



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HUMANITARIAN/RESIDENT COORDINATOR ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS

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| Country | Cuba |
| Humanitarian / Resident Coordinator | Susan McDade |
| Reporting Period | 1 January to 31 December 2008 |

I. Executive Summary

Hurricane Gustav crossed western Cuba on the night of 30 August 2008. At category four on the Saffir-Simpson scale, it was the most devastating hurricane to have hit Cuba - a country prone to and prepared for this type of meteorological phenomenon - in the last 50 years. In the four hours it took to cross the island from south to north, almost as many houses (90,000) were lost as in the last eight years combined.

Gustav entered Cuba through the Isle of Youth, off the south-western coast of Cuba, crossing into southern Pinar del Rio province and exiting later through the north coast of Pinar del Rio. While its path of destruction was relatively narrow, its gale-force winds (up to 340 km/hr were registered) wrought extensive damage.

A little over a week later, on 8 September 2008, Hurricane Ike struck Cuba. The hurricane entered as a category three storm through the north-eastern province of Holguin, crossing the island from north to south and exiting through Camagüey, then hugging the southern Cuban coast and re-entering land on the Pinar del Rio-Havana southern border before exiting through the northern coast of Pinar del Rio as a category one storm. The trek over Cuban territory took about 48 hours but the direct effects (heavy rains and winds) were felt for four days.

The combined effect of these two storms is considered the worst in Cuba's long history of hurricanes and, according to Cuban authorities, has caused nearly US\$10 billion dollars worth of losses. More than 444,000 houses were damaged, of which 63,249 were completely destroyed, leaving about 200,000 people homeless and hundreds of thousands in badly damaged homes requiring urgent repairs which inhabitants are unable to afford.

Not only family homes were damaged. There was also extensive damage to public infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals and warehouses. Extensive damage was also caused to the electricity network, but perhaps the most critical harm was that done to agriculture since the entire harvest was either lost or severely damaged in most of the country. Nearly all agricultural land was flooded resulting in the loss of the banana, maize and yucca harvest.

The assets of people living in the affected areas were seriously depleted, ranging from homes to personal belongings. While the national and local governments deployed extraordinary relief and reconstruction efforts, the scale of destruction was so great that it was not possible for these entities to address it on their own.

The UN System in Cuba quickly activated its different agency rapid response mechanisms and was able to provide assistance, albeit somewhat limited, very quickly. A number of bilateral donors also air-lifted emergency food and other assistance. But, given the scale of destruction, it was necessary to secure additional funding quickly in order to ensure continued assistance to the affected

population. As a result, the Government of Cuba agreed for the first time to accept the Central Emergency Response Fund's (CERF) funding.

Two applications were submitted: one in the aftermath of Gustav and the second in the aftermath of Ike. The funding was used to purchase food and related cooking materials; seeds, agricultural tools and irrigations systems; roofing materials and construction tools; materials for water storage, distribution and treatment; and medical supplies and equipment. Furthermore, CERF funding allowed for assistance to be provided while the Plan of Action (which was a hybrid consolidation of a flash appeal for the Cuban context) and other funding requests were prepared and launched by the system, and thus provided an essential funding bridge.

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| Total amount of humanitarian funding required and received during the reporting year | REQUIRED: RECEIVED: | | \$ 38,372,246 \$ 13,957,964 | |
| Total amount requested from CERF | FUNDS (IN TOTAL REQUESTED): | | \$ 8,357,925 | |
| Total amount of CERF funding received by funding window | RAPID RESPONSE: UNDERFUNDED: | | \$ 7,367,516 \$ 0 | |
| | GRAND TOTAL: | | \$ 7,367,516 | |
| Total amount of CERF funding for direct UN agency / IOM implementation and total amount forwarded to implementing partners | UN AGENCIES/IOM: NGOS: GOVERNMENT: OTHER: | | \$ 7,367,516 \$ 0 \$ 0 \$ 0 | |
| | TOTAL(Must equal the total CERF funding allocated): | | \$ 7,367,516 | |
| Approximate total number of beneficiaries reached with CERF funding (disaggregated by sex/age if possible) | TOTAL | under 5 years of age | Female (If available) | Male (If available) |
| | 8,439,255 people | n/a | 4,384,311 | 4,054,944 |
| Geographic areas of implementation targeted with CERF funding | The following Cuban provinces: Holguin, Guantanamo, Las Tunas, Camaguey, Pinar del Rio, and the Isle of Youth. | | | |

II. Background

The magnitude of the damage caused by hurricanes Gustav and Ike prompted an urgent need for immediate response. The government quickly began clean-up operations and dipped deep into its reserve to assist the affected population which was dispersed almost throughout the entire country. While the well organised Civil Defense system limited the number of casualties to seven, through evacuation and temporary relocation of a total of four million people during the hurricane season, the physical damage to social infrastructure and food production as well as distribution systems was extensive. The total number of houses totally or partially destroyed came to 444,000 meaning that a significant percentage of the Cuban population was left roofless or homeless. Many schools, hospitals and health centres were affected so that, in the days after the hurricanes (which coincided with the beginning of the Cuban academic year), lessons had to be either cancelled or held in alternative spaces, such as private homes. The damaged agricultural fields meant a medium to long-term problem for food production and distribution. In addition, the harm done to warehouses and "bodegas" (public system food distribution points) as well as canteens and kitchens, coupled with the large number of people temporarily evacuated, posed a serious challenge.

The Cuban government system has a high organizational capacity to carry out immediate response

and protection activities but lacked adequate material inputs given the widespread impacts of the hurricanes. The urgent need for humanitarian assistance was evident and the different UN agencies therefore resorted to their immediate response mechanisms. The World Food Programme (WFP), for example, was able to fly in over 75 metric tons (MT) of high energy biscuits and canned fish, and purchase 16 stoves, 800 pallets and cooking equipment. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) used its internal emergency funds to purchase clothing and shoes for school teachers, along with mattresses and some fans for affected schools. The United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) Emergency Program Fund made possible the rehabilitation of eight educational centres for 892 children under five years of age on the Isle of Youth. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) used its internal emergency funds to purchase medical equipment needed in the areas damaged by the hurricanes. Finally, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) employed internal funds for housing reconstruction, principally roofing materials and tools.

CERF funding was requested as a secure and immediate source of additional finances. The priority areas were established in conjunction with the government and were mainly divided between infrastructure, housing and food aid.

III. Implementation and results

As indicated above, this is the first time that the CERF mechanism was activated in Cuba. It was therefore a novel experience for the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) as well as for the government. It forced the different agencies to coordinate their response and underlined the benefits of such a coordinated response. Cuba is a relatively small country by UN programming standards and the number of resident agencies is also small. The presence of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is very limited and they were in any case not included in the CERF application. The International Red Cross had launched its own appeal in September and worked effectively with the Cuban Red Cross at the local level. The cluster/sector approach was not activated. Rather, each agency responded in the area consistent with its mandate and capacities which often corresponded with the cluster lead concept. In all cases, implementation was carried out through government counterparts, either line ministries or provincial/municipal authorities. In this particular respect, delays were encountered with some regularity, causing several of the projects to be significantly behind schedule.

Below is a description of implementation and results, organized by sector, of the post-hurricane projects in Cuba funded by the CERF.

Food

WFP, working with the Cuban Ministry of Domestic Trade, utilized CERF funds to supply emergency food rations, food storage and preparation materials to areas that were affected by hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

In a response to hurricane Gustav, WFP supplied food to the Isle of Youth and to vulnerable groups in the most affected municipalities of Pinar del Rio. In total, 345 MT of food were purchased, of which 327.49 MT had been distributed by the end of March 2009, including corn-soy blend (CSB), vegetable oil and canned fish, guaranteeing 143,027 people roughly 60 days of rations.

