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Emergency appeal

Cuba: Hurricane Sandy

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Preliminary Emergency appeal n° MDRCU002 27 October 2012

This Preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks 5,453,221.00 Swiss francs in cash, kind, or services to support the Cuban Red Cross (CRC) to assist 15,000 families (75,000 beneficiaries) for nine months, and will be completed by the end of July, 2013. A Final Report will be made available by 31 October 2013 (three months after the end of the operation).

Once further information from assessments has been received, a full Emergency Appeal will be issued with more details concerning damage and needs, beneficiary selection and the response of the Cuban Red Cross.



The entire city of Santiago de Cuba has felt the impact of Hurricane Sandy, with thousands of homes affected by the strong winds and rains. Source: Radio Rebelde

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget; or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Tropical Storm Sandy was formed in the western Caribbean on 22 October and rapidly intensified while moving north. It had direct impact on Jamaica and reached the Cuban shores at dawn on 25 October as a category two hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 175 km/h, although gusts as high as 240 km/h were recorded in higher areas. Sandy crossed the island of Cuba from south to north, making landfall in Mar Verde, next to the city of Santiago de Cuba and leaving the country five hours later at the level of Punta Lucrecia in Holguín.

To prevent loss of life, the Cuban government coordinated the evacuation of 343,230 people, of which some 300,000 stayed with family and only 14,349 stayed in collective centres. Nevertheless, despite significant efforts to protect lives, eleven deaths related to the storm have already been confirmed by the Chief of Staff of the National Civil Protection (Estado Mayor Nacional de la Defensa Civil), nine in Santiago de Cuba, and two in Guantánamo.

During its passage through Cuba, Sandy left significant damages behind, particularly in the city of Santiago de Cuba which is not usually in the direct path of Caribbean hurricanes, and the city sustained the strongest winds as it was exposed to the eastern and stronger side of the hurricane. In addition to the strong winds, the

coast was also affected by storm surges. In Siboney, some 14 kilometres from Santiago city, the waves were some 10 metres above the coastal barrier, with the ocean reaching some 35 metres inland.

Assessment work is still ongoing and complete information on the situation is not available thus far. However some 21 municipalities have been particularly affected in the provinces of Santiago de Cuba (with the second largest population of the country), the province of Holguín (third largest in the country) and Guantánamo.

Preliminary figures estimate that the number of homes which incurred damage, either with roofs torn off or partial or total collapse, are around 150,000. In the most affected city of Santiago de Cuba (population 494,000) all municipalities suffered different levels of damages, electricity was lost and disruption in communications has occurred, with some 17,300 telephone lines down. In Holguin where the situation is clearer, the Provincial Civil Defense Council stated that some 17,300 homes have been affected, of which more than 3,000 lost the entire roof and 1,800 have completely collapsed.

Furthermore, all hospitals in Santiago have reported damages, although they all seem to be functional and continue to provide their services. There are also damages in the telecommunications infrastructure, with the telephones and radio in the oriental provinces down in many areas. In addition, the television tower in Gran Piedra fell, as well as two other towers in Santiago and two in Holguin.



Although assessments are ongoing, thousands of hectares of crops were destroyed by Sandy.
Source: AIN/Granma

Finally, the agricultural sector is also reporting severe losses, particularly the banana, sugar cane and coffee crops. At least 2,695 hectares of plantain in Laguna Blanca were destroyed in Santiago de Cuba, while Holguin reports some 6,000 hectares of damaged plantain crops and some 21,000 hectares of sugar cane flooded or broken. Damages have also been reported in warehouses and food production industries.

Coordination and partnerships

Members of the Red Cross have been coordinating efforts internally and externally from the onset of the emergency. In Cuba, the National Society is coordinating all its actions with local authorities while sharing information with partners. The IFRC's Disaster and Crisis Response and

Early Recovery Unit is also in regular contact with the Cuban Red Cross, as well as with Partner National Societies including the Norwegian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross, which are currently working bilaterally with the National Society. As part of the coordination efforts, a disaster response delegate was deployed to Cuba on 26 October to support the National Society with needs assessments and the drafting of a plan of action.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The actions of the Red Cross in collaboration with the public authorities enabled thousands of evacuees to be assisted. The National Society activated over 2,000 volunteers from the community, municipal and provincial relief response groups who assisted during the preventive evacuations which took place before the hurricane hit. At the moment, they continue to provide invaluable assistance to women, children, and elderly people in emergency shelters while also providing first aid and psychosocial support, and carrying out promotion activities as part of the disease prevention efforts.

