

Response to Hurricane Irma: Cuba

Situation Report No. 7. Office of the Resident Coordinator

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This report is produced by the Office of the Resident Coordinator. It covers the period from 14:00 hrs. on September 013th to 12:00 hrs. on September 14th. The next report will be issued on or around 15/09.

Highlights

- President Raul Castro Ruz, led a meeting with the National Defense Council. The highest government officials traveled through territories and economic enclaves most affected by Hurricane Irma.
- Preliminary data estimates that 60,500 dwellings were affected, including total or partial collapses and partial or total loss of roofs.
- A significant number of communities remain without electricity and water supply. The government continues working hard on recovering the electric power service in the 13 affected provinces. Matanzas, Sancti Spíritus, Villa Clara and Ciego de Ávila Provinces, with 2.3 million inhabitants, report the most significant energy system problems.
- Strong winds and coastal inundation has beaten the Havana health sector: 25 hospitals, 32 polyclinics and 19 clinics at the community level have been affected.
- Severe damage to the communications system has been reported. More than 190,000 fixed telephone and data transmission services were impacted. This does not include impacts to mobile telephone services. At least 30 days are required to complete the rehabilitation of these services.



Ciego de Ávila / Periódico Granma.



La Habana / Cubahora.

+ 64,000
houses damaged

+ 190,000
fixed telephone and
data transmission
services were impacted

+ 70%
of health institutions
damaged in the
affected zones



Guantánamo / Periódico Venceremos.

*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.

Situation overview

National authorities are closely monitoring the damage and recovery efforts, with an emphasis on providing care to affected people with damage to their dwellings or in areas that still remain isolated.

The Cuban post company (Grupo Empresarial Correos de Cuba) announced that steps have been taken to prioritize payments for social security and assistance. They also announce their priority to expedite the sending of money orders and telegrams to or from affected areas.

A significant number of communities in the eastern, central and western parts of the island, lack electricity and are also affected by damage throughout the telecommunications and radio and television systems.

Granma Newspaper, the main newspaper with a national reach, increased its edition last Tuesday, with 500,000 copies, in order to bring updated information to the population, principally in the central and eastern areas of the island.

Working teams and specialists from the National Electricity Company (Unión Eléctrica) are raising electric power poles and installing transformers in the 13 affected provinces. Telecommunications brigades are also responsible for restoring telephone and data services. They have joined groups from other provinces, which have previous experience recovering from damage caused by Hurricanes Sandy (2012) and Matthew (2016).

Closely related to the recovery of the electric power system is that of the public water supply. Water is currently being supplied to the population via tanker trucks, and in some areas generators have been connected to facilitate the operation of pumping equipment and the extraction of water from wells. In these communities, food processing centers have been established, which are supplied free of charge at evacuation centers, and sell to the population at subsidized prices.

The collection of debris, branches and tree trunks continues around major avenues, roads, streets, sidewalks and squares throughout most of the country, including the capital city. These recovery actions involve more than 12,000 soldiers and citizens from the affected areas of the country as well as workers from different organizations.

On Tuesday, the Government of Panama sent three airplanes to Havana with around 2,180 kilograms of hygiene items, sheets and food, among other products. A vessel with five containers of rice, oil and other food left Port of Mariel yesterday. Next week, 15 other containers will arrive at the Port of Santiago de Cuba in the east of the country, containing mattresses, sheets, hygiene and kitchen items, blankets, food, wood, light fixtures, water cans and other necessities.

Humanitarian Response

National authorities

The President of the Council of State and Ministers and the National Defense Council, Raul Castro Ruz, met Wednesday night with the National Defense Council to emphasize ongoing actions during the Hurricane Recovery Phase following the devastation of Hurricane Irma.

The Vice President of the Council of State and Ministers, Ramiro Valdés, participated in a meeting with the Provincial Defense Council of La Habana. At the meeting, representatives of the different working groups (energy, water, food, health, construction, transportation, communications, tourism, legal and education, and culture and sport), were accountable for recovery efforts. Valdés also met the Provincial Defense Council of the Western Province of Artemisa again to review the progress made during the Recovery Phase in that territory.

