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.

Operational Updates

- WFP continues to foster the implementation of the Pro-Act project -jointly with FAO- in seven municipalities of Villa Clara province in closed coordination with local and national counterparts. By the end of June, WFP facilitated a workshop to promote synergies and enhance coordination between Pro-Act and seven projects which are being implemented in Villa Clara province also focused on the resilience of local food systems to disasters and climate change. About 25 people participated in this workshop including project coordinators, local representatives of the ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Higher Education as well as representatives of FAO, UNDP, and European Union.

- WFP is developing a pilot project that promotes preventive and parametric insurance approaches in two municipalities of the eastern provinces, with the support of PULA, an international insurance and technology company. The enumerators of Las Tunas province advanced in carrying out crop cutting to develop parametric insurance indexes while enumerators of Guantanamo province were not able to start this process, since this province continues to be very affected by COVID-19. Moreover, PULA facilitated a remote training on parametric insurance to representatives of the National Insurance Company of the two targeted provinces.

COVID-19 Response

- June 2021 held the record of people infected by COVID-19 in one month, since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. In the second half of June, all provinces increased the rate of people infected by COVID-19 per 100,000 inhabitants. The provinces with the highest rates were Camagüey, Matanzas, Mayabeque, Ciego de Avila, Santiago de Cuba, Havana, Sancti Spiritus and Pinar del Rio. In June, national authorities reported a cumulative total of 193,945 confirmed cases, 176,030 recovered and 1,302 deceased.
**WFP Country Strategy**

### Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2021)

<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>15.4 million</td>
<td>10.5 million</td>
<td>0.9 million</td>
</tr>
</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 pre-positioned stock, and supply non-food items to support the local food distribution system

**Donors:** European Union, ECHO, Government of Cuba, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, KOICA, and the Russian Federation

- The low availability of food and other essential goods have been aggravated by the impact of COVID-19, structural problems and economic, commercial, and financial embargo restrictions. Despite efforts made by national authorities to avoid crowding when buying food, people continue to make large lines when buying essential goods which remains one of the main risks for the spread of the virus.

- As part of the UN socio-economic response plan to COVID-19, WFP continued distributing CSB+ in community canteens of the five eastern provinces as well as rice, vegetable oil and wheat flour in community canteens nationwide to benefit about 66,400 vulnerable people.

### Emergency Preparedness

**Rainfall in June** behaved according to the historical trend. However, it was not enough for reverting the agricultural drought, which is still affecting the central and eastern region of the country. WFP continued monitoring the evolution of drought in Cuba in close contact with counterparts. They are jointly applying the tools developed by the project “Pon tu Ficha” implemented in the five eastern provinces and Camaguey, and the Pro-Act project implemented in the central province of Villa Clara, to mitigate the impact of the drought through early actions based on risk.

- WFP continues monitoring the evolution of the cyclonic activity in the Atlantic Basin. The United Nations Emergency Technical Team in Cuba, led by WFP, has updated the interagency response plans in case of hurricanes and earthquakes.

### Monitoring

- WFP continuously monitors the implementation of programme activities. Considering the complex COVID-19 situation in the country, field monitors have reduced their visits to institutions and have increased monitoring by using remote alternatives, in close coordination with government counterparts.

### Challenges

- 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.

- COVID-19 has also affected the procurement processes considering the low availability of commercial flights to Cuba. This has created an increase in external transport costs. In addition, the increasing of embargo restrictions has caused delays in payments to international suppliers.