



Distribution of Humanitarian Aid in Imias, Guantanamo. Source: Cruz Roja Cubana

Appeal: <b>MDRCU010</b>	Total DREF Allocation: -	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Cyclone</b>
Glide Number: <b>TC-2024-000192-CUB</b>	People Affected: <b>320,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>5,000 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>28-10-2024</b>	New Operational End Date: <b>30-06-2025</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>8 months</b>
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: <b>28-10-2024</b>		Reporting Timeframe End Date: <b>30-06-2025</b>	
Additional Allocation Requested: -		Targeted Areas: <b>Granma, Guantanamo, Holguin, Las Tunas, Santiago de Cuba</b>	

# Description of the Event

**HURRICANE OSCAR**  
2024 | CUBA

**CRUZ ROJA CUBANA** **IFRC**

Reference

Capital City

Affected areas



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Sources: Cuban Red Cross, IFRC. Produced by IFRC Americas, HDCC, IM Team.

Map of areas affected by hurricane Oscar. Source: Cuban Red Cross, IFRC.

## Date of event

21-10-2024

## What happened, where and when?

Hurricane Oscar impacted Cuba on October 20 and 21, 2024. The storm made landfall near Baracoa, in Guantánamo province, on 20 October, with winds reaching 130 km/h, classifying it as a Category 1 hurricane. Moving at 11 km/h, Oscar remained over Cuban territory for almost 24 hours before exiting near Gibara in northern Holguín province as a tropical storm with winds of 65 km/h. The municipalities of Baracoa and Maisí, along with other areas in eastern Cuba, were hit hardest by strong winds and heavy rains.

Preliminary reports highlight severe damage affecting homes, agriculture, electrical infrastructure, and state facilities, including warehouses, pharmacies, health centers, and schools. The impact in different provinces was as follows:

- Guantánamo: San Antonio del Sur recorded 353 mm of rainfall, with 275 mm falling within three hours. Imías experienced unprecedented flooding, and electrical lines were severely damaged. Agricultural losses and damages to health facilities are still under evaluation.
- Holguín: 48.6 mm of rain fell in just 12 hours, and reservoirs were at 73.3% capacity.
- Granma: Rainfall concentrated in mountainous areas, which remain under close observation.
- Santiago de Cuba: The economic impact was primarily on coffee production, with 32,000 cans of coffee beans collected to prevent humidity-related losses.
- Las Tunas: more than 14,000 residents were protected from the hurricane's threat.

These events unfolded in an already challenging context for the country, which is grappling with prolonged shortages of essential goods and an energy emergency characterized by fuel shortages and failures in power plants. Generators and renewable energy systems have been used to maintain access to basic services. Despite coordinated government efforts, significant humanitarian needs remain, worsened by the hurricane. Power, water, and telecommunications disruptions have increased the vulnerability of rural and coastal communities,



where infrastructure is fragile, and response capacity is limited.

Cuba's eastern provinces have a history of extreme weather events, such as the heavy rains of March 2023, which caused significant damage and displacement. However, the devastation caused by Hurricane Oscar poses a serious threat to long-term recovery, especially in key sectors like agriculture and energy. The widespread damage to critical infrastructure underscores the need for an urgent and comprehensive emergency response.



CRC volunteers supporting evacuation in the province of Las Tunas. Source: Cruz Roja Cubana



Distribution of Humanitarian Aid in Pilon, Granma Province. Source: Cruz Roja Cubana



Distribution of Humanitarian Aid in Baracoa, Guantanamo. Source: Cruz Roja Cubana

## Scope and Scale

Hurricane Oscar, which made landfall in eastern Cuba on 21 October 2024, caused severe and widespread damage across the provinces of Guantánamo, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, and Las Tunas. The storm brought sustained winds of 130 km/h and intense rainfall—exceeding 300 mm in some areas over 24 hours—resulting in flooding, river overflows, landslides, and damage to critical infrastructure and essential services.

The housing sector experienced extensive impacts, with 9,047 homes reported damaged, including 1,440 with partial roof destruction and 527 completely unroofed or collapsed, particularly in the municipalities of Baracoa and Maisí. In Imías, landslides blocked the primary access route, impeding humanitarian access and complicating rescue operations. At least 51 building collapses were reported, highlighting the scale of structural vulnerability.

Essential services were also disrupted. The national electricity supply, already weakened by the ongoing energy crisis, experienced further deterioration, affecting power availability for homes, public services, and water pumping stations. In Baracoa and Maisí, more than 293,000 people—77% of the serviced population—initially lost access to running water due to damaged infrastructure and high turbidity levels. However, water infrastructure has been progressively reactivated, and emergency water delivery via tanker trucks has ensured access for hospitals and critical community services during the recovery period.

In the agriculture sector, significant losses have been recorded. Approximately 982 hectares of crops, including coffee, bananas, and tomatoes, were devastated, along with 43,858 cans of harvested coffee beans. These losses have had a considerable economic impact, particularly in rural areas reliant on subsistence and small-scale farming.

