



# CUBA

## Technical Assistance and Reconstruction

### Disaster Context

Cuba's climatic conditions make the country susceptible to natural disasters such as tropical cyclones, floods, intense rains, and strong winds. Dangers are compounded by the fact that Cubans often construct homes and undertake economic activities in high-risk areas.

However, awareness of the situation has increased in recent years, both among the general population and the local and national authorities. The Cuban Government has implemented strategies for prevention, mitigation, response and reconstruction, significantly helping to reduce risk. As a result, loss of life, agriculture, and livestock has considerably decreased.

Regardless of these advances, vulnerable conditions prevail. This is evident not only in the high level of land deterioration but also in the extensive damage caused by hurricanes. For example, Hurricane Michelle in 2001 caused heavy losses, affecting 45 percent of Cuban land and 53 percent of the population. In 2002, Hurricane Lili and Hurricane Isidore affected 14 provinces and caused severe damage.

These disasters aggravated the already fragile situation in Cuba, especially in Havana, with direct implication on the social welfare of the people. According to official numbers, 75,380 homes were affected and 14,905 were completely destroyed.

The Cuban Government, with the assistance of UNDP, has made reconstruction and livelihood improvement in affected areas a top priority. A series of initiatives in the livelihood sector incorporate risk management into reconstruction projects, planning, and human development.

### Project Title

Technical Assistance and Reconstruction

### Sectors

- Technical assistance in political development

- Risk management, prevention, and disaster mitigation
- Institutional strengthening

### Funding

UNDP contributed \$100,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds. In addition the Government of Belgium contributed \$1 million, the Government of Italy contributed \$300,000 and the British Government contributed \$182,000.

### Partners

- Ministerio para la Inversion Extranjera y la Colaboracion Economica
- Instituto Nacional de Vivienda
- Oficina del historiador de la ciudad
- Estado Mayor de la Defensa Civil
- Unidades Provinciales y Municipales de Local Housing Units
- Municipalities
- Local authorities

### Programme Activities

- Provide technical assistance and training to strengthen the institutional capacity to mainstream risk management, planning, building codes, and methods of construction in hurricane-prone zones
- Encourage cooperation among affected municipalities, national- and local-level institutions, and the general population
- Reconstruct and restore homes
- Encourage urban management using the strategy of model neighbourhoods