In a response to hurricane Ike, WFP supplied food to vulnerable groups in the most affected municipalities of Camaguey, Las Tunas, Holguin and Guantanamo provinces. A total of 377.19 MT of food were purchased, of which 128.38 MT had been distributed by the end of February 2009. The food consisted of beans, vegetable oil and canned fish. These rations benefited 112,708 people and covered from 45 to 60 days, depending on the particular food item. As of writing, 150.69 MT of canned fish remained in provincial warehouses since they arrived only at the end of January 2009.

Distribution thereof is expected to be completed by the end of March.

CERF funds were also used to provide safe food warehousing facilities to replace or repair those facilities destroyed or damaged by hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Nine temporary warehouses were purchased, of which four were set-up in Pinar del Rio and one on the Isle of Youth. With respect to the warehouses destined for the eastern provinces, their installation had been delayed due to transportation problems upon arrival from the port to their provincial destinations. The two warehouses in Holguin were recently installed and arrangements have been made with the Cuban authorities to have the remaining three warehouses set-up in Camaguey, Las Tunas and Guantanamo in the first week of April.

Finally, CERF funds were used to re-establish food preparation capacity in 25 community kitchens in Pinar del Rio and 19 in Camaguey, Las Tunas, Holguin and Guantanamo. The 16 liquid gas stoves destined for community kitchens in Pinar del Rio and the 19 for Camaguey, Las Tunas, Holguin and Guantanamo were distributed at the beginning of March 2009 because they arrived in Cuba only at the end of January 2009. Moreover, the cooking implements purchased for the Isle of Youth were only distributed in February 2009 due to a lack of transportation.

These results were confirmed by a number of monitoring visits undertaken by WFP personnel, which will continue until the project is completed. Final results will be included in the CERF report of the 2009 calendar year.

Agriculture

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), working with the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG), used CERF funds to purchase materials and inputs for the recovery of food production capacity in the areas affected by hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

FAO purchased 15,111 kilograms of vegetable seeds (cabbage, cucumber, tomato, pepper, lettuce and bokchoy) to provide short-term food crops to urban and peri-urban agriculture operations that were damaged by hurricanes Ike and Gustav in Pinar del Rio, the Isle of Youth, Holguin, Las Tunas and Camaguey. These seeds arrived in Cuba in February 2009 and are currently going through vegetable quarantine and analysis by the Cuban phytosanitary authorities who will then distribute them to the beneficiaries although no date as yet has been provided as to when distribution will take place.

FAO also utilized CERF funds to purchase 4,340 general agricultural tools items (wheelbarrows, rakes, pitchfork, machetes, blade sharpeners, and hoes) for urgent agricultural recuperation work. These tools are expected to arrive in Cuba at the end of March 2009 when they will be distributed by MINAG to the farm workers.

FAO has begun the tender process for the purchase of irrigation systems in areas that were affected by hurricanes Gustav and Ike. FAO believes that the systems will be purchased in the first half of April 2009 and installed sometime between May and July 2009.

Although there are no results for this project yet, it is expected that the use of the seeds, agricultural tools and irrigations systems will eventually benefit 1,532,590 food consumers in the above mentioned provinces. The delay is partly due to the FAO procurement process along with delays on the part of the Cuban authorities to provide the technical specifications for the irrigation systems. Once the materials arrive at their destination, FAO will monitor implementation and include the final results in the 2009 CERF report.

Shelter and Non-food Items

UNDP utilized CERF funds and worked with the Cuban Housing Institute, Cuban Civil Defense and local municipal governments to restore housing conditions following the destruction and to contribute to a reduction of risk and vulnerabilities in future hurricanes.

UNDP provided roofing materials for 1,220 damaged 35 square meter homes in Holguin and 272 damaged 70 square meter homes in Pinar del Rio of which 119 have been completed and 153 are in the execution phase. These roofing supplies allowed these homes to be converted into “home-shelters”, an innovative response to the need for evacuation space which Cuba is developing to confront natural disasters. They are not traditional temporary shelters, but structurally sound private homes which serve as a safe refuge for neighbours that live in homes that are at risk structurally or through their location. In exchange for state-financed structural reinforcement and improvement of the home the home owner is committed to give refuge to a number of neighbours when a hurricane is approaching. Utilizing “home-shelters” in the community allows for more flexibility, quicker preparation and less distance to cover during the evacuation. It is estimated that more than 80 per cent of the country’s evacuees during the recent hurricanes were relocated in the homes of neighbours, family members and friends.

The 1,220 home-shelters established in Holguin housed 5,490 people and will also benefit an additional 5,400 people who will be able to use these facilities in the event of another hurricane.

There are an additional 153 homes currently being converted into home-shelters in Pinar del Rio for a total of 272 homes. The expected result was originally 545 home-shelters of 53 square meters, but the strategy of the province was to set-up home-shelters with 70 square meters. Nevertheless, the initial coverage of the project was maintained because home-shelters with 70 square meters can house four families at a time. In this way, when completed, the home-shelters in Pinar del Rio will benefit 1,088 people, with an additional 3,264 people benefiting from refuge during future hurricanes, for a total of 4,352 beneficiaries.

Along with the roofing materials, UNDP used CERF funds to purchase 495 basic tool kits (hammers, metal cutters, saws, chisels, trowels, picks, shovels, etc.) for affected families in Holguin and Pinar del Rio (400 and 95 kits respectively) so that they can take part in reconstruction efforts, based on the principles of self-help and mutual support. Each tool kit will be used by five families, for a total of 10,900 beneficiaries. The tool kits are still being distributed. The delay in delivery is due to transportation and distribution problems in Cuba. Moreover, it should be noted that a smaller number of tool kits was supplied to Pinar del Rio than initially planned because UNDP decided to buy larger tool kit units. In addition, prices rose following the initial budgeting.

To further assist in the reconstruction work, UNDP used CERF funds to purchase 100 specialized tool kits (electric drill, welding tool, clamps, scaffolding, etc.) for municipal construction brigades involved in reconstruction efforts. As of March 2009, 80 kits were in the process of being distributed in Holguin and 20 kits were in the process of being distributed in Pinar del Rio. UNDP expects distribution to be completed by April 2009, on the basis of information given by national authorities.

Finally, in order to improve the sanitary conditions in homes affected in Holguin and Las Tunas by hurricane Ike, UNDP purchased 6,700 cooking kits which supply basic utensils for food preparation and consumption. In Holguin, 3,350 families received cooking kits and in Las Tunas 3,350 families received kits. A total of 30,150 people benefiting from these kits in the two provinces.

UNDP was able to confirm the results of the roofing projects through a total of four monitoring visits (two visits to Holguin, one visit to Las Tunas, and one visit to Pinar del Rio). UNDP will continue its monitoring so as to determine the distribution and implementation of the tool kits and the final results will be included in the CERF report of the next calendar year.

Health

The WHO and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) used CERF funds to assist the Cuban Public Health Ministry (MINSAP) in re-establishing health services in the main hospitals of the municipalities of San Cristobal and the Isle of Youth affected by hurricane Gustav. Efforts focused on strengthening the capacity of these hospitals to undertake epidemiological monitoring and in establishing early warning systems for the detection of disease outbreaks. With CERF funds, the following items that were not available in Cuba were purchased: 18 spectrophotometers, two anaesthesia machines, 18 microscopes, two neurology monitors, 250 hospital beds and mattresses, seven operating theatre lamps, three assisted ventilation machines, 16 autoclaves, and disposable medical items such as catheters, syringes, and surgical gloves. With the purchase of these items and their distribution to the local hospitals, medical services were restored along with epidemiological monitoring, which was especially critical during times of emergency.

