

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: HURRICANES ISIDORE AND LILI

22 December 2003

Appeal No. 29/2002; Launched on: 8 October 2002 for 6 months for CHF 597,000 to assist 10,000 beneficiaries. The operation has been extended until 31 October 2003.

Appeal coverage: 75.2%

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: N/A

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 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

This is the interim final report on the Cuban Red Cross (CRC) relief operation following hurricanes Isidore and Lili, and is accompanied by an interim final financial report. The operation has been extended to 31 October 2003 and the final report will be issued in January 2004.

Summary

In late 2002, two hurricanes hit the island of Cuba in the space of just 11 days; Hurricane Isidore struck on 20 September and Hurricane Lili struck on 2 October. Isidore, a category 2 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale and Lili, a category 1 hurricane, reached wind speeds of 165 and 130 km/hour respectively. One person was killed as a result of a landslide. Over a million people were evacuated by the Civil Defence, assisted by Cuban Red Cross volunteers. Some 77,275 of these people had to be housed in shelters. The worst damage was caused by flooding as a result of the heavy rains that hit the western region of the country and the southern coast of the eastern provinces. Storm surges resulted in the loss of many families' belongings and household goods. The areas most affected by Isidore were the Isle of Youth and eight municipalities in the province of Pinar del Río. Following Lili, heavy rain caused serious damage in four municipalities in the province of Granma and three municipalities in the province of Santiago de Cuba.

Around 50,000 houses were damaged throughout the country, 37,000 of which were in the province of Pinar del Río; 17,481 houses were totally destroyed. Some 14 hospitals and 400 schools were affected, as were the electricity and communications networks. Cattle and poultry were lost as well as crops of fruit, coffee and tobacco.

A damage and needs assessment was conducted in the wake of the hurricanes in the municipalities and communities affected. Assessment team members assisted the population in removing debris from buildings and homes and clearing away fallen trees and mud.

Damage to housing was as follows:

Worst affected Provinces	Worst affected Municipalities	Total number of damaged houses
Pinar del Río	San Juan y Martínez, San Luis, Guane, Minas de Matahambre, Sandino, Mantua, La Palmar, Pinar del Río	37,847

Isle of Youth	Isle of Youth	3,343
Granma	Pilón, Manzanillo, Bayazmo y Niquero	1,945
Santiago de Cuba	Guamá, III Frente, Santiago de Cuba	1,066

Coordination

The Cuban Red Cross has maintained close coordination with the provincial and municipal branches involved in disaster response, and has worked in close cooperation with the government authorities and state bodies that make up the civil defence system. A coordination committee was formed out of the National Society and the provincial branches of the affected areas to facilitate the compilation and analysis of information and the coordination between institutions and governments. Coordination was ensured with NGOs, PNSs, community leaders and beneficiaries, as well as with the regional delegation in Santo Domingo (a sub regional office as of January 2003) and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU). In addition, the Cuban Red Cross mobilized approximately 4000 volunteers to assist in the relief effort.

Once the hurricanes had passed, the coordination committee began evaluating the damage and identifying the primary needs. Needs assessments were done using beneficiary surveys that were carried out in close collaboration with local government offices and community organizations. Government and municipal authorities assisted by providing transportation and fuel in order to facilitate the distribution of relief goods.

Objectives, achievements, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1 *To ensure a rapid return to normal life for 500 families affected by the disaster, through the distribution of basic relief items and household goods.*

The following household goods were provided to disaster victims who had lost all their property:

Article	Quantity
Mattresses	250
Single mattresses with covers	500
Sheets for single bed	498
Sheets for double bed	251
Kitchen kit	700
Hygiene kit	699
Bathroom towels	200
Water containers	300
Blankets	105

Of the items listed above, 300 kitchen kits, 300 hygiene kits, 300 water containers and 105 blankets were provided through the container project that is being financed by the Japanese Red Cross Society. This project consists of containers with stocks of relief goods that are strategically positioned throughout the region and are kept on stand-by in the event of a disaster. These goods were distributed to families affected by the disaster in 11 communities in the municipality of San Juan y Martinez and 8 communities in the municipality of San Luis, both in the province of Pinar del Río. The goods were also distributed to families in two communities on the Isle of Youth that lost their belongings as a result of tidal surges. The Federation financed the purchase of 699 hygiene kits and 700 kitchen kits to re-stock the containers and increase the number of beneficiary families. The additional relief goods were distributed to 18 communities on the Isle of Youth and 10 communities in La Palma.

