

Appeal

Cuba

Assistance to Victims of Hurricane Charley - LACU41 Appeal Target: US\$ 231,000

Geneva, 30 September 2004

Dear Colleagues,

Hurricane Charley tore through Cuba during the second week of August causing massive devastation in Havana Province and Havana City. Due to the early warning provided by the Weather Bureau and the Civil Defense as well as the preparedness measures taken to protect the population, the death toll reached only four with five persons injured.

However, the physical damages were widespread. Havana Province is the most densely populated area in Cuba where most of the important industries are located as well as the best agricultural land. According to the Cuban Civil Defense 40,100 houses were damaged and 8,300 totally destroyed. Damages to infrastructure: schools, hospitals, electricity, telephone and water distribution systems were extensive. Almost 2.5 million people had their electricity cut and water and gas systems were seriously affected. Agriculture in the area was severely affected with hundreds of hectares of banana plantations destroyed by the winds, root plantations damaged and fruit trees stripped of their fruit. The best tobacco plantations also suffered extensive destruction.

ACT member in Cuba the **Cuban Council of Churches (CCC)** is proposing to support the affected families in the most affected municipalities of Havana Province :Alquízar, Güira de Melena, Caimito and Bauta. They are proposing to support the most vulnerable affected population such as female headed families, children, the elderly, the poor and destitute, the chronically sick and handicapped persons, through:

- Distribution of basic household items
- Distribution of housing reconstruction materials
- Accompaniment by the local churches

Project Completion Date:

31 March 2005

Summary of Appeal Targets, Pledges/Contributions Received and Balance Requested

Total Appeal Target(s)	<u>US\$</u> 231,000
<u>Less:</u> Pledges/Contr. Recd.	<u>0</u>
Balance Requested from ACT Alliance	231,000

Thor-Arne Prois
Director, ACT Co-ordinating Office

Full details of programme and budget are on following pages.

I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER INFORMATION

- **Cuban Council of Churches- (CIC)**

II. IMPLEMENTING ACT MEMBER & PARTNER INFORMATION

The Cuban Council of Churches is composed of 24 Churches, 12 Ecumenical Movements and 2 Fraternal Associations, under 3 categories that form the structure of the Council, as follows:

- **Affiliate Members:** those who have complied with the requirements for membership as stated in the by-laws and have a voice and can vote at all times.
- **Observer Members:** newly accepted members, who are given this status for one year or more and with right of voice (but not to vote).
- **Fraternal Associates:** religious institutions and organizations which are purely fraternal in nature and therefore cannot comply with the requirements for membership as stated in the By- Laws, but at the same time, they also exhibit a broad spirit of ecumenism in their interrelationships and mutual support.

The motto of the CCC is “United to Serve”, and for this reason, the institution has been working alongside the churches and the people in times of natural disasters and economic crises for the last 60 years. Dedicated to this task, an Emergency Committee was formed comprising five persons. This group is actively involved in all emergencies.

The Cuban government relies on the Office of Civil Defense and its broad-based infrastructure support organizations, to take charge and prepare the country for any impending calamity. This organization acts according to pre-established plans. The CIC, as a church institution, facilitates distribution of any aid received or offered by foreign counterparts or churches, working towards the same aims.

III. DESCRIPTION of the EMERGENCY SITUATION

Background

During the second week of August Hurricane Charley, with winds of 160 - 200 Km/h, tore through the Pinar del Río, Havan and Matanzas Provinces as well as Youth Island causing widespread devastation.

Due to the early warning provided by the Weather Bureau and the Civil Defense, preparedness measures were taken to protect the population and the death toll reached only four with five persons injured.

It was foreseen that Havana province would be severely hit by the hurricane and 99 reception centres equipped with sanitary equipment as well as qualified medical personnel were set up to receive those people who were evacuated from the most vulnerable areas. 70 kitchens were also set up to provide food for the people.

Due to the timely warning of the impending storm, Havana’s agriculture workers were able to save 212 out of 253 irrigation machines as well as storage facilities. They were also able to save significant amounts of agricultural stores by moving them to safe areas along with livestock.

The beach neighbourhoods of Mayabeque, El Rosario, El Cajío and Guanímar were evacuated, trees and shrubs were cut back and drainage systems cleared ready for the onslaught. The hurricane hit with all its fury on 12 and 13 August, with heavy winds and rains causing tidal surges that inundated the low lying coastal areas of the south-west, where a rapid evacuation of all the threatened neighbourhoods was carried out.

