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## Emergency appeal Cuba: Hurricane Irma

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRCU004

25,000 people (5,000 families) to be assisted

Appeal launched 15 September 2017

Glide n° [TC-2017-000132-CUB](#)

453,459 Swiss francs DREF allocated

Appeal ends 15 September 2018

7,056,160 Swiss francs current Appeal budget

This emergency appeal seeks a total of **7,056,160** Swiss francs on a preliminary basis to enable the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** to support the **Cuban Red Cross (CRC)** to deliver assistance and support to some **25,000 people for 12 months**. The operation focuses on the following sectors: **water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), shelter (including non-food items), restoring family links (RFL) and National Society capacity building**. The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this point in the evolving operation, and will be adjusted based on further developments and more detailed assessments. The complete Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) will be made available shortly.

### The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

**30 August 2017:** Irma is formed as a tropical wave near the Cape Verde Islands. It is the ninth named storm, the fourth hurricane and the second most important hurricane of the Atlantic hurricane season of 2017.

**6 September 2017:** The IFRC Regional Communications Manager is deployed to Cuba to support the CRC.

**9 September 2017:** Hurricane Irma, Category 5, strikes Cuba with hurricane winds, heavy rains and high waves, affecting the centre and north of the island.

**13 September 2017:** The IFRC Surge Capacity is deployed to Cuba – Head of Country Cluster Office for the Latin Caribbean, and Disaster Management / Emergency Shelter Coordinator.

**15 September 2017:** 453,459 Swiss francs advanced from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) as a loan to enable CRC to start responding to the needs of affected people

**15 September 2017:** The IFRC issues an Emergency Appeal for 7,056,160 Swiss francs to assist 25,000 people for 12 months.



In the province of Ciego de Avila, Cuban Red Cross teams evacuated more than 1,000 seniors living in residential care centres.  
Source: CRC.

### The operational strategy

#### Background

Hurricane Irma impacted Cuba from the morning of 8 September to the afternoon of Sunday 10 September with strong winds, rains and coastal flooding affecting central and northern Cuba. More than two million people were

sheltered in collective centres and host families<sup>1</sup>. There have been sea surges in many communities and waves of between six and eight metres have been reported.

To date, ten deaths are reported in the areas of Havana, Matanzas, Camagüey and Ciego de Ávila. At least 13 of the country's 15 provinces were directly affected where 10.1 million people live (89 per cent of Cuba's population). The President of Cuba described the damage as severe, particularly in the housing, electricity, water distribution, agriculture and tourism sectors. In addition, 1,400 educational facilities across the country have been damaged. However, authorities are already in the process of identifying alternative solutions to resume school classes this week if possible<sup>2</sup>. Cuba decreed a recovery phase for the provinces that were in the phase of alert. Local teams from the least affected provinces have joined the work of rehabilitating basic services for the population and for the operation of the main state sectors.

The Government of Cuba is strongly advocating for hygiene and sanitary measures to prevent outbreaks of disease.

Since Irma was declared as a hurricane, the CRC prepared its national teams to respond to the situation. On 6 September 2017, more than 7,000 volunteers were deployed to support state agencies.

More than 877 CRC volunteers supported the evacuation of some 5,000 people in the provinces of Guantánamo, Holguín, Las Tunas, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila and Villa Clara. Also, the CRC has installed 117 offices in the provinces affected by the hurricane to support the RFL activities through its extensive network of amateur radio volunteers. Each office has 3 to 4 volunteers who help to re-establish and maintain contact between family members separated by the disaster.

In the collective centres, the CRC is providing first aid, psychosocial support and assisting with some activities to register affected people and distribute humanitarian assistance. In addition, the CRC is supporting communities and collective centres with hygienic and sanitary measures. Furthermore, CRC volunteers are supporting the local authorities working at the provincial, municipal and community levels.



### Needs assessment

Hurricane Irma caused severe damage to homes, infrastructure and communities. At present, government officials are working to remove debris from highways and roads to facilitate the mobilization of food, medicines and relief supplies, as well as reconstruction materials urgently needed in the affected provinces. Based on preliminary information, the CRC estimates that at least 50,000 families could have been severely or moderately exposed to direct damages caused by the hurricane.

Per information reported by the United Nations office in Cuba in coordination with the government, severe damage to the housing sector is being assessed, due to the extensive penetration of the sea and the strong winds. Total and partial landslides have occurred, but accurate data is not yet available. The most affected provinces include Matanzas, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila, Havana, Camagüey, Holguín and Las Tunas.