WHO also assisted in the reestablishment of primary health care services in eastern Cuba. The following items were purchased: 250,000 doses of canine rabies vaccine, 27 packages of Tetanus Toxoide vaccine, 500,000 doses of doxycycline, 10 WHO Emergency Kits, 18 microscopes and binoculars, six kits for updating anaesthesia machines, 200 beds and mattresses, four assisted ventilation machines, 30 autoclaves, eight ultrasound machines, disposable laboratory glassware, three operating theatre lamps, disposable hospital material, two incubators, educational material, and promotional material for disasters and hygiene. With the distribution of these items and materials, hospitals in the areas of eastern Cuba that were affected by hurricane Ike now can attend to the local population, have recovered their emergency and clinical laboratory services, can carry out early detection and control of disease outbreaks and the affected population has been informed about basic hygiene and preventative measures.

UNFPA purchased 257 Reproductive Health Kits, along with more than 28 kits paid for with UNFPA funds, for health centres of Pinar del Rio, Isle of Youth, Holguin, Guantanamo, Las Tunas and Camaguey affected by hurricanes Gustav and Ike. These kits, composed of boxes containing medicine, medical supplies, and medical instruments, arrived in Cuba in November and December 2008 and were distributed to MINSAP in December and January 2009. These materials have allowed the local hospitals and clinics in the affected areas to re-establish important obstetric and neonatal care capacities. Moreover, these health centres have been able to re-establish their services to assist in the prevention of unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) (including AIDS).

It should be noted that the CERF Secretariat allowed a reprogramming of funds for the above-mentioned UNFPA project in order to resolve the following administrative difficulty. As explained above, the CERF project financed the purchase of emergency kits. At the same time, UNFPA used some of its internal emergency funds to purchase medical equipment (19 ultrasounds, 16 anaesthesia machines, 31 bed-side monitors, 29 sterilizers, and two vacuum autoclaves). The problem occurred when accounting rules prohibited UNFPA to pay for the medical equipment because the equipment was not due to arrive in Cuba until February 2009 and accounting rules did not allow payment in 2009 for a purchase order issued in 2008. The solution, which was approved by OCHA, was to use CERF funds to acquire the medical equipment and at the same time use the funds of UNFPA to pay for the emergency kits programmed in the CERF project. In this way, the CERF project was completely fulfilled, along with making it possible the purchase of the medical equipment.

Water and Sanitation

UNICEF purchased water tanks to ensure access to safe water for people affected by hurricanes Gustav and Ike. With the assistance of MINSAP and municipal governments in the regions involved, 470 170 litre tanks were distributed to multi-family apartment buildings in the Isle of Youth and 3,850 250 litre tanks were distributed to individual homes with special needs and to health centres.

UNICEF also purchased chlorine tablets to purify water. In total, 680,000 tablets were purchased, of which 12,000 were distributed to the public in the Isle of Youth through the local health clinics and MINSAP epidemiology centres; 68,000 were put in storage by MINSAP in the Isle of Youth for future use (expiration date August 2011); and 600,000 were distributed by MINSAP to the public in the most affected municipalities of Holguin. The distribution of these chlorine tablets has contributed to the reduction of vulnerability to gastrointestinal sickness amongst the affected population.

In order to repair water mains damaged by hurricanes Ike in Holguin, Las Tunas and Camaguey, UNICEF purchased water pipes, pipe connection accessories, water pumps, chlorine equipment, and water purification plants. For Holguin, 126,000 metres of piping were purchased, along with 22 submersible pumps, eight horizontal electrical pumps, 12 diesel-motor pumps, two chlorine gas machines, 40 electric dosing pumps, three pipe welding machines and one electric welding machine. For Las Tunas, 3,000 metres of piping were purchased, along with 17 submersible pumps and 16 electric dosing pumps. For Camaguey, 3,000 metres of piping was purchased, along with four horizontal pumps and two water purification plants. The water main repair component of the project is still in the implementation stage. The piping and pumps have arrived in Cuba and are currently being distributed to the specific destinations in the respective provinces. The two water purification plants for Camaguey were expected to arrive in Cuba in the second week of March 2009. Once all the materials have arrived at their destinations, they will be installed by the Cuban National Institute of Water Resources (INRH). UNICEF will continue its monitoring activities to ensure the completion of the project and will include the final results in the CERF report of the next calendar year.

Education

UNESCO purchased zinc roofing sheets for the repair of 480 educational facilities (schools of different levels, including daycares) in Las Tunas, Camaguey, and Holguin that were damaged by hurricane Ike. This work was implemented through the Cuban Ministry of Education (MINED) and, with additional building materials, washroom materials, and educational materials such as desks and computers, contributed by the Cuban government, has allowed 95,000 children to return to their schools. Along with allowing children to resume their education, this project also allowed the parents of these children to be able to return to work or to be able to begin to repair their homes damaged by the hurricanes. The fact that children have been able to return to school has also assisted in the alleviation of post traumatic stress suffered by the children, their families, and education staff. Another ancillary result of the project was the fact that the children's families, community members and the local government, education ministry staff, and members of the Cuban armed forces, worked together in the repair of the schools, thus augmenting community solidarity and self-reliance.

IV. Results

| Sector | CERF projects per sector | Amount disbursed (US\$) | Number of Beneficiaries (by sex/age) | Implementing Partners and funds disbursed | Expected Results/Outcomes | Actual results and improvements for the target beneficiaries |
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| Food (WFP) | 08-WFP-091 Emergency Food Assistance to populations affected by Hurricane Gustav | \$ 703,197 | 139,914 people were assisted, of which 69,462 female and 70,452 male. The total includes 24,658 children under five; 2,836 pregnant women and 96,899 elderly above the age of 65 | MINCIN / MINVEC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely supply of food to Isle of Youth and to vulnerable groups in the most affected municipalities of Pinar del Rio (quantity of food disaggregated by type of food and time coverage, number of beneficiaries who receive WFP food assistance disaggregated by gender). Safe warehousing guaranteed on Isle of Youth and three municipalities of Pinar del Rio during the operation. Re-establish the food preparation facilities in four community kitchens | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely supply of food to vulnerable groups in the most affected municipalities of Camaguey, Las Tunas, Holguin and Guantanamo provinces. 377.19 MT of food were purchased, of which 128.38 MT were distributed by the end February with the following breakdown: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 73.04 MT of beans covering 45 days of food rations. 46.90 of vegetable oil covering 45 days of food rations. 8.44 MT of canned fish covering 60 days of food rations in Guantanamo province. 25.64 MT of vegetable oil are still in warehouses of Camaguey and Guantanamo provinces and are expected to be totally distributed by the end March. 150.69 MT of canned fish are still in provincial warehouses of Las Tunas, Holguin and Camaguey since this food arrived to Cuba at the end January 2009 and were transported to the provincial warehouses by mid February. It is expected that the canned fish will totally distributed by the end of March. 112,708 of people were assisted, of which 56,614 female and 56,094 male. Four temporary warehouses were bought, out of which three were set-up in Pinar del Rio province in November and December 2008. The one destined to Isle of Youth was set-up in January 2009 Improvement of food preparation facilities in 25 food community kitchens in Pinar del Rio province with the provision of 100 thermos, 339 trays, 125 large pots and 25 pressure cookers |

