



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Cuba Country Brief May 2020



## 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: **72 out of 189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

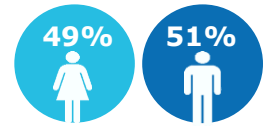
2017 Gender Inequality Index: **67 out of 162**

## In Numbers

**USD 5.6 m total requirements**

**17.00 mt** of food assistance distributed

**4,200 assisted people**  
(April 2020)



## Operational Updates

- ECHO approved the project "Increased resilience to multiple hazards in areas of greater exposure and vulnerability in Cuba". It includes activities that are being implemented since 2019 by WFP and UNDP to strengthen the comprehensive management of drought in six municipalities in Eastern Cuba and Camaguey. It also includes new activities to strengthen local capacities in Havana to manage multiple hazards. WFP will have more time to implement the planned activities, considering the delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- WFP continues to foster the implementation of the Pro-Act project in the central province of Villa Clara despite the pandemic. The project is funded by the European Union and jointly implemented with FAO. In May, the project's training plan was completed, based on the prioritized value chain gaps defined in a participatory process with beneficiaries and counterparts.
- WFP distributed micronutrient powder (MNP) to children aged 6-11 months and Super Cereal (CSB) to children aged 12-23 months and pregnant and lactating women, in selected municipalities of Santiago de Cuba, Granma and Guantanamo provinces with high anaemia prevalence rates.
- WFP started the distribution of Super Cereal to elderly people and vulnerable population through the community canteens in 22 selected municipalities from the five eastern provinces. The Government highly appreciated this support considering the crucial role these institutions play in assisting vulnerable population during COVID-19.

## Monitoring

- WFP continuously monitors the implementation of programme activities, ensuring accountability, transparency and measuring operational performance in collaboration with counterparts. Due to COVID-19, field monitors continue working remotely.

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# WFP Country Strategy

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
5.6 m	5.9 m	

### Strategic Result 3: Food systems are sustainable

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Key food system stakeholders have enhanced capacities to mitigate risks and better support social safety nets by 2021

**Focus area:** Root causes

**Activity 1:**

- Provide training, equipment and technical assistance to smallholder women and men, including young people, cooperatives, distributors and other stakeholders in agricultural value chains

### Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Nutritionally vulnerable groups, including school-age children, have improved nutrition status and more diversified and nutritious diets by 2021

**Focus area:** Root causes

**Activity 2:**

- Provide unconditional food assistance to shock-affected populations from prepositioned food stocks to ensure swift delivery.

**Activity 3:**

- Provide food assistance and educational messages to school-age children through the school feeding programme and training and technical assistance to national and local experts and decision makers involved in the programme

### Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 3:** National and local authorities have strengthened capacities to ensure food and nutrition systems' resilience to shocks by 2021

**Focus area:** Root causes

**Activity 4:**

- Strengthen the capacities of national and local decision makers in disaster and climate risk management, emergency preparedness and response, food security and nutrition analysis and monitoring and information management

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Populations affected by natural hazards maintain access to food during and in the aftermath of a disaster

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activity 5:**

- Provide timely food assistance to shock-affected people using pre-positioned stock, and supply non-food items to support the local food distribution system

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Government authorities continue the efforts to control the spread of the COVID-19 by maintaining the air border closure, social distancing and mobility restriction among provinces. There is as well an extensive coverage of daily health screenings. At the end of May, authorities reported a total of 2,083 confirmed cases, 1,826 recovered and 83 deaths.
- The low availability of food and other essential goods have been aggravated by the impact of international financial and economic crisis and the US embargo. Therefore, despite the efforts made by national authorities for promoting online shopping and other measures to avoid crowding to buy food, people still make long lines to purchase essential goods. This remains one of the main risks for COVID-19 spreading.
- WFP contributes to the Government's response to the COVID-19 by making available the pre-positioned stocks of food and non-food items. At the end of May, the bean distribution benefited people above 65 in the five eastern provinces. It is expected that over 600,000 elderly will be assisted.
- A second inter-agency response plan is being developed for the immediate socio-economic response. WFP is working with FAO, UNDP and UNICEF in food systems, social protection, school feeding, nutrition and logistics.
- The 2020 hurricane season is expected to be very active. The National Civil Defense (NCD) has requested the UN System's support to develop a communication campaign to face this hurricane season in times of COVID-19. In addition, WFP, UNDP and other UN agencies support the NCD by acquiring items to guarantee sanitary measures in the evacuation centres. As the United Nations Emergency Technical Team lead in Cuba, WFP has launched preparatory tasks at the inter-agency level and finalized the corporate Emergency Preparedness Response Package.
- WFP continues monitoring the evolution of the drought in Cuba. The rains in May favored most reservoirs and aquifers of the country; however, it was not enough for reverting the agricultural drought in many municipalities of the eastern provinces where the lack of humidity is affecting the planting season.

**Donors:** Donors to WFP Cuba include Cuba, European Union, ECHO, Italy, Korea International Cooperation Agency, the Russian Federation and the 2030 WFP Fund.