

# FINAL REPORT



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

## CUBA: HURRICANE CHARLEY

8 June 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

### In Brief

**Request for Assistance No. 20/2004; Interim Final Report; Period covered: 8 September 2004 to 8 March 2005; Coverage of Request for Assistance: 9.1%. (*Interim Financial Report to be attached shortly. Click here to go to the contributions list*)**

#### History of Request for Assistance:

- Launched on 8 September 2004 for CHF 2,419,000 (USD 1,905,168 or EUR 1,576,163) for 6 months to assist 25,000 beneficiaries (5,000 families).
- Timeframe of Operation extended for four months to 8 July 2005
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Caribbean: Hurricane Ivan Emergency Appeal (21/2004)**

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

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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### Background and Summary

On 13 August 2004, Cuba was severely impacted by the passage of Hurricane Charley which hit at 12.15 hours in the region of Punta Cayama, between Guanimar and El Cajío, on the south coast of the Province of La Habana. Hurricane Charley, a category 3 storm, hit the Provinces of Ciudad de la Habana and La Habana with fierce winds of 170 kph and squalls of over 200 kph. The passage of the storm resulted in flooding of low-lying areas of the south coast, in particular in the Province of La Habana. In anticipation of the storm, the Civil Defence ensured

## Cuba: Hurricane Charley; Request for Assistance no. 20/04; Interim Final Report

evacuation of 215,532 people from high-risk areas, of whom 35,794 took refuge in temporary shelters, whilst the remainder stayed with families and friends. As a result of the passage of Hurricane Charley, over 70,000 homes incurred damage and thousands of hectares of crops were spoiled. Reports indicate that around 8,000 trees were uprooted and 95 per cent of sugarcane, bean and banana crops were seriously affected. The electricity, water and telephone networks were also severely affected. In addition, in the two Provinces, 798 schools and 312 health centres were damaged. The Province of La Habana was the most severely affected by the Hurricane.

Search and rescue operations have been finalized. However, Red Cross volunteers continue to assist those who were evacuated, of whom 132 still remained in shelters. The Cuban authorities undertook preventive measures to avoid the outbreak of disease, given the damage to health centres. Red Cross volunteers worked to support these government initiatives. In the Province of Pinar del Río, telephone communication was interrupted over an eleven day period, although, overall, the Province was less affected by the passage of the hurricane. In addition, at the time of the hurricane, water was being trucked in with tankers; this situation was as a result of drought conditions which were prevalent before Hurricane Charley hit the country. Nevertheless, water systems were further disrupted as a result of the force of the hurricane.

A request for assistance for 5,000 vulnerable beneficiary families was issued in early September, given the time necessary for damage and needs assessments to be carried out in isolated, rural communities which were struck by Hurricane Charley. CHF 100,000 was also released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) in order to start the planned relief assistance activities.



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Immediately following the impact of Hurricane Charley, delegates from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Lima Regional Delegation were deployed to Cuba. These delegates worked with personnel from the Cuban Red Cross on damage and needs assessments, beneficiary surveys and on the design of a communications strategy for the operation. Damage and needs assessments and a beneficiary survey were carried out in coordination with state and local authorities. The National Society also participated in evacuation efforts, provided care to families staying in temporary shelters, provided first aid to sick and injured persons and provided psychosocial support to persons affected by the Hurricane. In addition, the CRC distributed food to beneficiaries and informed the affected population about rules of conduct to be observed in these circumstances.

The Cuban Red Cross and the Federation have been working together with government authorities from the Department of International Relations to ensure the provision of wood materials needed complete the installation of zinc sheeting in areas affected by the passage of Hurricane Charley. The CRC has also been working with the government to ensure the provision of fuel for the transportation of zinc sheeting from storage warehouses to the selected communities.

**Cuba: Hurricane Charley; Request for Assistance no. 20/04; Interim Final Report**

Activities under this Request for Assistance have been limited by a serious lack of funding, as only 9.1 percent of the total requested amount has been received. Additional funds are urgently needed to ensure that the needs of beneficiaries affected by Hurricane Charley are sufficiently met. Given the lack of funding and the slow pace of implementation, the timeframe for the Request for Assistance has been extended for four months to 8 July 2005.

