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Revised Emergency appeal Cuba: Hurricane Irma

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Revised Appeal n° MDRCU004	35,000 people to be assisted	Appeal launched 15 September 2018
Glide n° TC-2017-000132-CUB	CHF 453,459 DREF allocated	Revision n° 2 issued 5 June 2018
	CHF 9,760,347 new Appeal budget	Appeal ends 15 March 2019
	CHF 823,954 funding gap	Extended 6 months

This revised Emergency Appeal seeks a total of approximately CHF 9.7 million, reflecting a budget increase from CHF 7,570,948 in Emergency Appeal n°1 from 29 September 2017. This is to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the **Cuban National Red Cross Society (CRC)** to deliver assistance and support to some **35,000 people for 18 months** (extended from 12 months), with a focus on the following areas of focus and strategies of implementation: **shelter (including household non-food items), water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH); disaster risk reduction (DRR) and National Society capacity development.** This revised Appeal results in a funding gap of CHF 823,954 based on an increased number of people to be assisted, an extended timeframe, an increase in activities and a sustained number of volunteers involved in the operation. The revised response reflects the current situation, adjustments to sectorial activities planned as well as remaining funding under discussion with partners. Details are available in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) [<click here>](#)

The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

9 September 2017: Hurricane Irma, Category 5, strikes Cuba with hurricane winds, heavy rains and high waves, affecting the centre and north of the island.

13 September 2017: The IFRC Surge Capacity is deployed to Cuba – Head of Country Cluster Office for the Latin Caribbean, and the Disaster Management / Emergency Shelter Coordinator.

15 September 2017: The IFRC issues Emergency Appeal for 7,056,160 Swiss francs for 25,000 people for 12 months.

29 September 2017: The IFRC issues revised Emergency Appeal n°1 for 7,570,948 Swiss francs for 25,000 people for 12 months.

October 2017: The IFRC issues Operations [Operation Updates no. 1](#) and [no. 2](#)

24 December 2017: The IFRC issues [Operation Update no. 3](#).

5 June 2018: IFRC issues revised Emergency Appeal n° 2 seeking approximately 9,7 million Swiss francs to assist 35,000 people for 18 months (an additional 6 months)



The IFRC and Spanish Red Cross visited the community of Punta Alegre where Cuban Red Cross activities were implemented, March 2018. Source: Marion Andrivet/ IFRC.

The operational strategy

Impact of the disaster

Hurricane Irma struck Cuba from 8 to 10 September 2017 with powerful winds, rain and coastal flooding and leaving 10 people dead. Official reports indicated 158,554 houses, 980 health institutions and 2,264 education centres and 95,000 hectares of various crops were affected. Total damages caused by Hurricane Irma amounted to 13 billion 585 thousand pesos/ US dollars. The most affected provinces were Holguín, Ciego de Ávila, Las Tunas, Camagüey, Villa Clara, Matanzas and La Habana.

Since hurricane Irma struck, the Cuban government has worked to restore health centres, schools, water supply systems, electricity services, production infrastructure and damaged houses. However, due to the **significant impact on the housing sector**, efforts are focused on supporting families who have lost their homes or have suffered damage to both the roof and the structure of their houses and who remain in collective centres.

Response to date

The CRC maintains 1,600 volunteers activated in this ongoing operation. The CRC, through continuous coordination with the government, was able to distribute several emergency items through the *Techeras Brigade System*¹, for the assembly of roofs in the communities, including distribution of some items through the Ministry of Public Health to guarantee access to safe water in health institutions.

The CRC is working in the seven provinces affected by Hurricane Irma: **Holguín, Ciego de Ávila, Las Tunas, Camagüey, Villa Clara, Matanzas and La Habana**. The CRC, through its role as an auxiliary to the public authorities, has coordinated all humanitarian assistance activities with the provincial, municipal and community entities since Hurricane Irma struck the island.