Deputy Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Joaquín Quintas Solá, met with the Defense Council of the central province of Cienfuegos and visited rehabilitation work being carried out at the provincial hospital and the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Thermoelectric Power Plant. The Deputy Minister requested special attention be paid to the situation of several communities that remain isolated in the mountains of Escambray. He also emphasized the need to pay special attention to the population living on that mountain range.

The Provincial Defense Councils of the Recovery Phase territories continue to travel through affected areas, closely following the recovery and damage assessment.

No new updates have been reported recently about the evacuated population in territories affected by Hurricane Irma.

Sectors



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Damage:

- Data provided by the Aqueduct and Sewerage Group (GEAAL) reports 2,770 affected water supply systems after Hurricane Irma, mainly due to lack of electric power.
- Out of the total number of water supply systems, 1,178 have been recovered and 1,005 are still damaged, affecting 3,144,140 inhabitants.
- In the Central Region of the country, there are still severe impacts, especially in the northern keys, where power generators are currently used for pumping water, although water trucks are also used to guarantee the supply.
- Damage is also reported to National Electroenergetic System infrastructure, and in Coco and Santa María Keys in Sancti Spiritus Province, where three main water pipelines were affected.

Response:

- The reestablishment of electric power service makes the pumping of water possible.
- The National Civil Defense calls for the participation of the population, along with mass organizations and health authorities, to coordinate environmental sanitation actions.
- The Ministry of Public Health stressed the need to use of sodium hypochlorite at 1% to ensure water quality, which is now imperative for the population.
- The Ministry of Public Health also announced measures aimed at preventing an increase in rates of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito infestation, contagious infectious diseases and digestive transmission, and environmental pollution as well as to the need to increase hygiene and sanitation measures to avoid epidemic outbreaks.
- Water is being distributed in water trucks and the cleaning of cisterns with motor pumps continues.
- In the Central Region of the country, there are still severe impacts, especially in the northern keys, where power generators are currently used for pumping water, although water trucks are also used to guarantee the supply.
- Artemisa Province already has electric power and its municipalities managed to certify all the electrical circuits (290), which supports the restoration of the water supply service. Cleaning and hygiene measures as well as water supplies remain priorities.
- A total of 25 hospitals, 32 polyclinics and 19 clinics were affected in Havana. Of these centers, only 11 polyclinics had received water by water trucks and ten remained without electricity at the end of the day yesterday.
- The decontamination of cisterns in Plaza, Playa, Centro Habana and La Habana Vieja continues.
- Santa Cruz del Norte Municipality in Mayabeque Province reports that 80% of the water supply service has been restored.
- In Nuevitas, one of the most affected municipalities in Camagüey, recovery prioritizes vital services to the population, such as water supply. Work continues to restore electric power service and the functioning of water treatment and pumping plants, while water is also supplied with water trucks.
- In Ciego de Avila, a readjustment of the water supply cycles is being made to cover all of the capital city.
- Drought continues, despite the 43,000,000 cubic meters that have been added to the dams in Ciego de Avila Province.
- In Holguin, 79,257 cubic meters of garbage have been collected so far. The municipalities of Gibara, Rafael Freyre, Antilla, Calixto García, Cacocum, Urbano Noris, Mayarí and Moa report the most favorable situations.
- Student organizations are working with Defense Councils in each territory to support the collection of debris and fallen trees, pruning and sanitation activities.
- Sodium hypochlorite is guaranteed in all pharmacies in the country in sufficient quantities.
- In the provinces where there is still lack of power, the population's needs are being met through the supply of water in water trucks.

UNICEF

- UNICEF is preparing a proposal to immediately support the water and sanitation sector in the 8 most affected municipalities, Villa Clara (6) and Camagüey (2), through the OCHA emergency funding mechanism, CERF.
- UNICEF is delivering 3 million tablets for water purification, providing coverage to about 44,000 people and giving an essential response over the next 6 to 18 months, which will focus on supporting the access to safe water and sanitation of families in the most affected municipalities of Camagüey and Ciego de Avila.
- With regional emergency funds, UNICEF will support families of the municipalities of Caibarién and Camajuaní by providing purification tablets to ensure water quality, and 10-liter containers for safe water storage.



