



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief November 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

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

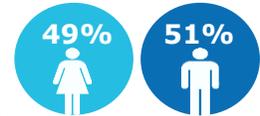


In Numbers

USD 1.7 m six months (December 2021 – May 2022) net funding requirements, representing 66% of total

119 mt of food assistance distributed

66,788 people assisted in NOVEMBER 2021



Operational Updates

- WFP advanced in the implementation of the Pro-Act project -jointly with FAO- in seven municipalities of Villa Clara province. As school has restarted, links between smallholder farmers and educational institutions have been re-established with the support of WFP. In addition, local counterparts are carrying out the starting-up of agricultural equipment donated by WFP which is expected to contribute to foster the school feeding programme. WFP also trained local facilitators on food and nutrition education, nutrition surveillance system, cooperativism, drought-related communication flows, and gender equity. Trainings will be replicated in targeted municipalities.

COVID-19 Response

- National authorities reported that all provinces had a decrease in the number of confirmed cases due to the vaccination campaign which had reached 95 percent of the eligible Cuban population (with the three doses). The provinces of Camaguey and Holguin still have a high incidence rate. As of 30 November, national authorities reported a cumulative total of 962,628 confirmed cases, 953,566 recovered and 8,305 deceased.
- As part of the UN socioeconomic response plan to COVID-19, WFP distributed 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

- From September to November, the meteorological drought affected 55 percent of the country, mainly in the western and the eastern regions, representing an alert taking in consideration that the dry period has just begun.

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
28.7 m	16.4 m	1.7 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 Operations (ECHO), Government of Cuba, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Russian Federation, and Latter-day Saint Charities.

- 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 information.

Partnership

- On 18 November, an official ceremony was carried out for the handover of 672 mt of vegetable oil donated by the Russian Federation to WFP. The vegetable oil will be used to: i) assist over 64,000 elderly people in community canteens nationwide in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and ii) support Government response in case of disasters.
- On 25 November, another official ceremony took place for the donation of 125 mt of milk by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation to WFP in support of the COVID-19 response plan. The distribution of milk will benefit about 20,000 people, including elderlies assisted in community canteens of the five eastern provinces, and vulnerable people supported through the social programmes of the Office of the Historian of La Habana.
- Handover ceremonies were attended by the Ambassadors of Russian Federation and Switzerland, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, WFP Country Director, and representatives of Cuban authorities who recognized the joint efforts of WFP and its donors in support of food security in the country. The ceremonies were widely broadcasted by national and international media.

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

- Cuba experienced the worst economic downturn of the last 3 decades as evidenced by a GDP fall of 11 percent in 2020. 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 at 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.