



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief May 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**

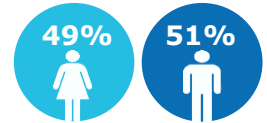
2017 Gender Inequality Index: **0.301** (rank: **65** out of **165**)

In Numbers

USD 14.3 m total requirements

6.7 mt of food assistance distributed

27,000 people assisted
(April 2019)



Operational Updates

- WFP continues working on the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for 2020. WFP also participated in the Strategic Prioritization workshops for the formulation of the 2020-2024 UN cooperation framework. The UN and its national counterparts defined the expected outcomes and outputs based on national priorities and the UN agencies' comparative advantage to support the country in achieving the SDGs. These results will inform WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2021-2024.
- WFP carried out a coordination meeting in Santiago de Cuba to support the local government team in the implementation of a communication strategy to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and obesity. A work plan was jointly agreed upon to pilot the strategy in Santiago de Cuba. This province was chosen for the pilot project based on the high prevalence of anaemia in children under 2, high capacities of local actors and their interest in engaging in the proposed communication strategy.
- WFP supports national priorities to enhance Cuba's social safety nets for vulnerable groups (children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly) by providing regular and specialised nutritious foods.
- WFP continues to support the Government in strengthening agricultural value chains, promoting linkages with local social safety nets that assist vulnerable populations. In selected provinces of Eastern Cuba, sprayers, harvesters and grain dryers were distributed and irrigation systems were assembled.

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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 organized a ceremony for the donation of 45mt of vegetable oil funded by Italy to support the government response to the tornado that hit Havana last January. Shortly after the shock, WFP assisted 10,000 affected households in six municipalities. The food basket included vegetable oil along with rice and beans funded by CERF.

Monitoring

- WFP continuously monitors the implementation of programme activities, ensuring accountability, transparency and measuring operational performance 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 activities at the inter-agency level. Internally, WFP finalized the Corporate Emergency Preparedness Response Package.

Partnership

- A WFP headquarters expert on resilience building and risk reduction management visited Cuba to explore innovative insurance modalities with national counterparts. In addition, he presented proposals to support insurance modalities for smallholder farmers and crop monitoring to key donors, including the European Union, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Switzerland, Germany and Russia.

South-South Cooperation

- The WFP national expert on resilience was invited to the "Forecast based Financing Conference". He shared good practices on drought management and the South-South cooperation project with the Dominican Republic and Haiti on disaster management and response capacities.

Donors

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