



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief July 2022

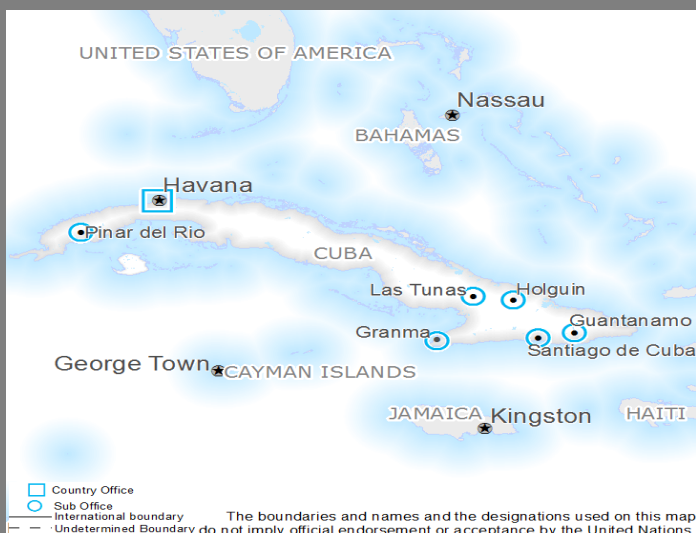


Operational Context

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.



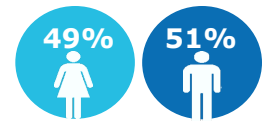
Population: 11.2 million	2019 Human Development Index: 70 out of 189
Income Level: Upper middle	2019 Gender Inequality Index: 65 out of 189

In Numbers

USD 2.1 million six-month net funding requirements, representing 15% of total

296 MT of food assistance distributed

84,810 people assisted



Operational Updates

- WFP successfully continues the implementation of the project *"Strengthening the resilience of the local food system to natural disasters and climate change, with a nutritional approach for supplying social protection programmes"*, funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency and implemented in five targeted municipalities of the eastern provinces. As of July, WFP supported the distribution and assembling of semi-protected organic gardens and nursery greenhouses to strengthen smallholder farmers' capacities and continued fostering the purchase process of other inputs and equipment based on the main needs of value chain stakeholders. Those activities aim at increasing the variety and quantity of food provided to social safety nets.
- WFP facilitated a workshop in the province of Santiago de Cuba within the framework of a project financed by the Russian Federation for strengthening the school feeding programme in the five eastern provinces. The Representatives of the local project committees from the five provinces agreed on common criteria to be used to assess the institutions (schools, cooperatives, etc) to be selected and receive support within the project. Furthermore, the participants carried out field visits and shared experiences about the project implementation in each territory.
- WFP conducted in Guantanamo province the second distribution of a food basket consisting of vegetable oil, rice, and peas. Guantanamo province is one of the most vulnerable territories to food insecurity in the whole country. The distribution has been made within the context of a humanitarian intervention which benefits 72,500 pregnant women and older adults.
- WFP completed the food distribution in response to COVID-19 in 12 provinces out of 15 existing provinces in Cuba. WFP will complete the distribution (approx. 11,400 vulnerable people, mainly elderlies) in the remaining 3 provinces, namely, Holguin, Las Tunas, Granma in addition to the special municipality, the Isla de la Juventud.
- WFP distributed milk to 900 vulnerable people, mainly children under 5, older adults and pregnant and lactating women through the social programmes implemented with 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 million	22.3 million	2.1 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.

Donors

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

Emergency Preparedness

- WFP continues monitoring the evolution of the cyclonic activity in the Atlantic Basin. In July, the cyclonic activity was low (in line with the historical trend). The cyclonic activity in the area was expected to become very active after August 15. Led by WFP, the United Nations Emergency Technical Team in Cuba updated the inter-agency response plans to respond to hurricanes, emphasising an eventual direct impact in Havana.

Partnership

- The Government of France confirmed a contribution to WFP Cuba to purchase fortified milk to benefit over 52,000 children under two in the eastern provinces of Las Tunas, Holguin, Granma and Guantanamo, contributing to the Government's efforts to prevent malnutrition of children under 2.

Monitoring

- WFP continuously monitors the implementation of its programme activities. In light of the improvement of the epidemiological situation in the country, WFP increased the regular field visits to the institutions. When the in-person visits are not possible, WFP collaborates with the government counterparts remotely.

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 is relying on third-party transportation services. Fuel scarcity has also delayed food and non-food items distributions.
- In addition to COVID-19, the country's epidemiological situation is affected by dengue. The Government reported that the contagion rate increased in 13 out of 15 provinces, and the special municipality of the Isla de la Juventud.