



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief September 2021

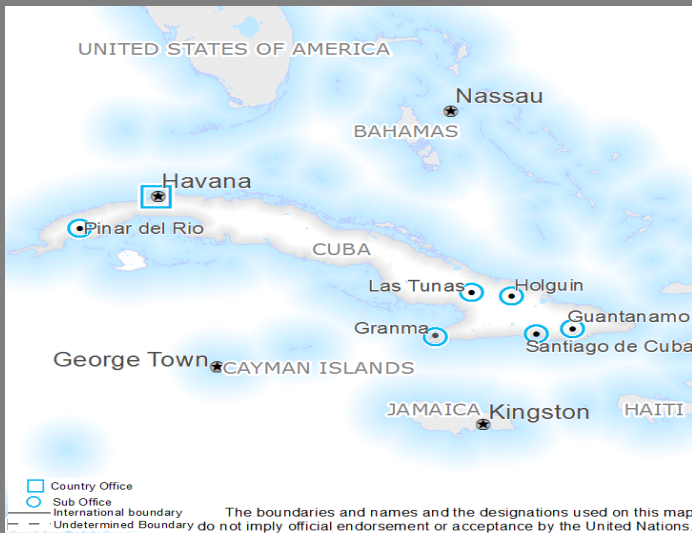


Operational Context

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**

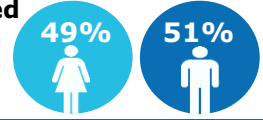
2019 Gender Inequality Index: **65** out of **189**

In Numbers

USD 2.0 m six-months (October 2021 – March 2022) net funding requirements, representing 71% of total

146 mt of food assistance distributed

63,700 people assisted
in SEPTEMBER 2021



Operational Updates

- WFP is continuing the implementation of 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." This project is funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and is implemented in five municipalities of the eastern provinces. In September, WFP started the purchase process of agricultural equipment as well as materials to support the training programme, considering the priorities of each municipality.
- 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 as the province continues to be strongly affected by COVID-19. Moreover, PULA facilitated two remote trainings on parametric insurance to representatives of the National Insurance Company in the two targeted provinces.

COVID-19 Response

- National authorities reported that all provinces had a decrease in their incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants due to the vaccination campaign, which has reached 85 percent of the Cuban population (with at least one dose) by the end of September. Nevertheless, the provinces of Pinar del Río, Sancti Spíritus, Las Tunas and Camaguey still face a complex epidemiological situation.
- As of 30 of September, national authorities reported a total of 882,477 confirmed cases, 847,776 recovered and 7,486 deceased.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
28.7 m	13.5 m	2.0 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Populations facing multiple hazards maintain access to food during and in the aftermath of disasters.

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activity 1:

- Provide timely food assistance to shock-affected people while strengthening national and local capacity relevant to emergency preparedness and response.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Nutritionally vulnerable groups in targeted municipalities have improved nutrition status and more diversified and nutritious diets by 2024.

Focus area: *Root causes*

Activity 2:

- Provide nutritious food to nutritionally vulnerable groups through social protection programmes and a social and behavioural change strategy that promotes healthy diets.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable groups benefit from local food systems that are more resilient with regard to the impact of climate change and more efficient social safety nets by 2024.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activity 3:

- Provide training, equipment and technical assistance to stakeholders of local food systems while ensuring a more diversified, stable and nutritious diet for school-age children and other nutritionally vulnerable groups.

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: National and local authorities have strengthened capacities to manage inclusive, comprehensive and adaptive food and nutrition systems by 2024.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activity 4:

- Strengthen the capacity of national and local decision makers related to the management of social protection programmes and disaster and climate risk, food security and nutrition analysis and monitoring.

Donors

European Union, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Cuba, Germany, Italy, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Republic of Korea, Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Russian Federation and Latter-day Saint Charities.

- As part of the UN socioeconomic response plan to COVID-19, WFP distributed Corn-Soy Blend plus (CSB+) and milk to benefit vulnerable population assisted in community canteens of the five eastern provinces and through the social programmes of the Office of the Historian of Havana City. WFP also distributed rice, vegetable oil and wheat flour in community canteens nationwide to benefit about 66,400 vulnerable

Emergency Preparedness

- For the April-September period, national authorities reported that 47 percent of the national territory, mainly the central and eastern region of the country, was affected by drought. WFP continues monitoring the evolution of drought in Cuba in collaboration with counterparts, 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.
- In September, cyclonic activity in the Atlantic basin increased. However, the presence of dry air and dust from the Sahara reduced the formation of cyclones in the tropical zone while the high oceanic pressures have caused that most of the cyclones to drift north. WFP continues monitoring the evolution of the hurricane season, which is expected to intensify from October.

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

- Cuba experienced the worst economic downturn of the last 3 decades as evidenced by a GDP fall of 11 percent in 2020 and a 2 percent drop in the first half of 2021. The challenging economic and financial situation of the country has been strongly impacted by the COVID-19 and by the economic, commercial, and financial embargo imposed against it. The pandemic caused a sharp decrease in national and household level income sources, as well as increased the lack of food and basic supplies in the local markets. Furthermore, the monetary reform which started on 1 January has triggered an increase in the cost of living in general.