340 users still without communication are affected by electrical failures.

ENVIRONMENT

- A preliminary report on Caguanes National Park reveals significant damage to flora and fauna. More than 500 pink flamingos perished as did many different species of herons.
- The natural forests of Jobo Rosado, Topes de Collantes, and Banao were also significantly affected and restoration of biodiversity will be complex and lengthy.

TOURISM

- Hotels on Cayo Coco in Ciego de Ávila (8,820 rooms) and on Cayo Santa María in Villa Clara (9,845 rooms) are undergoing intensive repairs and it is reported that they will gradually re-open between 30 September and 15 November.
- In Varadero, work continues on the five hotels damaged out of a total of 52 in order for them to be ready by the start of the high season.

UNDP

- Pre-positioned tarpaulins continue to be distributed, with 3,000 tarps assigned to Camagüey, 1,600 to Villa Clara, 1,284 to Ciego de Ávila, 700 to Sancti Spíritus, 500 to Guantánamo, 600 to Holguín, and 110 to Las Tunas. The rest will be distributed in Havana and Mayabeque.
- The Agrocadenas Project has reprogrammed US \$200,000 for the recovery of roofs of damaged dairy chain facilities. Agrocadenas has financing from the European Union and Swiss cooperation (COSUDE).



Health

Damage:

- On Friday, 22 September, the Ministry of Health reported that 969 health units are among the most affected out of the 1,026 initially reported.
- The distribution of these facilities is as follows: 30 national facilities (including 6 Medical Sciences universities) and 939 provincial health institutions, including 68 hospitals, 124 basic health care centers, 86 social institutions (maternity care centers, nursing homes, senior care centers, etc.), 364 Family Doctor's Offices, 150 pharmacies, and 147 corresponding to other categories (such as stomatology clinics, blood banks, opticians, warehouses, local medication production centers, and workshops)
- In Havana, the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital remains impacted and unable to provide 100% of the assistance required.
- In Ciego de Ávila, the Máximo Gomez Municipal Basic Health Care Center remains operational through the use of a generator, however, reports damage to X-ray services and the rehabilitation room.
- The Morón General Municipal Hospital reports damage to five of its elective surgery rooms and the delivery and caesarean rooms of its obstetrics and gynecology hospital.
- In Camagüey, the Narciso Pérez Municipal Basic Health Care Center is currently providing services in the kitchen and dining area. X-ray services are provided with portable X-ray equipment.
- In Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Havana, Matanzas, and Villa Clara Provinces, 29 of 35 stomatology services remain affected,
- No epidemic outbreaks have been reported as a result of the hurricane.

Response:

- At the community level, health promotion activities are being reinforced to increase the perception of health risks associated with waterborne and vector-borne diseases (such as arbovirolosis and leptospirosis) and hemorrhagic conjunctivitis.
- Epidemiological surveillance and the control of the Aedes aegypti mosquito in urban centers has been strengthened.
- Water quality assessments are being carried out the distribution points of water tank trucks.
- The Ministry of Health called upon medical and service personnel to be aware of those who lost their eyeglasses, dental prostheses, and medications for diabetes, blood pressure, asthma, and other conditions, as well as the need for psychological support.

- Several cultural brigades composed of musicians, theater actors, magicians, clowns, and animators are providing recreational activities to the inhabitants of the most affected areas.

Identified needs:

- In coordination with the Ministry of Health, demands for first-line medications have been identified, including oral rehydration salts, emergency kits, Doxycycline, water treatment tablets, tests to determine levels of residual chlorine, calcium hypochlorite for disinfection, and tests for the diagnosis of cholera, malaria and E. coli as well as medical supplies and equipment, medical and non-medical furniture, and surface cleaning kits.
- Oxygen tanks and regulators (manometers) as well as supplies for protecting against vector-borne diseases, such as insecticide-impregnated nets and Temephos 1% (Abate), have also been prioritized.

PAHO/WHO

- Licentiate Virginia Vanesa Herzig Arriaza, PAHO/WHO consultant for the emergency health program in Guatemala, continues to support the national WHO Technical Team.
- PAHO/WHO, in coordination with Ministry of Health, is currently in the process of defining the destinations of the supplies to be received from the NGO Global Links, which include five containers of equipment and medical and non-medical furniture as well as disposable materials to support health services.
- PAHO/WHO is in the process of purchasing US \$300,000 of 500,000 Doxycycline tablets, 40 tons of Temephos 1%, and products for water quality control and treatment.
- The arrival of six emergency medicine kits (IEHK) is expected. The kits will cover the needs of 60,000 people for three months in prioritized affected areas.
- Daily coordination is being maintained among the PAHO Technical Team in Cuba, the Emergency Operations Center at PAHO Headquarters, and the Head of the National Defense and Civil Defense of the Ministry of Health in order to follow up on the emergency response and the prioritization of damage.
- The PAHO/WHO Representative in Cuba presented a work plan for the Organization's response to the emergency.

