



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Cuba

Country Brief

December 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**

2017 Human Development Index:
0.777 (rank: **73** out of **189**)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

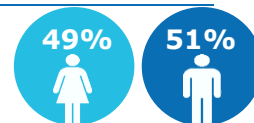
2017 Gender Inequality Index:
0.301 (rank: **65** out of **165**)

In Numbers

99 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 13.75 m total requirements

110,000 people assisted
(November 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. WFP is distributing micronutrient powders to children under two and Super Cereal to pregnant and lactating women in targeted municipalities.
- In partnership with the Faculty of Communications of the University of Havana, WFP advances to enhance the capacities of different institutions (including national and local staff from the ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture) on Nutrition Communication. WFP is supporting the organisation of a third training session for staff that will participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of a communication strategy to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and obesity, focusing on methodological aspects.
- WFP continues support to strengthen the bean value chain, promoting linkages with local social safety nets that assist vulnerable groups. As part of these activities, WFP is providing equipment to farmers and other actors in selected municipalities to enhance the efficiency of the value chain. As such, irrigation systems are being assembled or distributed, along with seed drills, harvesters and other agricultural equipment.
- In the framework of the Annual Scientific Day held by the National Institution for Economic Research of Cuba, WFP facilitated the organisation of a panel on food security and nutrition. As part of the panel, WFP carried out a joint presentation with FAO on the state of food security and nutrition at the global and regional level.

Contact info: wfp.havana@wfp.org

Country Director: Paolo Mattei

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)
13.75 m	8 m	0.29 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 planned visits to monitor WFP food storage, and over 90 percent of the visits scheduled to monitor food distribution to final beneficiaries.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- At the outset of the dry season (months of November and December), the levels of accumulated rainfall were below average. This situation currently affects 14 municipalities, mostly located in Eastern Cuba. WFP will continue to monitor precipitation in all Cuban provinces and maintain its dialogue with key authorities.

South-South Cooperation

- The tripartite project funded by Germany and implemented by WFP to strengthen disaster management and response capacities in the Caribbean has moved forward. A team of Cuban experts finalised a mission to Haiti to provide in different areas: meteorology, hydraulic resources and info-communications. As a result, a new forecasting model for sea surges was set up at the national level. Additionally, the action plan for 2019-2020 was updated, with an emphasis on contingency plans and simulation exercises. At the local level, risk assessments were conducted in two communes of the Gonaïves department, along with the establishment of communication channels to disseminate meteorological information.

Gender

- As part of the 16-days campaign against gender-based violence, WFP promoted various activities, including knowledge-sharing sessions and dialogue with associations of the civil society and government counterparts. In Santiago de Cuba, WFP facilitated a sensitization workshop on gender-based violence in a selected cooperative that supports social safety nets, in collaboration with an expert on gender issues.

Donors

Donors to WFP Cuba include Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Germany, European Union, Italy, private sector, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the SDG Fund.