The following activities have been implemented in close coordination with the government since the beginning of the operation:

Coordination with government agencies (central, provincial and municipal governments)

- ✓ Activation of the Risk Management System of the Cuban Red Cross
- ✓ Joint needs assessments and identification
- ✓ Rescue and evacuation of people and personal belongings

Relief distributions

- ✓ Food and non-food items distributions
- ✓ Distribution of non-food items to elderly and infant homes

Health

- ✓ Distribution of mosquito nets and chlorine tablets to the Ministry of Public Health to support the control of vector diseases
- ✓ Cleaning, adaptation, assembly and dismantling of structures in health centres
- ✓ Provision of First Aid care and psychosocial support (PSS)
- ✓ Hygiene promotion training for affected people in collective and protection centres

Shelter

- ✓ Training workshops on roof repair and tent assembly
- ✓ Provision of toolkits to government construction brigades
- ✓ Support to the construction brigades of temporary facilities.

Disaster Risk Reduction

- ✓ Use of "Risklandia" game in evacuation centres as part of the PSS activities
- ✓ Awareness raising of Disaster Risk Reduction themes

¹ The *Techeras Brigade System* is a group of technicians that have the capacity to build and repair damaged roofs.

Operational strategy

The CRC's main objective during the emergency phase was to meet the immediate needs of 5,000 families (25,000 people) through the distribution of non-food items, which to date has reached 70 per cent (18,500) of the beneficiaries. Non-food items distributions were done based on need and in a complementary manner, which means not the same package of items is delivered to each affected household, but based on their specific requirements. The emergency phase faced some logistical challenges, and with the evolution of the situation the operation has now shifted from the emergency phase to the recovery phase.

The CRC, with IFRC support, has now defined an operational strategy to respond to the population's needs focusing in the recovery efforts prior to the 2018 hurricane season. Priority is given to roof repairs for 7000 families and the dissemination of disease preventive messages in the 7 provinces affected by Hurricane Irma. Additionally, this operation includes an organizational development component to strengthen the preparedness and response capacities of the CRC.

Based on assessments and coordination conducted between several government organizations and the CRC, the revised plan of action is focused on providing assistance in:

- Disaster Risk Reduction activities to prepare disaster risk management municipal committees, with vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCAs)
- Distribution of shelter items and non-food items
- Safe roof repairs and sensitization on how to build safer roofs
- Safe water storage
- Sensitization on hygiene promotion and safe water
- Organizational development (Institutional strengthening)

Needs assessment and beneficiary selection:

At the onset of the disaster the Civil Defence carried out the damage assessments. The CRC participated in such activities through its role as an auxiliary to the public authorities.

According to initial reports, 158,554 homes were affected: 14,657 were destroyed, 16,646 were partially destroyed, 23,560 homes lost their roofs and 103,691 suffered partial roof damage throughout the island. To respond to this situation, the government announced that the state budget will be financing 50 per cent of the price of construction materials sold to people whose homes were totally or partially destroyed. Likewise, 50 per cent of the current retail price of primary consumer goods has been subsidized for the affected population, including mattresses, hygiene products, kitchen equipment and household appliances. Some items have been 100 per cent subsidized in cases of dire need.

Thanks to the efforts of hundreds of workers, the damage to the water pumping systems in provinces has been repaired in most of the affected areas. According to the Deputy Minister of Industry, production and distribution of hypochlorite and aluminium sulphate, which are basic products to ensure the quality of drinking water, are stabilizing in affected provinces. As a result, almost 99 per cent of the national power system has been restored; the remaining 1 per cent is in the process of being resolved. Despite the efforts from the Cuban Government, as well as the United Nations agencies and other partners in the recovery phase, there is a need to guarantee access to safe water through storage systems, as well as hygiene promotion at the community level.

Intervention actions are taking place in 31 municipalities in the provinces of Ciego Ávila, Matanzas, Villa Clara, Las Tunas, Camagüey, Holguín and Havana, as part of the Plan of Action. Communities are selected in consultation with local authorities. The CRC selected people to be assisted based on figures of families whose homes were totally or partially destroyed, as well as on data on the most vulnerable households such as households led by women.