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| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 liquid gas stoves were bought in Panama mid December 2008 for the same number of food community kitchens in Pinar del Rio province, but they could be distributed only in February 2009 since they arrived to Havana Port in January. 100 thermos, 200 trays, 50 large pots and seven pressure cookers were bought for Isle of Youth elaboration centres but could not be distributed before end December 2008 due to lack of transport means. |
| Food (WFP) | 08-WFP-101 Emergency Food Assistance to Populations Affected by Hurricane Ike in Eastern Cuba | \$951,532 | 93,841 people were assisted, of which 46,970 female and 46,871 male. The total includes 32,183 children under five; 3,341 pregnant women and 58,317 elderly above the age of 65 | MINCIN / MINVEC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely supplied food to vulnerable groups in the most affected municipalities of Camaguey, Las Tunas, Holguin and Guantanamo provinces (quantity of food commodities disaggregated by type of food and time coverage; number of beneficiaries who receive WFP food assistance disaggregated by gender). Guaranteed food storage in foreseen municipalities during the operation. Re-established food preparation capacities in ten community kitchens |

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| | | | | | | <p>province during the last week of March. The remaining three warehouses will be set-up in Camaguey, Las Tunas and Guantanamo provinces in the first half of April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regards to food preparation capacity, 19 liquid gas stoves for same number of food community kitchens in Camaguey, Las Tunas, Holguin and Guantanamo provinces were bought in Panama in mid December 2008 but they could not be distributed since they only arrived to Havana Port in January 2009 98 thermos, 804 trays, 85 large pots and 44 pressure cookers were bought for 19 food community kitchens in above mentioned provinces. Those items were distributed in the provinces only during the first half of March due to lack of transport means to delivery them from the warehouse of supplier in Havana to the eastern provinces. |
| Health (UNFPA) | 08-FPA-032 Restore and revitalize the capacity to provide emergency Reproductive Health Service of local health systems in San Cristobal, Los Palacios, La Palma and the Isla de la Juventud | \$130,997 | four municipalities with 325,000 people (182,000 women.; population in reproductive age 15-49: 87,500, (male: 45,500, female: 42,000); pregnant women: 5,000) | MINSAP / MINVEC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neonatal and maternal deaths avoided and obstetric and neonatal care capacities and competencies established at hospitals, clinics and local services providers in San Cristobal, Los Palacios, La Palma in the province of Pinar del Rio, and at "Hospital de la Fe" in the Isle of Youth. Availability of emergency obstetric care, prenatal care for people living in shelters. Avoid the increase of number of unplanned pregnancies and STIs (including HIV) Availability of family planning methods for persons living in shelters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project achieved positive results for the population of the four municipalities most affected in Pinar del Rio and the Isle of Youth. The Reproductive Health kits of this project arrived at the end of November and were distributed to health authorities during the first days of December. Their distribution has created the conditions necessary to avoid neonatal and maternal deaths by restoring the neonatal care capacities in the health care centres in areas most affected by the hurricanes in Pinar del Rio and the Isle of Youth. Moreover, conditions have been created to avoid the increase of unplanned pregnancies and STDs with the provision of family planning methods for people living in the shelters. |

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| Health (UNFPA) | 08-FPA-038 Restore and revitalize the capacity to provide emergency Reproductive Health Service of local health system basically in the most affected municipalities in Holguín, Guantánamo, Las Tunas and Camaguey provinces | \$288,258 | 27 municipalities with 2,173,935 people (1,251,508 females, 922,427 males) | MINSAP / MINVEC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neonatal and maternal deaths avoided through restoring basic prenatal, (emergency) obstetric and neonatal health care capacities at the hospitals, clinics and local services in the most affected municipalities of Holguín, Guantánamo, Las Tunas and Camaguey provinces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project achieved positive results for the population of the most affected provinces in the eastern part of the country. The kits arrived before the end of 2008 and were distributed by the Ministry of Public Health to the local health authorities in the eastern provinces in January 2009. Their distribution has created the conditions necessary to avoid neonatal and maternal deaths by restoring basic prenatal and emergency obstetric and neonatal capacities in the affected hospitals and clinics of Holguín, Guantánamo, Las Tunas and Camaguey. Medical Equipment bought through an administrative arrangement with OCHA will be arriving to Cuba at the end of March. |
| Water and Sanitation (UNICEF) | 08-CEF-066 Water, Sanitation, and Environmental Hygiene in Affected Communities | \$383,308 | 23,964 children under 18 years of age (12,208 boys, 11,486 girls) | MINSAP / Municipal Government of the Isle of Youth / MINVEC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to water and sanitation conditions for vulnerable groups. Reduced vulnerabilities for gastrointestinal diseases through the distribution of chlorine tablets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With that acquisition and distribution of the 470 1,700 litre tanks for multifamily apartment buildings, 7,882 children and adolescents now have access to safe water. These tanks were distributed in six municipal sub-regions to lower income families and health centres that needed them. The acquisition and distribution of 3,850 tanks of 250 litres, 15,812 children and adolescents now have access to safe water in nine municipal sub-regions, along with health centres in these regions. With the availability of 80,000 chlorine tablets from the emergency fund, 12,000 tablets have been sent to each health district, and the remainder (which expire in August 2011) are available to confront future water related health problems. |

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| <p>Water and Sanitation (UNICEF)</p> | <p>08-CEF-078 Water, Sanitation and Environmental Hygiene in Affected Communities</p> | <p>\$819,269</p> | <p>81,179 people (22,474 in Holguin, 56,618 in Las Tunas, 2,087 in Camaguey)</p> | <p>INRH / MINVEC</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Holguin: New water pumping and treatment equipment installed to substitute the damaged equipment; New covered water storage tanks set-up for the population, with guaranteed water treatment through the chlorine tablets; Repaired water leaks; New roofing for the Health and Aqueduct buildings. ■ Las Tunas: Guarantee the water supply to 100% of the affected communities; Improve the conditions for drinking water storage; Guarantee water supply to two social services entities that were affected. ■ Camaguey: Improve the quality of life of women and children by providing access to safe water through the installation of drinking water treatment plants. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Holguin: 600,000 chlorine tablets were acquired and distributed jointly by the Cuban water resources and public health authorities through local health clinics and Centres for Hygiene and Epidemiology in the most affected costal municipalities in Holguin, covering almost 10 percent of the population in these rural areas; ■ 126,000 meters of piping of different dimensions were acquired to repair the leakages in the rural coastal municipalities and the capital municipality of the province. These materials arrived in Cuba in February and are being distributed to the various destination points. ■ On the second week of March, 22 submergible pumps, eight electric horizontal pumps, 12 diesel pumps, two chlorine gas machines; 40 electric dossification pumps, three pipe welding machines, and one electric motor welder arrived in Cuba which will improve the quality of life through an improved water supply to the affected municipalities and thus receive services from the Holguin aqueduct. These materials will be transported to Holguin in coordination with the provincial office of Cuban water resources ministry. ■ Due to price variations in the market, the available funds were not sufficient to cover two important elements of the project: the acquisition of the water storage tanks and the roofs for the pumping stations pending. Other funding sources are being explored to cover this funding shortfall. ■ Las Tunas: The 3,000 meters of piping acquired for the repair of the water mains is presently in Las Tunas province and is in the process of being distributed to the affected communities. ■ 17 submergible pumps and 16 electric dossification pumps were purchased and arrived in Cuba in the second week of March and are presently in the process of being |
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| | | | | | | <p>transported to the province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camaguey: The 3,000 meters of piping were purchased and are presently in Camaguey province. The four horizontal water pumps to provide water access to each affected community have arrived in Cuba. Two drinking water plants were purchased to guarantee safe water. They are expected to arrive in Cuba during the second half of March. |
| Health (WHO / PAHO) | 08-WHO-057 Revitalization of local capacity of vital health services in the affected municipalities of Pinar el Rio province and the Special Municipality of the Isle of Youth | \$524,043 | 637,000 people (550,000 in Pinar del Río and 87,000 in the Isle of Youth based on hospital coverage) | MINSAP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical services re-established in the main hospitals of San Cristobal municipality and the Isle of Youth, along with the main primary care facilities in the affected municipalities. Strengthened capacity of the hospitals and laboratories of health centres, along with strengthened sites for epidemiological monitoring. A system established for early warning of disease outbreaks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the CERF funds, the WHO/PAHO facilitated the acquisition and distribution of products, equipment and materials that were not available in Cuba and which have contributed to the reestablishment of medical services, along with medical supplies and medicines necessary for the maintenance of epidemiological monitoring, which is an activity that is especially critical following emergency situations. The items acquired were: 18 spectrophotometers; two anaesthesia machines; 18 microscopes; two neurology monitors; 250 hospital beds and mattresses; seven operating theatre lamps; three assisted ventilation machines; 16 autoclave units; and disposable materials (catheters, syringes, gloves). |
| Health (WHO / PAHO) | 08-WHO-065 Reestablishment of basic health care provision in the eastern provinces of Cuba affected by Hurricane Ike | \$1,087,634 | 3,286,900 people (direct and indirect beneficiaries in the eastern provinces) | MINSAP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct support for the health centres and hospitals in the affected areas so that they can attend and treat people in these areas. Re-establish the capacity of emergency services and clinical laboratory services Early detection and control of contagious disease outbreaks through a system of epidemiological warning. The affected population informed with regards to basic hygiene and preventative measures. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through CERF funds, WHO/PAHO facilitated the acquisition and distribution of products, equipment and essential medicines that were not immediately available in Cuba. The acquisition of these items contributed to the reestablishment of health services in the affected areas and the strengthening of the epidemiological monitoring system. The acquired products were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250,000 doses canine anti-rabies vaccine. 27 packages of tetanus toxoide vaccine. 500,000 doses of doxycycline 10 WHO Emergency Kits (10,000 people for three months) |

