CO
Humanitarian Situation Report

11 October 2022

Highlights

- About **3.2 million of people** in the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Artemisa and Havana, and the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud were affected by the severe impact of Hurricane Ian in the Western region of Cuba. There are about **1 million people** in need of humanitarian support.

- Approximately **636,218 children aged 0 to 18** live in the most affected provinces, of which **223,000** are in urgent need of humanitarian support.

- **47,000 people** still do not have access to safe water in Pinar del Rio and in most areas where the service is provided it is still supplied by water cistern trucks. UNICEF has sent motor pumps to facilitate the filling of the cisterns.

- A total of **992 schools** were damaged, **443 schools** in Pinar del Rio - **74** of them completed destroyed.

- Health authorities warn of dengue outbreaks in affected provinces, including Havana, and call to reinforce epidemiological control in October, the month with a high incidence of the disease in Cuba.

Map

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UNICEF Funding request
US$ 5.3 M
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The situation is still complex in the Western part of Cuba that was severely impacted by hurricane Ian on September 27th. Only in Pinar del Rio 75,994 homes have been affected, 8,439 with total damage.

Fourteen days after the disaster, 76.1% of customers remain without electricity in the province. The limited recovery of the electric grid severely impacts the water pumping system limiting the access to safe water. 47,000 people in the province are still not receiving water and many areas still depend on the frequency of water cistern trucks passing through their communities to access safe water, as power plants are not accessible in every municipality. The lack of electricity combined with the damages suffered in many houses, made it difficult for families to cook, forcing many of them to use open fires which, in turn, is already affecting children's health.

Approximately 636,218 children aged 0 to 18 live in the most affected provinces, of which 223,000 are in urgent need of humanitarian support. The Ministry of Education has reported damages in 992 schools. The most affected province is Pinar del Rio, where 74 out of 497 schools were destroyed. In addition, more than 2,000 teachers reported damages in their houses. The return to school has been slowly resumed in most affected areas, using alternative halls and community places for classes. However, only 52% of the students in Pinar del Rio are attending schools presumably due to the effects of the hurricane. Several schools are used as evacuation centers in the most affected municipalities, complicating the use of school facilities for learning purposes. Education materials have been lost in many places, specially in communities affected by the high surge of the sea.

Health infrastructure has also been affected in Pinar del Rio, where 102 family doctor centers, 5 hospitals and 23 health facilities reported damages. Alternative places were identified to ensure the continuity of health services, including schools, community halls and similar places. Shortage of medical supplies and medicines are also impacting the delivery of health services. Water penetration in many coastal areas has left communities with several challenges on hygiene and sanitation, and possible impact on the spread of dengue and other illnesses affecting children, such as gastrointestinal diseases, diarrhea, and skin problems.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

- The government of the Republic of Cuba is leading the response to the emergency through the Civil Defense. As the assessment of the damage continues in the affected municipalities and provinces, specific requests have been received with a focus on Housing, Health, Food Security, WASH and Education.
- On October 7th, the Resident Coordinator and representatives of all UN agencies were invited by Cuban authorities to visit Pinar del Rio to assess the impact of Ian in the province.
- The UN Disaster Management Team continues to work as well as the UNICEF Emergency Team
- UNICEF participates in UNETE and is in contact with emergency response teams. UNICEF leads the response in WASH and Education sectors and participates in the Food Security and Nutrition sector, focusing on nutrition issues for children, adolescents, and pregnant women, and in the Health sector, supporting actions to maintain access to maternal and child health.

Humanitarian Strategy

The CO is working with Cuban authorities and the UNCT, through UNETE, to identify priority needs as well as to develop the intervention plan. The following clusters have been activated: WASH, Food Security, Shelter, Health, and Education. The action plan also includes a logistic cluster to address issues related to storage and petrol, to secure the delivery of goods in the most affected communities.

The CO will support the following areas:
- **Education**: working with the Ministry of Education to rehabilitate infrastructure, ensure the immediate return to school and provide learning materials and psychosocial support to most affected children and adolescents.
• **WASH:** providing supplies to improve access to safe water and sanitation, re-establish water storage capacity in health facilities and ensure access to and storage of safe water and hygiene supplies for most vulnerable families.

• **Nutrition:** supporting the nutritional needs of young children and pregnant women

• **Health:** providing supplies to ensure the continuity of health services for maternal, neonatal and child health.