An estimated 130,000 people were evacuated as a precautionary measure. While no further mass displacement remains, the overall humanitarian impact of Hurricane Oscar is being compounded by pre-existing systemic challenges such as limited fuel availability, chronic shortages of goods, and fragile infrastructure. Vulnerable groups—including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities—remain at heightened risk due to the cascading effects of the disaster.

This event underscores the urgent need to reinforce local disaster preparedness mechanisms, build climate-resilient infrastructure, and support comprehensive recovery actions that prioritise the most affected communities.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Respuesta a Huracán Oscar - Reporte de Situación No. 01 de la Oficina del Coordinador Residente (21 de octubre de 2024)	<a href="https://reliefweb.int/report/cuba/respuesta-huracan-oscar-reporte-de-situacion-no-01-de-la-oficina-del-coordinador-residente-21-de-octubre-de-2024">https://reliefweb.int/report/cuba/respuesta-huracan-oscar-reporte-de-situacion-no-01-de-la-oficina-del-coordinador-residente-21-de-octubre-de-2024</a>
2. Presidencia y gobierno de Cuba	<a href="https://www.presidencia.gob.cu/es/noticias/en-guantànamo-se-concentran-las-principales-afectaciones-de-oscar">https://www.presidencia.gob.cu/es/noticias/en-guantànamo-se-concentran-las-principales-afectaciones-de-oscar</a>
3. Granma national news	<a href="https://www.granma.cu/">https://www.granma.cu/</a>
4. Informador News	<a href="https://www.informador.mx/internacional/Cuba-reporta-mas-de-mil-viviendas-afectadas-tras-el-paso-del-huracan-Oscar-20241022-0125.html">https://www.informador.mx/internacional/Cuba-reporta-mas-de-mil-viviendas-afectadas-tras-el-paso-del-huracan-Oscar-20241022-0125.html</a>

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

The implementation of the DREF operation MDRCU010 in response to Hurricane Oscar has progressed steadily, reaching significant portions of the targeted population. However, several operational constraints have necessitated an extension of the operation's duration.

The Cuban Red Cross (CRC), in coordination with the IFRC, is requesting a two-month extension, moving the operation's end date from 30 April 2025 to 30 June 2025. The total budget remains unchanged.

Key Justifications for the Extension:

1. Delays in the arrival and nationalisation of key relief items:  
Several essential non-food items—including mosquito nets, mattresses, and water tanks—have experienced delays due to shipping schedules, customs processes, and the logistical challenges of importing humanitarian goods into Cuba. These items are currently pending arrival or nationalisation, and their distribution is essential to meeting the operation's objectives.
2. Fuel shortages affecting logistics and implementation:  
Although the operation is financially resourced to support transportation, fuel availability across the country has been inconsistent, resulting in delays in the movement of supplies and volunteers, especially to remote areas. Despite this, the CRC has maintained operational continuity through local partnerships and alternative transportation arrangements, but with slower-than-anticipated timelines.
3. Pending completion of community activities:





- The distribution of some shelter and hygiene items is still in progress.
  - The final AVCA (Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment) in the municipality of Pilón (Granma) is scheduled for early April 2025.
  - The lessons learned workshop and the procurement of visibility and rescue equipment for volunteers are planned but not yet completed, pending the arrival of supplies.
4. Commitment to quality and accountability:  
The CRC has prioritised dignified distribution, community engagement, and the participation of local feedback committees in all target municipalities. In line with IFRC standards, sufficient time is needed to finalise post-distribution monitoring, ensure full implementation of feedback mechanisms, and document learning for future operations.

# Current National Society Actions

## Start date of National Society actions

21-10-2024

Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 bedridden patients were transferred from their communities to Protection Centers or relatives' and friends' homes.</li> <li>- 23 people received care, including physical and psychological first aid.</li> <li>- Support was provided to health institutions for the transfer of patients to other hospitals.</li> <li>- Health promotion activities were carried out in the municipality of Banes in coordination with National Health System Promoters, as well as in the Protection Centers.</li> </ul>
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Support given to 4 protection centers with 10 volunteers.</li> <li>- 3 Restoring Family Links (RFL) brigades mobilized with 10 volunteers.</li> </ul>
Coordination	<p>The Operations and Relief Groups have been supporting the Defense Councils in the evacuation of families. Additionally, they assist the Cuban Fire Department in rescue and salvage operations and provide both physical and psychological first aid to the families of victims and affected individuals.</p> <p>Support in Protection Centers: Volunteers are active in 8 Protection Centers. RFL (Restoring Family Links) Brigades are working diligently in the field and in the Protection Centers.</p> <p>A total of 5,080 people have been evacuated by Cuban Red Cross volunteers. Of these, 591 people are currently housed in Protection Centers, receiving support from volunteers, while 4,489 individuals have taken refuge with family and friends.</p>
National Society Readiness	<p>The Cuban Red Cross mobilized 601 volunteers from the Operations and Relief Groups, RFL, Shelter Support, Psychological Support, and Amateur Radio groups. Additionally, 60 salaried staff members from the Cuban Red Cross were involved.</p> <p>Las Tunas: A total of 204 volunteers were mobilized. In the municipality of Majibacoa, support was provided to set up the Los Pinos Protection Center, where the Brigada 7 transported community members. Among them, three bedridden individuals were evacuated.</p> <p>Holguín: Support was given to fire departments to respond to emergencies and assist with rescue and salvage operations. In the municipality of Gibara, the GEOS group participated in the evacuation of 58 people from the community of "El Curita" and transported four bedridden individuals to the Gibara Polyclinic Hospital. In the municipality of Banes, health promotion activities were carried out by volunteers. Additionally, in the municipality of Frank País, 150 people were evacuated, and a mother and her newborn were transported to the Frank País Hospital.</p>