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| | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 18 binocular microscopes ▪ Six kit to update anaesthesia machines. ▪ 200 beds and mattresses. ▪ Disposable materials. ▪ Four assisted ventilation units. ▪ 30 autoclaves. ▪ Eight ultrasound machines. ▪ Disposable laboratory crystal ware. ▪ Three operating theatre lamps. ▪ Disposable hospital materials. ▪ Two incubators. ▪ Educational material. Informative material regarding disasters and hygiene. |
| Agriculture (FAO) | 08-FAO-047 Reactivation of the urban and peri-urban agricultural network damaged by Hurricane Gustav | \$439,770 | 487 000 people (the inhabitants of the communities affected by hurricane Gustav in Pinar del Rio and Isle of Youth) | MINAG / MINVEC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The provision of seeds, tools and irrigation equipment for the recovery of food production capacity, the availability of fresh food within the short-term in the affected areas, and to achieve food security and quality of life of the population living in the affected areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The seeds arrived in Cuba on 9 February 2009. The Cuban fit sanitary authorities are presently doing their analysis and observations under vegetable quarantine, following which they will deliver the seeds to the beneficiaries (pending acceptable results from their analysis). ▪ The tools have not arrived in the country yet, but we expect them to arrive at the end of March. ▪ The Emergency Unit of FAO began the tender process for the irrigation systems and once offers have been received, a supplier will be chosen and the purchase process will be initiated. The delay for the procurement of the irrigation system was due to the fact that the Cuban counterparts did not supply in a timely fashion the technical specifications of the needed system. FAO expects the purchase to be in the first half of April. |

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| Agriculture (FAO) | 08-FAO-055 Recuperation of the production of Roots, Tubers, Fruits and Vegetables in the provinces of Holguin, Las Tunas, and Camaguey, affected by Hurricane IKE | \$ 457,960 | 1,045,590 habitants in the municipalities Rafael Freyre, Tunas, Puerto padre, Jesus Menendez, Camaguey and Nuevitas. | MINAG / MINVEC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The provision of seeds, tools and irrigation systems for the recovery of the production of roots, tubers, vegetables and fruits in the provinces of Las Tunas, Holguin and Camaguey; to make available roots, tubers, vegetables and fruits in short term consumption; and to ensure food security and quality of life of the affected population. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The seeds arrived in Cuba on 9 February, 2009. The Cuban fitosanitary authorities are presently doing their analysis and observations under vegetable quarantine, following which they will deliver the seeds to the beneficiaries (pending acceptable results from their analysis). ▪ The tools have not arrived in the country yet, but we expect them to arrive at the end of March. ▪ The Emergency Unit of FAO began the tender process for the irrigation systems and once offers have been received, a supplier will be chosen and the purchase process will be initiated. The delay for the procurement of the irrigation system was due to the fact that the Cuban counterparts did not supply in a timely fashion the technical specifications of the needed system. FAO expects the purchase to be in the first half of April. |
| Education (UNESCO) | 08-ESC-003 Safe educational environment in the post disaster period | \$239,774 | 95,000 students (48,450 girls and 46,550 boys from 1 to 18 years olds) | MINED | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 480 educational facilities with minimum standard conditions ready to receive the students (including early childhood care). ▪ 95,000 students, affected by the hurricane, reincorporated to schools. ▪ Psycho-social assistance to students, provided by their teachers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The roofs of the 480 educational facilities were repaired, guaranteeing the best physical conditions of the facilities. The contribution of building materials by the local authorities also improved the conditions of schools, providing wood and aluminium carpentry, new furniture, sanitary furniture, etc. ▪ Incorporation of 95,000 students to the repaired schools was received. ▪ The 480 schools currently demonstrate the best standard conditions and an excellent work and study environment, which are a necessary conditions for the psycho-social recovery of the students from the trauma of the hurricane. ▪ There has been a positive social impact in the community with the involvement of relatives and local authorities in the recovery of the schools, creating strong community |

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| | | | | | | <p>solidarity and cohesiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a positive social impact from the return of students to schools by the fact that mothers can return to their normal employment and families can focus on the repair of their homes that were damaged during the hurricanes. |
| Shelter (UNDP) | <p>08-UDP-023</p> <p>Establishment of basic living and sanitation conditions in shelters for the population affected by Hurricane Gustav in Pinar del Rio</p> | \$306,116 | <p>9,072 people</p> <p>(2,268 families, two work brigades of 10 workers each)</p> | <p>Cuban Civil Defence / MINVEC / Cuban National Housing Institute / Cuban municipal governments</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 545 damaged homes repaired and converted into home-shelters through the procurement and placement of roofing materials. 125 tool kits distributed to groups of families affected by the hurricanes, so that they can prepare the home-shelters through their own efforts and mutual support. Specialized construction brigades equipped with 20 special tool kits so that they can support the work of the families preparing the home-shelters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently 119 home-shelters have been prepared, with an additional 153 in the process of being prepared, for a total of 272 homes receiving roofing modules of 70 square meters (instead of the planned 35 square meters). Thus 119 families, totalling 1,088 people, have benefited. It is estimated that these home shelters will benefit another 816 families (3,264 people) who would use these shelters during future hurricanes. The total number of people benefited is 4,352. The delivery of 95 tool kits is in process. They are arriving at their provincial destination and the Cuban authorities plan to distribute them to beneficiaries during the month of April. Each tool kit will be used by five families, for a total of 475 families (1,900 people) benefited. The affected people will be given leave from their employment with salaries in order for them to be able to repair their homes. They will set up mutual support groups amongst families, receiving technical assistance to assist them in their work. These groups are comprised of 60 percent women who are heads of families. The distribution of the 20 special tool kits for the specialized work brigades is still in process. They are arriving at their provincial destination and the Cuban authorities plan to distribute them to beneficiaries during the month of April. When this process is completed it will generate employment and training for the workers, including unemployed people and women, who will make up 25 percent of these brigades. The tool kits will be used in a rotational sharing fashion during the recovery period. The undertaking of these actions directed toward the repair of homes has permitted families to |

