

After the disasters: government presents damage report



At the farmer's market in the province of Artemisa (source: [edua_acosta93/X](#))

Two hurricanes, [two earthquakes](#) in close succession, and a constant [struggle for power supply](#). The disaster reports from Cuba have come thick and fast in recent weeks, and the authorities have barely been able to keep up with estimating the exact extent of the damage – until now. On Thursday, Economy Minister Joaquín Alonso Vázquez and Foreign Trade Minister Óscar Pérez Oliva-Fraga presented a [preliminary damage report](#).

According to the report, around 34,000 residential buildings in Cuba have been damaged as a result of the events. More than 37,000 hectares of agricultural land and 381 agricultural facilities have been devastated. According to the report, the damage to the agricultural sector amounts to 383 million pesos, around 15 million euros at the official exchange rate.

In addition, 22 hospitals, 276 educational institutions, 189 stores, 25 warehouses, 88 water pumps and four bridges were damaged, among other things. The power company has reported 2,449 damaged transformers, partly due to the damage caused by two nationwide blackouts. Hurricanes and earthquakes caused 200 kilometers of damaged lines and an as yet undetermined number of downed power poles. Eight large transmission towers were destroyed.

Minister of Economy Alonso Vázquez said that it is already clear “that there will be no economic growth this year”. He emphasized that the rapid response of institutions, government, and the Cuban people to the events – which shook both ends of the island within just 20 days – was remarkable. Foreign Trade Minister Oliva-Fraga also praised the role of the United Nations. Much of the emergency relief effort was possible thanks to the UN system's resources already in place locally.

The minister expressed his gratitude for the numerous expressions of solidarity from the international community. “We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the institutions, governments, authorities, friends, companies, and investors, both inside and outside Cuba, who have helped to mitigate the damage caused by these three events in just 20 days,” he concluded.

Meanwhile, the reconstruction work is far from complete. While in Havana the power grid has been fully restored [according to the power company UNE](#) and in Mayabeque 96 percent of customers have power again, the situation in Artemisa continues to be complicated. There, only 29 percent of customers could be supplied on Friday. ([Cubaheute](#))