Food Security and Nutrition

Damage:

- Even though damage to the agricultural sector is still being assessed, the loss of important amounts of planned production for the third quarter of the year have been confirmed. This will affect the availability of foods of the population: plantains and other tubers, vegetables, basic grains, fruits, seedlings, eggs and pigs.
- Severe damage continues to be reported to pig and poultry farms, beehives, fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure. Damage is also reported in food warehouses, food processing facilities, the fishing sector and commercial establishments.
- In the central provinces, especially in the most affected municipality on the northern coast, the damages to the agricultural/livestock sector had a significant impact on the livelihoods of the local populations, farmers and fishers.

+ 75,000
hectares of
productives land
affected

Provinces and municipalities with the greatest estimated damage	Damage estimates to agricultural and livestock production		Damage to food production, processing and marketing capacities
	Tubers, vegetables, grains, fruits and others	Livestock, fishery and aquaculture	
Mayabeque	1,400 hectares of plantain and crops of rice, corn and yucca. Fruit trees and the sugar sector are also impacted	Sunken vessels	
Matanzas (Cárdenas, Martí)	More than 2,500 hectares of plantain and other tubers, rice and corn 20% of citrus plantations, especially grapefruit (20,000 tons) and oranges (4,000 tons)	1,200 quails, and 1,400 eggs in incubation as well as poultry houses	Irrigation systems Covered warehouses
Villa Clara (Caibarién, Sagua la Grande, Encrucijada, Corralillo, Quemado de Güines, Camajuaní)	More than 8,000 hectares of plantain, rice, coffee, yucca, and dried corn 70% of sugarcane plantations and stored bulk sugar	84 pig farms and 110 poultry farms destroyed Poultry and swine houses, 112,000 birds and 120,000 replacement chickens	Irrigation systems Rice mills Sugar mills Roofs of biscuit factories Over 40,000 zinc plates lost, covering the roofs of mills, workshops, warehouses and dairies. Warehouse storing nearly 5,000 tons of products.
Sancti Spiritus (Yaguajay)	28,500 hectares of assorted crops, such as beans, tomato, sweet potato, corn, vegetables, papaya and others damaged. Of these more than 4,000 hectares of plantains were damaged.	Breeding and feeding of pigs More than 800,000 juvenile fish of different species	Aquaculture infrastructure 78 beehives

Provinces and municipalities with the greatest estimated damage	Damage estimates to agricultural and livestock production		Damage to food production, processing and marketing capacities
	Tubers, vegetables, grains, fruits and others	Livestock, fishery and aquaculture	
		More than 200 head of livestock killed More than 6,000 chickens More than 70 beehives	
Ciego de Ávila (Chambas, Morón, Bolivia)	More than 5,000 hectares of plantain, corn, cabbage, rice, beans and other crops More than 1,500 tons of citrus Soy More than 28,000 hectares affected and, as a consequence, around 350 tons of food lost		Trade and warehouse infrastructure
Camagüey (Minas, Nuevitas, Sierra de Cubitas and Esmeralda)	More than 3,000 hectares of plantain and yucca More than 3,500 hectares of assorted crops, especially corn Fruits: avocado, papaya and guava	The Jigüey Fishery Center in Esmeralda destroyed Poultry farms 5,300 birds	Unfavorable conditions for the production of eggs The food industry (meat and dairy), central warehouse, milk storing and cooling centers Trade and gastronomy infrastructure, bakeries
Las Tunas (Puerto Padre, Jesús Menéndez and Manatí)	More than 3,000 hectares of plantain, yucca, vegetables, corn, sweet potato, and fruits 5,000 tons of salt	Roofs of integral pig breeding centers	Trade and gastronomy units, warehouses

Response:

- The recovery, storage and classification of food continues, especially for bananas, corn and fruits destined for agricultural markets, sale to the population, industrial processing and animal consumption.
- The food industry is accelerating the processing of meat, lactose and citrus products.
- In all affected provinces, work is underway to restore operations of food production centers, with many already functioning. The sale of bread has been extended and various points of sale of light foods at moderate prices are operating.
- Products of the government food basket (“canasta básica”), especially eggs, are being guaranteed.
- Sugar harvesting and cane seeding strategies have been redesigned for the coming autumn sowing season and work is underway in the livestock recovery program.
- Priority is given to the rehabilitation of plantations, by means of fertilization, irrigation and trimming, along with the preparation of machines, land and the management of seeds to quickly advance with sowing, focusing on short-cycle crops.

