

Reconstruction in Cuba: aid supplies from Brazil and Venezuela arrive



Two containers with aid supplies from Brazil (Source: [Radio Habana/X](#))

Cuba is receiving international support for the ongoing reconstruction efforts following the severe devastation caused [by hurricanes Rafael and Oscar](#). As reported by Cuban state television, a consignment of ten tons of dry food from Brazil arrived by air on Thursday.

The South American country had already sent 30 water treatment plants to the Caribbean island. According to the Brazilian ambassador to Havana, Christian Vargas, a further consignment of solar panels and medicines will follow shortly.

Deborah Rivas, Cuba's Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Investment, expressed her thanks for the donations and underlined the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries. She also recalled the recent delivery of milk powder from Brazil after the passage of the hurricanes, which had caused severe damage in several provinces.

On Thursday, the Venezuelan government also delivered a further 200 tons of humanitarian aid. Foreign Minister Yván Gil explained that more than 20 containers with around 54,000 items, mainly building materials, were sent to Cuba.

The shipment, which is expected to arrive at the port of Santiago de Cuba in the next few days, includes 2,500 four-burner stoves, 10,000 mattresses, 10,000 corrugated iron roofs and 20,000 iron pipes, among other things. Further donations came from private companies.

“Just as the Venezuelans can count on the government and people of Cuba, the Cubans can count on the government and people of Venezuela,” said Gil, emphasizing the close ties between the two countries.

The United Nations announced that it would increase its aid deliveries from the original 30.5 million euros to 78.3 million euros, which will benefit 930,000 people in 17 communities. According to a preliminary government report on the damage caused by the two hurricanes and several earthquakes in Guantánamo, a total of around 34,000 buildings and 37,000 hectares of agricultural land have been damaged or destroyed.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, brigades from the state electricity company UNE completed the repair of a section of the power grid in Artemisa province that had been destroyed by Hurricane Rafael. The work included the controlled dismantling of the damaged structures and the assembly of six new high-voltage pylons and lines. As a result, Pinar del Río is now reconnected to the power grid, after the province had to be supplied by its own micro-system since the storm.

President Miguel Díaz-Canel praised the work of the electricians and thanked all those who “gave their word and kept it”. ([Cubaheute](#))