



WFP Cuba Country Brief July 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



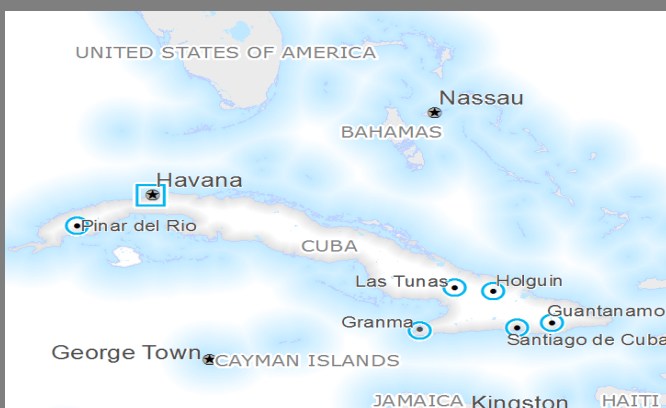
Exchange workshop to present the United Nations system sectoral strategies in support of preparedness, response and recuperation to earthquake in Santiago de Cuba
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Operational Context

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 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.

Since 1963, WFP has supported the government in its efforts to develop a new management model to make food-based social protection programmes more efficient and sustainable. WFP has also been a key partner in emergency response, assisting the most vulnerable populations and strengthening the capacity of Cuban institutions. WFP supports social safety nets for vulnerable groups, strengthens agricultural value chains and promotes improved resilience and disaster risk management.

These activities contribute to Sustainable Development Goals 2, 5 and 17.



Population: **11.2 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

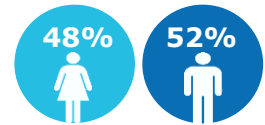
Data on pop.: **22.3 %** of the population is **60+** years old

In Numbers

0.562 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 3.5 m six months (August 2023 – January 2024) net funding requirements, representing 26 percent of total

11,026 people assisted*
in JULY 2023



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- From 3 to 21 July, the Colombian specialist firm Econometría visited Cuba to evaluate the current WFP country strategic plan (CSP). The team visited all provinces where WFP operates meeting more than 100 stakeholders including key national counterparts, beneficiaries and other United Nations agencies.
- On 17 July, 30 participants, including the gender focal points and smallholder farmers from the *Actúa Diferente* project funded by the Republic of Korea International Cooperation Agency, attended a model gender sensitization workshop in Jiguaní. Participants shared their expertise and materials that could be used for future workshops, taking into account various target groups to ensure effective implementation. During the workshop, a call for proposals for economic initiatives targeting women and youth empowerment was presented.
- On 31 July, the Supplier Roster Approval Committee for WFP Cuba met with a proposal to add ten new suppliers to the non-food items portfolio. Eight of these respond to the country office's efforts to include suppliers from the region with the potential to ship from Latin American and the Caribbean ports as required by some donors. Of the ten suppliers approved by the committee, updated documentation is available for endorsement.

Partnership

- Thanks to the no-cost extension approval of the Italian contribution to support nutrition-related activities, WFP will be able to continue the planned distribution of specialized nutritious food until the end of 2024. WFP coordinates with the Cuban National Institute of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiology and UNICEF for effective delivery and communication strategies in order to continue assisting vulnerable groups.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/cuba

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD) as of June 2023	Allocated Contributions (in USD) as of June 2023	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
55.9 m	35.5 m	3.5 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.

Monitoring

- On 24 July, WFP met with the Ministry of Domestic Trade to reconcile pre-positioned and distribution stocks. Guidelines for the management of food stocks held in warehouses - both pre-positioned and for distribution for consumption - and documentation to be handed over to WFP were updated.

Emergency Preparedness

- As part of WFP staff preparedness for the current cyclone season, the Regional Bureau's Emergency Preparedness and Response Officer, Mr. Carlos Cruz, conducted a mission from 18 to 21 July, which included a training and technical assistance programme to update emergency preparedness and response documents.
- The mission allowed for following up on the agreements reached at the earthquake workshop in Santiago de Cuba in February 2023. On 21 July, WFP participated to an exchange workshop in Santiago de Cuba with the National Civil Defence Staff and other national counterparts to present the United Nations system's sectoral strategies to support the national response to major earthquakes. The meeting was attended by 54 participants, including the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr Francisco Pichón.

Challenges

- During the presentation of the 2022 economic outlook, the Cuban Minister of the Economy stated that the fall in Gross Domestic Product is higher than the recovery. The most significant falls are reported in primary activities linked to production, such as agriculture, livestock, forestry, manufacturing, trade and electricity. The link between this scenario and inflation raises concerns about Cuban families' access to goods, including food.

Donors

Canada, Cyprus, Cuba, European Commission (DG ECHO), France, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea (the), Russian Federation (the), Switzerland, Latter-day Saint Charities and private donors.

Additional support has been provided by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, other United Nations Funds and agencies