



World Food Programme

# WFP Cuba Country Brief April 2022

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

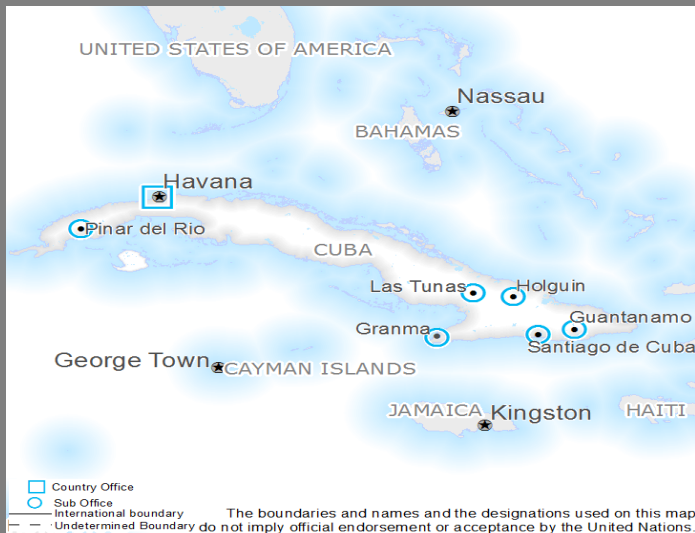


## Operational Context

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**

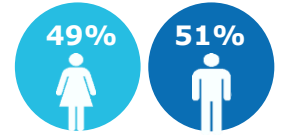
2019 Human Development Index: **70** out of **189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

## In Numbers

**USD 4.4 m** six-months (May - October 2022) net funding requirements, representing 66% of total



## Operational Updates

- WFP facilitated a learning and monitoring workshop in the framework of the Pro-Act project which is implemented jointly with FAO in seven municipalities of Villa Clara province. Smallholder farmers and national and local counterparts presented relevant evidence of project's impact in the resilience of the local food system to natural disasters and climate change. Valuable evidence such as stakeholders' interviews and testimonies, pictures and videos were gathered for the further systematization of project's best practices.
- WFP jointly with counterparts advanced in the implementation of a project, funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency, for strengthening the resilience of local food systems to natural hazards and climate change, that are part of social protection programmes. WFP started a training programme and purchase process based on the main needs identified by the benefitted institutions (schools, community canteens, cooperatives and suppliers).
- WFP started distributing a food basket of vegetable oil, rice, and peas to benefit 72,000 vulnerable people of Guantanamo, including pregnant women and lactating girls, and elderly people. This province is one of the most food insecure of the country. WFP will carry out two additional food distributions in June and September 2022.
- National authorities reported a decrease in confirmed cases in all provinces, thanks to the vaccination campaign that reached 100 percent of eligible Cuban population. The provinces of Camaguey, Havana, Mayabeque and Ciego de Avila accumulated the 50 percent of confirmed cases in the country.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
22 m	19.8 m	4.4 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 (DG-ECHO), Cuba, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Republic of Korea (the), Russian Federation, and the Latter-day Saint Charities.

- 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 for 18,200 vulnerable people, mainly elderly. WFP also distributed milk to 1,000 vulnerable people through social programmes of the Office of the Historian of Havana City.

## Emergency Preparedness

- WFP jointly with its counterparts monitored the evolution of drought in Cuba by applying tools to mitigate the impact of the drought through risk-based early actions. These tools were 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.

## Partnership

- WFP Country Director and a representative of the Ministry of Education of Cuba participated in the "IX Regional Forum of the School Feeding" in Colombia in April. New opportunities of collaboration between Cuba, WFP and other countries of the Latin American and the Caribbean region were envisaged.

## 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 until October 2021. 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 by causing negative impacts on the industry, agriculture, energy, transport, and a lower economic output in general.