	<p>Granma: 126 volunteers were mobilized, with 10 members from the Specialized Group (GEOS) assisting the Fire Department in rescue operations. In Cauto Cristo, 4 volunteers supported 2 Protection Centers sheltering 325 people.</p> <p>Santiago de Cuba: The GEOS group was activated with 10 volunteers, providing support to the Fire Department.</p> <p>Guantánamo: A total of 83 volunteers were activated. Five members of the GEOS group conducted rescue operations in San Antonio del Sur, attending to and evacuating 23 people to safety. In Baracoa, they assisted with the aerial evacuation of a child with a cranial trauma. In Caimanera, volunteers supported the Protection Center and carried out health promotion activities. In San Antonio del Sur, they assisted with the transportation of medical supplies to restore services at the local polyclinic.</p> <p>A total of 8 Specialized Operations and Relief Groups were activated in the affected territories, involving 84 volunteers. Furthermore, 27 Municipal Groups (GMOS) with 258 volunteers and 37 Community Groups (GCOS) with 182 volunteers were also mobilized.</p> <p>Additionally, 19 Territorial RCF Offices were activated with 61 volunteers to provide support. Moreover, 16 volunteers were deployed to assist in 8 Protection Centers for evacuated individuals, where they are working on Health Promotion and Restoring Family Links (RFL) services.</p>
Activation Of Contingency Plans	The Cuban Red Cross activated its Disaster Risk Reduction Plan to address hydrometeorological events at both the National and Territorial levels.

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC Americas Regional Office and Country Cluster Delegation for Cuba, Haiti and Dominican Republic are collaborating closely with the Cuban Red Cross through technical support for the development of this DREF Application. 2 Monitoring visits were done by the Project Manager.
Participating National Societies	Permanent communication and exchange of information with the Italian Red Cross delegation for Central America and the Caribbean.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

Fluent communication is maintained between the National Society and the ICRC delegation in Venezuela, which is in charge of monitoring Cuba.
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## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>During the Disaster Situation, the National Defense Council adopts general provisions that are mandatory, according to the demands of the situation. These provisions align with special legislation and previously approved measures and plans. To address various situations in different regions of the country, Regional, Provincial, and Municipal Defense Councils are activated, in accordance with Cuba's organizational structure. These councils implement the Disaster Risk Reduction Plans, which include various stages and phases designed to mitigate the effects of the disaster.</p> <p>In this context, the Institute of Meteorology (INSMET), under the Ministry of Science,</p>

	<p>Technology, and Environment (CITMA), is responsible for directing meteorological activities in Cuba. Its main mission is to provide reliable, authorized, and timely meteorological and climatic information, with the goal of safeguarding human life and reducing material losses from natural meteorological disasters, directly contributing to community well-being and the country's sustainable development.</p> <p>A Central Commission, sent by the government, is conducting a detailed assessment of damages in key sectors such as housing, agriculture, and other affected areas. The Ministry of Public Health, in coordination with the General Health Directorate of Guantánamo province, has reinforced Medical Brigades in the territories most severely impacted by the disaster.</p> <p>Additionally, a contingent of electrical workers has been deployed to the affected areas to assess and assist in the recovery of the electrical service. At the same time, intensive efforts are underway to clear the access roads to the municipality of Imías, which have been blocked by landslides, with the goal of restoring transit and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to the isolated communities.</p>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	<p>The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Cuba has published Situation Report No. 01 on the response to Hurricane Oscar. The UN is focused on supporting the recovery of damaged infrastructure and delivering food and medical assistance to the most vulnerable communities, particularly those in areas difficult to access due to flooding and landslides.</p> <p>Additionally, the UN is working closely with the Ministry of Public Health to mitigate health risks associated with the floods, such as the increase in vector-borne diseases. The United Nations System has emphasized the importance of swiftly mobilizing resources to prevent a further deterioration of living conditions in the most impacted areas. This report highlights the UN's commitment to continuously monitor and respond effectively to this emergency.</p>

#### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The National Society, in its auxiliary role, has actively participated in various meetings with the National Civil Defense Staff to coordinate on-the-ground actions in case of emergency, as well as to identify and implement the necessary preventive activities, considering the changes in meteorological forecasts.