FAO:

- FAO has activated its Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) and is receiving US \$300,000 on behalf of the Government of Belgium.
- FAO will focus on providing a rapid response for the early rehabilitation of food production in the most affected areas, emphasizing immediate recovery for the most consumed products by the Cuban population (eggs, pork, vegetables, root crops and fish).
- Direct communications with sectoral authorities are maintained to determine concrete needs as soon as possible.
- In the coming days, technical personnel will arrive in Cuba to support the coordination of assistance.

WFP:

- WFP will support the Government to ensure immediate food access to populations in the most affected areas to prevent a deterioration in nutrition.
- An operation is being launched, in consultation with national authorities, to provide complimentary food rations (rice, beans and oil) to over 650,000 people in the most affected territories, from Camagüey to Matanzas Provinces, for four months, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable groups.
- To begin this operation, WFP will be using its contingency food stock of 1,600 tons, pre-positioned in Havana, Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba, to be made available to provide timely assistance to shock-affected populations.
- Given that this stock is limited, financial resources are being mobilized to purchase additional food. This will provide assistance to the most affected populations during the planned time frame.
- WFP is in contact with the donor community to guarantee timely food assistance. WFP Headquarters and the Regional Office are providing necessary support.



Infrastructures and Basic Services Rehabilitation

Damage:

The Hurricane impacted some 64,000 homes, some partially and totally collapsed and some with partial or total loss of roofs. More than 190,000 people were affected. Prior to Hurricane Irma, the country's housing exhibited problems, with more than a million homes in a deficient or poor state. Of these homes, 43% are in Havana.

+ 64,000
homes damaged

HOUSEHOLD

Province	Household	Roof	Municipalities
La Habana	4,288 damaged, including 157 collapsed, 986 partially collapsed	818 with roof collapsed and 1,555 with roof partially collapsed	All 15 municipalities in capital city
Mayabeque	1,450 damaged		
Matanzas	2,000 damaged, including 200 collapsed		Cárdenas, Martí and Matanzas
Cienfuegos	574 damaged, including 130 collapsed		
Villa Clara	25,548 damaged, including 1,657 collapsed		Santa Clara, Sagua la Grande, Corralillo, Quemado de Güines, Encrucijada, Camajuaní, Remedios and Caibarién
Sancti Spíritus	4,000 houses damaged, including 422 collapsed		Damage reported in eight municipalities with the most severe damage in Yaguajay and Sancti Spíritus
Ciego de Ávila	3,711 totally and partially collapsed		Bolivia: 95% of housing damaged
Camagüey	17,000 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	800 houses damaged, including 46 collapsed and 114 partially collapsed	75 roofs completely lost and 585 partially damaged	
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

Response:**ELECTRICITY**

- The National Electroenergetic System is again interconnected. The main power generating units have also been reconnected, except one in Guiteras, which remains damaged.
- The country has recovered 70% of its power service.
- Power plant staff from the provinces that have already recovered power are now working in those that remain affected.
- The central provinces, especially in the north, were badly damaged. In the municipalities of Nuevitas, Esmeralda, Puerto Padre, Bolivia, Chmbas, Yaguajay and Caibarién, electric power service staff are working intensely to provide services as soon as possible.
- Hurricane Irma affected 2,300 primary power distribution circuits throughout Cuba, of which 644 are still pending repairs.

Percentage of circuits fixed:

- Pinar del Río: 99%
- Artemis: 94%
- Havana: 77%
- Mayabeque: 82%
- Matanzas: 34%
- Villa Clara: 30%
- Cienfuegos: 72%
- Sancti Spiritus: 47%
- Ciego de Avila: 20%
- Camagüey: 73%
- Las Tunas: 74%
- Holguín: 92%

COMMUNICATION

- The recovery of the communications system continues. The seven provinces most affected are being assisted by other territories. It is expected that full services could take up to a month to be restored.
- 62% of the 320 Wi-Fi areas affected have been restored.
- Cellular coverage remains and 43% of the service was recovered, even though there were 176 transmitters affected.
- 50% of telephone services (fixed lines, collective phones, public pay phones and internet lines) have been restored, with 79,000 cases pending.
- Staff are working to repair some 2,400 damaged power posts.