**Coordination**

The Cuban Red Cross is working in close coordination with the government authorities and other State bodies which make up the civil defence system. The Cuban Red Cross headquarters is ensuring close liaison with its provincial and municipal branches. Beneficiary criteria amongst vulnerable groups in areas prone to risk have been defined in coordination with local authorities. Logistics support for transportation and storage of relief goods is being provided by the Cuban Red Cross, with support from governmental authorities. An important relationship was established with the director of International Relations from the La Habana Provincial Assembly which helped ensure the delivery of wood for the installation of zinc sheeting. In addition, the CRC worked closely with Federation personnel on the revision of the Community Disaster Guide and the Facilitators' Manual.

**Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements, impact****Shelter**

**Objective 1: 5,000 beneficiary families (25,000 people) will be able to return to their homes as a result of the replacement or repair of damaged roofs.**

**Achievements**

Since the last operations update, 100 families, or approximately 300 people, have been able to move out of shelters and back into their homes. There are currently 132 people still living in shelters and are receiving assistance from the authorities and the Cuban Red Cross. The Cuban government is constructing new homes in safer areas for those families still remaining in shelters as the locations of their previous homes have been deemed unsafe.

To date, 341 families (1,254 beneficiaries) have received roofing materials. Additional support for this relief operation is needed to ensure that the needs of all the most seriously affected beneficiaries are met. Zinc sheeting has been distributed as follows:

Province of La Habana—Municipality of Guira de Melena (32,000 inhabitants)

Community	Sheets delivered	Number of families	Total beneficiaries	Roofs completed
Ubaldo Díaz	1,668	40	134	40
Niceto Pérez	1,086	28	101	28
Vivian Alonso	1,036	29	104	29
Cajío	947	27	102	27
Gabriel	1,011	37	143	37
Junco	1,010	29	118	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,758</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>190</b>

Province of La Habana—Municipality of Alquizar (29,000 inhabitants)

Community	Sheets delivered	Number of families	Total beneficiaries	Roofs completed
Consejo Norte	1,211	31	115	31
Consejo Sur	1,211	26	94	26
Dagame	695	18	53	18
Caimito	86	1	4	1
Pulido Guanima	3,338	75	286	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,591</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>151</b>



To date, 341 families (1,254 beneficiaries) in the province of La Habana have received roofing materials which are helping them to return to their normal lives.

### Impact

The Cuban Red Cross has been able to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable members of the population by providing them with shelter materials to enable them to return to their homes; 190 roofs have been repaired in the municipality of Guira de Melena and another 151 roofs have been completed in the municipality of Alquizar. Families in these areas have expressed their gratitude towards the Red Cross and government authorities have acknowledged the support they have received from the Red Cross.

### Constraints

The installation of zinc sheeting was delayed because the wood needed for their installation, which was provided by the government, did not arrive on time. Once the wood was made available, the installation went ahead as planned. In addition, the severe lack of funding for this operation has meant that only a small fraction of the beneficiaries originally selected to receive shelter materials have been assisted.

### Emergency Relief (Non-food items)

**Objective 1: 5,000 beneficiary families (25,000 people) will have benefited from the distribution of non-food items.**

This objective seeks to provide non-food relief items to vulnerable beneficiaries that lost all their belongings as a result of the hurricane. Items to be distributed are as follows: sheets, towels, mattresses, kitchen kits and kerosene stoves which will help people resume their normal lives. Unfortunately, no distributions have been carried out to date because of a lack of funding for this emergency operation.

### Strengthening of response capacities

**Objective 1: Both Cuban Red Cross branches in the Province of La Habana and the targeted communities will have been strengthened.**

### Achievements

A total of 20 generators have been distributed to and installed in the following branches of the Cuban Red Cross:

Community	Generators
Pinar del Rio	2
Santiago de Cuba	3
La Habana	1
Villa Clara	1
Granma	2
Sancti Spiritus	1
Guantánamo	1

Camagüey	2
Cienfuegos	1
Holguín	3
Ciego de Ávila	1
CRC headquarters	1
Held in reserve	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

A national water safety workshop was carried out in the capital city of La Havana from 5-7 April with the participation of 17 water rescue personnel from the Cuban Red Cross' water safety programme. These personnel came from all 14 provinces and the municipality of Isla de la Juventud.

Objectives of the workshop:

- Carry out a methodological training course to improve the skills of the water rescue personnel in order to enable them to respond to emergency situations on the various public beaches frequented by the Cuban population.
- Reduce the mortality rate in the areas covered by water rescue personnel, as well as in other areas frequented by the Cuban population.
- Provide water rescue personnel with the skills and equipment necessary to be able to respond to emergency situations.