In accordance with Directive No. 1 of 2022 from the President of the National Council of the Republic of Cuba, Temporary Working Groups have been established to evaluate and analyze the damages. Based on these evaluations, tasks are assigned to the Central State Administration Bodies and auxiliary institutions like the Cuban Red Cross. These Temporary Working Groups coordinate their activities with representatives at the national, provincial, municipal, and Popular Council levels, ensuring a comprehensive and efficient response to emergencies.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

Most distributions of essential shelter items have been completed, and families have begun rebuilding damaged homes. However, significant gaps remain in roof repairs and the replacement of destroyed household items. Remote communities in Baracoa, Imías, and San Antonio del Sur continue to face material shortages, logistical delays, and increased costs associated with reconstruction.

Furthermore, the extended interruption of electricity after the hurricane highlighted the need for solar lighting and energy solutions to ensure basic comfort and safety, particularly in areas with limited access to public services. Solar lamps and tarpaulins remain a high-priority item, especially as communities work to rebuild during a period of constrained public supply.



## Health

Health needs have gradually stabilised, supported by community-based health promotion campaigns implemented in coordination with PROSALUD. Nevertheless, psychosocial support remains a key need—both for affected populations and for volunteers who have faced prolonged exposure to stress, fatigue, and operational hardship.

Waterborne illnesses and vector-borne diseases remain a latent risk, particularly in low-lying areas where water stagnation and sanitation issues persist. The timely distribution of mosquito nets and biomedical supplies is crucial to strengthen epidemic preparedness, alongside continuous reinforcement of health education and first aid services.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Following initial disruptions, the water infrastructure in most affected areas has been progressively reactivated, yet water quality and household hygiene remain critical concerns. The distribution of hygiene kits has had a significant impact in restoring safe practices, though some families in hard-to-reach communities remain underserved due to logistical delays and terrain access.

Power outages continue to affect water treatment and distribution systems in some localities. The continued use of tanker trucks remains necessary in specific health institutions and rural communities. Additional emphasis is needed on sustaining hygiene promotion activities, particularly through schools, local events, and direct household engagement, to mitigate public health risks and prevent disease outbreaks during the recovery phase.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

While no major protection incidents have been reported, the operation continues to prioritise safe and dignified assistance for all population groups, particularly women-headed households, children, older adults, and persons with disabilities. Volunteers have reported increased demand for safe lighting in communal areas, schools, and homes to reduce protection risks—especially in the absence of grid-based electricity.

Ensuring inclusive access to basic services, particularly for people with limited mobility or those living in isolated communities, remains a concern. Continued engagement with grassroots networks, such as the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) and disability associations, is essential for ensuring tailored support and inclusive recovery processes.



## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

While immediate lifesaving needs have largely been addressed, the operation continues to face structural and systemic risks that affect preparedness and resilience. The ongoing energy crisis has intermittently affected communications, logistics, and the timely relay of monitoring data between communities, branches, and headquarters.

Additionally, the lack of adequate protective gear for volunteers—particularly those deployed during the initial phase in flooded and remote areas—compromised both safety and effectiveness. There remains a need to strengthen the visibility, mobility, and operational protection of volunteers through the provision of waterproof gear, headlamps, boots, thermal clothing, and updated first aid kits.

Importantly, the experience during Hurricane Oscar has reinforced the need for energy autonomy within the Cuban Red Cross. The acquisition and installation of solar energy systems at branch and headquarters level would significantly increase the National Society's ability to coordinate emergency response operations in the face of grid failure or fuel shortages.



## Environment Sustainability

The hurricane highlighted the National Society's dependence on fragile, conventional energy systems for critical operations such as beneficiary communication, cold chain management, and digital data collection. Without reliable access to electricity, field branches struggled to coordinate the delivery of essential services, especially in rural and mountainous zones.



To ensure sustainability and business continuity, there is an identified need to invest in clean and decentralised energy sources, such as photovoltaic systems and energy storage solutions. These would reduce operational vulnerability and contribute to greener humanitarian action aligned with IFRC's climate and environment commitments.

## Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Given the energy and fuel crisis that the country has been experiencing for several months, communication and access to the most affected areas has been very limited and damage assessments have been delayed.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF operation, the Cuban Red Cross aims to implement actions to reach 1,500 families (5,000 people) and assist the most vulnerable populations affected by Hurricane Oscar in October 2024 in the provinces of Guantánamo, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, and Las Tunas.

## Operation strategy rationale

The development of this DREF Action Plan is based on the preliminary data collected through the Initial Damage Assessments and Needs Analysis currently being conducted by the Government of Cuba, coordinated through the National Defense Council. The five provinces most affected by heavy rains—Guantánamo, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, and Las Tunas—have been prioritized in this intervention. In these regions, significant losses have been identified, including damage to homes, loss of personal belongings, and difficulties in accessing basic resources such as potable water. This information is complemented by data provided by provincial and municipal branches in the affected areas, secondary government reports, alerts, and reports from Cuban Civil Defense and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Cuba.

