In Numbers

USD 3.2 m six-month (November 2021-April 2022) net funding requirements, representing 67% of total

Operational Updates

- WFP jointly with counterparts advanced in the implementation of the project funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for strengthening the resilience of the local food system to natural disasters and climate change for supplying social protection programmes. A project committee was celebrated virtually with the participation of local and national actors to foster some project activities. With the support of WFP, the institutions involved (schools, community canteens, cooperatives, and enterprises providers of inputs and services) improved their business plans; tools that will inform the further purchase and training plans of each institution.

COVID-19 Response

- National authorities reported that all provinces had a decrease in the number of confirmed cases and deceased due to the vaccination campaign which had reached the 100 percent of eligible Cuban population, including paediatric population (with at least one dose). The provinces of Pinar del Río, Sancti Spíritus, Las Tunas, and Camaguey still have a high incidence rate. As of October 31, national authorities reported a cumulative total of 952,001 confirmed cases, 939,816 recovered and 8,236 deceased.
- 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 people.

Emergency Preparedness

- By the end of October, 37 percent of national territory has been affected by poor rainfall (meteorological drought). The most affected provinces were Artemisa, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba, and Guantanamo.
In addition, the agricultural drought affected 34 percent of country, mainly the eastern region. WFP continues 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 assessment.

In October, the cyclonic activity has reduced due to the presence of dry air and dust from the Sahara and the high oceanic pressures. It is expected that this low activity continues in November which is the last month of the hurricane season.

**Partnership**

- WFP Country Director held a meeting with the Cuban Minister of Agriculture to explore priorities and opportunities for cooperation to support the National Plan for Food Sovereignty and Nutrition Education. This plan is led by the Ministry of Agriculture and supported by FAO.
- WFP and the Ministry of Education (MINED) continued the dialogue to define the cash-based transfers (CBT) mechanism for supporting school meals programme. As a result of the meeting, a work group was created leading by the MINED, to agree on this mechanism.

**Monitoring**

- WFP continuously monitors the implementation of programme activities. Considering that the epidemiological situation in the country has improved, field monitors have increased their visits to institutions. In parallel, they are still using remote alternatives, in close coordination with government counterparts.

**Challenges**

- By the end of October, the Ministry of Economy declared in the National Assembly that food production faces a complex situation due to the shortage of supplies, fuel, parts, and equipment, as well as organizational problems. The productions of rice, beans, milk, corn, and eggs were lower than planned and insufficient to meet the population demand. In addition, the international purchase of food and other inputs has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic which has impacted the international logistic, and also by the embargo.