



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Cuba Country Brief July 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**

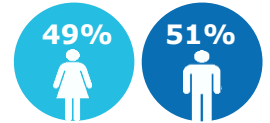
2017 Gender Inequality Index: **0.301** (rank: **65** out of **165**)

## In Numbers

**USD 16.5 m total requirements**

**6.9 mt** of food assistance distributed

**35,000 people assisted**  
(June 2019)



## Operational Updates

- The fund allocation for preparedness activities in Cuba was approved from the Immediate Response Account (IRA) to implement a series of activities aimed at strengthening WFP and its partners' preparedness capacities. With this IR-preparedness, WFP will support national authorities, primarily by increasing the prepositioned stock of non-food items for an immediate response to emergencies.
- In the framework of Pro-Act project, WFP facilitated initial workshops in seven municipalities of the central region of Cuba impacted by drought and hurricane Irma. The project -funded by the European Union (DG DEVC) and implemented in Cuba jointly by WFP and FAO- aims to strengthen community resilience for food security and nutrition in those territories. Next steps of the projects were agreed with local authorities.
- WFP continues strengthening agricultural value chains, promoting linkages with local social safety nets that assist vulnerable populations. In Granma province, a refrigerated chamber was installed to support smallholder farmers in the conservation of the varieties of seeds. Besides, in Pinar del Río and Las Tunas, a grain dryer was assembled to improve the grain quality. Local authorities highly appreciated these donations which were broadcasted by national and local media.
- WFP purchased 6 mt of beans produced by smallholder farmers supported in the province of Las Tunas to assist beneficiaries of selected social programmes. This achievement is also part of WFP efforts to shorten linkages among local producers and vulnerable groups from local safety nets.
- WFP conducted a baseline assessment regarding drought management in Esmeralda municipality. In addition, the analysis of the achievements of the first phase of Dipecho project - funded by the European Union (DG ECHO)- in five municipalities of the eastern provinces took place. The main gaps identified in disaster risk management and early warning system on drought will be addressed under the second phase of the project.

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## Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.5 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 can 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.

- WFP supports national priorities to enhance Cuba's social safety nets for vulnerable groups (children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly people) by providing regular and specialized nutritious foods.

## 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 promoted various preparatory activities at the inter-agency level. WFP also supports the Government's response in the international simulation exercise for an earthquake of high intensity, scheduled in September.

## Partnership

WFP Country Director and the Head of Programme held a meeting with the Head of International Cooperation from European Union (EU) in Cuba to explore common areas of interest and possible collaboration under the next cooperation cycles of each organization which will begin from 2021 onwards.

As part of the dialogue, WFP presented to EU its current and future areas of work in support of the national priorities. EU highlighted the added value of WFP by promoting nutritional activities and linkages among food systems and local social safety nets in the country.

## 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.