UNICEF's response aims to avoid duplication of efforts by working closely with the government and other UN agencies from the outset. In Education, with UNESCO, in WASH with UNDP and UNIDO, in Food Security with WFP and FAO and in Health with PAHO and UNFPA.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**WASH**

• **Pinar del Río:** More than 76.1% of the province still lacks electricity. Access to drinking water and basic hygiene conditions are seriously limited due to infrastructure damages and extensive power blackouts. Only in Pinar del Río, 47,000 people are still not receiving water.

• Water storage units are seriously affected in houses, schools, and health institutions. Supply of water to affected communities is carried out through water cistern trucks, procurement of portable water purification plants and motor pumps are needed.

• **Artemisa:** water supplies are considerably affected in Bahía Honda municipality.

• Main needs include water pumps and purification systems, water tanks, water purification tablets and hygiene kits to serve more than 450,000 people.

**UNICEF response:**

- 12,755 10-liter water storage tanks to benefit 6,376 families in the province of Pinar del Río and 472 hygiene kits for families affected by floods were already delivered: 1,600 families in the town of Surgidero de Batabanó, in Mayabeque; and 632 families in the town of La Coloma in the municipality of Pinar del Río.

- In coordination with the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources, 7 5l/second motor pumps procured by UNICEF were sent to Pinar del Río province to supply water through water cistern trucks and local wells for most affected communities.

- A water treatment pump to reach 5,000 people with drinking water and sanitation services will arrive in the country in the next days and will be made available to respond to more immediate needs in the most affected areas. (15 October)

- To reach 450,800 people and 20 health institutions with access to safe water and hygiene conditions, US$ 3.5M will be required.

**EDUCATION**

• 992 schools damaged according to reports from the Ministry of Education. The most affected province is Pinar del Río, where 74 out of 497 schools were destroyed (64% of educational facilities in the territory), mostly on their waterproof roof covers and carpentry of windows and doors. In Artemisa, 22 schools and a Palace of Pioneers (students' cultural facility) have suffered partial damage to roofs, mostly in the municipalities of San Antonio de los Baños, Guanajay and San Cristóbal. (76,828 students in the province)

• Main needs include 169,808m² of roof waterproofing blankets, light roof covers, doors, windows, 556 water tanks, 958 toilets, 565 washbasin, 1, 254 blackboards and 16,732 lamps.

**UNICEF response:**

Prepositioned supplies were already delivered to some of the most affected institutions, including:

- 6,000 m² roof waterproofing covers
- 140 Kits with school material for 5,600 girls and boys from 6 to 18 years old
- 154 recreational kits for 13,860 girls and boys from 6 to 18 years old
- 38 Early Childhood kits for 1,900 girls between 1 and 5 years
- 1,500 10-liter tanks for water storage in education centers including institutional homes for girls and boys without parental support

- To be able to ensure the safe return to school and protective learning spaces of 52,744 children, a total of US$ 668K will be required.
HEALTH:
• In Pinar del Río, 102 family doctor’s offices, 5 hospitals, and 23 other health facilities suffered damage in building structures.
• Ongoing dengue outbreak could affect vulnerable communities, particularly in municipalities affected by sea water surge were other bacterial and viral infections could increase among children.

UNICEF response:
• UNICEF will increase actions to mobilize funds for the procurement of medicines and medical supplies to ensure the continuity of maternal, neonatal and child health services in the most affected communities.
• To reach 223,114 children between 0 and 18 years of age and 8,090 pregnant women with maternal and child health services, a total of US$850K will be required.

NUTRITION
• The national prevalence of anemia in children under 2 years old is estimated at 41.1%. This health indicator is showing a worrying trend in the country and could be aggravated as a result of the current emergency.
• 11.6% of women in Cuba had moderate anemia at the time of the first evaluation during pregnancy, condition that can compromise maternal and child survival and health.
• Only 41% of babies receive exclusive breastmilk during the first six months and 35% in the first year of life.

UNICEF response
• UNICEF will support efforts to obtain resources for the acquisition of food supplements in the form of micronutrients to reach 10,247 girls and 10,731 boys and of prenatal supplementation for 8,090 pregnant women. A total of US$ 282K will be required.

Funding overview
Considering the complex socioeconomic situation, marked by an acute shortage of food, medications, raw materials, fuel and other critical supplies, Cuba has limited resources to be able to recover from the impact of Hurricane Ian. In agreement with the Government, UNICEF will focus its response on the most affected municipalities in the provinces of Pinar del Rio and Artemisa, ensuring continuity of essential services for children and their families: health, nutrition, education, and WASH.

The total funding need for UNICEF response in the first 6 - 12 months is USD $5,300,000.

Next SitRep: 20/10/2022

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