Coordination and partnership

The Regional Office for the Americas (ARO) has been sharing official information from the CRC with all Movement members. The CRC led coordination meetings at country level with the Spanish Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross Society and the IFRC. At the onset of Hurricane Irma, communication was established with Movement partners to inform of the storm's path through the Caribbean. Similarly, the necessary

information mechanisms were established through the Partnerships and Resource Development (PRD) department.

Proposed Areas for intervention

During this ongoing recovery phase, the CRC expects to reach 7,000 families over the next 10 months through the implementation of roof repairs, WASH, DRR and National Society development activities.

Areas of Focus



Shelter

People targeted: 35,000

Male: 17,500

Female: 17,500

Requirements (CHF): 7,628,919

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: According to official assessments, 158,554 homes were affected: 14,657 were destroyed, 16,646 were partially destroyed, 23,560 homes lost their roofs and 103,691 suffered partial roof damage. Thus, there is still a **need to provide tools and construction materials to repair roofs**. Municipal Defence Councils in affected areas have organized brigades to repair the homes of affected people, with special emphasis on low-income people, people with disabilities, the elderly, single mothers with children and other vulnerable populations. Roofing materials are distributed according to the level of damages.

Completed activities:

- Needs and capacity assessment and gaps in shelter
- Identification of cases and people to be assisted in different target groups – inclusion factors comprise gender diversity and disabilities in coordination with local authorities
- Procurement, shipment and distribution of 1,900 tool kits
- Procurement, shipment and distribution of 6,500 plastic sheeting
- Distribution of 3,314 kitchen kits
- Roof repair workshops to technicians

Planned and Ongoing activities:

- Procurement and shipment of 10,000-bed sheets
- Monitoring and evaluation of relief activities and drafting of distribution reports
- Identification of specific communities and people to be assisted in coordination with local government authorities
- Shelter focal point deployment and support
- Procurement and distribution of roof repair materials for 7,000 damaged roofs (350,000 zinc sheets and installation materials)
- Supervision and monitoring of house repairs
- Provision of non-food items to nursing homes
- House repair workshops to communities
- Development and distribution of guides to inform on safe roofs to the communities
- Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) workshop and activity implementation workshop
- Systematization of the roof repair kit and development of training curricula



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 35,000

Male: 17,500

Female: 17,500

Requirements (CHF): 421,281

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: The multi-sector assessment indicated that access to water is limited and most people assessed need water storage solutions. The planned activities will help to resolve the most urgent needs, with the distribution of treated mosquito nets (LLIN), hygiene kits and other WASH non-food items. Hygiene promotion will be conducted with activities to inform and prevent water-borne diseases.

Completed activities:

- Identification of communities for beneficiary selection, in coordination with local authorities
- Distribute 160,000 water purification tablets (aqua tabs) through the Public Health Ministry.
- Distribution of 3,000 jerry cans and 1,404 buckets
- Community training on safe water storage techniques
- Conduct needs assessment to define challenges in hygiene issues and assess the capacities to approach such challenges
- Determine the hygiene items, including soap, water storage and personal hygiene needs for each community based on health risks and user preferences in the targeted communities, in coordination with the WASH cluster.
- Distribute 3,049 hygiene kits for one month to 15,245 people
- Distribution of 7,002 impregnated mosquito nets to the Ministry of Health
- Train the communities on the correct way to use the items of the hygiene kits.
- Monitor the use of the hygiene kits and the water treatment products, including the level of beneficiary satisfaction through home surveys and water test analysis in homes

Planned and Ongoing activities:

- Community training on safe water storage techniques
- Distribution of 7,000 water tanks (250 litres capacity)
- Selection of target groups, key messages and communication methods with the people to be assisted (massive communication media and interpersonal)
- Develop a communication plan on hygiene promotion
- Design / Printing of IEC material Evaluate progress and results



Migration

People targeted: 200 people

Male: 100 people

Female: 100 people

Requirements (CHF): 6,500

Proposed intervention

Needs Analysis: Currently, there are a number of families in collective centres and others that have not been relocated. To inform families in the collective centres, the family links network is kept active in 168 municipalities even though the demand on Red Cross messaging service is low. Nevertheless, the network service is active in seven provinces in the recovery phase.