Once the cyclone had passed, the CIC Emergency Team along with local leaders and the local authorities carried out an assessment of the situation in the most severely affected areas. Damage was widespread with power and communication cables damaged/destroyed, trees ripped out by the roots, houses damaged to varying degrees along with extensive destruction of agricultural production.

In Havana City around 7,000 houses suffered varying degrees of damage, schools, polyclinics and other public building also suffered significant damage. There was extensive damage to power cables and communications and hundreds of trees were ripped out by the roots causing further damage where they fell. Of the 15 municipal areas, the ones most severely affected were Boyeros, Marianao, La Lisa, Playa (the worst affected) as well as Santa Fe .

Around 3,300 persons remain in the reception centres or shelters in the capital Havana while others are with neighbours or friends. These are people whose houses have been destroyed or damaged to such an extent that they are unsafe. They are unable to return to their homes until they are informed by the authorities that it is safe for them to return. Otherwise the majority of the dwellings in the city have sustained minor damage – to roofs, ceilings, windows and doors. Power is being gradually re-established with priority being given to medical centres, hospitals, food manufacturers, gas services, water supply and other basic essential services. Communication remains a problem as cables are damaged. Water services have been severely affected and there are concerns due to the lack of potable water.

Other municipalities that suffered significant damage include Güira de Melena, Alquizar, Melena del Sur and Bejucal. In these towns the Emergency Team faced similar scenes with power and communication cables damaged or destroyed, trees and roofs blown down. Agriculture was also seriously affected with banana, sugar, alligator-pear and avocado plantations being totally devastated.

Current situation in the area of proposed response

CIC has selected Havana Province, (Municipal areas of Alquizar, Güira de Melena, Caimito and Bauta) for assistance as these were the most seriously affected by Hurricane Charley .

ALQUÍZAR:

This municipality has a population of 28,000. Out of 4,923 houses, 640 were totally destroyed and 990 damaged.

Agriculture, which is the main means of livelihood in this area, was also severely affected. Banana plantations were totally destroyed. In this municipality 2,790 inhabitants were evacuated and 653 persons still remain in the shelters as their houses are not safe to live in.

Other buildings severely damaged by the heavy winds were schools, a home for the elderly, a maternity home and a telecommunications building. The water supply has also been damaged and access to potable water is difficult.

GÜIRA DE MELENA:

This municipality has a population of 37,000. Out of 5,000 houses, 520 were totally destroyed, 340 suffered damages and 2,160 had the roofs blown off. This area depends on its banana production which was totally destroyed by the winds.

The water supply, electricity and telephones are cut. Public services such as polyclinics and pharmacies are functioning, although with difficulty.

The worst affected area of this municipality was the settlement of “El Cajío” situated on the southern coast – the first place to be hit by the hurricane as it reached Cuba. “El Cajío” has a population of 703 persons. Of the 298 dwellings only 10 remain standing and these are seriously damaged. All the inhabitants of “El Cajío” were evacuated and they are still in the provisional shelters

BAUTA:

This municipality has a population of 50,000 of which 4,179 were seriously affected by the hurricane. Of its 13,460 dwellings 300 totally collapsed, 521 were damaged and 1,381 lost their roofs. Public buildings also suffered extensive damages – 18 schools along with seven medical centres and four nurseries lost their roofs.

113 economic centres were damaged along with a chicken farm for egg production in which all the hens were killed. Other losses were sugarcane plantations and root vegetables.

CAIMITO:

This municipality has a population of 34,000 inhabitants. 3,917 houses were affected, of which 264 were totally destroyed, 254 were partially damaged and 1,768 lost their roofs.

26 schools and a home for the elderly lost windows and doors. Economically the area relies on export of citrus fruits (50% of which was destroyed during the hurricane) and egg production which also suffered significantly.

IV. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

1,300 affected families - around 6,500 people (the average family comprises five persons)

- 1,000 families will receive construction materials to rebuild their houses
- 300 families will receive household items such as mattresses, blankets, sheets, towels and hygiene items

Selection criteria

Beneficiaries will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Families who have lost all their possessions along with their homes.
- Female headed families, children, the elderly, the poor and destitute, the chronically sick and handicapped persons.
- Evacuation centres, municipal hospitals, medical clinics, soup kitchens and homes for the elderly.

Location of the beneficiaries

Four municipal areas have been selected - **Alquízar, Güira de Melena, Bauta and Caimito**, where CIC church ministers and members will work alongside the CIC co-ordinators.

V. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Goal

To alleviate the hardships suffered by the most vulnerable people affected by Hurricane Charley in four municipalities of Havana Province: Alquízar, Güira de Melena, Bauta and Caimito.

Objectives

- To help 1,000 affected families by Hurricane Charley to rebuild their houses.
- To help 300 affected families recover basic household items lost during Hurricane Charley

Activities

CIC is proposing to focus in housing reconstruction and distribution of some basic household items. The recuperation of agricultural capacity will be taken on by the Agricultural Ministry through the local authorities. Short cycle vegetables/fruits will be substituted for the produce lost and brigades from other provinces will assist in the clearing, replanting, cleaning and repairing of irrigation systems, etc.

DISTRITUBTION OF RELIEF ITEMS

CIC will distribute basic household items that were lost due to the floods. Clothes, shoes, bedspreads, towels, sheets, hygiene items, etc.

HOUSING

CIC proposes to support the affected population in reconstructing/repairing homes that were either destroyed or damaged. CIC will supply building materials: doors, window, roofing, cement, aluminium tiles and sanitary units.

Plan of Activities

Outcomes		Main Activities	Responsible
1	Reconstruction of 1,000 damaged houses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribution of construction materials for the houses (roofing, windows, doors, etc). ▪ Reconstruction of the houses by the affected families. 	Affected families Local churches Local authorities Emergency Team
2	Provision of basic household items to 300 of the most affected families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of mattresses, clothes, sheets, towels, shoes, bedspreads & hygiene items. 	Lay members Church ministers CIC Vice president
3	Full involvement of the churches in the implementation of the project & other activities necessary to restore normality to the communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operate with cleaning and rehabilitation work in the affected communities • Support the community institutions in the rehabilitation phase. • Monitoring of the project. • Administration of financial resources received. 	Lay members Church ministers CIC Vice president

Project implementation methodology

CIC has created an Emergency Team for this disaster that will consist of the CIC Vice President, regional co-ordinators and leaders in each municipality as well as church ministers and lay members. The Team will collaborate and co-ordinate with the local authorities and the construction brigades in supporting the affected families in the reconstruction of the houses.

The project will have a general co-ordinator and in each municipality there will be one person appointed by the CIC who will be responsible for monitoring implementation.

CIC will sign an agreement with the local authorities for the reconstruction of the houses. CIC will provide the construction materials that are not produced locally, and the local authorities will provide the local construction materials and the reconstruction brigades that will include skilled builders. The

Ministry of Housing will supervise the construction of the houses from the technical point of view. Reconstruction of the houses will be carried out by the affected families with the support and orientation of the construction brigades appointed by the local authorities.

The selection of beneficiaries as well as the planning/implementation of activities will be a participative process. Community leaders will select the most vulnerable members of the community to receive assistance, according to the selection criteria mentioned above. Priority will be given to female headed families, children, the elderly, the poor and destitute, the chronically sick and handicapped persons

During the implementation space will be created for the involved actors: beneficiaries, reconstruction brigades, local authorities and CIC, to meet and discuss the assistance and implementation.

In each municipality church ministers and lay members will monitor and evaluate the implementation. They will also be responsible for the distribution of the basic household items.

More than 130,000 members of Alquizar, Güira, Caimito and Bauta communities will benefit indirectly from assistance.

Implementation timetable

6 months – October to March 2005.

VI. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

CIC will be responsible for the administration of the financial resources. CIC will buy the building materials and control their distribution to the affected families. CIC will also monitor the use of the materials.

An external audit will be carried out once the project has come to a close.

VII. MONITORING, REPORTING & EVALUATIONS

Monthly reports will be produced by the CIC emergency team who will monitor the implementation of the project.

Reporting Schedule

First interim narrative and financial report to be received by ACT CO by 31 December 2004.

Final narrative and financial reports to be received within three months of closing date of 31 March 2005.

VIII. CO-ORDINATION

The co-ordination will be assumed by the Cuban Council of Churches together with the churches in the selected communities, the affected population and the local authorities.

IX. BUDGET**ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost US\$</u>	<u>Budget US\$</u>
DIRECT ASSISTANCE				
Basic non-food items – clothes, towels, sheets, etc	Lump sum			28,000
Reconstruction materials	Family	1,000	200	200,000
Transportation, vehicle rental, fuel	Lump sum			1,000
Administration	Lump sum			<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE				231,000
BALANCE REQUESTED FROM ACT ALLIANCE				<u>231,000</u>