



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief July 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

166.00 mt of food assistance distributed

140,900 people assisted
(June 2020)



Operational Updates

- WFP Executive Director (ED) hold a phone call with the President of Cuba and with the Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment in the framework of his visit to the WFP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Conversation focused on the reiteration of the Government support to WFP in its mandate to provide global services to face the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as WFP preparedness activities for the hurricane season. Both parties agreed to continue working together to foster food security in Cuba.
- WFP Country Director presented the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for the period 2021- 2024 to the first round of informal consultations of the Executive Board. The new operation focuses on increasing the resilience of the local food systems to meet the demand generated by national social safety nets. Many members of the Executive Board - including Cuba - expressed their support and highlighted its alignment to the country priorities.
- The project "Strengthening the resilience of the local food system to natural disasters and climate change, with a nutritional approach for supplying social protection programmes" funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in five municipalities of the eastern provinces, was initiated by organizing workshops with the participation of main government authorities of each province and municipality, as well as representatives from key sectors (agriculture, education, health, domestic trade, among others).
- 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. WFP also distributed CSB to elderly people and vulnerable population through the community canteens in 22 selected municipalities from the five eastern provinces, as a response to the impact of COVID-19.

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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	14 m	1.9 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

COVID-19. Unfortunately, at the end of July, La Habana increased the confirmed cases of COVID-19. Government authorities are closely monitoring the evolution of the pandemic, reporting a total of 2,633 confirmed cases, 2,367 recovered and 87 deaths as of July 31.

- WFP is supporting the Government response to COVID-19 by making available pre-positioned stocks of food and non-food items. Distributions of beans continued in the five eastern provinces targeting people above 65 years. WFP also agreed with the Government to distribute rice in August.
- WFP is purchasing 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 the areas of food systems, social protection, school feeding, nutrition and logistics.
- WFP continues monitoring the evolution of the current hurricane seasons, considered as one of the most active in the last years. During June and July, a total of 10 tropical cyclones formed, representing a record compared to the historical average for this period. The National Civil Defense, with the support of the UN System, started a communication campaign to face the hurricane season in times of COVID-19.

Monitoring

- WFP continuously monitors the implementation of programme activities, ensuring accountability, transparency and measuring operational performance. In July, field monitors started to visit again selected institutions along with government counterparts, in order to monitor WFP's food stocks and distribution to final beneficiaries.

Donors:

Donors to WFP Cuba include Cuba, European Union, ECHO, Italy, KOICA and the Russian Federation. Additional support has been provided by the 2030 WFP Fund.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- The month of July showed a favorable trend in the evolution of the pandemic, in all provinces with the exception of La Habana and Matanzas, allowing progresses in the national recovery plan for