



# WFP Cuba

## Country Brief

October 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



### 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**

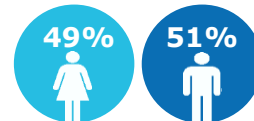
2017 Gender Inequality Index: **65** out of **165**

### In Numbers

**USD 13.7 m total requirements**

**9.7 mt** of food assistance distributed

**35,750 assisted people**  
(September 2019)



### Operational Updates

- The Strategic mission for the formulation of the future Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2021-2024 led by WFP Programme Units from Regional Bureau Panama and HQ took place from October 21 to 24. During this mission, WFP and high-level representatives of the several ministries (Health, Education, Agriculture, Economy and Planning, Food Industry, Environment, Civil Defense, Labour and Social Security, Finance, Transport, and others) discussed about the thematic areas of interest.
- 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.
- From October 28 to November 1, WFP facilitated a workshop in the framework of Pro-Act project, which is implemented jointly with FAO in Villa Clara province. This workshop had two main objectives: i) to validate and prioritize the gaps of vegetable value chain oriented to educational institutions (including gaps on gender and the resilience of the value chain to droughts and hurricanes) and ii) to strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacities. Local and national counterparts agreed on the monitoring tools, responsibility for data collection and reporting.
- WFP supports national priorities to enhance Cuba's social safety nets for vulnerable groups (children, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly people) by providing regular and specialized nutritious foods. In Las Tunas and Santiago de Cuba micronutrient powder (MNP) for children aged 6-11 months is being distributed and has been widely accepted by the children and their families.
- Under the second phase of DIPECHO project, WFP facilitated a national workshop to improve the comprehensive management procedure of drought developed under the first phase of the project, with the participation of the National Institutes of Meteorology and Hydraulic Resources. It is expected that a similar process will take place in November 2019 with experts at the provincial level to agree on the next steps for the implementation of the comprehensive management procedure of drought.

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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)
<b>13.7 m</b>	<b>13.8 m</b>	

### 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.

## Partnership

- The WFP Country Director and the Ambassador of China held a meeting to explore opportunities of collaboration in the framework of recently established specialized China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDA). They discussed possibilities include development initiatives, South-South cooperation as well as Emergency preparedness and response activities. The China Ambassador expressed his interest in continuing working with WFP for the future CSP.

## 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.