



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Cuba Country Brief April 2023

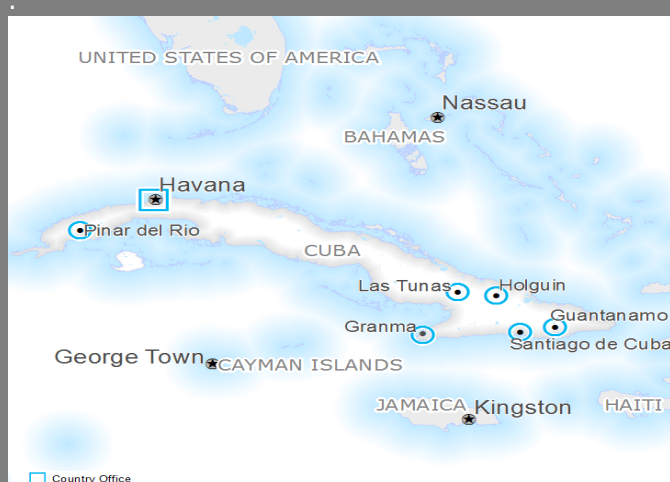


Operational Context

Over the last 60 years, Cuba's comprehensive social protection programmes had primarily eradicated poverty and hunger. However, achieving the 2030 agenda suffered heavy setbacks due to the cumulative effects of the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19, the monetary reform initiated in 2021, that, together with high international prices, had caused a spike in inflation and impacted households' vulnerability to food insecurity.

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**

2021 Human Development Index: **83rd out of 191**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

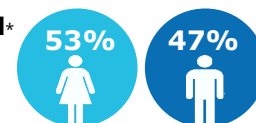
2021 Gender Inequality Index: **73rd out of 170**

In Numbers

356 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 4.1 m six months (April - September) net funding requirements, representing 32 percent of total

196,050 people assisted*
Jan - Mar 2023



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- Under its capacity strengthening activities, WFP has been providing training and equipment to smallholder farmers, agricultural cooperatives, community canteens and primary schools in 21 municipalities, with the aim of supporting the implementation of social protection programmes, including the Government's school feeding programme, Cuba's Family Support System (community canteens) and health centres for pregnant women.
- WFP is distributing educational materials, to accompany the distribution of micronutrient powders (MNP) and Super Cereal. This set of educational documents includes fortified food posters for pregnant women in maternity homes, fortified food posters for elderly individuals in community canteens, MNP posters designed for both these demographics to be used in family medical offices and recipes books and guides tailored for families' use of MNP.
- In April, as part of discussions regarding the implementation of market-based interventions, WFP facilitated training and knowledge exchange workshops. These sessions involved representatives from the Ministry of Education at the municipal level, with the goal of fostering a more comprehensive understanding and preparing the national authorities for the deployment of these interventions.

Monitoring

- WFP continues to monitor, together with local humanitarian actors, the progress of training activities in 20 agricultural cooperatives supported by WFP. These activities focus on the development of business plans and various aspects related to business growth. The cooperatives consist of 2124 members, of which 399 are women.

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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)
55.9 million	31.8 million	4.1 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.

- WFP joined a technical mission with United Nations Development Programme from 3 to 7 April. The mission's purpose was to support the Cuban Social and Labor Observatory and other national experts in designing and implementing the multidimensional vulnerability index at the community level. In addition, they provided recommendations for the index's application at the household level.
- In April, WFP collaborated with a technical team from the Cuban government to conduct virtual exchanges, centered on social protection, vulnerability analysis and targeting strategies. This initiative drew upon experiences from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Discussions involved specialists and government representatives from the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Colombia, and Honduras, facilitating a shared understanding of these critical areas.

Challenges

- The socioeconomic crisis aggravated by the effects of climate change, the embargo and the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, especially on tourism and remittances, severely affected Cuba's economy, deepening its structural problems. Lack of foreign exchange, fuel shortages, electricity cuts and difficulties in accessing agricultural inputs are negatively impacting economic activities, including agricultural production, aggravating the scarcity of goods and services.
- Moreover, the monetary reform initiated in 2021 reduced food subsidies, pushing inflation higher than forecasted, which led to higher prices of basic goods and services and impacted households' vulnerability to food insecurity. Together with high international prices, this has caused a spike in inflation which directly affects the purchasing power of the population.

Donors

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