



World Food Programme

# WFP Cuba Country Brief August 2020

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

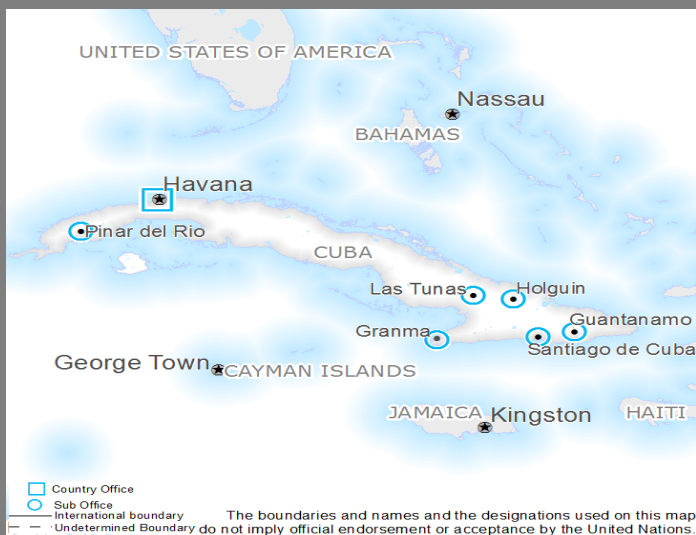


## Operational Context

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: **72** out of **189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

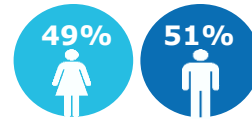
2017 Gender Inequality Index: **67** out of **162**

## In Numbers

**USD 5.6 m total requirements**

**86.00 mt of food assistance distributed**

**82,200 people assisted**  
(July 2020)



## Operational Updates

- WFP continues to remotely foster the implementation of the joint WFP-FAO Pro-Act project in Villa Clara province. In July, WFP advanced in the preparations of the training plan, including the provision of remote actions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In order to guarantee connectivity, WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture on enhancing connectivity among national and local 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 and Guantánamo provinces with high anaemia prevalence rates.
- WFP also distributed 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 that these institutions are playing in assisting vulnerable population during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Thanks to a recent contribution from the Russian Federation, WFP is about to start implementing an initiative to promote home-grown school feeding as a mean to strengthen linkages between this large-scale safety net and smallholder producers, supporting more sustainable and inclusive local food systems.

## COVID-19 response

- Maintaining the trend of July, all provinces showed a favorable evolution of the pandemic, except for La Habana where confirmed cases of Covid-19 increased and restrictive measures were implemented, affecting mobility. Due to the persisting negative trend, additional restrictive measures will be applied in September. As of August, national authorities reported a total of 4.065 confirmed cases, 3.395 recovered and 95 deaths.

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## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>5.6 m</b>	<b>14 m</b>	<b>2.1 m</b>

### 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

- 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 and vegetable oil in September
- Thanks to a recent contribution from KOICA, WFP will distribute rice to protect vulnerable elderly people, most at risk of food insecurity nationwide.
- 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.

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

- From 22 to 24 August, Tropical Storm Laura passed through Cuba without significant damages and no loss of human life. WFP continues monitoring the evolution of the current hurricane seasons, considered as one of the most active in recent years.
- As leader of the United Nations Emergency Technical Team, WFP is coordinating a response plan in case of a major hurricane hit La Habana, considering the high probability of its occurrence and taking into account that La Habana is the most important city of the country and the hardest affected by the Covid-19.

## Monitoring

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

## Donors

European Union, ECHO, Government of Cuba, Italy, KOICA and the Russian Federation.