Ongoing activities:

- All services and activities aimed at restoring contact between family members



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted: 2,000

Male: 1,000

Female: 1,000

Requirements (CHF): 15,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis: The CRC jointly with the minicamp councils carry out disaster risk reduction actions at community level including community preparedness plans. Due to the high level of acceptance of these actions, there is an opportunity to take forward community preparedness actions **at the household level** by implementing family preparedness plans.

Planned activities:

- Printing and distribution of rural and urban home response guides
- Printing of climate change preparedness material
- Accompaniment to the community Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCAs)

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 499,950

Based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required to deliver in this operation, the following programme support functions will be put in place to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination: **human resources, logistics and supply chain; information technology support (IT); communications; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); partnerships and resource development; and finance and administration.** More details are in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA).

Budget

See attached IFRC Secretariat budget ([Annex 1](#)) for details. With 8,765,011 Swiss francs of multilateral contributions and 171,382 Swiss francs of bilateral contributions received, the net multi-lateral needs amount to 823,954 Swiss francs.

Elhadj As Sy
Secretary General

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)
- [Map of distributions in country](#)

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

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



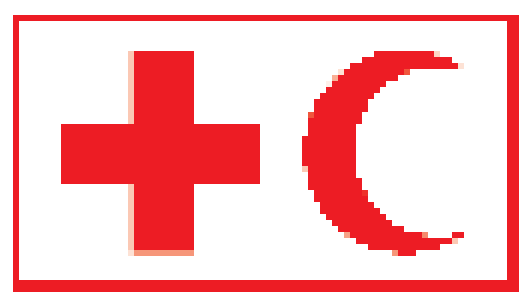
Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

EMERGENCY APPEAL

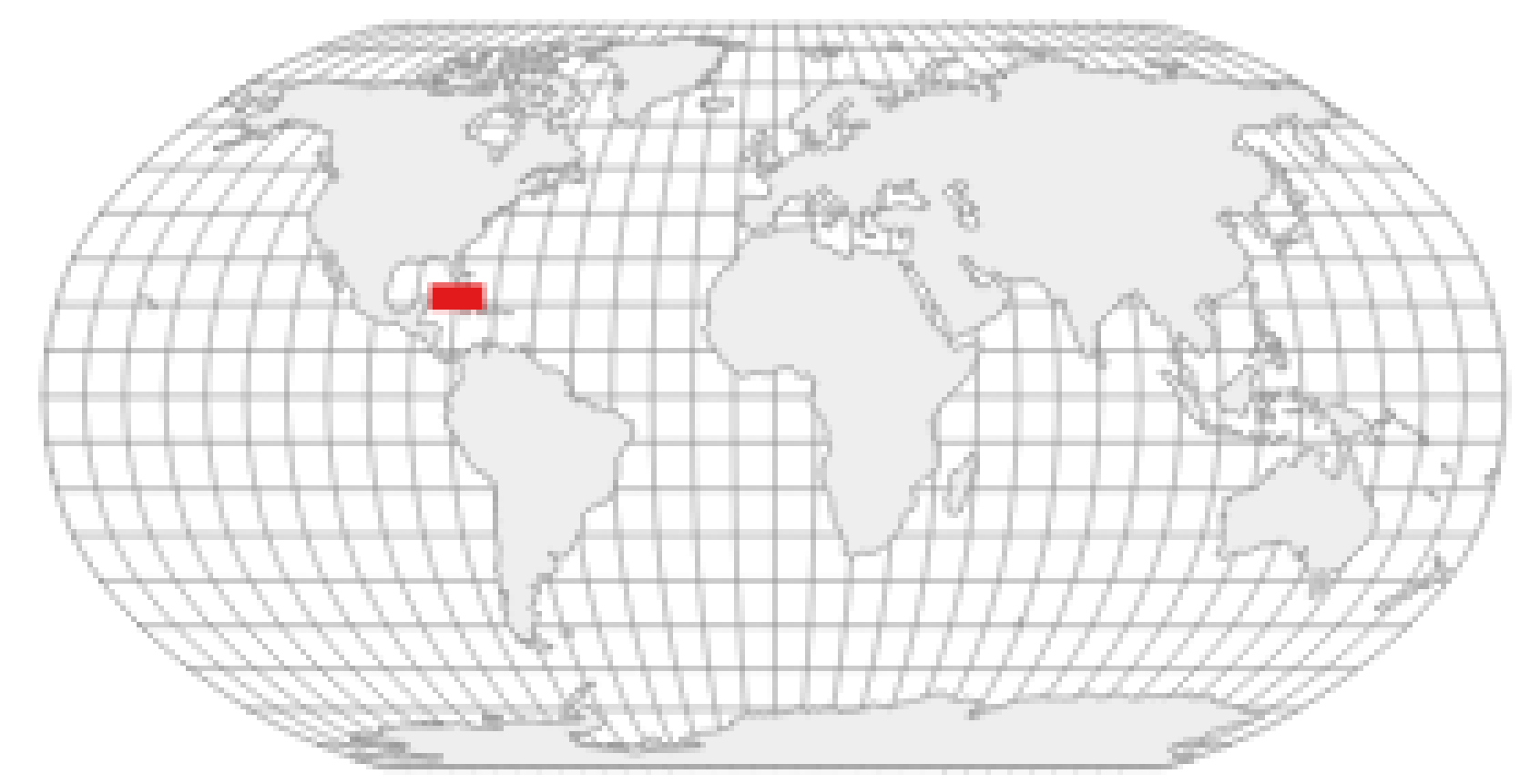
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05.06.2018

