



# WFP Cuba Country Brief

June 2018

## Operational Context

Over the last 50 years, Cuba's comprehensive social protection programmes have largely eradicated poverty and hunger. Although effective, these programmes mostly rely on food imports and strain the national budget. Recurrent natural shocks place further challenges to food security and nutrition.

WFP accompanies the Government in its efforts to develop a new management model to make food-based social protection programmes more efficient and sustainable. WFP supports social safety nets for different vulnerable groups, strengthens agricultural value chains and promotes the improvement of resilience and disaster risk management. These activities contribute to Sustainable Goals 2, 5 and 17.

WFP has been working with Cuba since 1963.



Population: **11.2 million**

2016 Human Development Index:  
**68 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2015 Gender Inequality Index:  
**0.304 (rank: 62 out of 188)**

## In Numbers

**160 mt\*** of food assistance distributed

**USD 12.71m** total requirements

**116,000\*** people assisted

49%



51%



\*May 2018, under the T-ICSP

## Operational Updates

- WFP is assisting populations affected by Hurricane Irma in Central Cuba with rice, beans and vegetable oil. Distribution to the affected populations is finalising. WFP also supported local authorities through the provision of mobile storage units, pallets and lightning equipment to strengthen food-handling capacities.
- WFP is supporting national priorities to enhance the sustainability of social safety nets for vulnerable groups (children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly), providing regular and specialised nutritious foods. WFP is also working with the ministries of Health and Education and the Faculty of Communications to implement a communication strategy on nutrition, to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and obesity. WFP will facilitate a second training on healthy food and nutrition next month to strengthen the capacities of staff from these ministries.
- WFP supports the strengthening of the bean value chains in six provinces with training and equipment. In addition, a pilot initiative to strengthen the vegetable value chain in the urban areas of Santiago de Cuba – implemented with the United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF, and funded by the SDG Fund– was recently finalised. There was a closing workshop in Santiago de Cuba to exchange on best practices and lessons learned, where the Cuban authorities and beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction with the results and recommended to UN to continue implementing similar initiatives.
- WFP continues to strengthen the capacities of farmers and local institutions on the comprehensive management of drought. Preparatory work to launch the second phase of these activities is ongoing – funded by the European Union – focusing on consolidating the results obtained in the first phase and linking action plans to the existing local development tools for food security and nutrition.

**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Yordanka Fonseca  
Caption: Farmers in Las Tunas province are using the moisture metres for beans provided by WFP.

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WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP)</b>		
12.71 m	7.12 m	-1.51 m
<b>Strategic Result 1:</b> Everyone has access to food		
<b>Strategic Outcome 1:</b> Primary school children and elderly people assisted by state institutions in targeted municipalities have access to adequate food through strengthened social protection programmes all year long. <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
0.66 m	0.28 m	0.17 m
<b>Strategic Outcome 2:</b> Vulnerable people in shock-affected municipalities have stable access to basic food to meet their dietary requirements following a natural disaster. <i>Focus area: Crisis response</i>		
3.27 m	. m	0.08 m
<b>Strategic Result 2:</b> End malnutrition		
<b>Strategic Outcome 3:</b> Nutritionally vulnerable people in targeted municipalities are able to meet nutritional requirements through strengthened social protection programmes all year long. <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
1.81 m	0.92 m	-0.01 m
<b>Strategic Result 3:</b> Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes		
<b>Strategic Outcome 4:</b> Smallholder farmers and agricultural value chain stakeholders in targeted municipalities have enhanced capacities to contribute to sustainable food production systems for stable and high-quality food supply to social protection programmes by 2018. <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
4.48 m	4.08 m	-0.24 m
<b>Strategic Result 5:</b> Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs		
<b>Strategic Outcome 5:</b> Communities, technical institutions and local authorities in selected municipalities have strengthened disaster risk-management systems to reduce the impact of natural hazards on food security by 2018. <i>Focus area: Resilience building</i>		
1.07 m	1.36 m	-1.06 m

## WFP Country Activities

<b>SO 1</b>	1 - Provide food assistance to vulnerable people benefiting from food-based social protection programmes and promote technical assistance and training of experts and decision makers engaged in these programmes.
<b>SO 2</b>	2 - Provide unconditional food assistance to shock-affected populations from prepositioned food stocks to ensure a swift delivery.
<b>SO 3</b>	3 - Provide specialised nutritious foods to vulnerable people and technical assistance and training to experts and decision makers of national and local institutions engaged in nutrition programmes.
<b>SO 4</b>	4 - Provide training, equipment and technical support to smallholder farmers, traders and other stakeholders of food value chains.
<b>SO 5</b>	5 - Provide training and technical assistance to decision makers and smallholder farmers to improve local risk-reduction management.

## Monitoring

- WFP has a system in place to continuously monitor the implementation of project activities to ensure accountability, transparency and measure operational performance. These tasks are conducted in close collaboration with national and local counterparts.
- WFP carried out all visits planned to monitor distribution of WFP assistance to final beneficiaries, ensuring over 90 percent of the monitoring sites coverage.

## Challenges

- Funding challenges are envisaged for the coming Country Strategic Plan.
- Complex and lengthy procurement procedures, both at international and local levels, present an important bottleneck.

## Gender

- WFP continues supporting the Ministry of Agriculture in the implementation of its Gender Strategy. In particular, as part of its work to strengthen gender equality in the bean value chains, WFP is accompanying a number of initiatives for women's economic empowerment in selected municipalities. These initiatives include the creation of home vegetable gardens and poultry farming to support local social safety nets. Preparatory work – such as purchase of equipment – is in place to ensure start up in the second semester of the year.

## Partnerships

- A meeting with the Vice-president and other representatives of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) was hosted at WFP's Cuba Country Office. WFP shared the main results and lessons learned through the activities to strengthen the bean value chains in the provinces of Holguin and Las Tunas, which have been supported by KOICA over the last three years. WFP and the donor expressed their interest to continue with this fruitful collaboration.

## Donors

Brazil, Canada, Central Emergency Response Fund, Cuba, Germany, European Union, Italy, private sector, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, SDG Fund and Switzerland.