In Numbers

129 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 3.7 m six months (July - December) net funding requirements, representing 27 percent of total

144,539 people assisted* in JUNE 2023

*Preliminary numbers

Operational Context

Over the last 60 years, Cuba's comprehensive social protection programmes have 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 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 Development Goal (SDG) 2, 5 and 17. WFP has been working with Cuba since 1963.

Operational Updates

- On 5 June, WFP cooperating partners and representatives from six ministries met in Havana to improve partnerships and efficiency in implementing WFP grants and projects. The workshop focused on the main issues for implementing operations in the country, including delays in importing assets and goods. A proposal for improvements was drawn up.
- In June, WFP Cuba facilitated an exchange between a technical team from the Ministry of Domestic Trade and experts from WFP Regional Bureau Panama (RBP) to assess the country's logistical capacities. It has been agreed that the diagnosis will focus on the standardized family basket and a field mission from RBP is planned for September.

Partnership

- From 18 June to 5 July, ten officials from six Cuban ministries and two representatives from WFP Cuba visited government counterparts, academia and private sector representatives from the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras and Colombia as part of a South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) multi-country initiative. The objective was to exchange knowledge and experiences on social protection systems, targeting tools, registration, cash transfers and financing mechanisms. Over 100 officials from 12 institutions were involved and the Cuban delegation gained valuable insights through field visits. The initiative was finalized with a workshop in Panama, where the participants agreed on a roadmap for social protection processes based on the results of the SSTC exchanges.
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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55.9 m</td>
<td>33.5 m</td>
<td>3.7 m</td>
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**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:** Nutritiously 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.

**Monitoring**
- From 28 June to 1 July, a monitoring visit was conducted in the province of Pinar del Río to assess all warehouses and verify that the second distribution of rice, peas and vegetable oil as part of the emergency response to assist the most affected localities by Hurricane Ian was completed. In addition, the mission, which included representatives of the Ministry of Domestic Trade and WFP, verified the third food distribution start to health and education institutions and community canteens. They also verified food availability in warehouses in the province to continue the distribution until October.

**Emergency Preparedness**
- Between 8 and 13 June, heavy rains affected the eastern Cuba provinces of Granma, Las Tunas, Santiago de Cuba and Camagüey, causing the death of six people. Damages in the agricultural sector exceeded 11,400 hectares and high-demand crops such as cassava, sweet potatoes, corn and rice, within a context already affected by previous drought. Road and rail infrastructure was severely damaged. 89 km of national highways and 150 km of local roads have been affected.
- WFP field monitors were active throughout the emergency and its aftermath, gathering up-to-date information in each territory. They were in constant dialogue with the Government to help assess major humanitarian issues, especially food distribution and availability.

**Challenges**
- In June, representatives from the Government of Cuba expressed in different forums the high challenges the Cuban economy faces, especially regarding food production and availability. According to the Minister of the Food Industry, the main drivers are increasing international prices and climate-related events, especially drought. New economic actors set trends in prices and market availability. Changes in the legal framework for food production and marketing, such as establishing mini-industries and new marketing schemes for agricultural production have not yet positively impacted household access to food.

**Donors**
- Canada, Cuba, European Union (DG-ECHO), Germany, France, Cyprus, Korea (KOICA), Italy, Russia, Switzerland, Latter-day Saint Charities and Private Donors
- Additional support has been provided by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), United Nations Funds and agencies.