

**TO:** Calum Gardner, Chief, RMBB **DATE:** 1 November 2012  
**FROM:** Gemino Lodesani, Regional **PAGE 1 OF 4**  
**Director ODP**  
**CC:** Sonsoles Ruedas, Cuba Country Director  
David Kaatrud, Director of Emergencies, ODE

**IMMEDIATE RESPONSE EMERGENCY OPERATION (IR-EMOP)**  
**CUBA 200516 - Emergency Assistance to People affected by**  
**Hurricane Sandy in Cuba**  
**PROJECT DOCUMENT**

**PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE**

**NATURE OF EMERGENCY**

**Location:** Cuba, Province of Santiago de Cuba

**Cause:** Hurricane Sandy

1. Hurricane "Sandy" entered mainland Cuba as a high intensity Category 2 hurricane over Playa de Mar Verde in the province of Santiago de Cuba at 0100 hours local time on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The hurricane left Cuban territory over Cabo Lucrecia in Holguin province at 0600 hours local time on the same date. Hurricane Sandy followed a south-north route over the eastern provinces of the country leaving a trail of destruction in its path.
2. Sandy particularly damaged three eastern provinces namely Santiago de Cuba, Holguín and Guantánamo, with strong winds, heavy rains and significant flooding. According to the Government and local press reports Santiago is the worst hit province. Official sources announced that eleven lives were lost. As of 1<sup>st</sup> November, more than 1.2 million people still had no access to electricity and water which could quickly become a significant health risk. Housing, infrastructure and agriculture sectors are the most affected in all three provinces.

**Effects:**

3. Sandy is probably the single most destructive hurricane experienced by eastern Cuba in the last 50 years. Official sources describe the damage as "substantial" impacting both rural and urban areas. The hurricane entered the mainland through the city of Santiago de Cuba, the country's second largest urban centre with almost 500,000 inhabitants. It has left thousands of people homeless and without access to electricity and water. Given Santiago's economic significance it is clear that recovery from this disaster will take many months.
4. According to preliminary government reports, more than 188,000 houses are damaged, affecting some 1.13 million people or about ten percent of the country's total population.

5. Lack of electricity is a major concern in Santiago where approximately 85 percent of the population is currently without electricity. Water supplies are also disrupted leading to shortages in potable water which can have severe implications for health and sanitation.
6. In the agricultural sector more than 96,980 hectares of diverse crops are affected. Sugar cane crop has suffered heavy losses followed by plantain and banana, staple crops and vegetables. Livestock facilities are also seriously affected, particularly poultry farms. In Santiago alone, ten poultry farms were seriously damaged and three were totally destroyed. Additionally, three animal feed factories were practically ruined.
7. Most of the food crops in the municipality of Contramaestre—the main food producer for Santiago—are destroyed. In addition to Santiago, Holguin and Guantanamo, the provinces of Matanzas, Villa Clara and Cienfuegos have also experienced agricultural losses due to the heavy rains. The damages in the agricultural sector have severe economic consequences given that not only food crops are destroyed but also export cash crops which traditionally contribute significantly to the foreign exchange earnings of Cuba.
8. Damage to storage facilities including warehouses and bodegas has destroyed more than 12,700 tons of food commodities including staples, rice, coffee, sugar, eggs, etc. In Santiago alone approximately 7,000 tons of food is lost. Furthermore, food storage and processing facilities have also experienced extensive damage.
9. Approximately 2,106 schools are structurally damaged. Still many schools are serving as temporary shelters.
10. The total number of people in need of emergency food assistance is almost 850,000 across the three most affected eastern provinces.

**WFP IR EMOP:****Justification for an immediate response, expected impact:**

11. The Government of Cuba has accepted WFP's offer to provide assistance in mitigating the humanitarian consequences of hurricane Sandy. However, the Government would like to see WFP concentrate its efforts on Santiago de Cuba for the time being – probably the most severely affected province in the country.
12. The funds allocated under this IR-EMOP will be used to procure and transport food commodities and storage units.
13. WFP will provide rice, beans and vegetable oil to complement national food aid efforts in the most affected areas of the country. Approximately 793 MT of food commodities will be provided for a period of 30 days to about 492,390 people.

14. Wiikhalls will be needed for improving storage capacities in the port of Santiago as well as in other municipalities affected by the hurricane. WFP will provide 15 wiikhalls to increase temporary storage facilities. This is an in-kind contribution from WFP Haiti and therefore budgeted at zero cost.
15. **Duration of assistance:** The project duration will be 60 days beginning on 2nd November and ending on 31st December 2012. This will allow for sufficient time for project start-up and closure after a 30 day food distribution is completed.
16. **Number of beneficiaries and location:** 492,390 people in the municipality of Santiago de Cuba.
17. **Food basket composition and ration levels:** 30.7g of rice per person per day; 15.3 g of beans per person per day; 7.67g of vegetable oil per person per day. This is equivalent to ten per cent of the average daily caloric requirements of the population. It should be noted the entire Cuban population receives a monthly food basket subsidized by the government that covers 35-39 percent of their daily energy and protein requirements. The rest of the daily requirements are covered by commodities that are available on the open market. These commodities have now become scarce and prices are likely to increase at least in the near future due to the impact of Hurricane Sandy.
18. **Total food aid requirements (MT):** A total of 793 MT of food commodities consisting of: 453 MT of rice, 227 MT of beans, and 114 MT of vegetable oil for a food cost of US\$662,511.
19. **Total budget:** The total budget for this IR-EMOP is US\$999,976 of which US\$662,511 is food costs and the remaining US\$337,465 is for associated costs.
20. Given the magnitude of the damages caused by Hurricane Sandy, this IR-EMOP may have to be followed by an EMOP. However, the size of the EMOP operation will be determined by the findings of the damage and food security assessments.

**Mode of implementation:**

21. The food commodities (793 MT) and the wiikhalls (15 units) will be borrowed from WFP operations in Haiti given the urgency of the situation. This IR-EMOP budget includes the transportation and commodity costs to replenish the stocks to Haiti. WFP will charter a vessel to transport the food and the wiikhalls from Haiti to the port of Santiago. WFP will then purchase the same quantities of food to reimburse Haiti. As per standard practice in Cuba, the food will be handed over to the Government upon arrival.
22. The Government of Cuba, through the Ministry of Domestic Trade (MINCIN), will be responsible for transporting, handling, storing and distributing the food commodities to beneficiaries using the standard Government distribution networks. The local Government of the province of Santiago de Cuba will be directly responsible for ensuring the timely distribution of commodities. MINCEX (Cuban Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment) will be WFP's main counterpart for this

operation. WFP will make random visits to the Distribution Points (Bodegas) for monitoring purposes.

**PART 2: EMOP BUDGET (attached)**

Total EMOP budget is attached as Annex 1.  
(Use standard EMOP Project Budget Plan Format)

**PART 3: EMOP APPROVAL**

- 1) IRA funding is available to cover EMOP budget

Chief, RMBB: Calum Gardner, Date: --/--/----

- 2) EMOP is approved

Regional Director, OD- Panama: Gemmo Lodesani, Date: --/--/----

Annex 1 – Budget Summary