Sea surges, damage to sanitary facilities, and the overflow of rivers and streams have contaminated cisterns all along the northern coast of the affected municipalities. In Havana, the electricity supply that guarantees the pumping of water continues to be affected. In relation to the hygiene needs, the CRC will work with the Ministry of Health to assess the differentiated needs of affected groups (women, children, elderly and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex individuals).

<sup>1</sup> Hurricane Irma Response - Cuba Situation Report no. 4 of the Office of the Resident Coordinator (11 September 2017): <http://reliefweb.int/report/cuba/respuesta-al-hurac-n-irma-cuba-reporte-de-situaci-n-no-04-de-la-oficina-de-la>

<sup>2</sup> Government of Cuba, 11 September 2017: <http://reliefweb.int/report/cuba/las-clases-volver-n-la-normalidad-paulatinamente>

Preliminary assessment information indicates that the immediate needs of affected families include the restoration of electrical service, family kits including bedding, long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets, kitchen sets, tarpaulins, hygiene related items such as chlorine tablets, water filters, buckets, jerrycans, hygiene kits and roof repair materials (zinc sheets and tools).

Given the extent of the affected areas, it has not been possible to quantify damage in housing and data is not yet available in most of the provinces impacted by the hurricane.

### **Selection of beneficiaries**

As damage and needs assessments are ongoing, not all affected people have been registered, hence the selection of beneficiaries will be finalized once complete results of the assessments are available. However, with preliminary figures of families with partial or complete damage to their homes, the CRC will select families in coordination with government authorities and other agencies providing humanitarian aid. The selection criteria will include: households with female heads of households, households with elderly people and/or people living with disabilities. The selection of beneficiaries will be carried out in the most affected provinces of **Matanzas, Clear Villa, Las Tunas, Havana, Holguin and Camagüey.**

### **Overall objective**

The overall objective of the operation is to support the CRC to ensure that immediate humanitarian and early recovery needs of at least 25,000 people (5,000 families) affected by hurricane Irma in the most affected provinces are met through the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (including purification of drinking water, storage and hygiene items), RFL, as well as a strong shelter component for the replacement of lost basic household items and the repair of damaged roofing.

The operation will take into account the lessons learned from the Sandy operation and the capacity gained by the CRC during that operation.

The EPoA will be adjusted as required based on detailed field assessments.



## **Coordination and Partnerships**



Prior to the impact of hurricane Irma, the CRC, in its auxiliary role to the public authorities, coordinated preparedness and response actions with government authorities at the community, municipal and provincial level.

The Civil Defense Council is the institution responsible for the response to the disaster and leads the response efforts. The Council oversees and provides guidelines to the provincial defense councils who are in turn responsible for identifying and registering the affected population and the implementation of relief activities. The local branches of the CRC are part of these councils.

The UN agencies (OCHA, UNICEF, FAO, WFP), the Pan-American Health Organization and other humanitarian agencies (DG-ECHO) are currently coordinating with the Government of Cuba to support the response and mobilise staff to back up assessments. The governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, China, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Uruguay, Russia, Venezuela and Vietnam have expressed their willingness to help Cuba in its recovery efforts.

The IFRC will work jointly with the CRC and the Ministry of Health to support training to volunteers and communities on sexual-based violence and child protection, if required by the Government.

### **Overview of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in country**

The IFRC maintains constant support and coordination with the CRC through its Country Cluster Support Team based in Haiti, and through the Regional Office for the Americas based in Panama. IFRC's communications manager from the Regional Office was deployed from the onset of the emergency to support the National Society. In addition, the head of the Country Cluster Support Team and the regional disaster management coordinator (also emergency shelter focal point) were deployed to the country on 13 September to coordinate response actions of this operation. The sectors and needs addressed by this Emergency Appeal have been identified by the CRC in coordination with the government. Furthermore, the IFRC and the CRC have already

had meetings with DG-ECHO in the field to coordinate response actions. Two additional Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members (general and shelter) could be made available for deployment if needed.

The Norwegian Red Cross, who has had presence in the country, has also deployed one staff member to support the National Society's response efforts. In addition, two delegates (one from the Canadian Red Cross Society and one from the Spanish Red Cross) have been deployed on 14 September with the aim to contribute to the response requirements of the Cuban Red Cross. The Canadian Red Cross Society is also coordinating with the National Society and IFRC to dispatch relief items for 500 families.

The IFRC has maintained regular coordination and communication with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the Partner National Societies to provide updates of the situation in Cuba (as well as other countries affected by Irma), and the actions planned by the CRC. Information is shared also through the hurricane Irma Dashboard available [here](#).