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| | | | | | | return to their homes, after spending extended periods of time in public shelters or the homes of family and friends. At the same time, these actions have created the capacity to house other families that have shelter needs. The delivery of the kits to family groups and the brigades will have a significant impact on the homes that still need to be repaired, 60 percent of which still need repair or reconstruction. |
| Shelter (UNDP) | 08-UDP-027 Establishment of basic living conditions in shelters for populations affected by hurricane Ike in Holguin Province, Banes, Rafael Freyre and Gibara Municipalities | \$752,082 | 14, 000 people (3,500 families) | Cuban Civil Defence / MINVEC / Cuban National Housing Institute / Cuban municipal governments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1,200 affected homes repaired and converted into home-shelters. ▪ Family groups equipped with 400 tool kits so that they can repair and converted the homes into home-shelters through self-help and mutual support. ▪ Specialised work brigades equipped with 80 special tool kits to assist the families' self-help and mutual support efforts to repair and convert the homes into home-shelters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1,200 affected homes repaired and converted into home-shelters, housing an equal number of families, made up of 5,490 people in total. Moreover, it is estimated that another 1,200 families (made up of a total of 5,400 people) who will be able to find shelter in these homes during future hurricanes. This makes a total of 10,890 beneficiaries. The ratio of people per dwelling in this region of Cuba is 4.5 people. ▪ The delivery of 400 tool kits, each covering five families, is in process. They are arriving at their provincial destination and the Cuban authorities plan to distribute them to beneficiaries during the month of April. When distribution is completed, 2,000 families, for a total of 9,000 people, will benefit. The affected people will be given time off from their places of employment so that they can work on the reconstruction of their homes while maintaining their salaries. It is estimated that 30 percent of these people will be women. ▪ The delivery of 80 special tool kits to specialised work brigades is presently in progress. They are arriving at their provincial destination and the Cuban authorities plan to distribute them to beneficiaries during the month of April. These brigades are made up of eight workers, who will work giving advice at the neighbourhood level. This will generate employment and will result in worker training, thus benefiting those affected individuals who were unemployed. ▪ The tool kits will be used in a rotational sharing fashion during the recovery period. |

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| | | | | | | <p>The undertaking of these actions directed toward the repair of homes has permitted families to return to their homes, after spending extended periods of time in public shelters or the homes of family and friends. At the same time, these actions have created the capacity to house other families that have shelter needs. The delivery of the kits to family groups and the brigades will have a significant impact on the homes that still need to be repaired, 70 percent of which still need repair or reconstruction.</p> |
| Shelter (UNDP) | <p>08-UDP-028 Contribution to establishing minimal conditions of healthy food in refuge-homes for the population affected by hurricane Ike in the province of Holguin and Las Tunas</p> | \$283,577 | 26,860 people (6,715 families) | Cuban Civil Defence / MINVEC / Cuban National Housing Institute / Cuban municipal governments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affected families living in home-shelters equipped with kitchen kits, made up of basic utensils for the preparation and consumption of food. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kitchen kits have been delivered to 3,350 families in the province of Holguin and to 3,350 families in Las Tunas, benefiting a total of 30,150 people. With the delivery of these kitchen utensils, the sanitary conditions will be improved during the preparation, cooking and consumption of food by these families that completely or partially lost their homes and belongings, thus contributing to an improvement in quality of life. |

V. CERF IN ACTION

Food (WFP)

CERF IN ACTION: Immediate delivery of fortified food from the World Food Programme to vulnerable groups in response to the emergency of Cuba's 2008 hurricanes.

As part of the response to the emergency caused by hurricane Gustav in western Cuba, the World Food Programme (WFP) designed an emergency operation to offer food support to vulnerable groups in the province of Pinar del Rio and to the entire population of the Isle of Youth which had been severely affected. In this way, WFP could contribute to the efforts of the Cuban government to offer food rations which would avoid a deterioration of the nutritional situation of these people. WFP's food package during this operation included Corn Soy Blend (CSB - a mixture of fortified soya and corn).

The funds approved by CERF to finance this operation were made available immediately, but the challenge was to be able to acquire the food as quickly as possible to be able to begin to deliver it to the people in need. If it was bought in Argentina, which is the only supplier in the region, the fortified food would arrive in Cuba 90 days after the procurement process was initiated and thus the beneficiaries would only begin to receive the food in the beginning of January 2009.

But there was an urgent need to distribute this fortified food to vulnerable groups in the Province of Pinar del Rio, and in the country there was not any of this type of food from other WFP projects. It was for this reason that the WFP Office in Cuba sent out a call on September 15th to colleagues in the region to ask for their support in this operation with a loan of 180 metric tons (MT) of CSB, which would be returned once the food had been bought with the funds from the CERF.

The WFP Office in Honduras responded immediately with the offer to divert to Cuba a part of a shipment of 495 MT that was on a boat that was already crossing the Atlantic, headed for Puerto Cortes for a regular WFP project in that country. The headquarters of the WFP in Rome acted in an expedited manner and negotiated with the shipping line a split of the shipment into two parts, in a way that allowed for 8 containers containing 180 MT of CSB to be diverted to Cuba and the rest to continue on to its final destination.



On October 1st, 180 MT of the required CSB arrived in the port of Havana, which was then begun to be immediately distributed to the beneficiaries. By October 30th, a total of 99.019 MT had been distributed to the planned beneficiaries and the rest of the shipment was distributed between November and December.

Whatever the manner in which this food was going to be distributed for the first time in this area of the country, and with a view to guaranteeing the maximum acceptance of this food by the beneficiaries of this operation, the

WFP Office quickly designed and printed flyers with information regarding the content, benefits,

and ways to use this new food product, which were given to each beneficiary at the moment that he or she went to receive the food at the warehouse.

Additionally, an on-site presentation of the product was made available to government authorities from the province and municipalities, including health authorities and with the participation of the national press, who were subsequently responsible to promote this food in their areas of operation. On this occasion, a taste test was done by these same government authorities, which helped make each one an active promoter of the benefits of CSB.



Thanks to the CERF financing and to all of this joint effort, the food was consumed by a total of 53,400 people belonging to vulnerable groups (pregnant women, children under 5 years of age, and elderly people over 65 years of age), with each person receiving a daily ration of 50 grams of the food for a period of 58 days.

During the monitoring visits made to this province, both the beneficiaries that were interviewed along with the local authorities who had also followed the progress of the operation, expressed to WFP their great satisfaction with respect to the size and quality of the food

rations, and also emphasized how important it was that this food aid was delivered and distributed right at the moment of greatest need by the affected population.

According to a Cuban television report done during the first days of the operation in the municipality of Candelario in this province, the beneficiaries of this food assistance, above all people older than 65, expressed their gratitude for this type of food, since along with contributing to the meeting of their basic energy needs, it also gave them micronutrients which, without a doubt, contributed to the prevention of a poor nutritional situation during this initial stage of the emergency.



