



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief February 2019



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**

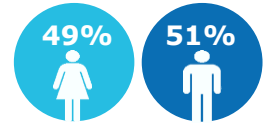
2017 Gender Inequality Index: **0.301** (rank: **65** out of **165**)

In Numbers

USD 13.75 m total requirements

26.5 mt of food assistance distributed

72,400 people assisted
(January 2019)



Operational Updates

- WFP is supporting the government response to the impact of the tornado that hit Havana last January. WFP's assistance to approximately 30,000 affected people consists of beans and rice (using a stock already prepositioned in the country), and vegetable oil (to be purchased internationally). Funding was secured from Italy and CERF. WFP is also exploring funding opportunities 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 grain shipments (particularly wheat for flour production).
- 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 continues in targeted municipalities.
- 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 is organizing a fourth training for the local teams involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of a communication strategy to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and obesity, focusing on tools to develop key messages for different audiences.
- WFP continues to support the Government in strengthening agricultural value chains, promoting linkages with local social safety nets that assist vulnerable populations. In particular, WFP is providing equipment to farmers and key actors in selected municipalities to enhance the efficiency of the bean value chain. Actions are ongoing for the commissioning of irrigation systems and dryers, while seeders, harvesters, and other agricultural equipment are being distributed in WFP-supported cooperatives.

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 recent data of the National Institute of Meteorology (INSMET), rainfall has been below average in nearly 60 percent of the country between September 2018 and February 2019, mainly in the Eastern and Central regions, with 63 municipalities presenting extreme or moderate deficits. WFP will continue to monitor this situation in all provinces and maintain its dialogue with key authorities.

South-South Cooperation

- The WFP country offices of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic are organising a Regional Workshop on Disaster Risk Management and Early Warning, which will be hosted in March in Santo Domingo, following up to a similar event facilitated in 2014 in Havana. The objective is to revise the Action Plan prepared in 2014 and share good practices and tools with other countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, and to continue strengthening regional capacities in emergency preparedness and response.

Gender

- WFP has been preparing various activities – both at the national and local level – to celebrate the International Day of Women. In particular, WFP is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture to participate in a knowledge fair within the Tenth Congress of the Cuban Women's Federation, sharing experiences and lessons learned in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Donors

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