Based on preliminary figures from the assessments, the national government has requested the Cuban Red Cross to assist 650 families affected by the rains and reach 1,500 families (5,000 people) through hygiene promotion across the five hardest-hit provinces. The focus will be on shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene activities, prioritizing the most urgent needs to improve the living conditions of affected communities.

Procurement and export of materials to Cuba can be a lengthy process due to strict administrative procedures. The success of this operation relies on efficient logistics management by the IFRC logistics services.

Summary of the Intervention:

### SHELTER:

Historically, cyclones have greatly affected the housing of Cubans. This type of event leaves mostly weakened structures and total and partial destruction of roofs. Taking this into account, the Government of Cuba prioritizes the reconstruction or repair of housing and looks to partners such as the Red Cross for support for the repair or replacement of affected roofs. In the past, training and workshops on safe roof installation have been held, which has developed the capacity of the National Society to form community brigades or roofing brigades led by the Red Cross. With this in mind, 650 shelter tool kits will be requested through this DREF to support the government's roofing reconstruction plan in the provinces affected by Hurricane Oscar. Additionally, non-food items will be distributed in order to supply basic necessities to people who lost everything due to the strong winds, rain and floods caused by Oscar. The items to be distributed are:

Procurement and distribution of 650 double mattresses.

Procurement and distribution of 650 kitchen sets.

Procurement and distribution of 1,300 solar lamps.

Procurement and distribution of 1,300 mosquito nets.

Procurement and distribution of 1,300 Tarpaulins.

Procurement and distribution of 650 shelter toolkits.

### WASH (WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE):

taking into account the health risks associated with this event, a strategy will be developed hand in hand with PROSALUD Cuba, a governmental institution in charge of health promotion, in order to carry out health and hygiene promotion campaigns in the affected provinces. Taking into account the alliance with PROSALUD, which allows to have a greater reach, this DREF aims to reach 5,000 people

who will benefit from health and hygiene promotion activities.

In addition, Hygiene Kits and 33 liter water tanks will be distributed to 650 families (2,145 people) in order to provide support on issues related to access and use of water.

#### DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:

With a view to building resilience in affected communities and their early recovery, the Cuban Red Cross seeks to implement an Extended Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (AVCA) and a rapid environmental analysis through the NEAT+ tool in 5 communities in order to develop community resilience plans and family Disaster Risk Management plans with climate and environmental considerations.

Training of volunteers will be included on both tool in order to increase the capacity of the Affected branches (25 volunteers)

#### CEA (COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY):

In all activities, the National Society prioritizes community participation and accountability. This includes implementing feedback mechanisms and creating a continuous cycle of community feedback review.

This approach is applied across all areas of the National Society's work and is overseen by the National Communications Department, ensuring community inclusion in every phase of the process. This includes key message dissemination, satisfaction surveys, and community feedback mechanisms to improve and strengthen future interventions.

- Support to the National Society with the identification of non-illuminated points that require priority lighting because they constitute risk areas for children, adolescents, women, the elderly and/or people with disabilities. This can be done through Rapid Social Mapping, focus groups, or interviews with key people in the community.

#### National Society CEA Strengthening:

- National Society capacity building in the creation and installation of a feedback mechanism for each humanitarian assistance distribution event.
- Support with the rapid analysis of feedback received in the five suggestion boxes to be installed.
- Integration of CEA concepts into the VCA.

#### NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT:

The Cuban Red Cross, under Directive 001 issued by the Cuban government, participates in all emergency response and preparedness activities in the Republic of Cuba, offering a large number of volunteers trained in various areas. Considering local limitations—ranging from market shortages to difficulties in acquiring products abroad—volunteers often carry out their tasks without adequate equipment or visibility elements. These elements are vital for gaining acceptance and recognition, as well as ensuring optimal conditions for humanitarian work. This DREF seeks to support the National Society in the acquisition of replacement equipment for the Emergency Operations Groups (GEOS) deployed during the emergency.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

Through this intervention, the Cuban Red Cross aims to reach 1,500 families (5,000 people). To achieve this, the National Society will collaborate with the Risk Reduction Management Centers (CGRR) of local governments and Civil Defense, as well as with the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) and the associations for people with disabilities (ACLIFIM, ANCI, ANSOC). It is important to note that, according to the 2012 National Population and Housing Census of Cuba, the average Cuban household consists of 3.3 people. All sectoral needs and selection criteria will be determined in collaboration with the relevant authority to provide technical guidance and improve the beneficiary selection and implementation process.

Special attention will be given to vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The National Society's coordination with local associations will be key in identifying these vulnerable groups, which is part of a cross-cutting gender and inclusion strategy for the response.



## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The following vulnerability criteria are proposed for the selection of families to be reached with emergency response inputs in the different intervention areas.