Shelter (UNDP)

CERF IN ACTION: Benefits from the CERF-UNDP Projects in Cuba following the hurricanes of 2008 – Home-Shelters and Kitchen Kits.

The disaster caused by hurricanes Gustav and Ike in Cuba, with the greatest economic losses and devastation in the history of the country, had its greatest impact on human habitat. It is estimated that 444,000 homes were damaged, with partial or total loss of their roofs, and 63,249 homes were totally destroyed. This is almost 14 percent of the housing stock of Cuba and affected two million people, which is 17.85 percent of the country's total population. Moreover, it is estimated that 85 percent of those affected found refuge in the homes of family members or friends. This traditional practice, based on bonds of solidarity, is supported by the Cuban government as the principal mechanism of evacuation and is promoted through the creation of Home-Shelters. "Home-shelters" are an innovative response to the need for evacuation space which Cuba is developing to confront natural disasters. They are not traditional temporary shelters, but structurally sound private homes which serve as a safe refuge for neighbours that live in homes that are structurally or locally at risk. In exchange for state-financed structural reinforcement and improvement of the home, the home owner is committed to give refuge to a number of neighbours when a hurricane is approaching. Utilizing "home-shelters" in the community allows for more flexibility, quicker preparation, and less distance to cover during the evacuation.

Taking into account this background, UNDP in Cuba presented to CERF the need to address the issue of the evacuation to home-shelters during an emergency situation. Consequently, projects were identified for the most affected areas in the country, Holguin and Pinar del Rio.

Secure Roofing Modules for Home-Shelters in Holguin and Pinar del Rio

These projects have facilitated the establishment of 1,220 35 square meter Home-Shelters in Holguin and 272 70 square meter Home-Shelters in Pinar del Rio. This work ensured that damaged homes were given secure roofing made up of zinc laminate sheets with bolted metal supports. It was initially planned to mount roofs of only 35 square meters (50 percent of the area of the house), with the aim of at least giving shelter to one additional family that needed to find refuge. But in Pinar del Rio, it was decided to establish complete Home-Shelters of 70 square meters which could house an additional three families. In Holguin, more than 5,490 people benefited directly and a similar number of people now have the option of shelter during the next hurricane event, for a total of 19,890 people benefiting from these Home-Shelters. In Pinar del Rio, 1,888 had their homes repaired, which can now potentially give refuge to an average of three additional families per home, for a total of 5,490 beneficiaries.

Strategically, priority was given to those homes that had suffered a partial or total collapse of their roofs but which still had solid walls standing.

During the visits of the project monitors to the areas affected by the hurricanes, the satisfaction and appreciation of the families which benefited could be observed. Many had been able to return to their homes, after finding refuge in the homes of neighbours and family.



Three families which benefited in Banes-Holguín: 1) The four person family of José Grass. They were previously housed in the first floor home of their parents. 2) The home of 84 year old Sofia Ramirez and her family, part of which (daughter and daughter's husband) now has found refuge in her home while they are fixing their home, thanks to the roofing repair. Previously, Sofia and her son were sheltered in their neighbour's home. All of these homes were repaired through the work of their owners. 3) The seven person family of Antonio González. Some 20 days previously, his daughter had a baby and, thanks to the roof repair, they were able to return home after staying in the home of the family of her husband.



Other Home-Shelters established through CERF funds in Gibara, Holguin

It was also possible to verify the distribution process for the roofing modules through the local governments and neighbourhood councils, along with the process of secure mounting of the roofs. The project's roofing modules were some of the first things to arrive in the areas affected by the hurricanes, which shows the importance of this kind of support during emergency situations. Within the communities, these roofs are popularly called 'UNDP roofs' or 'United Nations roofs'.



Families organized in Learning Circles in the Los Palacios municipality, Pinar del Rio, building Home-Shelters through mutual support.

Tool kits for the establishment of Home-Shelters through mutual support efforts: the leadership of women



The project also included the delivery of construction tool kits for the set up of the Home-Shelters. Two types of kits were identified: one for groups of affected families and another for specialized construction brigades organized by the local governments. In this way, the strategy of self-help and mutual support for the repair of the homes was combined with the support of qualified technical workforce for any complex activity and to cover the work on homes of vulnerable families that are not able to do the work on their own.

It is important to note the grassroots way in which the families faced the recovery process through self-help and mutual support. In the municipality of Los Palacios, Pinar del Rio, learning circles were created, called “Poligonos de Aprendizaje”. These were made up of 12 homes in the process of repair, whose families came together to undertake the construction work, part of which includes the UNDP supported Home-Shelters. At least one person from each home participates in each learning circle and each of the circles has a technical advisor from the Specialized Construction Brigades, who gives the families on-site training. The objective is to “build back better” through enhanced local capacities.



In the Los Palacios municipality, 60 percent of the people who formed the circles were women, the majority of whom were single mothers. They have played a decisive leadership role in the process of organizing the mutual support actions, which augments their political-administrative roles in the communities they belong to.

The affected families were given time off from their places of work during the time that repair work was done on their homes, but continued to receive their salaries. People who had been unemployed and became involved in the mutual support reconstruction work received a salary for the work they did. All of them were trained on-site and it is expected that they will receive trades certificates and be given support to professionally become integrated into the brigades. In this way the project also generates employment and empowerment of women.

The local government authorities have acknowledged that the tools procured through the CERF project are having a decisive impact in strengthening the existing learning circles and in creating new ones. The tools are controlled by the specialized brigades. Each specialized brigade assists one learning circle and hands over the tools to the neighbours through a formal act of delivery. This guarantees that the tools can subsequently be shared with other people who have lost their homes. In the municipalities of Los Palacios and Consolación del Sur, Pinar del Rio, 95 tools kits have been provided, with each kit covering five families. This will amount to two kits per learning circle and will benefit 475 families (1,900 people) during the reconstruction period. The impact of this project will be multiplied as the tool kits are passed on from family to family. Also, 20 specialized tool kits were identified for the specialized work brigades. In Holguin, 400 tool kits have been provided, which will benefit 2,000 families made up of 9,000 people, along with 80 kits designated for the specialized brigades.

Given the high impact of these hurricanes in the province of Pinar del Rio, only 30 percent of the homes have been repaired, and in Holguin, only 40 percent. Consequently, the Home-Shelters created by the CERF funds will continue to play an important role by giving coverage to the many people who lost their homes and the tool kits for the families and specialized brigades will be decisive during the early recovery process.

Kitchen Kits for the Home-Shelters, temporary shelters, and affected homes



The kitchen kits delivered in Gibara, Holguin, have had a large impact on the Home-Shelters that were set-up with CERF funds.

Many families, along with having their houses destroyed or damaged, lost their essential belongings. For this reason, the CERF project also provided family modules that were made up of the utensils necessary for food consumption. Initially, the plan was for these kits to go with the Home-Shelters, but due to the large number of kits acquired, it was possible to distribute some to other evacuation centres and damaged homes.

It was possible to verify the efficiency and control of the delivery of these kits, prioritizing the Home-Shelters and other evacuation sites and damaged houses. The free distribution of

these kits was done through government establishments. The families that were interviewed expressed their satisfaction with the quality and utility of the kits. Moreover, it was possible to verify that the cooking utensils fulfil the requirements of the electric

stoves that the State delivered to the population. Of a total of 6,700 kitchen kits, 3,350 were distributed in Holguin, benefiting 15,075 people. The rest of the kits have been designed for the neighbouring province of Las Tunas, where a similar impact is expected.



They have also created a great benefit for the temporary shelters.



The distribution was done through the network of community stores, through a rigorous control mechanism.

