



Anticipatory Action Activation

Cuba



Anticipatory Action to mitigate the impacts of hurricane Melissa in Cuba

In October 2025, the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the government of Cuba, successfully implemented an anticipatory action (AA) activation ahead of predicted floods and high-speed winds resulting from hurricane Melissa, which was forecast to bring record-breaking rainfall. This support aimed to mitigate the expected impacts on the lives and livelihoods of highly vulnerable people in the Eastern Cuba.

This activation was guided by [the Interagency Framework for Anticipatory Actions \(AAs\)](#) for hurricanes, developed and endorsed in 2025. The framework was a result of a participatory process with the government and humanitarian partners, coordinated by OCHA, under the overall leadership of the Resident Coordinator (RC). Thanks to this framework, UN agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, PAHO), government partners, and vulnerable communities are better equipped to anticipate and mitigate the devastating impacts of hurricanes.

The trigger mechanism used in this framework was developed in close collaboration with Cuba's meteorological and hydrological surveillance institutions: Instituto de Meteorología de Cuba (INSMET) and Instituto Nacional de Recursos Hidráulicos (INRH). The action trigger is activated when the official forecast from the NOAA's National Hurricane Center (NHC) predicts the system's track will enter INSMET's "Zona de

Key facts

Location: Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo, Granma, Holguin, Las Tunas

Number of people reached with hot meals at evacuation centres

181,157

Máxima Atención"1 (ZMA), with maximum windspeed of at least 120 knots (Category 4).

On 23 October, the readiness trigger was reached, followed by the action trigger on 26 October, which marked the start of the activation. Between the readiness trigger and the action trigger, WFP carried out a logistical operation within 48 hours, transporting 280 MT of pre-positioned food (rice, grains, and oil) to the eastern region, resulting in the completion of stocks totaling 697 MT of food.

Following the activation, partner organizations jointly delivered food, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and emergency shelter management to families through the CERF-funded mechanism.

As part of these collective efforts, WFP is implementing the following AA:

Provision of in-kind food assistance. In-kind assistance activities, such as the distribution of food (rice, grains, oil) were provided in food preparation and evacuation centres ahead of the hurricane's landfall.

This anticipatory action is implemented to 1) support the appropriate consumption of food by temporarily evacuated and affected individuals; and 2) allow communities to meet their nutrition needs before, during and after the predicted crisis.

This activation has been made possible through USD 1,5 million in pre-arranged funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), providing critical support ahead of the hurricane and alleviating humanitarian needs resulting from the hurricane's impact. The Government of Ireland contributed to the critical AA capacity strengthening in Cuba.

AA Activation—October 2025



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