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 in 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.

Contact info: wfp.havana@wfp.org
Country Director: Paolo Mattei
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/cuba

In Numbers

USD 5.2 m six months (June - November 2022) net funding requirements, representing 43% of total

Operational Updates

- WFP and FAO are fostering that national and local counterparts continue and scale up best practices of the project “Strengthening community resilience for food security and nutrition in seven municipalities in the Central Region of Cuba impacted by drought and Hurricane Irma” which will end in June. Likewise, WFP facilitated an exchange of experiences between stakeholders on the implementation of food and nutrition education initiatives. In addition, a workshop was carried out to identify the synergies between different initiatives and tools at the local level for monitoring and analysing food security and nutrition. This included a tool developed within the project that enables the Government to use food security and nutrition information available locally to improve the decision-making process.

- About 72,500 vulnerable people of Guantánamo province (including pregnant and elderly people) have been assisted with a food basket of vegetable oil, rice, and peas. This province is one of the country’s most vulnerable to food security.

- On 31 May, national authorities reported that for nine consecutive weeks, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases had a sustained decrease as well as the number of deceased. Since the population has achieved a high level of immunization, health authorities decided to adjust protocols and eliminated the mandatory use of masks.

- 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 15,200 vulnerable people, mainly elderlies. WFP also distributed milk to 1,150 vulnerable people, particularly children under five, elderly people and pregnant and lactating women and girls assisted through social programmes of the Office of the Historian of Havana City.
WFP Country Strategy

**Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22.1 m</td>
<td>19.8 m</td>
<td>5.2 m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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 3:** 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 4:** 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**

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

**Monitoring**

- WFP continuously monitors the implementation of programme activities. Since the epidemiological situation has improved, field monitors have increased their visits to institutions. They also continued using remote alternatives in coordination with government counterparts.

- WFP continues monitoring the evolution of the cyclonic activity in the Atlantic Basin, which is expected to be very active. The United Nations Emergency Technical Team in Cuba, led by WFP, has updated the interagency response plans in case of hurricanes, emphasizing an eventual direct impact in Havana. WFP finalized the corporate Emergency Preparedness Response Package.

**Challenges**

- Cuba has been experiencing the worst economic downturn of the last three decades. In addition to the structural challenges, the economic and financial situation of the country has been impacted by COVID-19, the embargo, and the monetary reform, which have caused an increase in prices. 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 cost of energy and transport. Considering the low availability of fuel throughout the country, WFP has started contracting transport services to ensure proper transportation of its staff and government counterparts for field missions.

**Partnership**

- From 10 to 14 May, Lola Castro, WFP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, visited Cuba and held strategic meetings with high-level representatives from the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Investment, Agriculture, Health, Education, and National Civil Defense. She also met with the United Nations Resident Coordinator, representatives of United Nations agencies and international cooperation actors. The Regional Director also presided over the official ceremony to hand over the passive transport system and iced packs for vaccine storage to the health authorities as part of WFP efforts to strengthen cold chain capacities for COVID-19 vaccine roll-out.

- At the presence of the WFP Regional Director, the Cuban Ministry of Education signed the national adhesion to the Global School Feeding Coalition. This is a follow-up step to the Regional School Feeding Forum held last May, where Cuba was accompanied by WFP.