Identified Needs

- National authorities have stressed the need to replicate the recovery experience of Hurricane Matthew through which local resources were used to accelerate the production of building materials. There are at least 33 mini-industries that produce building materials in the 14 most severely impacted municipalities.

UNDP

- The Housing and Early Recovery Sector, led by UNDP with the participation of IOM, UN Habitat and UNESCO, continues to prepare information on basic non-food needs for immediate response, including: plastic roofing sheets, mattresses, kitchen kits, sheets, zinc sheets for roofs, and tools. These actions will be coordinated with those of the United Nations agencies that work in the water and sanitation, food security and health sectors.
- The procurement of 2,470 mattresses for affected families is ongoing, using US \$84,050 of UNDP funds.
- The 9,823 roofing sheets, pre-positioned by UNDP, are being distributed gradually, according to the indications of the national authorities. These tarpaulins allow the creation of temporary facilities for the affected population. Additional tarpaulins are being procured, but additional resources will be required to purchase more.
- UNDP has activated its emergency response mechanism to purchase zinc roofing sheets and corresponding tools and is working with the National Programme for the Local Production of Building Materials to identify main needs in the affected areas.
- Two UNDP experts are in Cuba to support the UNDP Office to formulate emergency response projects and assist in resource mobilization. They also support procurement processes related to the emergency (tarpaulins, mattresses and roofs) and diagnose the need for additional support in human resources.

- UNDP has made available US \$500,000 for early recovery and US \$100,000 for coordination in the initial response phase.
- These resources are in addition to those already made available from the reprogramming of the projects in implementation. Support will be provided to the mobilization of additional resources for the area of housing and early recovery. Given the magnitude of the damage reported, it will be necessary to mobilize resources for housing reconstruction, livelihoods and environmental impacts.



Health

Damages:**Overview of health services in most affected provinces:**

+ 70%
of health institutions
damaged in the
affected zones

		Population	Hospitals	Basic health care centers	Family Doctor's Offices	Others*
Camagüey	Nuevitas	61,827	1	1	53	22
	Minas	37,291		2	46	6
	Sierra de Cubitas	18,410		1	16	7
	Esmeralda	30,064	1	2	28	3
subtotal		147,592	2	6	143	38
Ciego de Ávila	Bolivia	15,745		1	20	2
	Morón	69,158	1	2	78	5
	Chambas	37,865		3	43	1
subtotal		122,768	1	6	141	8
Sancti Spiritus	Yaguajay	55,509	1	4	76	4
subtotal		55,509	1	4	76	4
Villa Clara	Caibarién	40,102	1	2	34	3
	Camajuaní	59,898		2	60	2
	Encrucijada	33,139		2	38	2
	Sagua	52,118	1	2	63	5
	Quemado de Güines	21,586		1	23	1
	Corralillo	26,089	1	2	32	2
	Remedios	44,758	1	3	54	5
	Cifuentes	27,584		2	36	4
	Sto Domingo	50,035		3	52	4
subtotal		355,309	4	19	392	28
Matanzas	Cardenas	151,960	1	5	118	4
	Matanzas	158,999	6	5	141	9
subtotal		310,959	7	14	259	13
Mayabeque	Sta Cruz del Norte	35,144		2	33	4
subtotal		35,144		2	33	4
Habana	Plaza	145,687	18	7	157	3
	Playa	180,614	1	9	162	9
	Centro Habana	138,060	3	5	123	6
	Habana Vieja	84,333		5	89	4
	Cerro	124,278	5	4	105	5
	10 Octubre	202,311	4	8	189	13
	Boyeros	195,301	7	7	89	4
subtotal		1,070,584	38	45	914	44
Total Health Institutions		2,097,865	53	96	1,958	139
Total Affected Infrastructure			(71%)	(78%)	(11%)	(46%)

Impacts:

- In Havana, most of the impacts in health sector facilities were reported at the “Marcio Manduley” Polyclinic, “América Arias” Hospital and “Hermanos Ameijeiras” Hospital. The later reported impacts to services of nuclear medicine, radiotherapy, clinical laboratory, imaging and ambulatory surgery.
- Essential health services in Havana are being provided in the usual places. América Arias Hospital and Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital are the only locations still pending the resumption of their activities at full capacity.
- Main problems reported from provinces and territories are damage to ceilings, light roofs and perimeter fences; the collapse of walls and false ceilings; damage to glassware and windows; and coastal flooding damage.