UNFPA

- In response to the UN System Action Plan, the UNFPA Cuba Office has been informed through its New York Headquarters that the Government of Canada will donate US \$150,000 to support the rehabilitation of sexual and reproductive health services.
- The contribution will support the restoration of the operational capacity of reproductive health services, including maternal care services and the provision of obstetric and neonatal care for health institutions in 22 municipalities¹ affected by Hurricane Irma. The beneficiary population will be women of reproductive age, adolescents, and pregnant women.



Education

Damage:

- Infrastructure in many of the educational centers in Villa Clara, Sancti Spíritus, Ciego de Ávila, and Camagüey Provinces are in the process of recovery, however, damage still prevents the use of those spaces and delays the return of students.
- The primary level of education is the most affected.
- Currently, there are still school institutions being used as evacuation centers.
- Pre- and post-graduate students remain affected by the absence of electric power service at the University of Matanzas.

Response

- The Provincial Department of Education in Havana reported that students from the most damaged schools have been relocated to ensure they do not fall behind in their studies. Twenty-seven schools have not yet resumed their activities.

¹ Cárdenas and Martí in Matanzas Province; Corralillo, Quemado de Güines, Sagua la Grande, Encrucijada, Camajuaní, Caibarien, Cifuentes, and Santo Domingo in Villa Clara Province; Yaguajay in Sancti Spíritus Province; Chambas, Morón, Bolivia, Primero de Enero, Ciro Redondo, and Florencia in Ciego de Ávila Province; and Esmeralda, Sierra de Cubitas, Minas, and Nuevitas in Camagüey Province.

- Fiber cement sheet metal roofs in schools that are not providing education services in Pinar del Rio Municipality were moved to schools in Villa Clara.
- In Villa Clara Province, where more than 400 schools were damaged, the school year resumed in some multi-year centers thanks to community efforts in repairing school facilities with their own resources.
- The University Student Federation at the University of Medical Sciences in Sancti Spíritus Province also supported recovery efforts in Yaguajay Municipality following Hurricane Irma. About 150 students of all school years at the Medical Sciences School are involved in this task.

UNICEF

- According to the United Nations Action Plan in Cuba, UNICEF is prioritizing actions to allow the immediate establishment of temporary learning spaces, which will also offer psychosocial support to 69,786 girls and 72,771 children
- UNICEF is supporting the resumption of educational activities through the distribution of educational and recreational materials that facilitate the safe return of students to school and the psychosocial recovery of children.
- According to the needs identified by the Ministry of Education, UNICEF Cuba has earmarked US \$60,000 of its own resources for the immediate waterproofing of 11,000 square meters of schools in the Villa Clara, Ciego de Avila, and Havana Provinces.

UNESCO

- UNESCO will focus its support on ensuring socio-emotional post-disaster support for children and adolescents, with the participation of families and the community, in the 27 most affected municipalities.



Logistics

Damage:

- Facilities within in the wholesale collection system of farming products, as well as storage and transportation infrastructure for inputs, food and other key products, suffered damage, primarily to facilities' roofing. Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Cienfuegos, Matanzas, Sancti Spíritus and Villa Clara Provinces were among the most affected (see preliminary damage information in Situation Report 14).

Response:

- Maintenance work on harbors, roads and warehouse infrastructure continues.

WFP

- As part of WFP's response for food storage and protection, four of the five mobile storage units (MSUs) that WFP and the Government agreed to temporarily transfer from Guantánamo to Ciego de Ávila and Villa Clara Provinces are already assembled and in use (two MSUs in each province). WFP is in consultation with national authorities regarding the installation of the other unit.
- WFP is mobilizing resources to purchase other MSUs and continues to coordinate with its Regional Office and Headquarters in Rome (see Situation Report 11).

General Coordination

The UN System Action Plan in Response to Hurricane Irma was launched at the UN Headquarters in Havana on 19 September. To respond to the urgent needs of 2.15 million people, the Plan aims to mobilize US \$55.8 million.

Developed in close coordination with Cuban institutions and authorities, the Plan includes an immediate response phase and early recovery support for a period of 6 to 18 months.