Volunteers are divided into three groups:

- The Specialized Response and Relief Teams (Grupos Especializados de Operaciones y Socorros, GEOS) working at the provincial level: nine teams with a total of 185 volunteers.
- The Municipal Response and Relief Teams (Grupos Municipales de Operaciones y Socorro, GMOS): 60 teams with a total of 640 volunteers.
- The Community Response and Relief Teams (Grupos Comunitarios de Operaciones y Socorros, GCOS): 183 teams with 1,219 volunteers.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: As assessments are ongoing and not all affected people have been registered, beneficiary selection has not yet started. However, based on preliminary figures on families with complete and partial destruction of homes, the Cuban Red Cross will select beneficiaries in coordination with government authorities and other agencies taking into consideration the most vulnerable such as female headed households, elderly and persons with disabilities from the following areas:

- Santiago de Cuba Province: all nine municipalities in the city of Santiago, as well as Palma Soriano and San Luis.
- Holguin Province: Holguin, Mayarí, Cacocún, Báguanos, Banes, Antilla, Urbano Noris, Cueto, and Rafael Freyre
- Guantánamo province: Salvador, Niceto Pérez and San Antonio del Sur.



Partially destroyed homes are a common sight in the city of Santiago de Cuba.

Immediate needs: Hurricane Sandy caused serious damage to homes, infrastructures and communities. At the moment, government officials are working on the clearance of roads to facilitate the dispatch of food and non-food relief items and medicines, as well as construction materials that are urgently needed in the region. Based on the information that has been obtained from initial assessments, the immediate needs of families include the reestablishment of electricity services, family kits containing bedding materials, mosquito nets, items for water storage and personal hygiene, kitchen sets, tarpaulins and roofing sheets. Finally, hygiene promotion activities are a priority in order to reduce the risk of waterborne and water related diseases and to ensure adequate hygienic practices.

The proposed operation

The operation will provide 15,000 families (75,000 beneficiaries) with shelter solutions. Additionally, and based on the needs assessments and beneficiary selection some 2,000 families (10,000 people) will receive other relief items which are listed below in more details.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Affected families from the provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Holguin and Guantánamo benefit from the distribution of non-food items to help them recover from the effects of the hurricane.

Outputs	Activities planned
2,000 families (10,000 people) are reached with non-food items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

With the support of the IFRC's Regional Logistics Services in Panama, the Cuban Red Cross is planning to distribute the following relief items to 2,000 families:

- One kitchen set

- One bedding set
- One tarpaulin
- Two mosquito nets
- 4 towels

With the support of pre-positioned stock in the country, the National Society has been able to reach some 200 families since the passage of Hurricane Sandy on Wednesday night.

Shelter	
Outcome: 15,000 families from the provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Holguín and Guantánamo are supported with the reconstruction of their damaged roof tops	
Outputs	Activities planned
300,000 roofing sheets with their fixings are distributed to affected families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of communities and specific beneficiaries in coordination with local government authorities. • Procurement of material for the reconstruction of damaged roofs • Provision of technical assistance and guidance to family members. • Supervision of the repair of damaged houses.

Many Red Cross volunteers have experience with the technical aspects of roof reconstruction, as the National Society has been involved in similar activities from past operations such as the one which took place following Hurricanes Ike and Gustav in 2008, as well as Noel in 2007 and Hurricane Charley in 2004. The repairs will allow owners to return to their homes as well as provide temporary shelters to other families whose roofs or homes still need to be repaired. Each family will receive 20 zinc sheets and the required nails, while beneficiaries will try to re-utilize salvaged timber and materials. All repairs will be carried out as a community effort, where community members will assist each other with the necessary repairs, as well as providing required assistance to carry out the repairs to the houses of female headed households, elderly and persons with disabilities.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion	
Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases is reduced through the provision of safe water as well as hygiene promotion within the population affected by Hurricane Sandy.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Access to safe water is provided to 2,000 families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of communities and specific beneficiaries coordinating with local government authorities. • Procurement of materials in adherence with Federation procurement procedures. • Distribution of chlorine tablets for a duration of 60 days, jerry cans, buckets, thermos and water filters.
2,000 families receive hygiene kits and hygiene promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of hygiene kits. • Reproduction of educational materials for sanitation and hygiene promotion

