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LIVES

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**SPR Reading Guidance**



**Emergency Food Assistance to Victims of Hurricane Irma  
in Cuba**

**Standard Project Report 2018**

World Food Programme in Cuba, Republic of (CU)



**World Food  
Programme**

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# Country Context and WFP Objectives



## Achievements at Country Level

Throughout 2018, WFP continued to provide support to government social safety nets through food assistance and capacity strengthening activities. For the first time, WFP assisted elderly people – a vulnerable and steadily increasing part of the population – with specialised nutritious foods in addition to its regular support to the population with basic foods. This activity has rendered positive results and further support for the elderly will be explored in 2019.

As part of its capacity strengthening activities, WFP supported the Nutritional Education Strategy led by the Ministry of Education to position nutritional education as a key topic in the school system. This strategy will inform a wider nutrition behaviour change strategy to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and obesity among school-aged children.

WFP advanced in strengthening local agricultural value chains to ensure timely, adequate and sustainable food supply to social protection programmes. By supplying agricultural equipment, delivering training and promoting innovative practices, WFP fostered efficient value chains. WFP also continued strengthening gender equality among cooperatives and supported initiatives for women's economic empowerment in selected provinces through training, sensitization and agricultural equipment. Special emphasis was placed on capitalising on results and good practices generated through this process and their dissemination to key actors, including government counterparts. Overall, these activities contributed to increased agricultural productivity and reduced post-harvest losses in WFP-assisted value chains. This is in line with government priorities to reduce imports and increase farmers' incomes.

Further support to the Government was provided in developing and adopting different methodologies to enhance community resilience and disaster risk management. An enhanced system for the comprehensive management of

drought was implemented by national and local institutions, using innovative risk assessment tools to measure the vulnerability of local food production. This activity also strengthened the drought early warning system by improving dissemination of information and decision-making. Given the high appreciation by government counterparts and other actors involved, these activities will enter a second phase in 2019.

WFP finalised its emergency assistance to the populations affected by Hurricane Irma. Swift food assistance was made possible using prepositioned in-country stocks. Due to the massive damage to warehouse infrastructure, WFP also provided logistics support to enhance food storage capacities of local institutions.

## Country Context and Response of the Government

Cuba has comprehensive social safety nets— (including a monthly subsidized food basket and specific programmes for vulnerable groups such as pregnant and lactating women, children and elderly) – which allowed it to largely eradicate poverty and hunger. In 2017, Cuba ranked 73 out of 189 on the Human Development Index and had a Global Hunger Index score less than five, indicating advances in development and food security. However, recurrent financial and economic crises, frequent natural hazards, low agricultural productivity and limited access to credit have put the populations' food security and nutrition at risk. This situation is compounded by the continued U.S. embargo that is likely to remain in place.

The country imports around 60 to 70 percent of its food need, most of which is used for its social protection programmes, including a highly subsidized monthly food basket for every citizen. Although effective, the high cost of social protection programmes with universal coverage strains the national budget. With increasing prices for imported food commodities, however, this food basket only covers 38 percent of household food needs compared to 50 percent in the early 2000s. Cubans had to meet most of their food needs through purchases in non-subsidized markets, spending 60 to 75 percent of their income on food. [1]

In 2018, the diet of the average Cuban family was poor in micronutrients [2] and low in diversity because of the limited availability and stability of nutritious foods and poor eating habits. Anemia is a major public health concern: since 2011, the Cuban Government invested significant efforts in strengthening its National Plan for the Prevention and Control of Anaemia, a programme supported by WFP. Still, the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (SISVAN) still points to a high prevalence of anemia. In the 34 municipalities assisted by WFP the prevalence of anaemia is 20.6 percent in children aged 23 months, 39.4 percent in children aged 6 months and 31.5 percent in pregnant and lactating women.

The rising obesity rate is yet another concern: nearly 45 percent of the Cuban population is overweight or obese, which is a risk factor for chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. [3]

WFP supports the Government in developing a new management model and innovative approaches to strengthening social protection programmes and ensuring food security and nutrition. The focus is on enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of national food-based social protection programmes for vulnerable groups by strengthening linkages with local agricultural value chains and promoting resilience to natural hazards.

Recurrent natural hazards affect the economy and food security of the population. Between 2001 and 2017, overall damage caused by hurricanes was estimated at 41.35 billion Cuban pesos (National Office of Statistics and Information - ONEI). Cuba's Central region is still recovering from the passage of Hurricane Irma in 2017, which led to significant destruction of homes and livelihoods. At the outset of the dry season (November 2018), below average levels of accumulated rainfall affected Eastern Cuba. WFP will continue to monitor rainfall in all Cuban provinces and maintain its dialogue with key authorities.

Despite Cuba's positive trend towards achieving Millennium Development Goal 3 to promote gender equality and empower women – as reflected by a gradual decrease in the Gender Inequality Index from 1995 (0.428) to 2017 (0.301) – inequality persists regarding women's participation in socio-economic activities and in decision-making. This is particularly true in rural areas where women represent 13 percent of cooperative members, and only 12 percent of them have benefited from land allocation in recent years. [4]

Food security represents an issue of national security for the Government of Cuba. The increase in national food production and the use of local resources is considered a key measure to substitute imports and contribute to the sustainability of social safety nets. This approach is stressed in the National Development Plan for 2030 and other national strategic documents. [5] Nutrition priorities are included in the Comprehensive Plan for the Prevention and Control of Iron-Deficiency Anemia and the Cuban Public Health Projections.

[1] Centros de Estudios de la Economía Cubana. 2013. Gastos básicos de una familia cubana urbana en 2011. Situación de las familias “estado-dependientes”. Annual seminar on the Cuban economy and business management, 25-27 June 2013.

[2] This is confirmed by national scientific researches carried out by the National Institute of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiology (“Iron-deficiency anaemia in childhood in Cuba”, Gisela Pita-Rodríguez and Santa Jiménez-Acosta, 2011; and “Food consumption and preferences of the Cuban population with over 15 years of age”, Carmen Porrata-Maury, 2009).

[3] Ministry of Health, Third National Survey on risk factors and prevention activities for non-transmittable diseases (2010-2011). This phenomenon is more severe among the age group 35-54 years old.

[4] Revista Ingeniería Agrícola, “Género y agricultura en Cuba”, 2016. Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Información (ONEI), Anuario Estadístico 2017. Lissy Rodríguez Guerrero, Granma, “Sembrar las tierras ociosas, meta que no caduca”, 2018.

[5] The Economic and Social Policy Guidelines for 2021; the State Plan to address consequences of climate change (“LIFE TASK”); the Municipal Self-Supply Programme for agricultural products; the Public Health Projections in Cuba; the new Constitution Project and other sectoral strategies, plans and programmes.

## WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

In Cuba, WFP supports national food security and nutritional priorities as outlined in the *Guidelines to Update the Country's Economic and Social Model* and reiterated in the *2030 National Plan for Economic and Social Development*. Technical support and capacity strengthening of national and local authorities is key to reach more sustainable, targeted and gender-sensitive social protection systems. WFP also supports the *National Plan for the Prevention and Control of Anemia*, focusing on iron supplementation, food fortification, food diversification and nutritional education.

In 2018, WFP's portfolio comprised the following:

**Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan – CU01 (2018-2019)** aimed at supporting national efforts to improve beneficiary targeting of national social protection programmes in 43 municipalities of the five eastern provinces and of Pinar del Rio and Matanzas in western Cuba. These activities benefitted nearly 510,000 people by i) supporting food security and nutrition-related social protection programmes for vulnerable groups; ii) strengthening links between social protection programmes and agricultural value chains and iii) improving community resilience, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation capacities at the local level. Activities were in line with Sustainable Development Goals 2, 5 and 17 to promote food security and improved nutrition while reinforcing gender equality and partnerships.

**Assistance to Victims of Hurricane Irma in Cuba - IR-EMOP 201107 (2017-2018)** provided immediate food assistance – using prepositioned food stocks – to the most affected 640,000 people in 22 central municipalities. In alignment with the Government's strategy, priority was given to vulnerable groups, including children aged 6-23 months, school-aged children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly.

**Emergency Food Assistance to Victims of Hurricane Irma in Cuba - EMOP 201108 (2017-2018)** ensured continuity to the immediate relief provided through IR-EMOP 201107. In addition to food assistance, WFP supplied mobile storage units, lightening equipment and pallets to enhance local food storage. Overall, this operation supported 640,000 affected people, including vulnerable groups (children aged 6-23 months, school-aged children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly).

Operations are in line with Sustainable Development Goals 2, 5, and 17 by supporting the food security of shock-affected populations while ensuring equal support to women and men in partnership with national and local institutions.

WFP works in collaboration with the United Nations System in Cuba and a number of development partners. All WFP operations are part of the Cuba 2014-2018 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), supporting its outcomes 3, 4, 6 and 8. WFP also leads the United Nations Emergency Technical Team and co-leads the food security cluster with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In addition, WFP promotes synergies with the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to improve the bean value-chain and implements joint operations on drought resilience with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

WFP also places emphasis on South-South Cooperation within Latin America and the Caribbean by sharing good practices and experiences in disaster risk management and in managing food security and nutrition programmes.

# Country Resources and Results

## Resources for Results

During the reporting year, no significant funding shortfalls were encountered for the activities planned under the current **transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP)**. With the directed multilateral contributions available, WFP could continue to support its efforts to strengthen food-based social safety nets and link them to agricultural value chains, as well as and disaster risk management and resilience.

In 2018, WFP also received new directed multilateral contributions from Germany – to support nutritional activities for elderly people – as well as the European Union and the Russian Federation – to strengthen emergency preparedness and response. Other key donors for the T-ICSP include Canada, Cuba, Italy, the Republic of Korea and Spain (through the SDG Fund).

WFP is currently strengthening its resource mobilization efforts to explore opportunities with traditional and potential donors and seeking the support of the Government in this task towards a joint resource mobilization strategy in view of the operations from 2020 onwards.

As regards WFP's support to the **Hurricane Irma emergency** in the Caribbean, no new contributions were received in the reporting year. Thanks to the generous support received in 2017 from various donors (CERF, Canada, European Union, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland and the private sector), the overall funding level reached nearly 80 percent of total needs. Consequently, WFP had to reduce the number of assisted municipalities, in agreement with the Government.



## Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	20,587	19,729	40,316
Children (5-18 years)	53,734	51,529	105,263
Adults (18 years plus)	237,670	229,459	467,129
<b>Total number of beneficiaries in 2018</b>	<b>311,991</b>	<b>300,717</b>	<b>612,708</b>





## Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country EMOP	1,445	505	618	-	-	2,569
Single Country IR-EMOP	-	7	-	-	-	7
<b>Total Food Distributed in 2018</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,576</b>

## Supply Chain

Cuba has two main ports: Mariel in western Cuba (55 km from Havana) and Guillermon Moncada in eastern Cuba (in the city of Santiago de Cuba). There are also six international airports [1] and domestic airports almost in every province. A national highway connects Havana to central Cuba, along with a network of provincial roads, some of which in precarious conditions.

Most WFP-purchased food commodities arrive in the two main ports. Upon arrival, the commodities are handed over to the Government that warrants their internal transport, storage and distribution, while WFP ensures monitoring of the food distribution process up to the beneficiary. Due to the limited availability of goods in Cuba, most food and non-food items required have to be imported. The main non-food items internationally procured for WFP in 2018 were: i) equipment to strengthen agricultural value chains in the eastern provinces and Pinar del Río, ii) equipment to support comprehensive drought management in the eastern provinces; and iii) computer equipment to support capacity strengthening of the National Institute for Economic Research (INIE).

Under the response to Hurricane Irma, WFP also purchased vegetable oil slated for the affected populations, as well as non-food items to strengthen national capacities to store food (such as mobile storage units and lightning equipment). Both procurement processes were conducted internationally.

The distance from international markets often lengthens international purchase processes. Hence, the availability of funds does not necessarily allow for a rapid response. Therefore in 2018, WFP maintained a contingency stock (nearly 1,600 mt of beans and rice) for disaster response in the cities of Cienfuegos and Havana. This contingency stock represented a valuable mechanism to provide immediate relief.

The internal transportation of food and non-food commodities remains one of the main supply chain bottlenecks affecting operational effectiveness. WFP is in dialogue with the Government to explore potential support opportunities to address this issue.

[1] The Havana international airport is the only facility able to receive air cargos in normal times (non-emergency).

## Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Vegetable Oil	188
<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>

## Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

In 2018, WFP followed up on the implementation of recommendations provided by the centralized **mid-term operation evaluation of the Cuba country programme** carried out between 2016 and 2017:

- As part of the activities to strengthen the drought early warning system for drought, WFP continued its dialogue with the Government to include additional variables to measure the vulnerability of agricultural production. In particular, dialogue is in place with the Government to consider the inclusion of crop monitoring, through early warning triggers. Discussions also cover the use of parametric insurance for crops, focusing more on early warning rather than on crop production loss.
- WFP placed efforts in documenting the main results and lessons learned, focusing on innovative mechanisms and tools that can be replicated by government institutions and other development partners. In particular, WFP produced publications on the support to the comprehensive early warning system for drought (including the new tools adopted by Cuban institutions); and on its assistance to strengthen agricultural value chains, including the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment). The final products – launched during public events – were shared with relevant government counterparts at both national and local levels, as well as donors, UN agencies and other partners.
- WFP also placed efforts in strengthening risk management capacities in supported cooperatives. However, as WFP had to prioritize the formulation of the Interim Country Strategic Plan for 2020, the training sessions scheduled in the eastern provinces for October 2018 could not be carried out and were postponed to the first quarter of 2019.
- Additionally, WFP continued its dialogue with the Government on the possibility to assess the transportation systems used for the delivery of assistance under its social protection programmes.

WFP also continued its discussions with government counterparts on how to best strengthen social protection programmes in the medium-long term by considering the use of other food assistance modalities. Results of this dialogue will guide the formulation of the coming country strategic plan.



# Strengthening capacities on food security and nutrition at the national and local level

In 2018, WFP placed special emphasis on strengthening capacities at the national and local level to enhance food security and nutrition. These activities entailed the use of innovative tools and methodologies, fostered coordination among diverse actors (ministries, technical institutions, farmers, state enterprises, etc.) and empowered local institutions and beneficiaries in various strategic areas such as:

- **Positioning nutritional education as a strategic topic in the school system.** WFP continued to accompany the Ministry of Education with the implementation of the Strategy on Nutritional Education for Schools that had been developed in 2016 with WFP's technical assistance. The strategy – adopted for the school feeding programme in five eastern provinces, and the Pinar del Río province in western Cuba – aims at enhancing knowledge on healthy nutrition in the educational sector, by training the staff (including caregivers, teachers, personnel responsible for handling food and decision makers) who then sensitize schoolchildren and their families. According to participants' feedback provided during the workshop on results and lessons learned conducted by the Ministry of Education with WFP support, the Nutritional Education Strategy was key in disseminating knowledge to teachers, caregivers, schoolchildren and their families on good nutritional practices. In addition, the use of participatory methodological tools and a tailored monitoring and evaluation system was highlighted as an important added value. As this strategy was highly appreciated by local and national teams of the Ministry of Education, similar processes were launched by the Ministry of Education in other municipalities beyond those supported by WFP. [1]

- **Enhancing the efficiency of agricultural value chains.** WFP continued to strengthen the capacities of different actors in the targeted agricultural value chains [2] through training sessions and the provision of equipment. WFP continued to facilitate practical activities that increased the capacities of agricultural value chains actors in different areas (bean cultivation, services to the value chain, cooperativism). It also promoted the adoption of new practices and fostered dialogue among the various stakeholders, including farmers, cooperative managers, national and local authorities, as well as representatives of social protection programmes. As a particularly successful experience, WFP strengthened the fresh vegetable value chain in the province of Santiago de Cuba, increasing its resilience to drought and linking it to local social protection schemes. To share the main results and lessons learned through this process, WFP facilitated a national workshop with nearly 120 participants, comprising local actors, national counterparts, United Nations agencies and donors. Both local and national actors highlighted WFP's contribution to identifying new practices and methodologies to assess the value chain performance. Overall, WFP technical support – combined with the provision of equipment and training on its use – also promoted an increase in the production capacities of supported farmers, contributing to the national goal of reducing imports.

- **Promoting comprehensive drought management and community resilience.** Over the last four years, WFP has supported a multi-sectoral group of institutions (including the Ministry of Environment, the Institute of Meteorology, Civil Defence, the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and the National Bureau of Statistics) to develop and roll out innovative tools for managing drought through a comprehensive approach. [3] These tools are the result of joint work with national and local institutions carried out with WFP's technical assistance, and are tailored to the priorities of each targeted territory. For the first time, WFP facilitated the implementation of standard operating procedures for the comprehensive management of drought, which will represent a valuable tool for national and local authorities. According to local farmers assisted by WFP, receiving in timely drought-related information allowed them to prepare and to reduce the impact of the drought on their production. In 2019, these tools will be linked to local development plans in targeted municipalities.

- **South-South cooperation on risk management, and emergency preparedness and response.** In 2018, WFP continued fostering South-South cooperation in the region. As part of a Forecast-based Financing pilot project in Haiti, WFP facilitated the exchange of capacities and skills between Cuba and Haiti on disaster risk management, and emergency preparedness and response to hurricanes and other hydro-meteorological events, leveraging the experience of Cuba with South-South cooperation. WFP continued promoting exchanges and field visits between Cuban experts and their counterparts in Haiti on risk assessment, disaster monitoring and contingency plans, with the aim to mitigate the impact of these events on food security and nutrition. The tools and methodologies shared will facilitate assistance to the most vulnerable groups. Additionally, WFP facilitated a mission of experts from Cuba's Institute of Meteorology to the Dominican Republic. Numerical models to forecast the trajectory and development of hurricanes were set up and a training for its use was held to enhance emergency preparedness and response.

[1] In particular, the Ministry of Health provides the knowledge on food and nutrition, while the Ministry of Education develops the methodology to transmit this knowledge to schoolchildren and caregivers.

[2] WFP is supporting bean value chains [2] in the eastern provinces (Granma, Guantánamo, Holguín and Las Tunas) and in western Cuba (provinces of Matanzas and Pinar del Río) while it is strengthening vegetable value chains in

the province of Santiago de Cuba.

[3] Comprehensive drought management is based on four pillars: i) drought surveillance; ii) inclusion of food production vulnerability indicators in municipal multi-risk assessments; iii) dissemination of drought-related information to key users; and iv) procedures to support the identification of mitigation measures.

# Project Results

## Activities and Operational Partnerships

### Emergency Food Assistance

The impact of Hurricane Irma affected an extended area spreading over various provinces across Cuba. Affected communities suffered from severe destruction of crops and livelihoods, damaged food storage facilities and market disruption. Due to limited food availability, WFP complemented government food assistance, providing staple foods (rice and beans) and vegetable oil to increase the nutritional value of the ration. Assistance benefited vulnerable groups, including children under 5, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, and school-aged children to increase their food security and nutrition.

The targeted areas were identified in consultation with national authorities, comprising a total of 22 affected municipalities in the five provinces of Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Matanzas, Sancti Spíritus and Villa Clara. [1]

The immediate food assistance in 2017 made use of WFP's prepositioned food stocks (rice and beans). For the continued support until July 2018, WFP borrowed food stocks from the Government, while additional food was being purchased internationally. Due to funding gaps, WFP had to purchase less commodities than planned, and hence, fewer municipalities were reached.

All activities were implemented by government counterparts, mainly under the leadership of the Ministry of External Trade and Foreign Investments (MINCEX, WFP's main partner who coordinates all operational issues with the other technical ministries), and the Ministry of Domestic Trade (MINCIN, responsible for logistics, including food transportation, storage and distribution to final beneficiaries).

The distribution of WFP's food assistance was channelled through the mechanisms already in place for national social protection programmes. The role of government counterparts at both national and local level was key in ensuring an effective distribution of commodities to final beneficiaries and sharing relevant programmatic data.

Coordination was also reinforced within the United Nations System in Cuba with WFP as the lead agency of the United Nations Emergency Technical Team. Through the Joint Action Plan, the UN System ensured a harmonized response to the most urgent needs and avoided duplication of efforts. Moreover, frequent inter-agency situation reports were prepared to provide sectoral updates on the hurricane damage as well as on government and UN response. This coordinated work was particularly appreciated by the donor community and resulted in a more effective fundraising strategy.

### Logistics

Hurricane Irma severely affected the warehouse infrastructure for the storage of food and other key products. Hence, WFP provided basic equipment and technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of local authorities on food management and logistics. Logistics assets provided to the Government included lighting equipment, pallets and five mobile storage units (MSUs) [2]. All items arrived in the country by the first quarter of 2018. To comply with the government priorities, the lighting equipment and pallets were dispatched to the province of Villa Clara. The MSUs were shipped to the province of Guantanamo to replace those borrowed at the onset of the emergency response. MINCEX and MINCIN were key partners in the implementation, helping to identify and prioritize logistical needs.

[1] Among the 22 seriously affected municipalities the 14 worst affected were Esmeralda, Minas, Nuevitas, Sierra de Cubitas (Camagüey province), Bolivia, Chambas and Morón (Ciego de Ávila province), Yaguajay (Sancti Spíritus), and Caibarién, Camajuaní, Corralillo, Encrucijada, Quemado de Güines, Sagua la Grande (Villa Clara province); the other eight were Ciro Redondo, Florencia and Primero de Enero (Ciego de Ávila province), Cárdenas and Martí (Matanzas province) and Cifuentes, Remedios and Santo Domingo (Villa Clara province).

[2] These mobile storage units were in addition to five purchased in 2017.

## Results

### Emergency Food Assistance

WFP reached all targeted communities in 20 affected municipalities in Central Cuba, providing food assistance to augment the ration provided by the Government's social protection programmes.

In 2017, WFP used prepositioned food stocks for the relief food distribution. To continue the food assistance through July 2018, WFP borrowed Government food stocks while rice, beans and vegetable oil were purchased internationally. Part of these commodities was used to replenish the prepositioned food stocks and to return commodities that were loaned to WFP by the Government.

Due to funding shortfalls [1], WFP could not purchase as many commodities as planned. Hence, WFP had to revise its targeting strategy in consultation with the Government. For this reason, in six out of the 20 affected municipalities the length of assistance was reduced by 25 percent.

Additionally, the duration of the operation had to be extended until July 2018 due to the lengthy international procurement process and delays in the delivery of food commodities. Therefore the distribution of vegetable oil under this operation could only start in March.

WFP food assistance under this emergency operation to the hurricane-affected populations allowed beneficiaries to meet their dietary requirements. This was confirmed by on-site monitoring visits carried out by WFP. Beneficiaries also stressed that WFP assistance was crucial because of limited food availability in markets. The recovery of food production in the hardest hit municipalities took longer than expected.

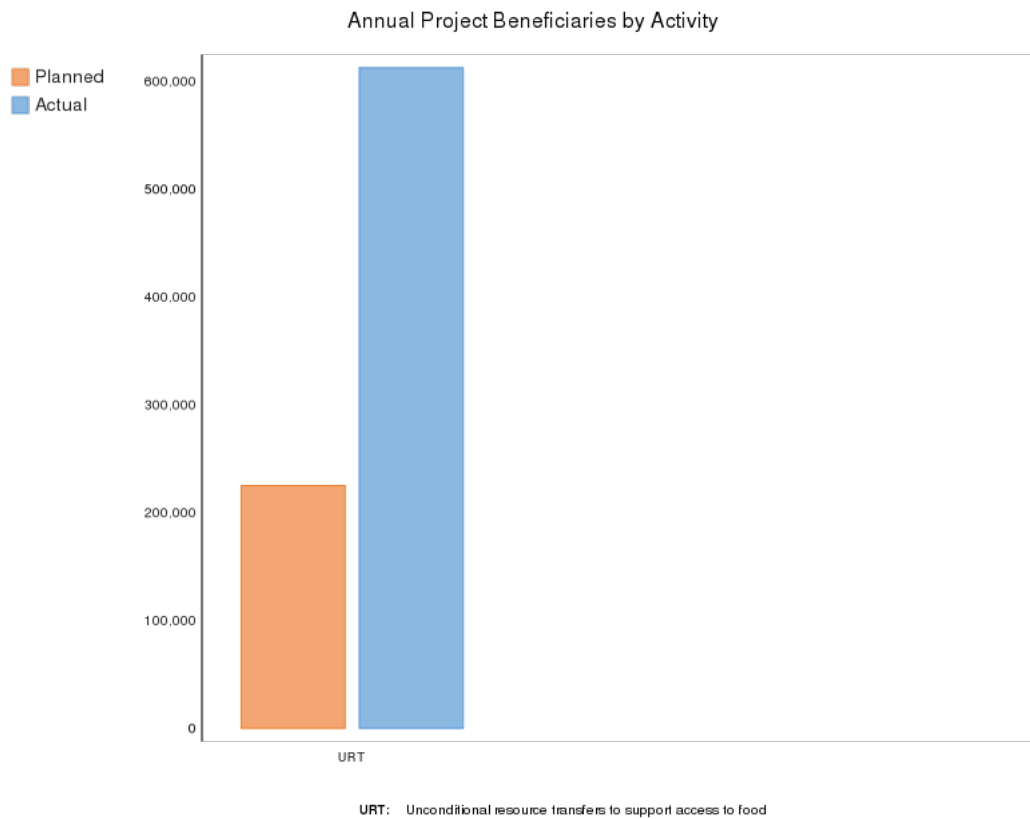
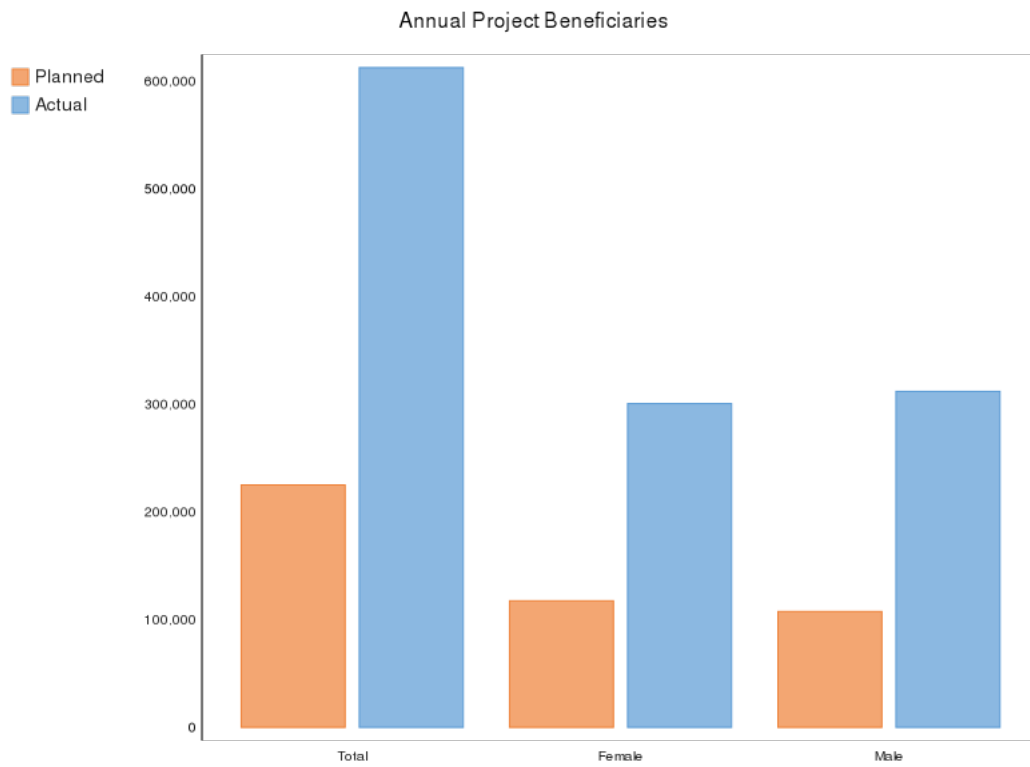
In 2018, WFP had planned to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable groups in targeted municipalities. As two general food distributions including support for the entire populations of the 14 most affected municipalities that started in 2017 could only be completed in 2018, the number of actual beneficiaries results higher than planned.

### **Logistics**

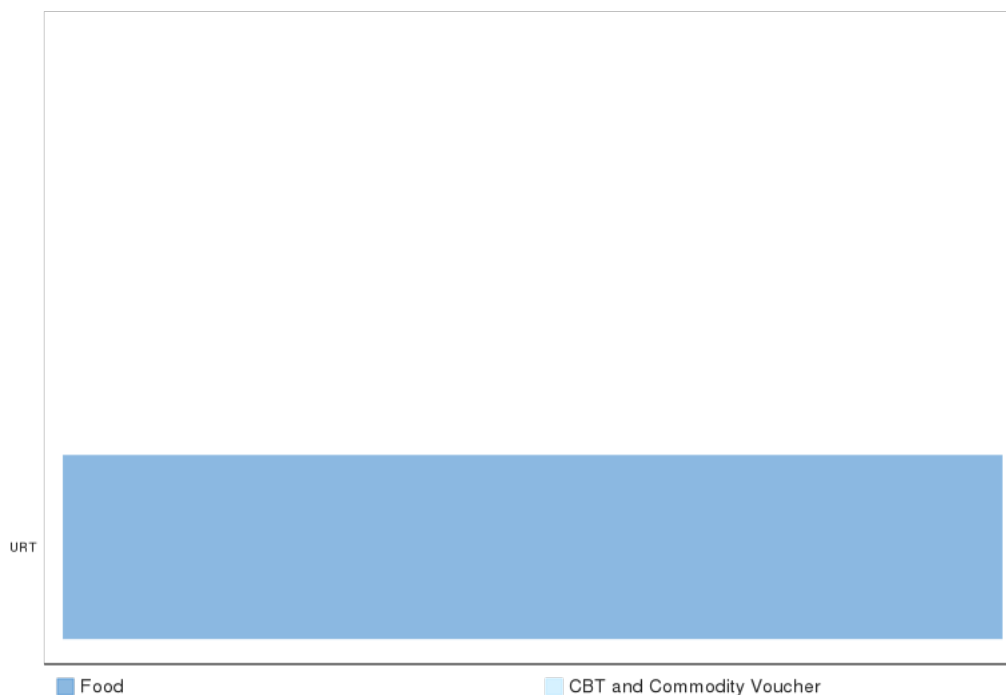
In 2018, Government warehouses were provided with 75 units of lighting equipment and 540 pallets arrived in the country. These non-food items were purchased in 2017, but their arrival took longer than expected due to time-consuming procurement procedures. WFP also purchased five mobile storage units (MSUs) – in addition to five procured in 2017. The purchase of these MSUs took longer than expected due to initial funding shortages.

WFP's support was key to ensure swift enhancement of local food storage capacities. Government warehouses received material, not only to store WFP-donated food, but also food commodities for social protection programmes that had been transferred from damaged warehouses. WFP's support was greatly appreciated by government counterparts, contributing to WFP's role as a key partner in emergency response at local and national levels. Given these positive results, the Government decided to preposition the five MSUs provided by WFP in 2017 to allow for the provision of immediate assistance in the event of new emergencies.

[1] The operation was funded at nearly 80 percent. In consultation with the Government, WFP could not continue supporting the two municipalities of Cárdenas and Martí in the province of Matanzas and reoriented its assistance to the remaining 20 affected municipalities.



Modality of Transfer by Activity



URT: Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food



## Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Beans	152	618	407.3%
Rice	320	1,445	451.9%
Vegetable Oil	76	505	665.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>2,569</b>	<b>469.2%</b>

## Performance Monitoring

WFP continuously monitored the implementation of project activities to ensure accountability and transparency, and to measure operational performance. These tasks were conducted in close collaboration with national and local counterparts, especially the Ministry of Domestic Trade (MINCIN) and local governments.

With the support of government counterparts, monitoring activities focused on ensuring adequate coverage and on other process-related issues. Coverage was measured based on weekly reports provided by government counterparts, mirroring mechanisms already in place for food assistance under the national social protection programmes. These mechanisms included a beneficiary registry (disaggregated by sex, beneficiary type, and location) that kept rigorous track of food delivery to the final distribution points and distribution to the population. As distribution was channelled through government social safety nets, all eligible affected populations were reached.

WFP conducted periodical on-site visits to cross-check data on food assistance. These monitoring missions to oversee food storage and transportation covered randomly selected distribution sites in all targeted municipalities. Information from these distribution sites was cross-checked with data provided by government authorities at the central level and informal exchanges with beneficiaries. WFP also monitored the adequate maintenance of the five mobile storage units. Representatives from MINCIN and local governments joined these missions to provide

institutional support to WFP and to take immediate corrective action in case issues related to food transportation arose.

Given the absence of field offices in the five affected provinces, WFP's on-site missions were carried out by staff from the main office in Havana. This caused an additional strain to staffing capacities, as there was no staff exclusively dedicated to the emergency response. However, the country office managed to cover emergency activities in addition to the regular country operations.

## Progress Towards Gender Equality

WFP ensured equitable access to food assistance for vulnerable men and women. While designing the operation, beneficiary targeting was completed in close consultation with government counterparts. A special emphasis was placed on vulnerable groups within the affected populations, including pregnant and lactating women and children under five. Pregnant and lactating women are particularly at risk of nutritional disorders such as anemia and are highly vulnerable during emergencies and ensuing market disruptions. As food availability is limited in emergencies, these women face greater challenges in meeting their dietary requirements. Hence, WFP's assistance augmented the ration provided by the government social protection programmes contributed to meet their food needs.

During periodical on-site missions to monitor food distribution, government counterparts provided beneficiary data disaggregated by sex and age. WFP also observed that both women and men were collecting food for their households. Observations showed that women's participation was significant at all stages of project implementation, including the management of food storage in cooperating partners' warehouses and the distribution of WFP's food assistance. The great majority of employees at food distribution points were women.

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Cuba is highly safe, with a security level 1 attributed by the United Nations. Government counterparts and WFP's field monitoring missions have reported no incidents that could have jeopardised the security of beneficiaries while going to or from WFP's programme sites.

WFP's food assistance was distributed through well-established government social protection programmes. Distributions are completed during daytime with distribution points in every municipality, minimising travel times and protection issues for beneficiaries.

Furthermore, national laws create conditions which ensure order and adequate security for the population. By law, government institutions are requested to publicly display the ration entitlement of each beneficiary, ensuring that it is understood by the diverse women, men, girls and boys in the affected population. Beneficiary feedback mechanisms are also in place to collect complaints related to food distribution, such as focus groups in communities and "suggestion boxes" placed in supported institutions.

As confirmed during WFP's on-site monitoring missions to the targeted municipalities, beneficiaries were informed about final distribution points for food assistance and feedback mechanisms. The local media was also very active (i.e. radio programmes, newspapers, etc.) in disseminating information to the population, representing an additional channel for beneficiaries.

## In-country loan of mobile storage units to strengthen food storage capacities of local institutions

A powerful category five hurricane, Irma, severely affected the warehouse infrastructure in Central Cuba causing severe damage to roofs and walls. Given the persistence of strong rains in the affected municipalities following the passage of the hurricane, the need to strengthen food storage capacities of local institutions was urgent.

In response to the impact of Hurricane Matthew, which hit the island a year before Irma struck, WFP had already strengthened the capacity of the local government of Guantanamo province by providing various non-food items, including mobile storage units (MSUs). In view of the urgency to provide a safe storage not only for WFP-supplied food, but also commodities for national social protection programmes, WFP proposed that the Government lent five MSUs to be positioned in Villa Clara, one of the regions most affected by Hurricane Irma.

This was an effective solution, as the in-country transportation of the MSUs was faster and cheaper than the alternative, international purchase via air cargo - the fastest way to dispatch items to Cuba. The local institutions

appreciated WFP's support to strengthen food storage capacities and avoid deterioration of existing stocks.

Between 2017 and 2018, WFP purchased ten MSUs which were positioned in the provinces of Guantanamo and Villa Clara to allow for the provision of immediate assistance in case of emergencies.



# Figures and Indicators

## Data Notes

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A family uses the beans received as part of WFP's food assistance under the emergency response to Hurricane Irma

## Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

**Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information**

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Total Beneficiaries	107,587	117,574	225,161	311,991	300,717	612,708	290.0%	255.8%	272.1%
<b>By Age-group:</b>									
Children (under 5 years)	24,404	23,125	47,529	20,587	19,729	40,316	84.4%	85.3%	84.8%
Children (5-18 years)	13,879	13,335	27,214	53,734	51,529	105,263	387.2%	386.4%	386.8%
Adults (18 years plus)	69,304	81,114	150,418	237,670	229,459	467,129	342.9%	282.9%	310.6%
<b>By Residence status:</b>									
Residents	107,587	117,574	225,161	311,868	300,840	612,708	289.9%	255.9%	272.1%

## Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

**Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality**

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food	225,161	-	225,161	612,708	-	612,708	272.1%	-	272.1%

## Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food	225,161	-	225,161	612,708	-	612,708	272.1%	-	272.1%

## Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

**Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)**

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
<b>Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food</b>									
All	69,304	72,132	141,436	292,753	281,274	574,027	422.4%	389.9%	405.9%
Children (pre-primary schools)	24,404	23,125	47,529	6,819	6,551	13,370	27.9%	28.3%	28.1%
Student (primary schools)	13,879	13,335	27,214	12,412	11,925	24,337	89.4%	89.4%	89.4%
Pregnant and lactating women	-	8,982	8,982	-	974	974	-	10.8%	10.8%
Total participants	107,587	117,574	225,161	311,984	300,724	612,708	290.0%	255.8%	272.1%
Total beneficiaries	107,587	117,574	225,161	311,984	300,724	612,708	290.0%	255.8%	272.1%

## Project Indicators

### Outcome Indicators

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>SR1 Everyone has access to food</b>				
<b>Vulnerable people in shock-affected municipalities have stable access to basic food to meet their dietary requirements following a natural disaster, as a complement to government food distribution</b>				
<b>Proportion of eligible population that participates in programme (coverage) / Female</b>				
TARGETED MUNICIPALITIES IN CAMAGÜEY, CIEGO DE AVILA, SANCTI SPÍRITUS, VILLA CLARA, MATANZAS, <b>Project End Target:</b> 2018.07, <b>Base value:</b> 2017.10, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring, <b>Previous Follow-up:</b> 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, CP Report, <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2018.07, WFP programme monitoring, CP Report	>90.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Proportion of eligible population that participates in programme (coverage) / Male</b>				
TARGETED MUNICIPALITIES IN CAMAGÜEY, CIEGO DE AVILA, SANCTI SPÍRITUS, VILLA CLARA, MATANZAS, <b>Project End Target:</b> 2018.07, <b>Base value:</b> 2017.10, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring, <b>Previous Follow-up:</b> 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, CP Report, <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2018.07, WFP programme monitoring, CP Report	>90.00	0.00	96.60	100.00
<b>Proportion of eligible population that participates in programme (coverage) / Overall</b>				
TARGETED MUNICIPALITIES IN CAMAGÜEY, CIEGO DE AVILA, SANCTI SPÍRITUS, VILLA CLARA, MATANZAS, <b>Project End Target:</b> 2018.07, <b>Base value:</b> 2017.10, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring, <b>Previous Follow-up:</b> 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, CP Report, <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2018.07, WFP programme monitoring, CP Report	>90.00	0.00	98.60	100.00

## Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>CRF SO1-SR1: Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food</b>				
Quantity of equipment (computers, furniture) distributed	non-food item	-	620	-

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges / Female</b>				
TARGETED MUNICIPALITIES IN CAMAGÜEY, CIEGO DE AVILA, SANCTI SPÍRITUS, VILLA CLARA, MATANZAS, Provide unconditional food transfer and mobile storage units to ensure a swift food assistance to shock-affected populations, in coordination with national authorities, Food, <b>Project End Target:</b> 2018.07, <b>Base value:</b> 2017.10, <b>Previous Follow-up:</b> 2017.12, <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2018.07	>90.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
<b>Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges / Male</b>				
TARGETED MUNICIPALITIES IN CAMAGÜEY, CIEGO DE AVILA, SANCTI SPÍRITUS, VILLA CLARA, MATANZAS, Provide unconditional food transfer and mobile storage units to ensure a swift food assistance to shock-affected populations, in coordination with national authorities, Food, <b>Project End Target:</b> 2018.07, <b>Base value:</b> 2017.10, <b>Previous Follow-up:</b> 2017.12, <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2018.07	>90.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
<b>Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges / Overall</b>				
TARGETED MUNICIPALITIES IN CAMAGÜEY, CIEGO DE AVILA, SANCTI SPÍRITUS, VILLA CLARA, MATANZAS, Provide unconditional food transfer and mobile storage units to ensure a swift food assistance to shock-affected populations, in coordination with national authorities, Food, <b>Project End Target:</b> 2018.07, <b>Base value:</b> 2017.10, <b>Previous Follow-up:</b> 2017.12, <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2018.07	>90.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

## Resource Inputs from Donors

### Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2018 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
European Commission	EEC-C-00691-01	Vegetable Oil	-	188
		<b>Total</b>	-	<b>188</b>