

Devastation in Florida as Hurricane Irma weakens

UNITED STATES
Miami, Florida

Millions of Florida residents were without power and extensive damage was reported in the Florida Keys, but most of the Sunshine State appeared on Monday to have dodged forecasts of catastrophic damage from Hurricane Irma.

While Florida may have escaped the worst from the monster storm which first pummeled the Caribbean, the death toll jumped to at least 40 as Cuba said 10 people had been killed there over the weekend as Irma spun northward.

And in the Caribbean, as hard-hit residents struggled to get back on their feet, Britain, France, the Netherlands and the US ramped up relief efforts for their overseas territories.

Florida residents who spent an anxious night huddled indoors were venturing out to survey the damage, which did not seem to be as bad as initially feared.

More than 6.5 million customers in Florida were without power, however, Governor Rick Scott said the chain of southern islands known as the Florida Keys had suffered a lot of damage.

He said the water, electricity and sewage systems in the Keys were all non-operational and that trailer parks had been "overtaken".

Most Keys residents had followed mandatory evacuation orders, but there were some holdouts who had to hunker down as Irma slammed into the low-lying tourist archipelago known for its fishing, scuba diving and boating.

Footage from the Grassy Key island shot by US broadcaster



Residents of Florida Keys trying to reach their home through a flooded street

NBC showed downed power lines, felled trees and streets strewn with debris and vehicles. But homes that were made from concrete appeared to have withstood the gusts.

Irma now a tropical storm

Irma was downgraded to a tropical storm, but forecasters warned of "life-threatening" storm surges, heavy winds and risk of tornadoes. Florida's northeastern city of Jacksonville, population 880,000, ordered urgent evacuations amid record flooding along the St Johns River.

Flooding was also reported in the city of Charleston, South Carolina, and the National Hurricane Center warned of possible isolated tornadoes in the state.

Irma's maximum sustained winds had decreased to 72 km per hour as of 8:00pm (00:00 GMT). Irma's eye was in western Georgia, and expected to cross

into eastern Alabama yesterday.

Irma had triggered orders for more than six million people in the US to flee to safety, one of the biggest evacuations in the country's history.

The storm roared ashore on the Keys on Sunday as a powerful category four hurricane, ripping boats from their moorings, flattening palm trees and downing power lines, after devastating a string of Caribbean islands.

In flood-prone Miami, the largest US city in Irma's path, cleaning crews were busy clearing branches, debris and fallen street signs from downtown.

Mayor Carlos Gimenez expressed relief that the damage was not worse.

"We were spared the brunt of this storm," Gimenez said. "We came out much better than other parts of the state and we have to thank God for that".

10 dead in Cuba

In Bonita Springs, a city of 50,000 people on Florida's hard-hit southwest coast, large areas were flooded and the entire city was without power.

Some residents were trying to reach their homes by walking through floodwater up to their waists, while others paddled canoes.

As residents began to check out their homes, authorities warned of downed power lines, raw sewage in floodwaters and - this being Florida - displaced wildlife such as snakes and alligators.

President Donald Trump has approved the state's request for emergency federal aid to help with temporary housing, home repairs, emergency work and hazard mitigation. He has promised to travel to the state "very soon."

AFP

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CORRECTION ON BID NOTICE

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) would like to inform interested eligible bidders and the General Public that there are some corrections made in connection to tender notice "INVITATION TO BID UNDER OPEN NATIONAL TENDER"

For the Various Construction works that appeared in the *New vision*.

NITA
UGANDA
- Driving the IT Revolution -

ALL BIDDERS

ADDENDUM NUMBER 1 FOR THE
PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM FOR THE
INFRASTR

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This is to issue Addendum Number
date for bid opening as follows:

S/N Reference to bidding docur
1 Invitation for Bids (IFB)