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	103,580		27,922	131,502
Shelter - Transitional	0			0
Construction - Housing	0			0
Construction - Facilities	0			0
Construction - Materials	6,310,650			6,310,650
Clothing & Textiles	68,979		30,769	99,748
Food	0			0
Seeds & Plants	0			0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	242,598		44,966	287,564
Medical & First Aid	0			0
Teaching Materials	55,700			55,700
Ustensils & Tools	30,498		67,725	98,223
Other Supplies & Services	3,300			3,300
Emergency Response Units	0			0
Cash Disbursements	0			0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	6,815,305	0	171,382	6,986,687
Land & Buildings	0			0
Vehicles	137,600			137,600
Computer & Telecom Equipment	5,400			5,400
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0			0
Medical Equipment	0			0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0			0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	143,000	0	0	143,000
Storage, Warehousing	76,000			76,000
Distribution & Monitoring	334,142			334,142
Transport & Vehicle Costs	76,500			76,500
Logistics Services	232,644			232,644
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	719,286	0	0	719,286
International Staff	297,673			297,673
National Staff	52,650			52,650
National Society Staff	0			0
Volunteers	258,400			258,400
Other Staff Benefits	43,000			43,000
Total PERSONNEL	651,723	0	0	651,723
Consultants	42,500			42,500
Professional Fees	26,082			26,082
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	68,582	0	0	68,582
Workshops & Training	158,750			158,750
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	158,750	0	0	158,750
Travel	65,000			65,000
Information & Public Relations	42,750			42,750
Office Costs	19,350			19,350
Communications	21,600			21,600
Financial Charges	1,800			1,800
Other General Expenses	0			0
Shared Office and Services Costs	57,384			57,384
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	207,884	0	0	207,884
Partner National Societies	0			0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	194,377			194,377
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	194,377	0	0	194,377
Programme and Services Support Recovery	582,329	0		582,329
Total INDIRECT COSTS	582,329	0	0	582,329
Pledge Earmarking Fees	41,906			41,906
Pledge Reporting Fees	5,823			5,823
Total PLEDGE SPECIFIC COSTS	47,729	0	0	47,729
TOTAL BUDGET	9,588,965	0	171,382	9,760,347
Available Resources				
Multilateral Contributions	8,765,011			8,765,011
Bilateral Contributions			171,382	171,382
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	8,765,011	0	171,382	8,936,393
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	823,954	0	0	823,954

