In Numbers

- **USD 5.6 m** total requirements
- **284.00 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **330,500 people** assisted (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 is supporting the Government 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 resilience and disaster risk management. These activities contribute to Sustainable Goals 2, 5 and 17.

WFP has been working with Cuba since 1963.

Operational Updates

- WFP donated 4.2 MT of Super Cereal (CSB) to support the social programmes of the Office of the Historian of Havana City, benefiting around 800 people, including elderly and pregnant women.
- Three tents, two lighting towers and five mobile offices arrived at Santiago de Cuba port, as part of the IR-preparedness project for strengthening WFP and its partners’ preparedness capacities. The tents will be donated to health authorities to support the Covid-19 response. On the other hand, the two lighting towers and the five mobile offices will be prepositioned in government warehouses to be used in case of disasters.
- WFP continues to foster the implementation of the Pro-Act project in the Villa Clara province remotely, despite the Covid-19 pandemic. The project is funded by the European Union and jointly implemented with FAO. In June, the purchase process for the first tranche of equipment was completed with Estimate Time Arrive (ETA) in October 2020. On the other hand, the project’s training plan was adjusted by including remote training actions considering the Covid-19 pandemic and the country’s economic situation. WFP continues to work on designing and printing the selected training materials.
- 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 and Guantanamo provinces with high anaemia prevalence rates.
- WFP distributed Super Cereal to elderly people and vulnerable population through the community canteens in 22 selected municipalities from the five eastern provinces. The government authorities have highly appreciated this support considering the crucial role these institutions play in assisting vulnerable population during the Covid-19 pandemic.
WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.6 m</td>
<td>13.9 m</td>
<td>1.9 m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 prepositioned stock, and supply non-food items to support the local food distribution system.

Monitoring

- WFP continuously monitors the implementation of programme activities, ensuring accountability, transparency and measuring operational performance. Due to COVID-19, field monitors worked remotely by monitoring WFP operations from their homes, especially food distribution, in close contact with partners.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Government authorities approved a plan for recovery measures of the pandemic, with three different stages. Since 18 June, all provinces except La Habana and Matanzas started to implement the first stage of the recovery plan, which includes the opening of the national tourism and maintaining the indicated sanitary measures. At the end of June, authorities reported a total of 2,348 confirmed cases, 2,218 recovered and 86 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. Despite the efforts made by national authorities to avoid crowding, people still make long lines for buying essential goods. This remains one of the main risks for Covid-19 spreading.

- WFP contributes to the Government response to the Covid-19 by making available the pre-positioned stocks of food and non-food items. The distribution of beans continued in the five eastern provinces to benefit people above 65 years. WFP also agreed with the Government to distribute rice in July. With the approved advance financing, the CO is purchasing the beans and rice to replenish prepositioned stocks before the peak of the hurricane season. Eventually, vegetable oil will be distributed to the same beneficiary group if contributions are received.

- An inter-agency response plan for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 is being finalized. WFP is working with FAO, UNDP and UNICEF in food systems, social protection, school feeding, nutrition and logistics.

- WFP - as leader of the United Nations Emergency Technical Team - has launched the preparatory tasks to be better prepared for the hurricane season. The UN System continues to support the National Civil Defense to develop a communication campaign to face this hurricane season in times of Covid-19.

- The rains in May and June favored most reservoirs and aquifers of the country. However, it was not enough for reverting the agricultural drought, which impacts the 25 percent of the country, affecting the spring 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.