In terms of logistics, the CRC currently uses the government storage facilities and storage facilities in the branches. Customs clearance process could be executed as per emergency procedures in Cuba, but subject to confirmation of the Government. As part of the first response activities, the CRC mobilised their stockpiles of relief items to the affected areas. To coordinate the additional relief items needed and avoid duplication, the mobilisation table will be updated and shared on a regular basis. As the local supply chain is non-existent, regional and international sourcing will be used with the support of IFRC Logistics specialists. All procurement related to this appeal will follow the IFRC's standard procurement procedures.

## Proposed sectors of intervention

	<b>Water; Sanitation; Hygiene promotion</b>
<b>Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities</b>	
<b>Output 1.1: Daily access to safe water is provided through water treatment solutions at household level to the target population (5,000 families)</b>	
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid assessments</li> <li>• Identify target communities in coordination with local authorities for beneficiary selection and registration</li> <li>• Purchase materials and items in line with IFRC procedures</li> <li>• Distribution of chlorine tables (with a 60-day duration), jerrycans (2 per family), buckets with lids and water filters for 5,000 families<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Hire a WASH officer</li> </ul>	
<b>Output 1.2: Hygiene-related goods which meet Sphere standards are provided to the target population</b>	
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase of 5,000 hygiene kits</li> <li>• Purchase of 10,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets (LLITN) (2 per family)</li> <li>• Distribute hygiene kits and LLITN for 5,000 families.</li> <li>• Reproduce and print hygiene promotion materials and distribution at community level</li> <li>• Carry out hygiene promotion training for volunteers</li> <li>• Carry out community workshops on hygiene promotion in coordination with authorities</li> </ul>	
	<b>Shelter (including household non-food items)</b>
<b>Outcome 2: The immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population (5,000 families) are met</b>	

<sup>3</sup> Each family will receive under this output chlorine tables, one bucket, two jerrycans and one water filter.

**Output 2.1: Essential Household Items (EHI)/non-food items (NFI) and emergency shelter assistance are provided to the target population (5,000 families)**

Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary selection and registration strategy for delivery of humanitarian aid
- Purchase and dispatch of 5,000 shelter kits (2 tarpaulins and 1 shelter tool kits)
- Purchase and dispatch of 5,000 kitchen kits
- Purchase and dispatch of 10,000 bedding sets (2 per family)
- Distribute non-food items
- Provision of basic technical orientation for volunteers and beneficiaries in the construction of emergency shelters
- Conduct monitoring and evaluation of distribution activities

**Outcome 3: The target population (5,000 families) has durable and sustainable shelter solutions**

**Output 3.1 Durable shelter solutions that meets agreed standards are provided**

Activities planned:

- Develop community and beneficiary selection strategy in coordination with authorities of the local government
- Deployment of emergency shelter focal point / disaster management coordinator
- Purchase of reconstruction materials for damaged roofing (300,000 zinc sheets as well as nails, wood, tools and ladder)
- Carry out community workshops on roof repairs
- Deployment of a Regional Intervention Team member specialized in shelter
- Hire a shelter technician
- Conduct Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) training for volunteers
- PASSA training at community level and implementation of activities
- Carry out supervision and monitoring of housing and roof repairs



**Restoring Family Links**

**Outcome 4: People in areas affected by hurricane Irma are able to inform their family of their fate**

**Output 4.1: Radio services for affected population who are not able to contact their families**

Activities planned:

- CRC teams support people to contact their families through their radio network



**National Society capacity building<sup>4</sup>**

**Outcome 5: The capacity of the CRC to respond to emergency operations is strengthened**

**Output 5.1: The National Society identifies areas to strengthen based on a plan of action to enhance its emergency response capacity**

Activities planned:

- Strengthen institutional capacities - Well Prepared National Society (WPNS)

**Output 5.2: The operational and relief teams are equipped and trained to provide support authorities in preparedness and relief efforts.**

Activities planned:

- Carry out training for the management of Emergency Operation Centres (five provinces and headquarters) and equipment.
- Carry out National Intervention Team (NIT) workshops
- Provide office equipment to support the response operation (laptop and printer)
- Purchase of four tents for volunteers mobilized to the field
- Acquire visibility (t-shirt and caps) and personal protection equipment (gloves, raincoats) for volunteers

<sup>4</sup> This sector will be revised with the IFRC team deployed in-country and the National Society to define further the National Society's capacity building needs.

In addition to the sectors above, the operation will be underpinned by a commitment to quality programming that involves:

- Continuous and detailed assessments and analysis to inform the design and ongoing implementation of the programme
- Ongoing process of adjustment based on these assessments
- The establishment of mechanisms to facilitate two-way communication with, and ensure transparency and accountability to, disaster-affected people
- Management and delivery of the programme will be informed by appropriate monitoring and evaluation.