- Families with total or partial loss of housing and personal belongings.
- Families with children and/or older adults
- Families with persons with disabilities
- Single women with children.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	1,909	Rural	25%
Girls (under 18)	1,818	Urban	75%
Men	818	People with disabilities (estimated)	5%
Boys (under 18)	455		
Total targeted population	5,000		

## Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Fuel Scarcity	Coordination with local authorities for the supply of fuel to ensure the implementation of CRC operations.
Delays in receiving humanitarian aid items:	Immediate involvement of Logistics in the procurement/supply movement strategy to meet established operational deadlines and usage of charter flight to advance a first phase of humanitarian aid.
New rains or storms hamper operational logistics.	Follow-up activities by identifying possible immediate actions to be taken.
Energy Crisis	Support to HQ and main affected branches with energy backup systems in order to guarantee their operability
Difficulty in coordination	Strengthen liaison with government agencies by establishing effective communication channels. Cross-checking information collected with data from secondary sources.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

## Planned Intervention



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 296,609

Targeted Persons: 2,475

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families receiving relief and shelter support (kitchen sets, mattresses, shelter tool kits, mosquito, lamps, nets)	650	650

## Progress Towards Outcome

As of March 2025, the Cuban Red Cross (CRC) has made notable progress in the implementation of shelter and household item distributions, reaching the originally planned target of 650 families across the municipalities of Baracoa, Imías, San Antonio del Sur (Guantánamo), and Pílon (Granma).

The following items have been successfully distributed:

650 kitchen sets

650 shelter toolkits

1,300 tarpaulins (2 per family)

These distributions were carried out with strong community engagement and in coordination with local defence councils and community feedback committees.

Progress on additional items:

Solar lamps: Of the 1,500 solar lamps received through support from the Canadian Red Cross, 500 were distributed in Pílon (Granma), with one lamp per household based on community preference due to the energy situation and temporary displacement linked to seismic activity.

Mosquito nets: 1,300 units remain pending nationalisation; delays in customs clearance have affected their delivery.

Mattresses and bed linen (sheets and towels): These items are still en route to Cuba, pending arrival and distribution in the final phase of the operation.

The selection of targeted households was based on vulnerability criteria prioritising families with:

Partial or total loss of shelter or belongings,

Children, older adults, or persons with disabilities,

Women-headed households.

Beneficiary selection prioritised the most vulnerable groups affected by Hurricane Oscar, including families with children under five, elderly persons, and individuals with disabilities. Of the 3,605 people reached with shelter and household items, approximately 51% were women and 49% were men. Among them, 17% were children under 15 years of age, and 9% were older adults (above 65 years). The operation ensured that household distributions were inclusive, with specific attention given to single-parent households and persons with mobility challenges, in coordination with local protection and social welfare actors.

Challenges:

Logistical delays related to the international procurement and import process have affected the timely delivery of mosquito nets and mattresses.

Fuel shortages at national level have impacted the transport of materials to remote communities and required adaptive scheduling of distributions.

Despite these constraints, coordination between the CRC, local authorities, and the IFRC has enabled continued progress. The National Society remains committed to finalising all pending distributions by the end of the extended implementation period (June 2025).



# Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 91,963  
**Targeted Persons:** 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families reached with hygiene kits	650	650
# of families reached with 33 -litre water tanks	650	0
# of people sensitized through promotion campaigns	5,000	5,384

Progress Towards Outcome

As of March 2025, implementation of the WASH component has achieved significant progress in hygiene promotion and hygiene kit distribution, while the water tank component remains pending due to procurement and shipping delays.

Key results to date:  
650 hygiene kits have been distributed in 21 communities within the municipalities of Baracoa, Imías, and San Antonio del Sur (Guantánamo).

5,384 people (2,751 women and 2,633 men) have been reached through hygiene promotion campaigns across 27 communities, exceeding the original target of 5,000.

The hygiene promotion activities were conducted in close coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP) through PROSALUD, leveraging trained volunteer health promoters and existing community health platforms. Outreach strategies included participation in local health fairs, face-to-face sessions during kit distributions, and the display of posters with key messages in schools, workplaces, and public gathering areas.

Pending components:  
650 water tanks (33 litres): These are currently in the shipment process and are expected to arrive in-country during the extended phase of the operation. Distribution will prioritise the most water-insecure communities in the previously targeted provinces.

The WASH component has played a vital role in supporting disease prevention in areas where water infrastructure was temporarily disrupted or contaminated following the hurricane. The combined approach of hygiene kit provision and risk communication has been well received by community members and helped reinforce safe behaviours amid ongoing recovery efforts.

Challenges:  
Delayed arrival of water tanks, linked to shipping and port handling constraints, has limited the full realisation of WASH hardware distribution targets.

Fuel shortages and access limitations required rescheduling and adjustment of community visits, particularly in mountainous and remote communities.

