

Response to Hurricane Irma: Cuba

Situation Report No. 8. Office of the Resident Coordinator

(15/09/ 2017)



This report is produced by the Office of the Resident Coordinator. It covers the period from 14:00 hrs. on September 014th to 12:00 hrs. on September 15th. The next report will be issued on or around 16/09.

Highlights

- President Raul Castro Ruz called upon the Cuban people to calmly combat the damage caused by Hurricane Irma and stated that the State would keep the population informed about the emergency situation that the country is currently facing. He also warned about the intensity of the current hurricane season, normally occurring during this time of year, which will extend until November.
- The Cuban Civil Defense reported that Hurricane Irma forced the evacuation of 1,738,000 people throughout the national territory. Eighty-six percent of evacuees stayed in neighbors' or family homes and 13% in evacuation centers. Currently, more than 26,000 people remain evacuated.
- About 90 oil wells, located along the northern coast in the west and center of the country, were damaged by Hurricane Irma's strong waves and storm surge. This impact adds to the severe damage caused to the national electric power system that remains during the Recovery Phase.
- The Ministry of Agriculture confirm severe damage to the agricultural sector. The most serious impact is concentrated in the poultry and pig sectors with more than 145,000 affected animals. In Camagüey alone, the deaths of more than 10,000 birds reduced egg availability to 25,000 units per day.
- The National Bureau of Statistics and Information announced that it is working on the assessment of Hurricane Irma damage. Preliminary figures will be ready in the next few days.

Remedios/ Alejandro Ernesto-EFE.



Punta Alegre, Chambas/ Eric Yanes



Caibarién/ Alejandro Ernesto-EFE.



*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

A week after Hurricane Irma hit Cuba's northern coast, recovery efforts to restore basic services to the population are intensifying in the 13 affected provinces.

The National Bureau of Statistics and Information announced that it continues the evaluation of economic and social damage in order to issue a preliminary report in the coming days. The main impacts have been identified in the electric power system, water supply, housing, agriculture and food production, health, education and tourism, among other socioeconomic sectors.

An unspecified number of communities in several provinces of the country still remain isolated due river flooding. Impacts are also reported throughout telecommunication, radio and television systems caused by the falling of electric towers. Some areas, mainly in the west and center of the island, remain without electric power service, and water is currently being supplied to the population via tank trucks.

Particularly in the capital, and in other cities of the country, environmental sanitation and pest control are being prioritized due the risk of epidemiological diseases caused by rain, water and the accumulation of waste in the streets.

The Armed Forces continue to work in environmental sanitation in affected areas.

In Havana, the authorities applied a price reduction to processed foods sold in the most affected areas. The city, with more than 2.2 million inhabitants, continues to face electric power system and water supply damage. Damage to the communications system remains as well. Several works are being carried out to restore vital access roads between the eastern and western parts of the city, such as the tunnel that runs through the Havana Bay.

Humanitarian Response

National authorities

President Raul Castro Ruz called upon the Cuban people to calmly support efforts to address the damage caused by Hurricane Irma and stated that the State will keep the population informed about the emergency situation that the country is currently facing. National media have published details of the National Defense Council meeting, headed by the President of the Cuban Civil Defense last Wednesday. During the meeting, the President urged a continuance of the best experiences put into practice at the local level after the impact of Hurricanes Sandy and Matthew in 2012 and 2016, respectively.

He also warned about the intensity of the current hurricane season, a regular period during this time of year, which will extend until November.

The President of the National Assembly of People's Power, Esteban Lazo, participated in a meeting with the Provincial Defense Council of Havana to review ongoing actions during the Hurricane Recovery Phase following the devastation of Hurricane Irma in the capital city.

In all the affected provinces, the Provincial and Municipal Defense Councils are monitoring the Recovery Phase work daily and updating the preliminary assessment of damage.

The Cuban Civil Defense reported that Hurricane Irma forced the evacuation of 1,738,000 people throughout the national territory. Eighty-six percent of evacuees stayed in neighbors' or family homes. Currently, more than 26,000 people remain evacuated.