Plan of Action, UN System in Cuba:

English: http://onu.org.cu/files/files/CUB_ActionPlan_ENG_20170918_4.pdf

Spanish: http://onu.org.cu/files/files/CUB_ActionPlan_ESP_20170918_4.pdf

Access link to previous situation reports:

	Spanish	English
Situation Report No. 1	https://goo.gl/4ndwXJ	https://goo.gl/MRWwsR
Situation Report No. 2	https://goo.gl/rvtMHP	https://goo.gl/qxr2zT
Situation Report No. 3	https://goo.gl/fXUgFU	https://goo.gl/AaAMyz
Situation Report No. 4	https://goo.gl/WYSyBj	https://goo.gl/cZerWK
Situation Report No. 5	https://goo.gl/JGr4VB	https://goo.gl/e7sDG3
Situation Report No. 6	https://goo.gl/GFqNXF	https://goo.gl/BAvoY8
Situation Report No. 7	https://goo.gl/P67Qc7	https://goo.gl/qnBX5B
Situation Report No. 8	https://goo.gl/Jvwdk2	https://goo.gl/BQSijQ
Situation Report No. 9	https://goo.gl/e9WV6	https://goo.gl/akD8mc
Situation Report No. 10	https://goo.gl/XqXvkE	https://goo.gl/ZjWca6
Situation Report No. 11	https://goo.gl/9ixGn4	https://goo.gl/uXyRHr
Situation Report No. 12	https://goo.gl/wse5Df	https://goo.gl/BFgX3i
Situation Report No. 13	https://goo.gl/CZ387R	https://goo.gl/n88KVU
Situation Report No. 14	https://goo.gl/kwSKLt	https://goo.gl/qT5RX8

Annex



Shelter and Early Recovery

Current data on housing damaged by Irma:

Province	Households	Roof	Municipalities
La Habana*	4,288 damaged, including 157 collapsed, 986 partially collapsed	818 with collapsed roofs and 1,555 with partially collapsed roofs	All 15 municipalities in capital city
Mayabeque	1,450 damaged		
Matanzas	2,800 damaged, including 200 collapsed		Cárdenas, Martí, and Matanzas
Cienfuegos	574 damaged, including 130 collapsed		
Villa Clara	More than 51,944 damaged, including 1,657 collapsed		Santa Clara, Sagua la Grande, Corralillo, Quemado de Güines, Encrucijada, Camajuaní, Remedios, and Caibarién
Sancti Spíritus	10,600 houses damaged		Damage reported in eight municipalities with the most severe damage in Yaguajay and Sancti Spíritus
Ciego de Ávila	More than 16,000 damaged, including 3,800 collapsed		Bolivia: 95% of housing damaged
Camagüey	27,200 houses damaged, 13,000 with collapsed roofs, and more than 1,600 partially collapsed	2,500 roofs damaged	Esmeralda, Sierra de Cubitas, and Nuevitas
Las Tunas	4,000 houses damaged, 199 collapsed, 445 partially collapsed	430 with collapsed roofs and 2,833 with partially collapsed roofs	
Holguín	4,006 houses damaged, including 174 collapsed		Gibara, Antilla, Holguín, and Banes
Guantánamo	875 houses damaged, including 73 collapsed		Baracoa, Maisí, San Antonio del Sur, Yateras, and Caimanera



Health

Total of damaged institutions in the structure							
PROVINCE	Hospitals	Basic health care centers	FDOs	Pharmacies	Social Institutions	Others	Total
PINAR DEL RIO				1			1
ARTEMISA	2	2	1		1	1	7
HAVANA	25	33	22	3	20	19	122
MAYABEQUE	2	4	8	3	0	4	21
MATANZAS	3	5	2	2	1	3	16
VILLA CLARA	11	27	121	43	19	46	267
CIENFUEGOS	2	2	8	9	2	3	26
SANCTI SPIRITUS	3	13	28	24	3	9	80
CIEGO DE AVILA	3	16	93	32	15	15	174
CAMAGUEY	9	17	53	18	18	33	148
LAS TUNAS	1	2	5	0	4	8	20
HOLGUIN	7	3	18	15	3	6	52
GRANMA	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
GUANTÁNAMO	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
SUBTOTAL PROVINCES	68	124	364	150	86	147	939
NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS							24
MEDICAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITIES							6
TOTAL							969

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For further information, please visit: www.unocha.org, www.reliefweb.int, www.redhum.org, www.onu.org.cu.

For further 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/>

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