A total of 1,178 members of the water safety groups from the 14 provinces and the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud received equipment such as bathing suits, t-shirts, hats and shoes. Materials are also being provided to the operational centres, such as banners and umbrellas. These items are currently being purchased by the Federation's Regional Delegation and will be provided to the Cuban Red Cross. T-shirts are also being provided to volunteers who are assisting with the Hurricane Charley relief operation.

In addition, transportation of relief items from the ports to the Red Cross warehouses and from the warehouses to the communities in the affected areas has been carried out with the assistance of state authorities, further strengthening the relationship between the Cuban Red Cross and the Cuban government.

### **Impact**

Participants in the water safety workshop have expressed their satisfaction with the workshop, in particular with the equipment provided to them to assist them in their work. The skills gained and equipment provided will enable CRC water rescue personnel to reduce the number of drowning deaths in the country. Participants also expressed their satisfaction with the support received from the Federation in this area. The CRC's water safety groups are also being strengthened through the provision of essential materials, which is allowing them to provide an important service.

The capacity of the Cuban Red Cross to respond to emergency situations has been strengthened through the distribution of generators as they allow the CRC to continue to provide essential services despite electricity outages.

### **Objective 2: To further the community-based disaster preparedness programme in the Province of La Habana.**

#### **Achievements**

The Cuban Red Cross' disaster preparedness programme is currently being implemented and plans have been drawn up to publish the Community Disaster and Emergency Guide and the Facilitators' Manual. It is planned to train Red Cross community facilitators who will work with the communities in the areas of risk mitigation and disaster preparedness. Mitigation information and education will be provided to families in order that they are in a position to make their roofing more resistant to hurricane-force winds. In addition, work is being done by national health authorities and the Cuban Red Cross to promote health and hygiene measures. These efforts have ensured that there were no outbreaks of disease following the hurricane.

**Impact**

Community disaster preparedness guarantees that the population will be prepared and be familiar with their own vulnerabilities. These efforts will help reduce the damage caused by any subsequent disaster that may affect these communities.

**Constraints**

The amount of available educational materials is limited, which makes it difficult to reach all of the affected communities with awareness raising activities.

**Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives**

- Assistance to beneficiaries is carried out in accordance with the principle of humanity, ensuring humanitarian aid reaches those most in need.
- Distributions of relief goods take place fully in accordance with the SPHERE standards.

**National Society Capacity Building**

The Cuban Red Cross has wide experience in disaster response and has a significant body of volunteers. In the wake of Hurricanes Lili and Isidore, the Cuban Red Cross undertook a similar operation in late 2002 whereby 1,000 families were assisted through the provision of zinc sheeting and nails enabling them to repair or reconstruct roofs. Furthermore, 500 families were assisted with the provision of toilets and clean water supplies with an emphasis on the promotion of health education. In addition, 500 families were provided with basic relief items and household goods through the Japanese Red Cross Society funded container project which involves pre-positioned containers of relief items placed in strategic areas for use in times of disasters. Through its response to Hurricane Charley, the Cuban Red Cross has further developed its recognition amongst government authorities and institutions in the country. Most importantly, the image of the Red Cross has been promoted among the beneficiaries of this operation, who have expressed their gratitude for the assistance received.

**Lessons learned**

- The Cuban Red Cross has considerable experience in emergency response and preparedness which has enabled the National Society to implement the operation to assist those affected by Hurricane Charley.
- The relief component of the proposed operation is assisting targeted beneficiaries to return to their normal pattern of lives. The wider operation of the Hurricane Charley operation proposes more complex capacity building measures and rehabilitation efforts; however, these efforts have been hampered by a lack of funding.
- Coordination and cooperation between the Cuban Red Cross, the Cuban government and other organizations have been strengthened through this operation. In particular, the government and other organizations helped ensure that damages were evaluated and that beneficiary needs were addressed. The volunteer capacity of the CRC has also been strengthened through this operation as CRC volunteers have not only participated in the transportation, assembly, storage and delivery of relief items, they also organized themselves in teams which went into the communities to help beneficiaries rehabilitate their roofs. Through the efforts of the CRC and the Federation, many families have been able to repair their roofs and return to their homes.

**[Contributions list below ; click here to return to the title page.](#)**

# Cuba: request for assistance, hurricane Charley

ANNEX 1

No.20/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

09/08/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>	
					<b>2,419,000</b>	<b>9.1%</b>
GREAT BRITAIN - RC		15,000	GBP	32,715	15.10.04	
JAPANESE - RC		62,900	USD	79,537	16.09.04	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		350,000	NOK	64,925	22.09.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		250,000	SEK	41,875	15.09.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				219,052	CHF	9.1%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	