



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief December 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**

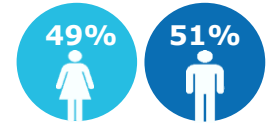
2017 Gender Inequality Index: **65** out of **165**

In Numbers

USD 13.7 m total requirements

19.5 mt of food assistance distributed

69,300 assisted people
(November 2019)



Operational Updates

- Under the second phase of DIPECHO project, WFP facilitated a national workshop to share the results of measuring the vulnerabilities of local food production to drought in the 6 targeted municipalities. A follow-up workshop will be held in January with the participation of national and local experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment to propose concrete actions to reduce the vulnerabilities identified and thus support the local Government in addressing these gaps.
- In the framework of Pro-Act project, implemented jointly with FAO in 7 municipalities of the central province of Villa Clara, WFP facilitated a workshop in each municipality where local counterparts presented the business plan proposed for each targeted institution. The plan will be the basis for the further development of procurement and training.
- WFP continues to support the Government in strengthening agricultural value chains, promoting linkages with local social safety nets that assist vulnerable populations.
- 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 Guantánamo 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.
- WFP continued supporting the joint efforts of UN systems led by UNFPA for accompanying the national Government in developing the policy of care economy (focused on elderly people and children). A concept note was elaborated and will serve as the basis to develop a joint project in 2020.

WFP Country Strategy

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	

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

- In the framework 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 province, WFP organized a workshop on lessons learned based on the responses to Hurricane Irma and the tornado of Havana; national counterparts, Civil Defense and United Nations agencies participated. As a result of the workshop, the main constraints to respond timely and efficiently were identified, and it was agreed that Civil Defense would arrange a further meeting to discuss the constraints of each humanitarian sector.
- As the cyclonic season finalized without the direct impact of any event to Cuba.
- WFP is following up the drought evolution in close collaboration with the Institute of Meteorology and the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources.

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.