Response:

- In Havana, 232 blood donations were collected on Wednesday, 13 September. An additional amount of 300 more donations are expected for Thursday.
- In Baracoa, all affected electrical networks were reestablished and hygiene-epidemiological actions are being executed to prevent diseases, especially in the Yumuri area. The collection of solid waste is ongoing, mainly in the towns of Cabacú and El Turey.
- Work is being done to normalize the water supply and to avoid epidemiological situations that usually follow this type of meteorological phenomena.
- Priority is given to the power lines that feed hospitals and other important centers for the population
- “Dr. Gustavo Aldereguía Lima (GAL)” Provincial Hospital in Cienfuegos is responding to medical emergencies although outpatient consultations are still suspended. The infants hospitalized in the Provincial Pediatric Hospital were transferred to GAL Hospital, accompanied by the medical staff and equipment.
- Health services are also ensuring medicine coverage and medical care. Family Doctor’s Offices keep striving to prevent epidemics.
- Regarding water, the health sector is working on the evaluation of the quality of water to be distributed to the population for consumption. State sanitary inspectors are located in all locations where the water tank trucks are refilled to monitor and ensure that the water contains the adequate amount of chlorine to ensure safe water for the population.
- The campaign to prevent water and mosquito borne diseases continues and intensifies on the medias.

Identified needs:

- Information has been received from the Ministry of Public Health on immediate response needs. These include medicines such as oral rehydration salts, first aid kits, doxycycline, water treatment tablets, tests to determine chlorine levels, calcium hypochlorite for disinfection, and rapid tests for the diagnosis of cholera, malaria and E. Coli
- In addition, it is necessary to acquire the supplies for protection against vector-borne diseases, impregnated mosquito nets and Temephos at 1%.
- It is also a priority to re-establish water tanks and generators at primary health care facilities.

PAHO/WHO:

- The process to implement initial emergency funds starts in order to respond to the needs.
- The planing process for a comprehensive health sector response enters in its final stage.

UNFPA:

- According to the United Nations System in Cuba, UNFPA will focus its preliminary interventions on the affected population of the 14 coastal municipalities most damaged by Hurricane Irma as it passed through Cuba, especially the 132,458 women of reproductive age and 2,300 pregnant women that will deliver between September and December 2017.
- With the activation of the UNFPA Emergency Fund:
 - 900 hygiene kits, pre-positioned in Panama, are already in the process of being transferred to the country to be distributed to these population groups;
 - the purchase of 1,000 additional hygiene kits is also underway;
 - the purchase and delivery of 37 contraception kits, STI management, and delivery assistance and support to serious obstetric surgeries for about ten health centers with gynecological services identified

by the Maternal and Child Care Program of the Ministry of Public Health, which serve the population of the 14 municipalities identified, is underway.

Education

Damages:

- It is expected that teaching activities will resume throughout the country this week. Schools that were not damaged have resumed their classes and those with partial damage will divide their classes into morning and afternoon sessions. In the case of severely damaged schools, students will be relocated to other facilities, including family homes or institutions, to be able to continue their classes.
- More than 1,700 educational facilities have been affected, most of them located in Havana, Villa Clara, Matanzas, Camagüey and Ciego de Avila Provinces. The latter has more than 50% of its facilities damaged.
- The primary level of education, with the largest number of schools within the education system, was the most affected.
- The country has a total of 10,698 educational centers, of which 510 served as evacuation facilities during Hurricane Irma.