The detailed plan of action under quality programming is as follows:

<b>Quality programming (areas common to all sectors)</b>
<b>Outcome 6: An effective response to the disaster is ensured</b>
<b>Output 6.1: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation</b>
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilize CRC volunteers and staff to carry out rapid assessments</li> <li>• Conduct detailed damage and needs assessments (sectoral and multi-sectoral based on requirements)</li> <li>• Develop an EPoA based on detailed assessments.</li> <li>• Deployment of IFRC staff</li> <li>• Recruit IFRC operations manager</li> <li>• Recruit local operation coordinator</li> <li>• Coordinate with local authorities</li> <li>• Monitoring visits</li> <li>• Carry out beneficiary satisfaction survey and perceptions surveys</li> <li>• Final Evaluation and Lessons learned workshop</li> </ul>
<b>Output 6.2: Community engagement and accountability activities help target communities and families have access to life-saving and actionable information to take action on their safety, health, and wellbeing, through engagement with the Red Cross to influence and guide action</b>
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and continue dissemination of targeted messages and community engagement material for local media (community radios and print media), volunteers, local and traditional leaders, churches, schools and other stakeholders in support of sectoral interventions.</li> <li>• Scale up existing dialogue platforms (call-in radio programmes and print-media) in support of all sectors.</li> <li>• Rumour and feedback tracking systems established to tackle misinformation originating from target population</li> </ul>

### Programme support services

To ensure effective and efficient technical coordination, the following programme support functions will be put in place: **human resources, logistics and supply chain; information technology (IT); information management (IM); communication; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); partnerships and resource development; finance and administration; legal and risk management.**

## Budget

See attached IFRC Secretariat budget ([Annex 1](#)) for details.

Jagan Chapagain  
Under Secretary General  
Programmes and Operations Division

Elhadj As Sy  
Secretary General

## Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [Map of the affected areas](#)
- [Emergency Appeal budget](#)

### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

#### In the Cuban Red Cross:

- Luis Foyo M.D.; Executive President of the Cuban Red Cross; phone: +537 206-1055; email: [crsn@infomed.sld.cu](mailto:crsn@infomed.sld.cu)

#### In the IFRC country cluster office for Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti:

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#### For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

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#### For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- Stephany Murillo, regional logistics senior officer, phone: +507 317 3050; mobile: +507 6679-9674, email: [stephany.murillo@ifrc.org](mailto:stephany.murillo@ifrc.org)

#### For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- Priscila Gonzalez; planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting team coordinator; email: [priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org](mailto:priscila.gonzalez@ifrc.org)

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives,**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence and peace.**

**EMERGENCY APPEAL**  
MDRCU004 Cuba Hurricane IRMA

15/09/2017

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	297,144			297,144
Shelter - Transitional	0			0
Construction - Housing	0			0
Construction - Facilities	0			0
Construction - Materials	4,156,898			4,156,898
Clothing & Textiles	287,559			287,559
Food	0			0
Seeds & Plants	0			0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	372,312			372,312
Medical & First Aid	0			0
Teaching Materials	35,466			35,466
Utensils & Tools	157,199			157,199
Other Supplies & Services	0			0
Emergency Response Units	0			0
Cash Disbursements	0			0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>5,306,576</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,306,576</b>
Land & Buildings	0			0
Vehicles	0			0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	28,756			28,756
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0			0
Medical Equipment	0			0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0			0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>28,756</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28,756</b>
Storage, Warehousing	0			0
Distribution & Monitoring	470,637			470,637
Transport & Vehicle Costs	35,466			35,466
Logistics Services	247,013			247,013
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>753,116</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>753,116</b>
International Staff	172,535			172,535
National Staff	66,714			66,714
National Society Staff	45,000			45,000
Volunteers	63,503			63,503
Other Staff Benefits	0			0
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>347,751</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>347,751</b>
Consultants	19,171			19,171
Professional Fees	25,000			25,000
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>44,171</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44,171</b>
Workshops & Training	64,221			64,221
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>64,221</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64,221</b>
Travel	48,885			48,885
Information & Public Relations	4,601			4,601
Office Costs	8,435			8,435
Communications	12,940			12,940
Financial Charges	1,150			1,150
Other General Expenses	0			0
Shared Office and Services Costs	4,900			4,900
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>80,911</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80,911</b>
Partner National Societies	0			0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0			0
<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	430,658			430,658
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>430,658</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>430,658</b>
Pledge Earmarking & Reporting Fees	0			0
<b>Total PLEDGE SPECIFIC COSTS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>7,056,160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,056,160</b>
<b>Available Resources</b>				
Multilateral Contributions				0
Bilateral Contributions				0
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS</b>	<b>7,056,160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,056,160</b>



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر



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The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, ICRC, IFRC

