

# ***CUBA: HURRICANE IRENE***

*15 October 1999*

## ***Information Bulletin N° 01***

### ***The Disaster***

Hurricane *Irene*, of category 1 force, is passing over the north-western part of Cuba with maximum winds of 120 kilometres per hour. The capital city, Havana, and the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Matanzas and the Island of Youth. The hurricane is moving north at 11 kilometres per hour and is producing heavy rain fall and high waves along the coast. Wind gusts of 90 kilometres per hour are reported in Havana and the storm is predicted to intensify.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The Cuban Red Cross has, since yesterday, assisted with the evacuation of approximately 130,000 persons along the coast with the help of more than 600 volunteers. An evaluation of damage and needs assessment is also being carried out. The Cuban Red Cross has been on full alert since 12 October and was in constant contact with the International Federation's Regional Delegation in Santo Domingo until last night when communications failed.

### ***Needs***

The Cuban Red Cross is assisting the evacuees and, in co-ordination with government authorities, evaluating needs.

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