Province	Damage	Return to school
La Habana	There are around 500 schools affected in the capital.	
Villa Clara	More than 50% of schools suffered damage to roofs, windows and doors. The municipalities of Sagua, Caibarién, Encrucijada, Corralillo and Quemado de Guines are the most affected. All the schools in Caibarién suffered some sort of damage, mainly to roofs and windows.	Caibarién Municipality is working intensely to resume classes next Monday in a large number of schools.
Camagüey	In the municipality of Esmeralda, 30 schools have been damaged.	Classes will continue by relocating students to less affected areas. An alternative solution is sought for the 14,400 people who remain in evacuation centers, especially those hosted in educational institutions.
Artemisa	Eighteen schools were affected, mainly in Bahía Honda, Mariel and Candelaria, with three centers affected in each municipality.	Classes will continue by relocating students in classrooms and areas not affected.
Ciego de Ávila	One hundred and seventy-six educational centers were affected, with the most significant damage reported to roof and carpentry. In the municipality of Bolivia, approximately 50% of schools exhibit roof damage.	Classes are expected to start in the centers that are ready as well as in private homes to be able to continue the teaching process. The Manuel Piti Fajardo Primary School is waiting for the center to finish transferring evacuees to another location.
Las Tunas	Seventy-six schools were affected, mainly in the north of the territory.	The José López Trevill and "Roberto Proenza" Primary Schools in Manatí will resume classes in neighboring places and family houses respectively.
Holguín	Two primary schools in Sagua de Tánamo Municipality suffered severed structural damage.	All educational facilities in the province are ready to resume classes, except for two.
Guantánamo	Partial damage has been reported in 17 schools, which are already undergoing repairs.	

Response:

- Since the Hurricane Recovery Phase was announced, extensive sanitation work is being carried out in all schools across the country with the help of teachers to create the best conditions possible for the timely return of students.
- Among the measures taken to facilitate the return of students to learning spaces are: 1) the return of resources/materials that were evacuated to be preserved; 2) the re-organization of the educational program to propose complementary educational activities and specific work sessions; and 3) the identification of facilities (i.e. family homes or schools) that can host the students from the 48 institutions that reported damage.

- Boarding school students are gradually returning to their schools, based on the programmed schedule for each province and on the availability of transportation.

UNICEF

- UNICEF is working on a project proposal to immediately support the return of children and adolescents to educational activities, in safe and protective learning areas, in the six most affected municipalities of Villa Clara (4) and Camagüey (2), through the OCHA emergency funding mechanism, CERF.
- UNICEF is also working on a proposed Action Plan that will focus on supporting the rehabilitation of schools and the upgrading of their water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, which will include all municipalities most affected in Santi Spiritus, Ciego de Avila and Havana Provinces, where the most severe damage to the Education Sector is reported.

UNESCO

- UNESCO is working to identify possible damage in schools in affected municipalities to support the rehabilitation of educational centers and to guarantee safe learning spaces.
- UNESCO is working on the development of a project, which complements UNICEF's activities, to ensure the preparation of teachers for the development and implementation of strategies aimed at post-disaster psychopedagogical care in the most affected municipalities.



Logistics

Damage:

- According to estimates, damage has affected warehouse viability and infrastructure in the most affected provinces (vital for the transportation and storage of food and other key products). Authorities are currently assessing the damage.
- A 400-meter landslide occurred on the Via Blanca, the highway that connects the eastern part of Havana to Matanzas Province, at kilometre 44.
- Damage was also reported on roads that provide access to the Central Region's keys ("cayos") along the northern coastline, which are among the most important tourism areas in the country.

Response:

- Maintenance work is being carried out on roads and to re-establish access to isolated areas.

WFP:

- WFP will support the Government of Cuba to strengthen institutional food storing and protection capacities.
- WFP made available five mobile storage units (MSUs) that are being dispatched to the Ciego de Avila and Villa Clara Provinces, in coordination with the Government, and will support local authorities to protect the food slated for the population.
- Given the extent of the damage, WFP is mobilizing additional funding to purchase other MSUs.
- WFP is in contact with its Headquarters and Regional Office to ensure timely and effective assistance based on national needs.

General Coordination

The UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) continues to analyze the damage caused by Hurricane Irma and define the most affected areas. As part of the response plan, it was agreed to seek an immediate application to the Emergency Cash Grant Funds from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In addition, the UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) is working on a first draft of the application to the Central Emergency Action Fund (CERF), a humanitarian fund established by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

UNETT is also working on a draft of the Plan of Action of the United Nations System (UNS) in response to Hurricane Irma.

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

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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/>

Cubadebate: <http://www.cubadebate.cu>

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