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Coordinating Office

Appeal

Cuba

Hurricane Dennis emergency assistance – LACU51 Appeal Target: US\$ 370,775

Geneva, 29 July 2005

Dear Colleagues,

Hurricane Dennis, a category IV hurricane, lashed Cuba between 7 - 9 July causing heavy rains and flooding . The Hurricane devastated 11 provinces and caused the evacuation of 1.5 million people. In spite of all the preparedness measures taken by the Civil Defence and the early warnings issued, sixteen persons died. The estimation of the damages is huge. More than 8 million inhabitants of the Island were affected and 120,000 homes were damaged to different degrees from complete destruction to minor damages. Agricultural production has suffered such severe and comprehensive damage that it has resulted in an immediate and direct impact on the food security of the country. This is the fourth year in a row that Cuba has been seriously hit by hurricanes.

ACT member the **Cuban Council of Churches (CIC)** is planning to assist the most vulnerable affected population in four municipalities in the province of Granma, which was the most severely affected. Granma province is located in the eastern part of the country and agricultural activity is the centre of its economy. CIC has prepared this preliminary appeal to respond to the most immediate needs of the affected population. They are proposing to provide food assistance (canned food), bedding and hygiene kits, sewing kits and mattresses to 400 families. They also intend to support elderly people and pregnant women that are located in public institutions in the province. CIC will welcome in-kind donations of the items specified in the appeal.

The ACT CO, in consultation with CIC, will deploy a CAT team of two persons, who will support the CIC in further assessment of the needs for the crisis and rehabilitation phase and to set adequate systems for the handling and recording of the in-kind donations. The team will visit Cuba for one week from 5 August to 12 August.

ACT is a global alliance of churches and related agencies working to save lives and support communities in emergencies worldwide.

The ACT Coordinating Office is based with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Switzerland.

Project Completion Date:

31 January 2006

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

Total Appeal Target(s)	US\$ 370,775
<u>Less:</u> Pledges/Contr. Recd.	<u>0</u>
Balance Requested from ACT Alliance	370,775

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Director, ACT Co-ordinating Office

I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER

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

II. IMPLEMENTING ACT MEMBER INFORMATION

The Cuban Council of Churches (CIC) is a fraternal community of Churches, ecumenical movements and institutions that branches into four work areas: Diaconate, Education and Training, Relationship and Communication.

Formed by 24 Churches, 12 Ecumenical Movements and 2 Fraternal Associations, under 3 categories that make up the integration structure, it is organized as follows:

- **Affiliated Members:** those who have fulfilled the regulations. They have a say and the right to vote at decisive moments.
- **Observing Members:** Newly started members who can remain as such for one or more years depending on whether they wish to remain as observers or have a right to vote.
- **Fraternal members:** those religious centers that are merely fraternal organizations unable to fulfill the regulations for members but who, in turn, possess a high ecumenical spirit of interchange and mutual help.

For disaster response the CIC has an emergency committee that is activated and starts searching for support through international organizations, ecclesiastical or secular who can mobilize resources for the population facing risk.

III. DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY SITUATION

Located in the Caribbean Sea, Cuba is affected every year by natural phenomena such as hurricanes. The cyclone season runs from June through November, a period when there is a massive concerted effort by the people and their civil defense organizations to lessen the risks of storm damage. The most recent and destructive hurricane, Dennis, hit 11 provinces 78.6% of the entire Cuban territory and roughly eight million inhabitants (66.6% of the population) were affected.

It made landfall early in the morning of 8 July 2005 at Cabo Cruz in the Province of Granma (eastern Cuba). It then moved off shore along the southern coast until it re-entered close to Cienfuegos Bay (in the center of the island) striking that province and the provinces of Sancti Spiritus, Matanzas as well as several municipalities of Havana Province and the City of Havana proper. This hurricane finally left Cuba at 12:10 a.m. the next day through a place called Brisas del Mar and Santa Cruz del Norte, coastal towns north of Havana, 32 and 42 kilometers east of the capital city. It made landfall as a category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale and exited as a very weakened Category 2 hurricane.

The reports of the Meteorology Institute of Cuba mark the season as definitely unusual with a hurricane so early in the season along with another four tropical storms within that period of time. Cuba normally experiences several weak (category one) hurricanes in the months of July and August which usually cause damages to the westernmost tip of Pinar del Río or its surroundings.

The Civil Defence issued nine warnings. Consequently, the 14 Provincial Defence Councils and the 169 Municipal ones plus 1,300 other based-councils were fully aware of the progress of the hurricane and loss of life was reduced.

Over 2,200 shelters had been properly equipped for those seeking shelter and more than 1,400 food centers were prepared. Communication was assured since more than 200 generators were ready for emergency use. However, the impact of Dennis was so great that 28 areas in the country, mainly in Santiago de Cuba, Granma, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus and Matanzas were left without power. Hurricane Dennis left damages in its wake of around 1,400 million dollars.

1,531,000 people were evacuated of which 245,106 were taken to state facilities, while the rest was distributed among the neighboring houses. Sixteen people died, 13 in Granma, 2 in Santiago de Cuba and one in Sancti Spiritus.

