

Severe storms cause damage in western Cuba



Heavy rain and hail have caused severe damage to agriculture in the western province of Pinar del Río (Source: [DirectorioCubano](#))

A low-pressure system with heavy rainfall and hail [led](#) to flooding, collapsed houses, and damage to agricultural land in western Cuba over the weekend. As reported by Cuba's meteorological service, the rainfall during the peak phase on Friday amounted to up to 300 millimetres in 24 hours, with wind speeds of up to 75 kilometers per hour.

There were power cuts in all five western provinces - Havana, Pinar del Río, Artemisa, Mayabeque, and Matanzas - affecting up to 270,000 people. The water supply was also [interrupted](#) due to the lack of power. As the authorities [announced](#) on Saturday, 26 buildings collapsed completely and 122 partially. 148 people were evacuated to state buildings, and 762 were accommodated with friends or relatives. There were no human casualties. On Sunday, [another collapse](#) occurred in the San Isidro district (Habana Vieja), in which no one was injured either. Heavy rain and storms regularly put the poor building fabric in many places to the test, particularly in Old Havana.

Numerous streets in the capital were flooded as a result of several days of heavy rain. Traffic came to a standstill and public events were canceled. Havana's municipalities of Boyeros, Diez de Octubre, Cotorro, San Miguel del Padrón, Arroyo Naranjo, Cerro, and La Lisa were the worst affected by the rainfall. In the province of Pinar del Río, the regions



on the north coast were particularly affected. [Large hailstones fell](#) in several areas, some of which smashed through windows and briefly turned entire streets white. The tobacco region of Los Palacios in Pinar del Río reported damage to tobacco plantations and fallen trees as a result of hail and winds.

According to the state electricity supplier UNE, electrician crews from the central Cuban provinces of Ciego de Avila and Villa Clara were mobilized to assist with repairs in the west. Cuba's President Miguel Díaz-Canel [said](#) on Sunday that immediate reconstruction efforts will focus on removing debris, restoring water and electricity supplies, and providing food parcels to areas that remain without power. ([Cubaheute](#))