Despite these delays, the Cuban Red Cross continues to coordinate with the IFRC and national authorities to ensure the timely clearance and delivery of remaining WASH items. The extension of the operation to June 2025 will allow for the full implementation of all planned WASH interventions.







## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

**Budget:** CHF 12,514

**Targeted Persons:** 25

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained in VCA	25	24
# of VCA conducted	5	6

### Progress Towards Outcome

As of March 2025, the Cuban Red Cross has made substantial progress in the implementation of community resilience activities under this component. These actions have contributed to strengthening local preparedness capacities and integrating environmental and climate risk considerations into community planning.

#### Achievements:

From 4 to 7 February 2025, a regional training workshop on Extended VCA and NEAT+ was held in Guantánamo, with the participation of 24 volunteers (21 from Guantánamo and 3 from Santiago de Cuba). The workshop was facilitated with technical support from the IFRC Caribbean Cluster and the Dominican Red Cross.

A total of 6 VCAs have been successfully conducted in priority communities:

5 communities in Guantánamo (Rio Guaso, La Yaya, La Playa, El Canal, Sabanilla)

1 community in Santiago de Cuba (Cayo Granma)

A 7th VCA is scheduled to take place in Pilón (Granma) in April 2025, in line with the extension of the operational timeframe.

The VCA process has engaged local community leaders, civil defence actors, and vulnerable groups in identifying specific risks, capacities, and actions for preparedness. These assessments are serving as a foundation for the development or update of community and household-level disaster risk management plans with climate and environmental considerations.

#### Challenges:

Fuel shortages and transportation constraints delayed the implementation of some field assessments and required adjustments to the original VCA calendar.

Simultaneous response actions and volunteer availability occasionally limited participation from branch-level teams.

Despite these challenges, the risk reduction activities have been a cornerstone of the operation's recovery strategy and are supporting a culture of preparedness in communities repeatedly affected by extreme weather events. The upcoming VCA in Pilón will complete the planned target, with community resilience plans expected to be finalised by the end of the extended operational period.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 2,663

**Targeted Persons:** 5,000

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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% of people satisfied with a dignified and quality distribution	90	-
# of people reached through dignified and quality dissemination	5,000	5,384
# of feedback boxes/mechanisms established in the branches	5	4

## Progress Towards Outcome

As of March 2025, CEA activities have been successfully embedded across all sectors of the DREF operation. The Cuban Red Cross has prioritised open communication, transparency, and community involvement in all intervention areas.

Key results to date:

5,384 people were reached with key messages on hygiene promotion, service timelines, distribution processes, and community feedback channels—exceeding the target of 5,000.

Four Community Feedback Committees were established in each of the intervention municipalities (Baracoa, Imías, San Antonio del Sur, and Pilón), with a total of 22 trained volunteers leading their operations.

These committees have played a central role in:

Informing communities about item entitlements and distribution schedules

Gathering questions, concerns, and suggestions through meetings and home visits

Liaising with vulnerable individuals and coordinating with local authorities

Additionally, a centralised suggestion box mechanism has been set up at Cuban Red Cross headquarters, supported by digital tools such as email and WhatsApp, ensuring accessibility to beneficiaries and volunteers.

While formal satisfaction surveys are planned for the final distribution phase, no major complaints or negative feedback have been reported to date. Communities have expressed appreciation for the transparency and participation afforded throughout the response. The use of trusted local actors and social workers for house-to-house engagement has helped reinforce trust and dignity in the delivery of assistance.

Challenges:

The completion of post-distribution satisfaction surveys and formal analysis of feedback is pending the arrival of remaining items (e.g., mosquito nets and mattresses).

The limitation in connectivity and energy access in some remote areas has restricted the use of digital tools, requiring alternative approaches to feedback collection.

The integration of CEA throughout the operation has proven critical in strengthening the relevance, quality, and acceptance of the response. The final phase of the operation will focus on completing satisfaction assessments and documenting lessons learned for future emergency responses.



**Secretariat Services**

**Budget:** CHF 12,780

**Targeted Persons:** 0

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of monitoring visits carried out	6	2

# of communication visits carried out	2	1
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### Progress Towards Outcome

The IFRC Secretariat, through the Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, has provided close support to the Cuban Red Cross throughout the operation. As of March 2025, two monitoring visits have been conducted by CCD representatives. The first visit took place in November 2024, coinciding with the arrival and offloading of the initial charter flight of relief items, offering technical guidance on reception procedures, storage, and distribution planning. The second visit occurred in early February 2025, in conjunction with the EVCA training workshop in Guantánamo, and served to monitor the implementation of risk reduction activities, engage with local teams, and assess operational progress in the field.

Additionally, a communications visit was conducted in November 2024 to document the arrival of the chartered goods and gather visual and narrative content for dissemination. The visit supported the visibility of the response and highlighted the impact of the DREF intervention in national and regional communication efforts.

