In Numbers

43 mt of food assistance distributed

22,000 people assisted
January 2021

Operational Updates

- WFP distributed micronutrient powder (MNP) to children between 6-11 months in selected municipalities of the five eastern provinces and Super Cereal (CSB+) to children aged 12-23 months, pregnant and lactating women in selected municipalities of Santiago de Cuba, Granma and Guantanamo provinces.

- WFP provided 6.2 mt of Super Cereal (CSB+) to support the social programmes of the Office of the Historian of Havana City (OHHC) to benefit around 800 people including elderly people and pregnant women.

- WFP continues to foster the implementation of the "Pro-Act" project in Villa Clara province, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The project is funded by European Union and jointly implemented with FAO. "Variety fairs" are being developed in the seven municipalities of Villa Clara province to identify the seed varieties most suitable to local conditions and consumer preferences.

COVID-19 response

- January 2021 saw a record number of confirmed cases in one day (1,012 people) since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. The cumulative confirmed cases in January were similar to the cumulative of confirmed cases between March-December 2020 at the peak of the pandemic last year. As a result, several provinces and municipalities of the country went back to previous phases of mandatory lockdown.

- As of January, national authorities reported a cumulative total of 27,592 confirmed cases, 21,856 recovered and 216 deaths.

- As part of the UN socio-economic response plan to COVID-19, WFP continued distributing beans, rice and vegetable oil in the five eastern provinces through the community canteens.

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: 70 out of 189

Income Level: Upper middle
2019 Gender Inequality Index: 65 out of 189

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WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-21)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Next Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.8 million</td>
<td>14.4 million</td>
<td>500,000</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 malnurtion

Strategic Outcome 2: Nutritically 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 also supporting the local food systems, social protection programmes, school feeding, nutrition interventions 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.

Monitoring

- WFP continuously monitors the implementation of programme activities, ensuring accountability, transparency and measuring operational performance. Considering the complex situation with COVID-19, field monitors have reduced their visits to public institutions and have increased monitoring through remote alternatives, in close coordination with the Government counterparts.

Partnership

- WFP along with the Government authorities of Havana presented a project proposal to ECHO for strengthening the institutional and community capacities in Havana to respond to extreme weather events and epidemics.

- A virtual meeting of the Pro-Act project committee was held with local and national coordination teams, WFP, FAO and the EU. During the meeting, the participants discussed the main project’s results, challenges and the work plan for 2021.

Challenges

- The COVID-19 has caused delays in the implementation of the capacity strengthening activities of the Interim Country Strategic Plan. However, trainings, assessments and meetings have been adjusted to be carried out virtually.

- The COVID-19 has also affected the procurement process considering the low availability of commercial flights to Cuba. This implied an increase of the external transport costs. In addition, the increase of embargo restrictions has caused challenges for the payments to international suppliers.

- The monetary reform which started on 1st January could affect project implementation by causing an increase in programme costs. WFP will follow the development of the Government measures in this regard.