120,000 houses were damaged, of these nearly 15,000 were totally demolished and 25,000 were partially torn down. 24,000 were left with no roofs and 60,000 were slightly damaged.

Agricultural losses were significant; a hundred hectares of greenhouse production were devastated; vegetable production losses (over one thousand tons), plantains (11,500 hectares), grapefruit (200,000 tons), oranges (160,000) tons, mango (7,000 tons), of yucca (cassava) (15,000 tons) and maize (11,000 tons). Around 73,000 poultry died.

The electrical system was cut and 21 municipalities are still without power. The cyclone caused the collapse of five television towers, three radio towers, 1,124 communication poles and the destruction of the radar in Pílon. Also, 21 hotels were significantly affected.

Public health facilities were also affected, with 36 hospitals seriously damaged. The same is true about 1,296 educational facilities.

The volume of water in most of the water reservoirs increased by 1.120 million cubic metres in just 56 hours. Although this is beneficial for the future it posed a threat to the populations in the vicinity of rivers, dams and lakes. There are 235 dams with a total capacity is of 4,287 million cubic meters. 309 foreign tourists staying at different hotels, mainly in the Ancón Península, were moved into Varadero hotels, while a hundred others in homestays in Trinidad were transferred to Villa Los Laureles and Rancho Hatuey in the provincial capital city.

Location for the proposed response

The Cuban Council of Churches has selected the **Province of Granma** as the most severely damaged by the hurricane. With a population of 827,000 inhabitants, it is located in the eastern part of the island. Its landscape is mostly mountainous and the most severely affected municipalities, **Niquero, Pílon, Campechuela and Media Luna**, are far from the Province capital city. These localities have a population of approximately **157,000**.

The hurricane made landfall between Pílon and Cabo Cruz and left through Limones, a small town between Cabo Cruz and Niquero, seriously affecting the settlements of Cabo Cruz, Pílon and Niquero. The mountain sides south and north of Pílon were very much affected, just as the mountains of Bartolomé Masó, the Headquarters of the “Comandancia de La Plata,” San Lorenzo, Mompié, Minas de Frío, Buey Arriba, Guisa, Campechuela and Media Luna. The harm to flora and fauna was considerable; birds fled. Coffee plantations as well as other crops were also lost. Over **20,000 homes** were affected one way or another, over **5,000** totally destroyed; hundreds of electric pylons were knocked down.

The winds surpassed 230 km/h with gusts topping 300km/h. 83 per cent of the houses of Cabo Cruz province are damaged, while 94 percent of the houses in Pílon were devastated.

Agriculture is the center of its economy. The Sierra Maestra forests and fishing with Manzanillo and Niquero as main seaports are other important occupations.

Population of four municipalities

Municipalities	Inhabitants	Area (Km)	Pop Density (Inhab/Km)	Urban Pop	Rural Pop	Males	Females
CAMPECHUELA	48,954	577.3	84.8	24,379	24,575	25,333	23,621
MEDIA LUNA	36,441	375.5	97.0	15,524	20,917	18,918	17,523
NIQUERO	41,134	582.3	70.6	19,950	21,184	21,134	20,000
PILON	30,683	462.3	66.4	11,936	18,747	15,834	14,849
Total	157,212			71,789	85,423	81,219	75,993

Elderly people and pregnant women in institutions

Category	Institution	Quantity
Senior Citizens	Beds homes for the elderly in Niquero	25
	Beds In Media Luna Home for the Elderly	8
	Seniors Home In Pilon	25
	Seniors Homes in Campechuela	25
	Seniors Home in Niquero	25
	Seniors Home in Media Luna	25
	Seniors under care of the churches	85
Pregnant women	Maternity Homes in Campechuela (Beds)	45
	Maternity Homes in Media Luna (Beds)	18
	Maternity Homes in Niquero (Beds)	18
	Maternity Homes in Pilon (Beds)	11
TOTAL		287

IV. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

Taking into consideration that nearly 20,000 homes were damaged to a certain extent, the CIC plans to focus on those most vulnerable due to their physical and economic condition. CIC therefore proposes to assist 100 families in each municipality making a total of **400 families**.

The families will receive **hygiene kits** including towels (large and small), dental paste, toothbrush and soap, **bedding kits** with (2) sheets (2) pillowcases varied for double and single beds as well as **canned food**: meat, grains and vegetables.

The CIC also proposes the delivery of **mattresses, bedding and hygiene kits, canned food and sewing kits** for **287 elderly persons** in institutions (senior citizens with no families) as well as for the institutions that are taking care of **92 pregnant women** at risk in the four municipalities.

CIC has **7** sewing workshops in various churches that can produce clothing for the hurricane-hit communities. For this reason they requesting **sewing kits**, including fabric, buttons, zippers, thread, machine and hand sewing needles as well as scissors for the locals to make the clothes. This would

top up the clothing obtained by other means to be distributed. CIC will also distribute sewing kits to selected families.

