



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief August 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**

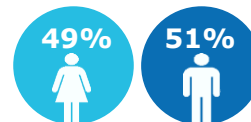
2015 Gender Inequality Index: **0.304 (rank: 62 out of 188)**

In Numbers

91 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 12.7 m total requirements

27,000 people assisted
in July 2018



Operational Updates

- 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.
- In partnership with the Faculty of Communications, WFP is strengthening capacities of different institutions (including national and local staff from the ministries of Health, Education, and Agriculture) on Communications for Nutrition. WFP is facilitating a training programme for staff who will participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of a communication strategy to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and obesity.
- WFP also participated in a community event (with about 200 people) hosted in Havana on healthy nutrition. In collaboration with a popular Cuban chef, WFP sensitised participants on the importance of good nutritional habits and showcased the preparation of different recipes with fresh vegetables.
- WFP supported the strengthening of agricultural value chains in seven provinces, promoting linkages with local social safety nets that assist vulnerable groups. Training and equipment is being provided to farmers and other actors to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the value chain. WFP is organizing a workshop to present the results achieved to date. This will also be a platform for exchange with other actors (Government, international cooperation partners and beneficiaries) on good practices and lessons learned.
- WFP continues to strengthen the capacities of farmers and local institutions on the comprehensive management of drought. The second phase of these activities – funded by the European Union and implemented jointly with the United Nations Development Programme – will focus on consolidating the results obtained in the first phase, and enhancing current local development tools for food security and nutrition, and water management. A launching ceremony is being organized for September in Guantánamo province.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/cuba

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
12.71 m	8.39 m	-2.38 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: 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.
Focus area: Root causes

- Activity 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.

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable people in shock-affected municipalities have stable access to basic food to meet their dietary requirements following a natural disaster.
Focus area: Crisis response

- Activity 2:**
- Provide unconditional food assistance to shock-affected populations from prepositioned food stocks to ensure a swift delivery.

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable people in targeted municipalities are able to meet nutritional requirements through strengthened social protection programmes all year long
Focus area: Root causes

- Activity 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.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 4: 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.
Focus area: Root causes

- Activity 4:**
- Provide training, equipment and technical support to smallholder farmers, traders and other stakeholders of food value chains.

Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: 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.
Focus area: Resilience building

- Activity 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, ensuring accountability, transparency and measuring operational performance. These tasks are conducted in close collaboration with national and local counterparts.
- WFP carried out all visits planned to monitor the storage of WFP food, and over 90 percent of the visits scheduled to monitor food distribution to final beneficiaries.

Challenges

- Funding constraints are envisaged for the coming Country Strategic Plan.
- Delays in the reception of food and non-food items present an important bottleneck to providing timely assistance.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- As leader of the Emergency Technical Team of the United Nations System in Cuba (UNETT), WFP continues monitoring the development of tropical cyclones and disturbances in the Atlantic. Activities are in place to organize briefings on emergency reporting and programme formulation within the UNETT.
- Although drought is not currently representing a major threat to food security and nutrition, WFP continues to monitor rainfall indicators in all Cuban provinces to be better prepared for the next dry season.

Gender

- As part of the activities to enhance gender equality along the bean value chain, WFP is supporting small initiatives led by women farmers (a family garden and poultry farming) in two selected rural municipalities in Eastern Cuba. These initiatives will foster the economic empowerment of a group of women linked to WFP-supported cooperatives, and could be an experience to be replicated in other territories.

Donors

Donors to WFP Cuba include Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Germany, European Union, Italy, private sector, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, SDG Fund and Switzerland. Additional support has been provided by UN CERF.