These visits have facilitated coordination between IFRC and the Cuban Red Cross, supported quality assurance, and provided visibility to the operation at key milestones. No major operational concerns were raised during these missions, and follow-up support has continued remotely through technical teams at the Americas Regional Office



National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 50,694  
**Targeted Persons:** 180

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers receiving rescue equipment	100	0
# of lessons learnt workshop	1	0
# of first aid kits	40	0

### Progress Towards Outcome

The Cuban Red Cross has prioritised the protection, visibility, and operational readiness of its volunteers throughout the Hurricane Oscar response. As of March 2025, implementation under this component has focused on preparatory and enabling actions, while several key items remain pending arrival.

To date:

Telephone and internet credit has been provided to operational staff and volunteer leaders across the four intervention municipalities and the headquarters, facilitating coordination, reporting, and mobilisation.

Office supplies and materials have been distributed to provincial and municipal branches to support beneficiary registration, distribution tracking, and reporting.

However, the procurement and arrival of visibility and rescue equipment, including waterproof gear, helmets, lanterns, and whistles, as well as the replenishment of first aid kits, is still pending. These items are expected to be delivered during the extended phase of the operation.

The lessons learned workshop, originally planned for April 2025, has been rescheduled for the closing phase of the operation (May–June 2025) to allow for full integration of feedback from all intervention areas and complete implementation of remaining distributions.



Despite logistical delays, the CRC has maintained consistent volunteer engagement, with a total of 268 volunteers actively participating in the operation, including 107 in health promotion, 139 in distributions, and 22 in community feedback mechanisms. All deployments have adhered to minimum safety and protection standards, ensuring trust and acceptance within communities.

The final phase of the operation will focus on completing the delivery of equipment and conducting the lessons learned process to consolidate institutional learning and operational improvements.

## About Support Services

### How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

600 volunteers will be mobilized in the field for the various activities, along with 60 staff from national technical areas to support the operations. During the DREF operation, 100 volunteers will participate in distributions and hygiene promotion, in addition to the technical areas of the National Society.

### If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Coordination has been maintained with the Regional Logistics Unit since the beginning of the DREF formulation to ensure that all the articles, items, kits, etc., included in the action plan can be delivered taking into account the time taken by the shipping companies and the time the Cuban Government grants import permits. The above taking into account that all purchasing processes will be done through the IFRC and following all the processes and protocols.

Based on recent operational experiences in Cuba, it has been observed that humanitarian goods typically take 1.5 to 3 months to reach the intended beneficiaries from the moment the Logistic Requisition is submitted for processing. Air Freight is being considered in order to mitigate long times of delivery by sea.

### How will this operation be monitored?

This operation will be monitored through coordination between the Cuban Red Cross (CRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). A continuous monitoring system will be implemented, focused on the constant collection of data regarding the activities and outcomes of the operation. The CRC will be responsible for gathering information in the field, while the IFRC will provide technical support to ensure that the data is used effectively in decision-making.

The monitoring system will be based on predefined indicators and direct feedback from the beneficiary communities. Periodic meetings will be held to ensure the operation aligns with the established objectives and that resources are being utilized efficiently.

The IFRC will conduct regular monitoring visits to support the Cuban Red Cross in the continuous strengthening of its Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) capacities. These visits will also be closely coordinated with the Civil Defense Council (CCD) of Cuba and the IFRC's Americas Regional Office (ARO) team to ensure effective collaboration in tracking emergency operations. Through these visits, the latest monitoring systems used in previous operations will be leveraged, enhancing the Cuban Red Cross's ability to monitor the progress of its interventions, ensuring a stronger and more efficient implementation.

### Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The Cuban Red Cross (CRC) communication strategy will focus on documenting and broadly disseminating the response activities, their impact on the community, and the coordination with key stakeholders. Both press and digital media, including social networks, will be utilized to ensure a steady flow of information about the operation's progress. However, given the connectivity and energy access issues in the country, formats will be adapted to the resources and capacities available.

In terms of support from the Secretariat, the Communications Unit will continue to provide technical assistance and training to the Cuban Red Cross to enhance and adapt its communication strategies in line with the operation's needs and the working context. This includes close coordination with the Cuban Red Cross and the Civil Defense Council (CCD), ensuring key information is communicated consistently, accurately, and timely, as well as coordination with the international press.

This support from the Secretariat will include the collection of photos and videos, the development of impact stories, reputational crisis



management, and crisis communication training for local teams and the newly established communications unit of the CRC. The roles involved in this strategy include the National Society's communications team, the IFRC Regional Communications Manager, and CCD representatives. They will work together to ensure the operation's visibility, strengthen community trust in the response, advocate for humanitarian assistance in sanctioned countries, and demonstrate the IFRC's capacity to deliver it.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

MDRCU010 - Cuban Red Cross  
Cuba: Hurricane Oscar

Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>403,748</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	296,609
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	91,963
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	12,514
Community Engagement and Accountability	2,663
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>63,474</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	12,780
National Society Strengthening	50,694
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>467,222</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*



# Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[Click here for the reference](#)

