



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Cuba

Country Brief

January 2019



Photo: (c) Jorge Luis Baños/IPS

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**

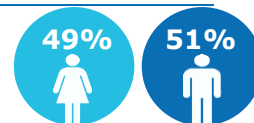
2017 Gender Inequality Index:
0.301 (rank: **65** out of **165**)

In Numbers

171.17 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 13.75 m total requirements

86,102 people assisted
(December 2018)



Operational Updates

- On 27 January, a strong tornado hit vulnerable municipalities of south-eastern Havana. Six casualties were reported and nearly 200 people injured, along with extensive damage to infrastructure, housing and food processing centres. As part of the United Nations System, WFP participated in the preparation of an Action Plan that was presented to the Government and several donors. WFP offered to support the government response with nearly 200 mt of food (rice and beans) already prepositioned in the country, benefitting approximately 20,000 affected and vulnerable people. WFP, in collaboration with UNIDO, is exploring the possibility to support the replacement of the only ship crane in the port of Havana, which was destroyed by the tornado and is needed to unload incoming food items.
- WFP is supporting national priorities to enhance Cuba's social safety nets for vulnerable groups (children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly), providing regular and specialised nutritious foods. The distribution of micronutrient powders to children under two, and Super Cereal to pregnant and lactating women in targeted municipalities is ongoing.
- In partnership with the University of Havana, WFP is enhancing the capacities of different institutions (including national and local staff from the ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture) on Nutrition Communication. WFP has facilitated a third training session to 25 experts from five Eastern provinces. The participants will contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of a communication strategy to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and obesity, focusing on formative research.
- WFP continues to support the Government in strengthening bean value chains, promoting linkages with local social safety nets that assist vulnerable populations. WFP is also providing equipment to farmers and key actors in selected municipalities to enhance the value chain efficiency. Irrigation systems are being assembled and distributed, along with seeders, harvesters, dryers and other agricultural equipment.

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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)
13.75 m	8 m	386k

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 continuously monitors the implementation of programme 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 WFP's food storage, and over 90 percent of the visits scheduled to monitor food distribution to final beneficiaries.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- According to a recent analysis of the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources (INRH), the levels of water reservoirs and underground basins are being affected by the low rainfall experienced over the past three months, especially in Central and Eastern Cuba. WFP will continue to monitor this situation in all Cuban provinces and maintain its dialogue with key authorities.

South-South Cooperation

- As part of the tripartite project funded by Germany and implemented by WFP to strengthen disaster management and response capacities in the Caribbean, a wrap-up meeting was held with the Cuban Civil Defence and key counterparts to assess progress and challenges of 2018 and review the work plan for supporting their Haitian counterparts in 2019-2020. Special emphasis was placed on contingency plans, implementation of new tools (such as use of meteorological bulletins) and simulation exercises.
- WFP is also supporting the organization of a Regional Workshop on Disaster Risk Management and Early Warning to share good practices and lessons learned with countries from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Gender

- WFP continues to support initiatives for women's economic empowerment in selected municipalities, such as the creation of home vegetable gardens and poultry farming to support local social safety nets. A first batch of agricultural inputs will be distributed to women farmers in the coming weeks.

Donors

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