

## In wake of Hurricane Irma, UN launches \$55 million plan to assist Cubans in need

19 September 2017 – The United Nations system in Cuba today launched an action plan requiring \$55.8 million to address the urgent needs of over 2 million people severely affected by Irma, the strongest hurricane ever reported in the Atlantic.

Earlier this month, Hurricane Irma left a wake of destruction on several islands in the Caribbean, affecting Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, St. Barthélemy, St. Martin, the United States Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and other islands in the Caribbean Sea, affecting millions of people and resulting in massive economic damage across the region.

UN agencies have been assisting with response and recovery efforts, and the Organization launched a \$15.1 million regional humanitarian response plan, covering the urgent needs of the most vulnerable populations impacted.

Initial assessments found that a number of critical areas in Cuba have been severely affected, including housing, access to potable water and electric power services, health and education institutions, roads and telecommunications.

The [plan of action](#) includes projects in shelter and early recovery; food security; water, hygiene and sanitation; health; education; and coordination. Special attention will be given to assisting priority groups such as the elderly, pregnant women and infants, and young children.