

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery –
Disaster Reduction Unit

Hurricane Wilma: UNDP Situation Report

Country or Region: **Mexico and Cuba**

1. Cuba

Situation (26th October)

- Heavy rains forced the evacuation of scores of families in Moa, a community due east of the Cuban city of Holguín, in the Eastern Cuban province of the same name.
- A Civil Defense spokesman told the UN System in Havana that local CD authorities had ordered the evacuations as river levels reached the point of overflowing.
- In the rest of Cuba, especially in the nation's capital, Havana, recovery actions continued following the catastrophic sea penetrations that flooded several square miles of inhabited areas near the seashore.
- Virtually all the evacuees in Havana returned home, with exception of some 250, whose homes were so damaged that did not allow their return.
- Electricity services had been restored in all areas, except sections of Old Havana and Central Havana where the flooding of underground cables poses the risk of severe short circuits and electrical fires.
- Hundreds of trucks and construction machines were working this Wednesday in the removal de debris along the Havana coastal area, including that where the UNDP Office lies. The latter was the only building in miles around that was not flooded by the sea due to the installation, since the Storm of the Century, back in 1953, of steel doors (see photo)



Actions

- RR has informed BCPR LAC that CO is preparing a request for support.
- Detail SitRep is being prepared and will be sent in the next hours.

2. Mexico

Situation

- 4 deaths were officially reported up to now. Over 40,000 people in temporal shelter.
- Yucatan and Quintana Roo main states affected. Serious damage in roads, Cancun and Cozumel airports closes (25th October), no electricity in many areas and problems in drinkable water supply. Productive sectors (fishing, agriculture and tourism) as well as 11 out of the 19 Natural Protected Areas suffered severe damage.

Actions

- *Crisis Management Team* (CMT) was reactivated on October the 20th. At the same time UNETE (UN Emergency Technical Team) was activated under UNICEF coordination.
- On 25 October there UNCT met with Ms. Carmen Segura, head of Civil Protection in the Ministry of the Interior, and with the Foreign Affairs desk officer for natural disasters resulting in:
 - Mexico does not intend to launch an international appeal, it will gratefully accept UN system support as well as the aid that has been offered by such governments as those of Canada, Cuba and the U.S., and supports the idea that UN system help be focused at community level.
 - Mention was made of the request that UNDP-will assist local relief efforts, particular as regards isolated communities in the coastal areas where the hurricane has severely or entirely destroyed public infrastructure, houses and economic assets.
- RR required BCPR to release USD\$ 100,000 from TRAC 1.1.3, category 2, to enable UNDP and the UNCT to support relief efforts in the two affected states. Requirement was approved on October 27th.
- Next week an Interagency Assessment Team will visit affected areas for quick damage and needs assessment.