



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief June 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.

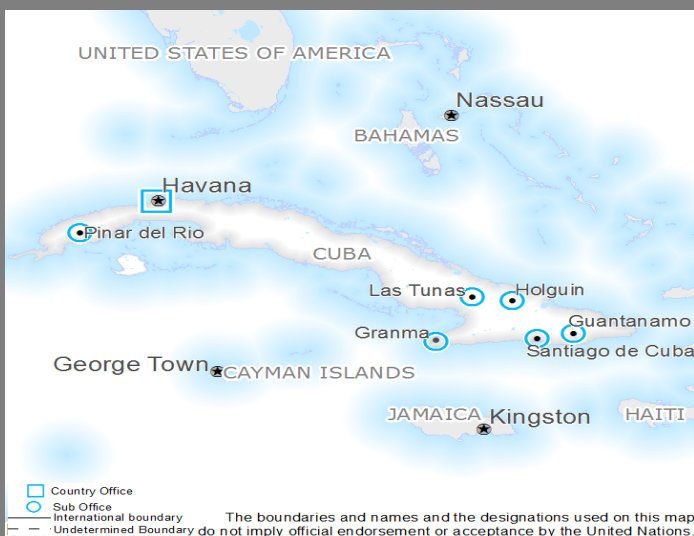
WFP has been working with Cuba since 1963.

Population: **11.2 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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



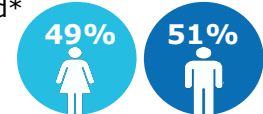
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In Numbers

36.8 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 0.6 m six months (July – December 2022) net funding requirements, representing 5% of total

16,470 people assisted*
in June 2022



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- From 2019 to 2022, WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) implemented a project in Villa Clara promoting linkages between smallholder farmers and educational institutions. Committed to sharing lessons learned and good practices as it benefits the broader humanitarian and development community, WFP and FAO facilitated a workshop attended by 100 participants including stakeholders from the national and local levels, high-level representatives of the National Civil Defense, the Ambassador of India, the resident coordinator of the United Nations, and WFP representatives from the Regional Bureau of Latin America and the Caribbean. Stakeholders highlighted the role linkages played increasing in the quantity and variety of vegetables provided to children. Likewise, participants presented good practices fostered by the project in nutrition education, gender equity, cooperativism, risk information management.
- WFP's Climate and Earth Observation Unit trained 35 technicians from national and provincial meteorological institutes in crops monitoring, pests and diseases, as well as data and satellite images analysis. These trainings contributed to strengthening the local and national capacities in risk management and increasing the local food system's resilience to droughts.
- To support the national efforts in preventing micronutrient deficiencies, WFP donated 2.4 mt of micronutrient powder (MNP) for children aged 6-11 months and 3.5 mt for children aged 12-23 months to the Cuban Government benefiting 68,000 children under 2 in the five eastern provinces which present the highest rates of anaemia within this age group.
- In response to COVID-19, WFP continued distributing milk, rice, vegetable oil and wheat flour in community canteens of the eastern provinces to almost 15,500 vulnerable people, mainly elderly. WFP also distributed milk to approximately 900 vulnerable people mainly children under 5, elderly and pregnant and lactating women assisted through the social programmes of the Office of the Historian of Havana City.

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
37.3 m	22.3 m	0.6 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.

Emergency Preparedness

- 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 inter-agency response plans in case of hurricanes with emphasis on an eventual direct impact in Havana.

Partnership

- Representatives of the ECHO Office for Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) visited Cuba to be updated on results of the project for strengthening national and local capacities in disaster risk management in Havana, Camaguey and the five eastern provinces. They held meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Environment and National Civil Defense and visited the community of Centro Habana, in Havana City where WFP have strengthened local capacities to face extreme events. ECHO representatives were pleased with the project results and highlighted that Cuba is a reference in drought management in the LAC region.

Monitoring

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

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 strongly impacted by COVID-19, the embargo and the monetary reform, which have caused an increase in prices. The ripple effects of the Ukraine 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. Due to the low fuel availability, WFP has postponed most field missions and contracted transport services. Fuel scarcity has also delayed food distributions.

Donors

Canada, Cuba, European Union (DG-ECHO), Italy, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, and private donors.