To reduce the risk of waterborne and water related diseases it is essential that families drink safe water and store water appropriately to avoid the reproduction of vectors such as mosquitoes. To achieve this, the Cuban Red Cross has established a strategy whereby families will receive chlorine tablets, jerry cans and water containers for the treatment of water at the household level in the short term, as well as ceramic filters with the capacity to treat some 40 litres per day which will also be distributed to ensure access to safe water over the longer term. Water and sanitation activities are being provided by the National Society with the support of the Norwegian Red Cross which will assist in hygiene promotion activities which the PNS is carrying out in hurricane-affected areas as part of its community-based work in the area of disaster risk reduction.

Discussions will take place with the Cuban Red Cross regarding early recovery initiatives to help affected beneficiaries to regain their livelihoods; such initiatives will be considered for inclusion in the emergency appeal.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is an essential mechanism for effective disaster response and for the promotion of quality, accountability, and transparency.

Support will be provided to the Cuban Red Cross to increase the visibility of their humanitarian actions during this operation, and the IFRC's communications team in the Americas zone and the secretariat headquarters will work with the National Society to identify the most appropriate communication channels.

Capacity of the National Society

The Cuban Red Cross has extensive disaster response experience in relation to hurricanes as the island is frequently in the path of hurricanes. As a result, their disaster preparedness and response initiatives are well established and known by all volunteers and staff.

At the moment, the National Society has over 2,000 volunteers activated since the formation of the hurricane who have supported preventive evacuations, first response actions and assessments.

Capacity of the IFRC

The International Federation through the DCRER and in coordination with the regional representation for Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, is providing support to the Cuban Red Cross in organizing the provision of initial relief items, development of a plan of action, logistics and human resources as needed.

In addition to the disaster response capacities in the Americas zone office, there are experienced resources available in the region, in particular through the Regional Intervention Team (RIT) system, which ensures the deployment of specialized personnel to assist a sister National Society.

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Jagan Chapagain
Acting Under Secretary General
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Secretary General

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- In the Dominican Republic: IFRC Regional Representation: Joe Lugo, country support plan and OD Officer: Joe.Lugo@ifrc.org.
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Click here

1. Preliminary Emergency Appeal budget [below](#)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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 Disaster 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.

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

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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EMERGENCY APPEAL

Cuba Hurricane Sandy

27-Oct-12

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	22,167			22,167
Shelter - Transitional	0			0
Construction - Housing	0			0
Construction - Facilities	0			0
Construction - Materials	3,774,057			3,774,057
Clothing & Textiles	99,519			99,519
Food	0			0
Seeds & Plants	0			0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	139,925			139,925
Medical & First Aid	0			0
Teaching Materials	14,030			14,030
Utensils & Tools	56,587			56,587
Other Supplies & Services	125,802			125,802
Emergency Response Units	0			0
Cash Disbursements	0			0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	4,232,088	0	0	4,232,088
Land & Buildings				0
Vehicles	0			0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0			0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0			0
Medical Equipment				0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0			0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0
Storage, Warehousing	0			0
Distribution & Monitoring	109,434			109,434
Transport & Vehicle Costs	28,060			28,060
Logistics Services	193,264			193,264
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	330,757	0	0	330,757
International Staff	303,047			303,047
National Staff	59,113			59,113
National Society Staff	4,677			4,677
Volunteers	59,019			59,019
Total PERSONNEL	425,856	0	0	425,856
Consultants	9,353			9,353
Professional Fees				0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	9,353	0	0	9,353
Workshops & Training				0
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0	0	0	0
Travel	37,413			37,413
Information & Public Relations	4,677			4,677
Office Costs	16,836			16,836
Communications	16,836			16,836
Financial Charges	28,060			28,060
Other General Expenses	0			0
Shared Office and Services Costs	18,520			18,520
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	122,341	0	0	122,341
Partner National Societies				0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)				0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0	0	0	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	332,826	0		332,826
Total INDIRECT COSTS	332,826	0	0	332,826
Pledge Earmarking & Reporting Fees				0
Total PLEDGE SPECIFIC COSTS	0	0	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	5,453,221	0	0	5,453,221
Available Resources				
Multilateral Contributions				0
Bilateral Contributions				0
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0	0	0	0
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	5,453,221	0	0	5,453,221