The following chart outlines the distribution of relief goods:

Province	Pinar del Río			Isle of Youth	Total
	San Juan y Martínez	San Luis	La Palma	Isle of Youth	
Beneficiary communities	11	8	10	18	47
Hygiene kits	150	150	200	199	699
Kitchen kits	119	121	200	260	700
Single sheets	0	0	198	300	498
Double sheets	0	0	125	126	251
Mattresses	0	0	125	125	250
Individual mattresses	0	0	200	300	500
Water containers	150	150	0	0	300
Blankets	53	52	0	0	105
Bath towels	0	0	100	100	200
Beneficiary Families	312	313	710	251	1586

The same communities received zinc sheeting and supplies for roof repair in order to ensure a more significant impact of Red Cross assistance.

The Spanish Red Cross funded the purchase of two generators for the General Hospital in the municipality of Guane and the Specialized Hospital for patients with AIDS and associated diseases, both in the province of Pinar del Río. The funding also provided for the purchase of three fridges, two freezers, two washing machines, one air conditioning unit and ten ventilators.

Water and Sanitation

Objective 1: *To ensure adequate water storage and hygienic water use for 500 families affected by the disaster and dissemination of basic community health and hygiene information to prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases.*

The Cuban Red Cross operation gave priority to issues of sanitation, first aid and the psychological health of those in shelters. The CRC worked to maintain sanitary conditions in the temporary shelters, and to ensure the distribution of clean water and food to the community. The National Society's primary objectives in the area of water and sanitation were to provide toilets and clean water supplies to affected areas, and to promote health education. In addition, the CRC distributed hygiene kits to beneficiaries. Community sessions were held by volunteers to stress the importance of hygiene in preventing the spread of epidemics and controlling vectors. The importance of boiling water for drinking was also emphasized. The CRC has worked closely with the Cuban government on water and sanitation activities by supporting the government's efforts to rebuild and repair damaged houses, primarily by providing toilets and clean water systems.

Shelter

Objective 1: *To provide adequate housing for 1,000 families affected by the disaster through the reconstruction of partially or totally destroyed houses.*

The Cuban Red Cross worked with the local authorities to identify families whose roofs had been partially damaged by the hurricane winds. Careful use of the zinc sheets was ensured in order to reach the largest possible number of beneficiaries. In La Palma and the Isle of Youth complete roof repairs were undertaken.

Zinc sheeting and nails to repair roofs were procured to assist those whose houses had been severely damaged. A total of 26,500 zinc sheets, 5,000 kg of nails for metal and 4,000 kg of nails for wood were distributed. Some 1,700 zinc sheets were supplied on 25 October 2002 and transported to the provincial warehouse in Pinar del Río. By 4 December 2002 these had been supplied to 92 families (317 beneficiaries) in the municipality of Minas de

Matahambre. A second shipment of 15,300 zinc sheets and 6,000 kg of nails was supplied by the German government through the German Red Cross. These were distributed in the three municipalities of San Juan y Martínez, San Luis and Pinar del Río between 27 November and 18 December 2002. An additional 1,000 kg of nails from this shipment were also sent to the municipality of Minas de Matahambre to attach zinc sheets that were provided through Federation funding. By 17 February 2003, 892 families had benefited from the construction of new roofs. The third shipment of 4,500 sheets of zinc and 1,500 kg of nails was sent to the Province of Pinar del Río and distributed by 24 April 2003. Finally, the fourth shipment of 5,000 zinc sheets and 1,500 kg of nails was distributed in Pinar del Río and the Isle of Youth, and roofs were repaired in those areas by 30 May 2003. A total of 1,323 families were provided with new roofs in the following communities:

Municipality	Number of communities
Minas de Matahambre	1
San Juan y Martínez	12
San Luis	10
Pinar del Río	10
La Palma	6
Isle of Youth	2
Total	41

Distribution of zinc sheeting is ongoing. In July, the Cuban Red Cross ordered more zinc sheeting to ensure that needs of all the people affected by the hurricanes are met.

In addition, the Spanish Red Cross provided funding that was used to purchase 200 taps and 196 door locks to benefit 326 families (some 996 people).

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

- Impartial criteria were applied in the selection of beneficiaries. Priority was given to those most affected by the hurricanes, persons with little economic resources and households that included single mothers or elderly or handicapped persons.
- The Japanese Red Cross Society funded container project ensured the immediate release of relief goods, which were then replaced through funds provided by the appeal.

National Society Capacity Building

Objective 1: *to reinforce the capacity of the Cuban Red Cross, and of the Pinar del Río branch in particular, to respond to future disasters.*

As a result of the coordination of relief efforts, ties were strengthened between the Cuban Red Cross, the International Federation's regional delegation (sub regional office) and governmental and non-governmental organizations.