International Cooperation

In addition to the aid donations from Venezuela and Panama, US \$150,000 was given by the Thai Binh Trade and Investment Corporation to the Cuban Embassy in Vietnam.

A message from the Government of the Czech Republic expressed a willingness to assist Cuba in the energy and food sectors.

The South African Friends of Cuba Society announced the creation of a solidarity aid fund.

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

Sectors



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

To date, no outbreaks of communicable diseases have been reported in evacuation centers or in any territory.

Province	Current situation and response:
Artemisa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province is returning to normal life, while continuing to prioritize sanitation activities and the supply of drinking water.
La Habana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No epidemiological emergencies have been reported in Havana. About 367 blocks in Havana neighborhoods are being cleaned, including the review and decontamination of cisterns and collection of solid waste. An ecological landfill was made available to dispose of fallen trees following Hurricane Irma. Five hundred and sixteen health units were damaged and work is being done to rehabilitate them in the shortest time possible. Priority is given to environmental sanitation and vector control activities. Sanitation actions in 1,893 cisterns were completed. Eight pumping stations in the southern basin aqueduct system are connected to the national electric power system. More than 58,000 cubic meters of solid waste were collected. Significant work is being carried out to clean streets, including vector control actions, and in the cleaning of backyards, roofs and corridors of dwellings.
Mayabeque	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An integral sanitation strategy is being implemented in neighborhoods and areas with hundreds of trees, plantations and crops destroyed.
Matanzas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives are being implemented to increase the water supply through tank trucks and the mobilization of workers to support urban sanitation.
Sancti Spíritus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources of the water supply were replenished. Although the supply to the city is limited as a result of leaks in the Tuinucú-Macaguabo main pipeline, the province has maintained the service with generating sets and water tank trucks.
Camagüey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Santa Cruz Del Sur, one of the most affected municipalities, drinking water is being provided.
Villa Clara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairing water pumping stations is a priority. The water supply service to the population is currently at 42% coverage. There is an initiative in the territory to restore operations of the factory for plastic containers for bottled water, which has seen a 200% increase in demand. Out of 477,000 people, about half have access to water.
Ciego de Ávila	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One hundred and five health care facilities were damaged, mostly Family Doctor's Offices, as well as 24 pharmacies.
Las Tunas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the Informative Phase for Hurricane Irma was activated, 31,555 cubic meters of solid waste have been collected in Las Tunas. Several work brigades trimmed 18,880 and culled 1,257 trees, all as part of the hygiene work undertaken in the province.
Holguín	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state community services agency is prioritizing the collection of more than 38,000 cubic meters of solid waste in the territory.

UNICEF

- UNICEF is delivering 3 million tablets for water purification, providing coverage to about 44,000 people. UNICEF is proposing to distribute them to Caibarien Municipality, providing an essential response over the

next 6 to 18 months to support access to safe water and sanitation of families in the most affected municipalities of Camagüey and Ciego de Avila.

- UNICEF will immediately provide regional emergency funds to support families in the municipalities of Caibarién and Camajuaní with water purification tablets and 10-liter containers for safe water storage.
- UNICEF is preparing a proposal for an emergency response to immediately support families living in the most affected municipalities of Villa Clara (6) and Sancti Spiritus (1) through the OCHA emergency funding mechanism, CERF.



Food Security and Nutrition

Damages:

- The Ministry of Agriculture reported that plantain, poultry and pork production, the three primary food sources in the country, were the most affected by Hurricane Irma. The most severe damage is found in the poultry sector, with dozens of poultry farms for egg production having lost their roofs. In Camagüey Province alone, more than 10,000 birds died, representing a reduction in the availability of 25,000 eggs per day.
- Damage was reported from Camagüey to Matanzas Provinces. In the central provinces, especially in the most affected municipalities along the northern coast, damage to the agricultural and livestock sector had a significant impact on the livelihoods of local populations, farmers and fishers.
- Even though damage to the agricultural sector is still being assessed, the loss of significant amounts of planned production for the third quarter of the year have been confirmed. This will affect the availability of food for the population including plantains and other tubers, vegetables, basic grains, fruits, seedlings, eggs and pork. Severe damage continues to be reported to livestock, fish and poultry infrastructure.
- Impacts to food commercialization and access, such as damage to warehouses, bakeries, markets, stores and commercial establishments, as well as shelters that stored tons of food, was also reported. In severely affected Villa Clara, some production is being completed through the use of power generators, but this not sufficient to cover the high demand. Major public concerns regard shortages and sources for the cooking of food.