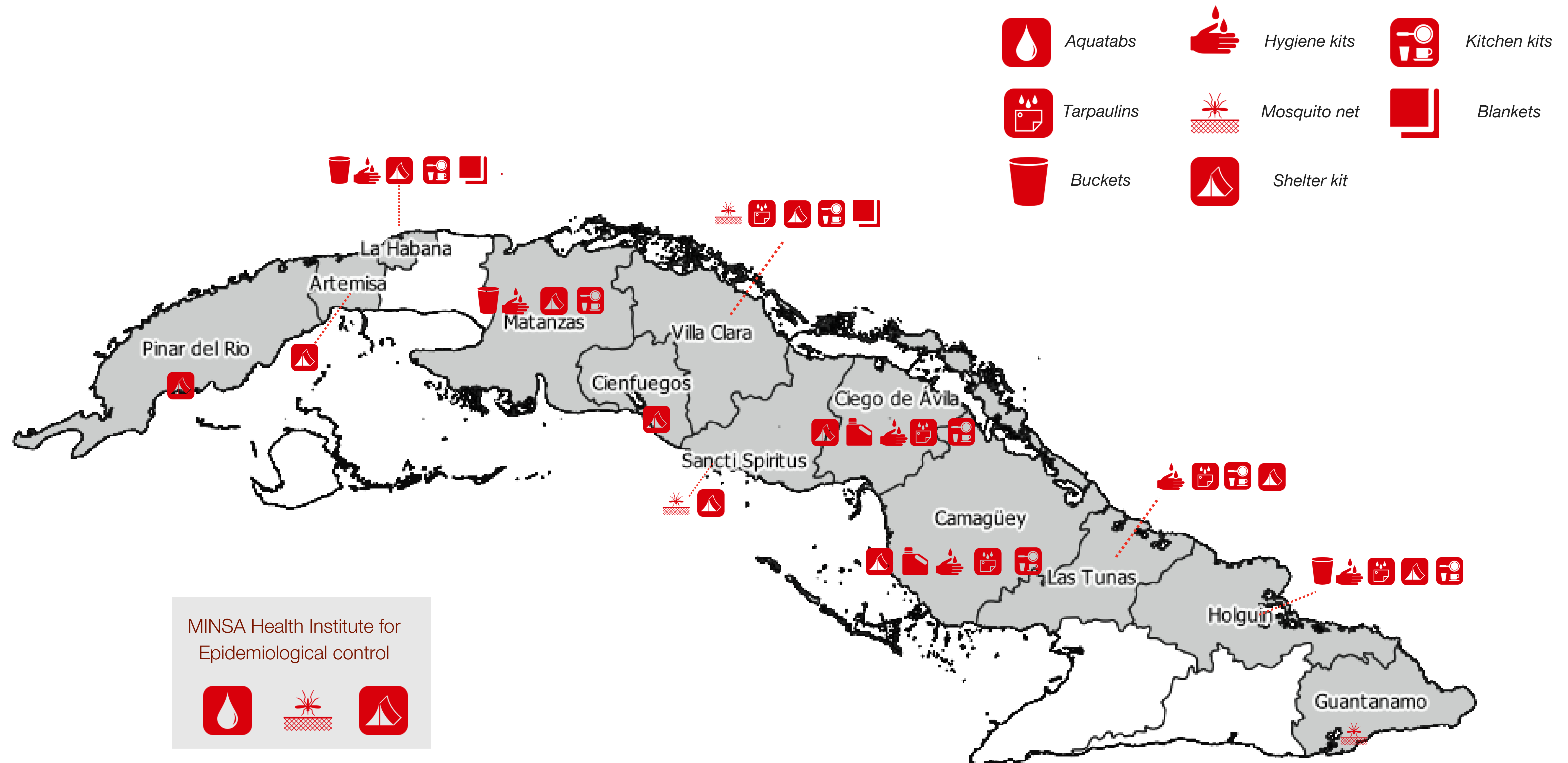


International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
 Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
 Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
 الاتحاد الدولي جمعيات الصليب الاحمر والهلال الاحمر



Cuba: Hurricane Irma, Distributions in country

11 May 2018 • MDRCU004 • TC-2017-000132-CUB



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: GADM, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent

0 190 380 570 760 km

