



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief June 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**

2018 Human Development Index:
0.777 (rank: **73** out of **189**)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

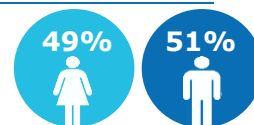
2017 Gender Inequality Index:
0.301 (rank: **65** out of **165**)

In Numbers

USD 14.3 m total requirements

6.5 mt of food assistance distributed

7,030 people assisted
(May 2019)



Operational Updates

- The WFP Country Director held a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of Cuba to explore common areas of interest and a strategic partnership. Both representatives agreed that the ICSP 2020 is aligned with national priorities such as the Municipal Self-Supply Programme for agricultural products as well as other sectoral strategies and plans.
- WFP and FAO signed the UN to UN contribution agreement to begin the implementation of the project for strengthening community resilience for food security and nutrition in seven municipalities in the central region of Cuba impacted by drought and the hurricane Irma. The European Union (DG DEVCO) is funding this project in the framework of Pro-Resilience Action (PRO-ACT).
- WFP facilitated start-up workshops for the second phase of activities to strengthen the comprehensive drought management plan in six targeted municipalities of Camaguey and the eastern provinces. This second phase, also funded by the European Union (DG ECHO), will focus on supporting the Government in consolidating the results previously obtained and on linking drought management to local development tools for food security and nutrition.
- 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 specialized 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	13.6 m	

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 support 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 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 specialized 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 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

WFP continues monitoring the evolution of the drought in Cuba as well as the cyclonic activity in the Atlantic Basin. As the leader of the United Nations Emergency Technical Team in Cuba, WFP supports the Government's response in the international simulation exercise for an earthquake of high intensity, scheduled in September.

Partnership

WF met with the new JICA representative in Cuba to discuss cooperation opportunities, especially in the area of agricultural value chains. Besides, WFP participated in the dialogue table on Climate Change led by the Ministry of Environment within the framework of a mission of the EUROCLIMA regional programme supported by the European Union.

South-South Cooperation

WFP participated in the International Fair Expo Caribe 2019 organized by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment of Cuba to facilitate socio-economic development as well as integration among Caribbean nations. WFP promoted the South-South Cooperation experience between Cuba and Haïti on disaster risk management as well as emergency preparedness and response to hurricanes and other hydro-meteorological events, leveraging Cuba's experience.

Donors

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