



CUBA

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

24 November 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE CUBAN RED CROSS SOCIETY CRUZ ROJA CUBANA



1,637

National Society branches



429

National Society staff



48,000

National Society volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Ongoing emergency operations



15,000

Disasters and crises



15,000

Health and wellbeing



702

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)




Total	Funding requirements	10.4M
	Income	3.8M
IFRC	Emergency Operations	
	Funding requirements	9M
	Income	3.1M
	Longer-term	
	Funding requirements	1.4M
	Income	565,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)





Appeal numbers **MAACU003, MDRCU008**

ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRCU008 / Cuba / Hurricane Ian

People reached with shelter support	 15,000
People who receive mental health and psychosocial services in emergency situations from RCRC	 702
Number of branch leaders that take part to decisions on operational matters	Applicable data not available
National Society is part of the National Disaster Response Organization's decision-making processes and bodies	Yes
National Society is part of their national government's DRM plans	Yes
Percentage of people reached with WASH emergency actions (Kit, chlorine distribution....) in emergency response	 15000%
Percentage of operational staff for IFRC receive a security briefing	18%

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Disasters and crises	People reached with shelter support	 15,000
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 15,000
Health and wellbeing	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	 702
	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 702

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

National Society Development

Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place

Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support					
		Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
American Red Cross	●					●	
British Red Cross	●					●	
Canadian Red Cross Society	●						
Japanese Red Cross Society	●						
Netherlands Red Cross						●	
Red Cross of Monaco	●						
Spanish Red Cross						●	
Swedish Red Cross	●						

■ Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

During the first six months of 2023, Cuba continued to experience challenges affecting the overall humanitarian conditions in the country. Reuters recently published the article [“Cuban economy minister says no quick fix to devastating crisis”](#), indicating the Cuban economy continues to face significant challenges.

Cuba's economic growth is less than two per cent in 2023 and remains eight percentage points below pre-pandemic levels. Meanwhile, agriculture, mining and manufacturing production was further behind, as the Minister of Economy stated. This year's exports were 1.3 billion US dollars, 35.7 per cent of what had been expected, while imports were 4.4 billion US dollars, well below the Cuban government's forecast.

Hurricanes, tropical storms and heavy rains continue to affect Cuba, and in 2023, particularly, the Pinar del Rio province was further affected by [Hurricane Idalia](#) and other tropical storms. For instance, in June 2023, during the floods, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cuba reported that over 25,000 people in the provinces of Camaguey, Granma, Holguin, Santiago de Cuba, and Guantanamo found themselves isolated in communities and vulnerable with respect to food security, access to clean water and medical care. The Cuban Red Cross is working on Early Action Protocols with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Cuba, facing its own humanitarian challenges, is part of a larger regional context. The IFRC Regional Office for Americas, in its emergency appeal on the migration situation, has highlighted the Americas as home to nearly [73 million migrants](#) and displaced persons from various origins and backgrounds. In 2021, particularly in Panama, migrants from more than 40 countries, including those from [Haiti, Cuba, Chile, Brazil, and Venezuela](#), embarked on a perilous journey crossing the Darien Gap. Notably, over six million people have left Venezuela since 2017. Additionally, migrants arrived from Asian and African nations, such as Angola, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan.

Key achievements

The following highlights from the implementation of the unified plan provide the best description of the progress made by the IFRC network during the first six months of 2023:

- **The Cuban Red Cross**, in response to Hurricane Ian, provided support to 15,000 families through the Emergency Appeal. In addition, 7,500 individuals received training and supplies for roof repairs to address their damaged housing. This effort involved training 46 staff and volunteers from the Cuban Red Cross in emergency shelter and household items. Furthermore, 702 people received vital health services during the emergency. The IFRC's Americas regional logistics unit played a crucial role in assisting the Cuban Red Cross by procuring and shipping relief items and supplies to facilitate their humanitarian work
- The Cuban Red Cross completed the self-assessment phase of the IFRC [Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification](#) process (OCAC)
- Given the market limitations in Cuba, the IFRC acquired a vehicle for delivery to the Cuban Red Cross. This vehicle will be stationed in La Habana and is part of IFRC's initiatives to enhance the operational capacity of the National Society

Changes and amendments

No changes to report in the Unified Plan for Cuba during the reporting period.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Emergency Operation	Cuba – Hurricane Ian
Appeal Number	MDRCU008
Duration	15 months (06 October 2022 to 31 December 2023)
Target Areas	Pinar del Rio province
Funding Requirement	9 million Swiss francs
Link	Cuba – Hurricane Ian: Emergency Appeal (MDRCU008)

SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



Shelter, Housing and Settlements

Objective: *Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions*

In response to the effects of Hurricane Ian, the Cuban Red Cross distributed household items to 15,000 people in the province of Pinar del Río in 2023. Each family received one hygiene kit, one kitchen set and one rechargeable solar lamp. The rechargeable solar lamps were an essential item during the immediate response and supported the recovery of families after the hurricane considering the precarious situation in the country. To this day, the lamps provide valuable support during power supply outages.

During this first semester of 2023, the delays in the global supply chain, exacerbated by the severe fuel shortage affecting Cuba lately, also affected the response actions scheduled under the operation. During June, Cuban Red Cross staff and volunteers resumed distributions.

During the last week of May 2023, the disaster management coordinator from the IFRC Regional Office traveled to Cuba to support the National Society with the training of 20 roofing brigades in Pinar del Río. Besides induction into the Cuban Red Cross and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles, during this workshop the roofing brigades received the technical guidelines needed for building roofs able to withstand category 4 hurricane winds. The 20 roofing brigades were organized and trained with the understanding that each of these brigades will have to replicate the knowledge gained and train other roofing brigades. Cuban Red Cross teams have extensive experience in repairing roofs in previous response operations, so the interaction between Cuban Red Cross staff and the roofing brigades will contribute to ensure the proper construction of the roofs so they can withstand hurricane force winds.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

No activities have been reported during the timeframe of this report.



Disasters and crises

With the support of the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Latin Caribbean, the Cuban Red Cross has fortified its disaster management capabilities by enhancing its management of extensive emergency appeals. This effort has reinforced community preparedness and response initiatives, bolstered through collaborative actions during the Hurricane Season preparedness and coordination with the Cuban Red Cross headquarters in the Hurricane Ian operation.



Health and wellbeing

No activities have been reported during the timeframe of this report.



Migration and displacement

No activities have been reported during the timeframe of this report.



Values, power and inclusion

No activities have been reported during the timeframe of this report.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

The Cuban Red Cross continues working through the established coordination mechanisms and permanent monitoring of events with national authorities via its headquarters and branches. Volunteers are mobilized to support the Ministry of Health, the Civil Defense, the Fire Brigade and other national teams in evacuation, search and rescue, and damage and need assessments for intervention activities. Relief groups and restoring family links (RFL) brigades are activated and mobilized for emergency operations.



National Society development

During April 2023, the Cuban Red Cross, in collaboration with its staff at the headquarters and representatives from 15 branches, conducted the OCAC self-assessment. The IFRC National Society development coordinator accompanied and facilitated this self-assessment process.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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Cuban Red Cross

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