Impacts on:	Main damage (Data from Ministry of Agriculture)
Agricultural Production	More than 50,500 hectares
Plantain	26,915 hectares
Rice	1,900 hectares
Yucca	4,520 hectares
Corn	12,569 hectares (nearly ready for harvest)
Citrus	123 hectares
Infrastructure	22 growing houses destroyed and 52 partially damaged Rice dryers
Livestock	More than 145,000 animals affected
Poultry	383 poultry houses, including 77 with entirely damaged roofs 71,800 laying poultry
Cattle	553 facilities 89 windmills 147,000 m ² of roofs 1,600 cow deaths, mostly calves

Impacts on:	Main damage (Data from Ministry of Agriculture)
Pigs	370 facilities 15,000 m ² of damaged roofs 75,000 outdoor breeding animals 866 pig deaths

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.
- Products of the government food basket (“canasta básica”), especially eggs, are being guaranteed.
- 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. Food is guaranteed in evacuation centres and places that have no electricity in the form of chicken, sausages, hot dogs, cheese, broth and fast foods.
- Sugar harvesting and cane seeding strategies have been redesigned for the coming autumn sowing season and work is underway in the livestock recovery program.
- Crop rehabilitation and seeding of short-cycle crops has been intensified to cope with shortages. Support teams have been formed and the available seeds, fertilizer and pesticides are being used.
- A reorganization is underway to evaluate which sites have suitable conditions to receive kerosene and alcohol, while making use of available gas.
- 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.

**Shelter and Early Recovery**

According to the National Office of Statistics and Information, the assessment of damage caused by Hurricane Irma and preliminary figures will be available in the next few days.

Damages:**HOUSING**

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 Spiritus	4,000 houses damaged, including 422 collapsed		Damage reported in eight municipalities with the most severe damage in Yaguajay and Sancti Spiritus
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:

- The Artemisa Fibrocementos Factory contributed 18,000 tiles to the recovery process, of which only 1,400 remain to be distributed in the most affected areas of Villa Clara, Camagüey, Matanzas and La Habana Provinces.

ELECTRICITY

- The country has recovered 70% of its power service.
- The hurricane affected 2,300 primary electric circuits throughout Cuba, of which 644 are still down.
- Although many damaged primary circuits have been repaired, there are still complaints from the population. There are still 2,600 damages in the secondary network, affecting some 10,000 people.

Matanzas

- 154,269 customers have electricity. Of the 174 primary circuits, 100 already have service.

ENVIRONMENT

Sancti Spíritus

- More than 4,000 hectares of mangroves were affected in the Caguanes National Park, part of the Bahía de Buenavista Biosphere Reserve, in the north of Sancti Spiritus Province. Preliminary estimates indicate that some 50 million Cuban pesos are needed for its recovery.
- The Cayo Caguanes Biological Station, used for monitoring and environmental protection was also damaged.
- Close to 500 flamingos and some three tons of fish perished in the different systems of the seven stone keys within Caguanes.
- Monitoring is still underway regarding impacts on the iguana population.
- The Jobo Rosado Protected Area was heavily affected and its natural forest lost much of its secondary vegetation. A detailed assessment of the magnitude of the damage is still underway.
- The small beaches on the stone keys in northern Sancti Spiritus Province have virtually disappeared.

COMMUNICATION

- To support the country's recovery in the telecommunications sector, the Telecommunications Company of Cuba has sent 402 workers to the most affected provinces.

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.

