



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief August 2019



Operational Context

Over the last 50 years, Cuba's comprehensive social protection programmes have primarily 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 on 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: **73** out of **189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

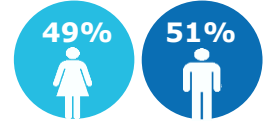
2017 Gender Inequality Index: **65** out of **165**

In Numbers

USD 13.7 m total requirements

1.4 mt of food assistance distributed

3,500 people assisted
(July 2019)



Operational Updates

- WFP started the implementation of the IR-preparedness project for strengthening government capacities to respond to a major hurricane in Havana and a big earthquake in Santiago de Cuba. WFP purchased 5 mobile storage units, 100 family tents, 5 water tanks of 10 thousand litres capacity each, and 2 lighting towers. These items will be prepositioned in government warehouses and will facilitate an immediate response in case of disaster.
- 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, grain trailers, spreaders and a harvester were distributed to beneficiaries. Farmers and local authorities highly appreciated these donations.
- 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. In the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Las Tunas, Granma, and Guantánamo, micronutrient powder (MNP) for children aged 6-11 months and 12-23 months is being distributed and has been widely accepted by the children and their families.
- WFP collaborated with the local coordination team of Pro-Act project (implemented jointly with FAO in Villa Clara province) to complete the gap assessment of vegetable value chain initiated in July. This diagnosis will inform the next phase, which consists of prioritizing the primary value chain gaps and identifying strategic solutions to address them.

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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)
13.7 m	13.8 m	245 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 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.

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 and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a cooperation agreement worth more than USD 272,000 to continue supporting the response and recovery efforts initiated by the Cuban authorities following the tornado that hit Havana last January. A new grain unloader will be purchased, supporting the Cuban food industry to reach previous levels of wheat flour and bread production, which benefits more than two million people in the country.

The UAE Ambassador in Cuba and the WFP Country Director expressed the honour of working together in Havana to address this challenging situation. The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment thanked the UAE and WFP for their solidarity with the people of Havana.

Donors

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