



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief March 2022



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**

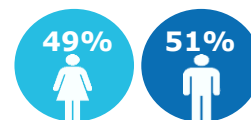
2019 Human Development Index:
70 out of 189

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2019 Gender Inequality Index:
65 out of 189

In Numbers

USD 4.3 m six months (April - September 2022) net funding requirements, representing 67% of total



Operational Updates

- Smallholder farmers continued providing fresh vegetables to educational institutions in the framework of the Pro-Act project, implemented by WFP and FAO in seven municipalities of the province of Villa Clara. Also, local counterparts are carrying out the starting up of agricultural equipment donated by WFP aiming to foster the school feeding programme in this same province. Local facilitators advanced in the training of stakeholders in the topics of food and nutrition education, nutrition surveillance system, cooperativism, drought-related communication flows, and gender equity.
- 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. The provinces of Mayabeque, Holguin, Las Tunas, Matanzas, and Cienfuegos showed incidence rates slightly higher than the rest of the country. As of March 31, national authorities reported 1.1 million confirmed cases, of which 98 percent recovered and 8,510 deceased.
- As part of the United Nations socioeconomic response plan to COVID-19, WFP distributed milk, rice, vegetable oil and wheat flour in community canteens of the eastern provinces to benefit 18,300 vulnerable people, mainly elderlies. WFP also distributed milk to 1,000 people assisted through the social programmes of the Office of the Historian of Havana City.
- WFP continued strengthening the cold chain capacities for the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out programme with the support of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In March, WFP donated to health authorities passive transport system and iced packs for vaccine storage and conservation. In addition, WFP provided spare parts for the maintenance of refrigerated trucks which were donated in February 2022.

Contact info: wfp.havana@wfp.org

Country Director: Paolo Mattei

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

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
37.3 million	21.2 million	4.3 million

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.

Emergency Preparedness

- WFP monitored the evolution of drought in Cuba in close contact with counterparts. They are jointly applying the tools developed by the *Pon tu Ficha* project 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 risk-based early actions.

Partnership

- Representatives of WFP and European Union (EU) Delegation in Havana held a meeting to discuss the main results of the Pro-Act project, as well as to plan the closure activities of this project which will end next June. WFP and the EU Delegation agreed to carry out a learning and monitoring workshop next April and a project closure workshop in June 2022.

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 three decades as evidenced by a GDP fall of 13 percent since January 2020. In addition to the structural challenges, the 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. Furthermore, the ripple effects of the Ukrainian crisis are likely to exacerbate the island's current difficulties. Venezuela's economic recession also affects the oil supply to Cuba causing negative impacts on the industry, agriculture, energy, transport, and a lower economic output in general.

Donors

European Union (DG-ECHO), Cuba, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and Latter-day Saint Charities.