IOM:

- IOM is part of the coordinated response of the United Nations System to support and complement the Cuban Government's efforts to address the effects of Hurricane Irma.
- IOM is jointly mobilizing funds for the immediate assistance of evacuees through the provision of basic non-food items through the CERF funding mechanism.
- In addition, IOM is supporting the Housing and Early Recovery Sector to mobilize financial resources through the Action Plan to facilitate the return of evacuees to their homes by providing kits to repair affected housing.
- The Director General of IOM has approved US \$100,000.00 to support assistance to the recovery and transition of affected families.



Damages:

Overview of health services in most affected provinces:

		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
Santo 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 de 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%)

- Dr. Roberto Morales Ojeda, Minister of Public Health, reported that 516 health units were damaged and that works are being carried out to restore them as soon as possible.

- Today, 15 September, in Havana, there is only one basic health care center without electric power service and three health institutions receiving water by tank trucks.
- In Havana, most of the impacts in health sector facilities were reported at the Marcio Mandule 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:

- Raúl Castro, General of the Army, held a meeting with the leaders of the Party, the State and the Government, in which they evaluated damage caused by Hurricane Irma and indicated the actions to be carried out during the Recovery Phase.
- Comprehensive teams of specialists in epidemiology, vector control, environmental health and other areas of MINSAP visited provinces affected by Hurricane Irma to join local teams in assessing damage to health services, guiding recovery efforts and preventing outbreaks as a result of the hurricane.
- MINSAP officials, along with the government and the population, are supporting recovery actions in areas of Vedado.
- 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 MINSAP campaign for the prevention of water and vector borne diseases is being intensified by the mass media.
- Epidemiological surveillance is being actively strengthened, searching for nonspecific febrile illnesses along with other control measures.

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 emergency fund implementation process has begun, initiating a response to national needs. Health sector response planning is in progress.

UNFPA:

- As a result of the actions of the UNFPA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (LACRO), 900 hygiene kits, previously located in Panama and valued on US \$27,000, will be shipped to Cuba on Sunday, 17 September.
- UNFPA in Cuba has requested the acquisition of 37 Sexual and Reproductive Health Kits (see table below), with the approval of emergency funding.

KIT No.	Description	Quantity
Kit No. 4	Oral and Injectable Contraception Kit	12
Kit No. 6A	Clinical Delivery Assistance Kit - Reusable Equipment	8
Kit No. 6B	Clinical Delivery Assistance Kit - Drugs and Disposable Equipment	8
Kit No. 11A	Referral Level, Reusable Equipment Kit	6
Kit No. 11B	Referral Level, Drugs and Disposable Equipment	3

- LACRO is processing the purchase of 1,000 additional hygiene kits, approved as a result of the emergency funding.
- UNFPA it is finalizing a CERF proposal for US \$405,031.


Education
Damages:

- Teaching activities have been re-established throughout the country this week. Schools that were not damaged have resumed their classes and those with partial damage divided their classes into morning and afternoon sessions. In the case of severely damaged schools, students relocated to other facilities, including family homes or institutions.
- 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.
Cienfuegos	More than 60 schools were damaged, mostly partially, although in Cienfuegos Municipality around 40 were damaged by trees falling on perimeter fences and lightweight roofs.	Damage to José Luis Tassende and José Antonio Saco Schools caused the temporary transfer of students to Dionisio San Román Special School and Ignacio Agramonte Primary School, respectively. Both schools are distant from students' homes and the measure has generated discontent among parents. Fourth grade students were relocated to Rafael Espinosa Junior High

Province	Damage	Return to school
		School or José Rafael Siverio Talaveras Junior High School, where classrooms were relocated to areas not affected by the hurricane.
Camagüey	In the municipality of Esmeralda, 30 schools have been damaged.	The President of the Defense Council in the province of Camagüey reiterated that in order to resume classes, all damaged educational facilities must be certified by the Ministries of Health and Education as having the necessary conditions to accommodate students.
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 psycho-pedagogical care in the most affected municipalities.

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, the UNDMT is still working on an immediate application plan 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
Situation Report No. 7	https://goo.gl/P67Qc7	https://goo.gl/qnBX5B

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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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To be added to or removed from the distribution list, please write to: liudmila.curbelo@one.un.org