Education (UNESCO)

UNESCO used CERF funds to repair schools in Cuba which were damaged by the disastrous hurricanes of 2008.

Cuba suffered enormous damage from the two high intensity hurricanes that hit the island within ten days of each other between August and September of 2008. The educational sector suffered significantly from the hurricanes, with 1,652 educational facilities being damaged by hurricane Ike in the provinces of Camaguey, Las Tunas and Holguin.

With CERF funds, UNESCO was able to purchase 95 tons of zinc roofing sheets to repair 480 schools, which included daycares, primary schools, and secondary schools. Of these schools, 57 were small, rural schools in mountainous areas, guaranteeing the resumption of educational activities in even the most remote areas.

This roofing repair was combined with the contributions by the Cuban government of other building materials necessary for the repair of the schools. In the end, 95,000 students were able to return to their schools.

An excellent example of the rapid recovery of educational installations is the case of the “Jose Antonio Echeverria” secondary school, in the municipality of Guaimaro in Camaguey. This school, which has 360 students, most of which are boarding students, had its roof repaired, along with the student dormitories, as can be seen in the before and after images.



Another example is the “Perucho Figueredo” primary school of 105 children, in the municipality of Puerto Padre, Las Tunas province, which was repaired with CERF funds.



After CERF funding



Before

A view of the entrance of the “Perucho Figueredo” primary school following the hurricane and after repair with CERF funding

Another important result of this CERF funded project was that, beyond the physical repair of the school, there were enormous social and health benefits. Three monitoring visits by UNESCO were able to verify that by repairing the schools and allowing student to return to their educational activities, allowed the post-traumatic stress of the students to diminish. Moreover, by having the children return to the schools, their families were consequently free to return to work or dedicate their efforts to repairing their damaged homes. Finally, through participation of the students, parents, community members, and the government in the reconstruction efforts, along with the fact that many families offered their homes to hold classes during the construction process, the bonds of solidarity in the community was strengthened, something essential for the continuing efforts needed in the recovery process.



The students themselves took part in the recovery work, as was the case of the “Liberación de Puerto Padre” secondary school in Puerto Padre Municipality, Las Tunas, in the photo above.



In an act to celebrate the culmination of the project in Holguín, the Vice Minister of Education, Mr. Rolando Fomeiro, in an interview on Cuban television, expressed gratitude to the United Nations System in general and UNESCO in particular, for the immediate response offered following the natural disaster caused by these hurricanes. The implementation of this project received broad coverage by the local press, both on the radio and television in the three provinces that benefited from the project.

Water and Sanitation (UNICEF)

The Provision of safe drinking water following Hurricane Gustav.

On 30 August 2008, hurricane Gustav hit the Isle of Youth, becoming the most devastating hurricane to hit Cuba in the last 50 years. This hurricane thrashed the island for over four hours, with maximum sustained winds of 250 kms per hour, causing serious damage to homes with the loss of roofs and windows, leaving them partially or totally destroyed.

Some of the most severe damage reported was to the water supply and storage infrastructure of homes and buildings, disrupting the access to safe water in several communities and municipalities. Moreover, many families lost their safe water storage capacities with the destruction of the large water tanks on the roofs of their houses and apartment buildings.

One example is the “Abel Santamaria” neighbourhood in Nueva Gerona, one of nine neighbourhoods in this area where almost all the families lost access to safe water with the loss of water storage tanks that were situated on their apartment buildings. Zone 16 of this neighbourhood benefited from the CERF funds. This zone was made up of seven apartment buildings housing 176 families, with a total of 785 inhabitants. Each building received from UNICEF a 1,700 litre water tank, which was placed on its roof. Moreover, families that were especially vulnerable and health centres also received a 250 litre water storage tank.

In interviews carried out in this zone, the inhabitants expressed their gratitude and satisfaction, since these tanks allowed them to have safe water at such a great time of vulnerability. The story of Zone 16 was repeated in many other areas that received CERF financed water tanks.



1,700 litre tanks purchased through the CERF, guaranteeing safe water to the families of this apartment building in Zone 16.



A 250 litre water storage tank purchased with CERF funds in a health clinic on the Isle of Youth.

Health (UNFPA)

Emergency Medical Kits strengthen infant and maternal health services.

The CERF was fundamental in the support by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to Cuba following the emergency caused by the three hurricanes and two tropical storms that struck this island nation in 2008, which has led to a strengthening in the quality and effectiveness of reproductive health and infant and maternal services in the country.

Such is the opinion expressed by Dr. Miguel Sosa, a high-level official of Cuba's System of Infant and Maternal Attention and Family Planning Services, who has monitored the reception, distribution and introduction into service of materials and equipment sent by UNFPA to hospitals and other health centres in Cuban provinces severely affected by strong winds and torrential rains brought by those weather systems.



A remote mountain hospital in Cuba's eastern area receives CERF funded emergency medical kits from UNFPA

The main hospitals in the affected areas continued offering services during the emergencies, including reproductive health, despite the very serious damages to installations and equipment. Services included emergency surgery and childbirths during the worst hours of the hurricanes.

Along with the rehabilitation of the affected institutions, the introduction into service of the UNFPA-donated supplies and equipment represents "an effective support to the restitution of the vitality of services and capacities damaged by the hurricanes", doctor Sosa noted.

These include full attention to pregnant women, family planning services, obstetrics and neo-natal attention, the Cuban medical official said.

As Dr. Sosa said, "The UNFPA-financed inputs reinforced the capacity of the system to offer assistance during the emergencies."

UNFPA's assistance to Cuba is included in the support to the nation during the emergencies by the United Nations System, with all the institutions represented in the Island as well as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) participating.

Through its Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), OCHA provided support to UNFPA with a donation that allowed the urgent shipment to Cuba of vitally needed medical equipment and supplies. This support was given in two stages: one, initially, with emergency supplies, and a second one, at a later stage, with activities in support of reconstruction in collaboration with donor countries and institutions.

UN Resident Coordinator and UNFPA Representative, Susan McDade, led, since the beginning, the massive support effort which included international appeals for support to Cuba in such difficult circumstances.



Dr. Longina Ibargollen, National Director of the Infant, Maternal and Family Planning Programme, witnesses the distribution of UNFPA's aid.

As part of its immediate response, UNFPA shipped to Cuba reproductive health kits, which were essential in facing the very difficult conditions for childbirths and other related health activities.

UNFPA's Assistant Representative in Cuba Rolando García, an expert on population and development issues, made visits to public health installations in the affected areas where he could witness the high value and effectiveness of the UN agency's support.

The UNFPA official accompanied doctor Longina Ibargollen, National Director

of Maternal and Child Attention and Family Planning Programmes, on a tour of hospitals and clinics that received cooperation. The Cuban authorities expressed profound appreciation to the United Nations System, and to UNFPA and CERF in particular, for their rapid response following the emergency, which allowed the Cuban health system save the lives of babies and pregnant mothers.



Medical supplies sent by UNFPA to Cuba are distributed to maternal and family planning services in the affected areas.

Annex: Acronyms and Abbreviations

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|---------------|---|
| EMED | Cuban Donations Implementation Enterprise |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| INRH | Cuban National Institute of Water Resources |
| MINAG | Cuban Ministry of Agriculture |
| MINCIN | Cuban Ministry of Internal Commerce |
| MINED | Cuban Ministry of Education |
| MINVEC | Cuban Ministry of Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation |
| OCHA | UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| ORC | Office of the Resident Coordinator |
| UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| UNDMT | United Nations Disaster Management Team |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNICEF | United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund |
| UNS | United Nations System |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |