



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief April 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**

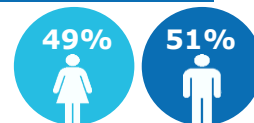
2017 Gender Inequality Index:
0.301 (rank: **65** out of **165**)

In Numbers

USD 14.3 m total requirements

58.3 mt of food assistance distributed

54,000 people assisted
(March 2019)



Operational Updates

- WFP is engaging the Government and different donors to define its strategic support for the coming years. A concept note for the next interim country strategic plan (ICSP) was presented to the Executive Board at the end of April through an informal consultation. Work is underway to prepare the ICSP document, which will be approved in November 2019 to guide WFP operations during 2020.
- 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.
- In partnership with the University of Havana, WFP is enhancing the capacities of different institutions (including staff from the ministries of Health, and Education) on nutritional communication. WFP is organizing a coordination meeting – to be held in early May – in Santiago de Cuba to support the local teams involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of a communication strategy to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and obesity.
- WFP continues to support the Government in strengthening agricultural 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 efficiency of the bean value chain. A refrigerated chamber for seeds was set up for the first time in the province of Granma, while irrigation systems are being assembled in selected provinces in Eastern Cuba. Other equipment is being distributed, including sprayers, harvesters and trailers.

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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)
14.3 m	8.2 m	424 k

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.

- WFP is supporting the government response to the impact of the tornado that hit Havana last January. WFP's assistance to approximately 10,000 affected households in six municipalities consists of beans and rice (using a stock already prepositioned in the country), and vegetable oil (purchased internationally), with funding from Italy and CERF.

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 latest forecasts from Colorado State University, the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season activity is expected to be slightly below average. As leader of the United Nations Emergency Technical Team in Cuba, WFP has launched various preparatory tasks, both at the inter-agency level and internally.

Partnership

- The WFP Cuba country director paid a visit to the Russian Federation to discuss funding opportunities with various government institutions that expressed interest in supporting Cuban priorities.

South-South Cooperation

- The tripartite project funded by Germany and implemented by WFP to strengthen disaster management and response capacities in the Caribbean advanced. A mission of Haitian experts to Cuba was promoted at the end of April to receive further training in risk assessments and communication techniques for hurricane forecast. Additionally, the development of standard operating procedures for the monitoring of hydro-meteorological hazards was finalised with the support of the Cuban Institute of Meteorology.

Donors

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