In order to strengthen the provincial Red Cross branch of Pinar del Río, articles were procured for the national intervention team (NIT) members. These items were included in the relief good that were purchased through PADRU. Items supplied to the NITs included the following:

Item	Quantity
Water bottles	32
Backpacks	15
Torches	15
Individual first aid kits	15
First aid kits	2
Protective helmet	15
Overalls	15

Boots	15
Raincoats	15
Reinforced gloves	15
Whistles	15
Folding beds	2
Tent	1

The Pinar del Rio branch was also equipped with two HF radios, six portable radios and a computer, and the relief department of the National Society was provided with a computer.

In Pinar del Río and the Isle of Youth, 240 volunteers were mobilized to participate in the damage and needs assessment, the beneficiary survey and the drawing up of the beneficiary lists. During the course of the operation, volunteers assisted in transferring, handling and stocking relief goods in the warehouses and in distributing relief goods to beneficiaries. In addition, Cuban Red Cross volunteers formed small brigades in the communities in order to help beneficiaries place their roofs. Volunteers have received training in the following areas:

- Red Cross history and the fundamental principles
- An overview of disaster management
- Damage and needs assessments
- Management of temporary shelters
- Management of Cuban Red Cross warehouses
- First aid
- Psychological support

To assist in their work, volunteers received office supplies, photocopies of useful materials and food, as well as gloves, t-shirts, raincoats, stickers, caps and flags displaying the Red Cross emblem. Volunteers wearing Red Cross clothing and radio and television coverage helped to promote a positive image of the Red Cross in Cuba and internationally.

Assessment and lessons learned

Coordination of resources was good and allowed the personnel and organizations in Cuba to respond to the disaster quickly and efficiently. The Cuban Red Cross worked closely with the Federation, PNSs, several Cuban governmental organizations and many volunteers in order to provide support to the greatest number of beneficiaries. However, the following issues need to be addressed so that future relief efforts in Cuba can be improved:

- The importance of the radio communications network was highlighted by a series of telephone outages. Unfortunately, some difficulties remain in setting up this network because of a lack of equipment and the unreliability of electricity.
- Red Cross volunteers still lack some of the necessary resources needed for relief work.
- Delays in the delivery of relief goods and problems with shipping documentation affected both the distribution of supplies and equipment and the overall timetable of the implementation of the operation, which has now been extended.

For further information please contact:

- Cuban Red Cross; email crsn@infomed.sld.cu; phone 53-7-228272; fax 53-7-228272
- Julian Gore-Booth, sub regional coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago sub regional office; email ifrc06@ifrc.org; phone (869) 627-2665; fax (868) 627-9627
- Luis Luna, regional officer; email luis.luna@ifrc.org; phone (41 22) 730-4274; fax (41 22) 733-0395

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The procurement for this operation was carried out in full compliance and conformity with the Federation's standard for international and local procurement.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

This operation sought to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or long-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

Appeal 27/2002; Cuba: Hurricanes Isidore and Lili; Interim Final Report

Cuba - hurricanes Isidore and Lili

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 29/2002

PLEDGES RECEIVED

16/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				597,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 75.2%
AMERICAN - RC		10,000	USD	14,962	15/10/2002	
AMERICAN - PRIVATE DONOR		300	USD	446	25/11/2002	
BRITISH - RC		210	GBP	485	14/11/2002	
CANADIAN - RC		74,250	CAD	68,882	26/11/2002	
GERMAN - RC		90,000	USD	133,740	29/10/2002	BILATERAL
JAPANESE - RC		13,100	USD	19,467	24/10/2002	
MONACO - RC		3,000	EUR	4,404	15/10/2002	
NORWAY - RC/GOVT		555,556	NOK	111,372	11/12/2002	
SWEDISH - GOVT		600,000	SEK	95,400	15/10/2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				449,158	CHF	75.2%

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	

Project Summary Financial Statement by Appeal

All Donors.

Period: January of 2002 through August of 2003

Appeal: 29/02 - CUBA: HURRICANES ISIDORE AND LILI (08/10/2002 - 07/04/2003)

Project	Opening	INCOME					EXPENDITURE									Closing
		Voluntary Contributions.		Transfers	Other Income	Total Income	Supplies	Capital	Transport	PS	Personnel	General Expenditure	Transfers	Provisions	Total Expenditure	
		Selected Donors	Others													
PCU505 - Cuba - Hurricane Isidore & Lili	0	314,140	0	-998	0	313,142	185,415	15,156	12,536	22,331	11,749	21,920	0	27,587	296,694	16,448
29/02	0	314,140	0	-998	0	313,142	185,415	15,156	12,536	22,331	11,749	21,920	0	27,587	296,694	16,448
Grand Totals	0	314,140	0	-998	0	313,142	185,415	15,156	12,536	22,331	11,749	21,920	0	27,587	296,694	16,448

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