



World Food Programme

WFP Cuba Country Brief September 2020

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

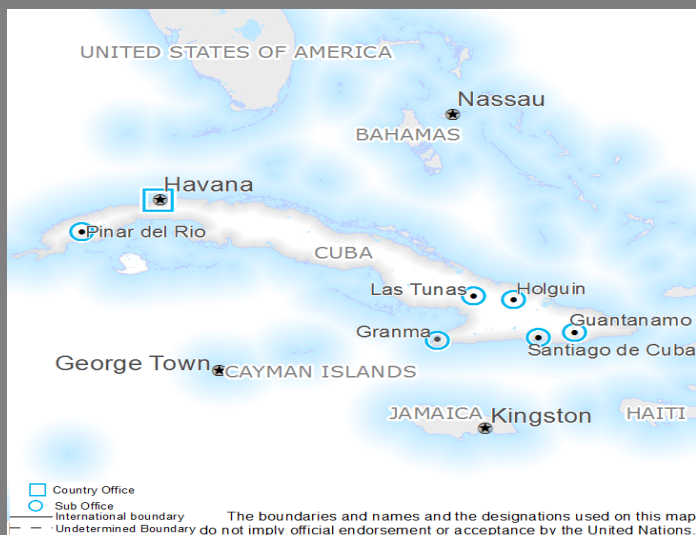


Operational Context

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**

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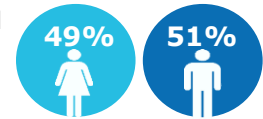
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/cuba

In Numbers

USD 5.6 m total requirements

62.00 mt of food assistance distributed

60,230 people assisted
(August 2020)



Operational Updates

- WFP continues to remotely foster the implementation of the joint WFP-FAO Pro-Act project in Villa Clara province. In September, WFP continued to work preparation for selected training. In addition, WFP is supporting the Ministry of Agriculture in organizing the seeds variety fair, where participants could test the cultivation of different vegetables available in the country, in order to determine the most suitable according to each territory.
- Despite Covid-19, WFP is making progress in implementing 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 KOICA, in five municipalities of the eastern provinces. Due to the mobility restrictions, WFP adapted the local food system assessment methodology to be applied remotely. Local counterparts were trained online on its use and they have already start to collect information for the assessment.
- 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. WFP also distributed Super Cereal to elderly people and vulnerable population through the community canteens in 22 selected municipalities from the five eastern provinces.

COVID-19 response

- Government authorities maintained restrictive measures in La Habana, including on mobility. By the end of September, improvements in the evolution of the pandemic was registered in the capital. Likewise, the rest of the provinces maintained a favorable evolution, except for the central provinces of Ciego de Avila and Sancti Spíritus where confirmed cases increased. As of September, national authorities reported a total of 5,670 confirmed cases, 4,922 recovered and 122 deaths.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
7.8 m	14 m	0.5 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

- WFP is supporting the Government response to COVID-19 by making available pre-positioned stocks of food and non-food items.
- WFP completed the distributions of beans to people above 65 years in the five eastern provinces through the bodegas (food delivery points of ration book). In addition, distributions of beans, rice and vegetable oil continued in the five eastern provinces through the community canteens.
- As part of the UN socio-economic response plan to COVID-19, WFP is supporting the local food systems, social protection programmes, school feeding, nutrition and logistics jointly with FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNICEF and other partners. A joint resource mobilization effort is ongoing, supported by the Resident Coordinator and the Government.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- The United Nations Resident Coordinator and the WFP Country Director met with the Civil Defense authorities with the aim to coordinate a response plan in case of a major hurricane hit La Habana. The scenario considered the high probability of its occurrence, taking into account that La Habana is the main city of the country and the hardest affected by the Covid-19. Some gaps were jointly identified, and it was agreed that the United Nations will present a proposal for a response plan by sectors.
- WFP and UNDP donated 1,000 family hygiene kits and 1,500 thermometers to the National Civil Defense to reinforce sanitary measures in evacuation centers. A second purchase of these items is in process.

Monitoring

- WFP continuously monitors the implementation of programme activities, ensuring accountability, transparency and measuring operational performance. Field monitors continue 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.