

Heavy rain claims two lives in eastern Cuba



Bridge washed away in Santiago de Cuba province (Source: [TVSantiago](#))

Tropical Storm Imelda has caused prolonged rainfall in eastern Cuba. At least two people have died as a result. Prime Minister Manuel Marrero [confirmed](#) the deaths of two people on social media on Monday and called on the population to “stay informed and participate in the recovery as soon as possible.”

State media [reported](#) the death of a 60-year-old man in Santiago de Cuba whose apartment collapsed as a result of the rainfall and a landslide. No further details have been released about the second death. The provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo have been hardest hit. In Santiago de Cuba, more than 250 millimeters of rain fell within 24 hours, according to the state newspaper *Granma*.

Flooding and landslides have cut off 17 communities with more than 24,000 inhabitants from the outside world. Access to the provincial capital Santiago de Cuba by rail has been interrupted after flooding of the Cacón River washed away the ballast between kilometers 833.5 and 834 of the double track, rendering it unusable.

In the neighboring province of Guantánamo, more than 18,000 people had to be evacuated, most of whom found shelter with relatives and neighbors. The village of Hatibonico is flooded and isolated after a river burst its banks there.

Material damage includes six collapsed houses in Guantánamo and 22 damaged power circuits due to fallen poles, rockfalls, and landslides. In view of the forecast of continued rainfall, Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo have suspended classes “until further notice” at all levels of education.

The Cuban Meteorological Institute (Insmet) stated in its sixth warning on Monday morning that Imelda is gaining strength over the Bahamas and increasing in “organization and

intensity.” The storm will therefore “continue to cause instability” for eastern Cuba.
([Cubaheute](#))