Criteria for the selection

The selection of the 400 families will be made by CIC in accordance with the government authorities applying the following criteria:

- Those affected severely by Hurricane Dennis.
- Those who have lost their houses or whose houses are severely affected
- Those people in the most vulnerable physical and economic situation

V. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

Goal

To help the most vulnerable population, victims of hurricane Dennis, in the municipalities of Pílon, Niquero, Media Luna and Campechuela in the province of Granma.

Objectives

- To provide most needed items to the families who have lost their homes or have being severely affected
- To involve the church and its communities in the restoration work on the wake of the hurricane.

Activities

To provide food, bed kits, hygiene kits and sewing kits for the production of clothes.

Per family

Items	Items Included	Total per family
Hygiene kit	Towels (big and small), dental paste, toothbrush and soap	5 kits
Sheet kits	2 sheets, 2 pillowcases (double and single)	3 kits per family: 1 double y 3 single
Canned food	Meat, grains and vegetables	20 units of each item
Sewing kits	Fabric, thread, zipper, needles for machine and hand sewing, scissors	5 kits

For the elderly persons and pregnant women in institutions

Items	Items Included	Total
Mattresses	Single mattresses	1 unit per bed (125 units)
Hygiene kits	Towels (big and small), dental paste, toothbrush and soap	287 units
Sheet kits	2 sheets, 2 pillowcases (single)	125 units
Canned food	Meat, grains and vegetables	20 units of each product
Sewing kits	Fabric, thread, zipper, needles for machine and hand sewing, scissors	5 kits for each one and for the sewing workshops

Plan of activities

Results	Principal activities	Responsible teams
Basic needs of the affected families covered	1. Selection of the target beneficiaries.	CIC Emergency staff, churches & local government authorities in Granma
	2. To cover shipment paperwork and unloading of cargo.	CIC Headquarters of the Life and Health Program
	3. Clearance process.	MINVEC- Headquarters for the Implementation of Donations
	4. Stock and distribution.	CIC Headquarters of the Life and Health Program
Church involved in distributing to families in need	5. Preparation and handing out of kits for each family and the elderly with no family.	Staff formed by churches and local government authorities in Granma
ACT members informed about the impact of the efforts in Cuba	6. Field visits to the benefited municipalities.	CIC Emergency staff, churches and local government authorities in Granma
	7. Narrative & financial reports.	CIC Headquarters of the Life and Health Program
	8. Audit work and reporting.	Staff of auditors not related to CIC

Project implementation methodology

The Emergency Committee, through the churches represented in the communities, will receive the aid and together with local authorities will distribute the aid to the most needy of the population. This will be done according to the needs assessment carried out following the disaster.

Local staff will be recruited for the distribution process and they will also be engaged in the evaluation and monitoring of the implementation.

Distribution will be carried out according to individual needs of each family. Assistance will comprise personal hygiene (5 items) and bedding kits (1 double and 3 single sheets), canned food (20 items - meat, grains and vegetables to each family). This will cover their elementary needs for approximately one month. Sewing kits will also be handed out to sewing groups to make clothing such as (blouses, shirts and skirts) for direct distribution to the most needy.

Assistance will also be provided to those health institutions that are taking care of pregnant women who are at risk and have a bad economic situation as well as to homes for senior citizens in the four provinces. Health kits will be provided to each institution along with bedding and mattresses. Canned food will be provided – 20 units of each product to each pregnant women or senior citizen.

Implementation timetable

Six months.

VI. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, MONITORING & REPORTING

The Emergency Committee led by the Cuban Council of Churches and the Life and Health Program will check the supplies received and proceed with all the clearance paperwork and distribution of the relief items to the areas for distribution.

In each target area the pastors, local recruits and government authorities will distribute the supplies to those in need. The CIC will monitor the implementation and provide narrative and financial reports according to the ACT guidelines.

Reporting Schedule:

- Interim narrative and financial reports to be received by ACT CO by 30 November 2005, i.e. within one month following mid-term of project.
- Final narrative and financial reports to be received by the ACT CO by 31 March 2006, i.e. within two months of end of project.
- Audit report to be received by ACT CO no later than 30 April 2006, i.e. within three months of end of project.

Note: if you have back-donor funding please refer to the Co-operation Agreement for the reporting schedule.

VII. BUDGET

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of unit</u>	<u>No of units</u>	<u>Unit Cost US\$</u>	<u>Budget US\$</u>
DIRECT ASSISTANCE				
Canned Food	Item	41,220	7	288,540
Bedding kits - sheets (double & single)	Kit	1,725	5	8,625
Hygiene Kits	Kit	2,287	5	11,435
Mattresses	Mattress	125	80	10,000
Sewing kits	Kit	4,435	5	<u>22,175</u>
Sub Total				340,775
TRANSPORT				
Freight	LS			20,000
Fuel & Rental of vehicles	LS			<u>5,000</u>
Sub Total				25,000
ADMIN & SUPPORT				
Salaries & per diem	LS			4,500
Audit	LS			<u>500</u>
Sub Total				5,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE				<u>370,775</u>