



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Cuba

COUNTRY BRIEF

March 2026



**875,000** Hurricane Melissa-affected people assisted between October 2025 and February 2026



**USD 18.7 M** required in the next six months (April – September 2026)

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In February 2026, despite operational delays caused by power shortages, limited fuel, and reduced logistical capacity, WFP continued implementing activities.
- February marked the fourth month of the Hurricane Melissa response, with WFP reaching a cumulative 875,000 people across 26 municipalities since October 2025.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Cuba's long-standing policy of providing free and universal access to basic services has historically reduced poverty and hunger. People's right to food is enshrined in the constitution approved in 2019, which also sets the goal of achieving food security for all people, reinforced by the law on food sovereignty and food and nutrition security of 2022.
- Progress toward the 2030 Agenda has suffered significant setbacks due to the cumulative socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, compounded by limited access to international financial institutions and rising inflation. These challenges are further exacerbated by an ongoing energy crisis, declining access to basic services, and recurrent devastating natural hazards. Together, these factors have reduced the availability of — and economic access to — food for the population. As a result, household diets are often inadequate in energy intake and insufficiently healthy or diverse, contributing to growing concerns over micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity, particularly among nutritionally vulnerable groups.
- Present in the country since 1963, WFP has supported the Government of Cuba in developing a new management model to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of food-based social protection programmes. WFP has also been a key partner in emergency response, assisting the most vulnerable populations and strengthening the capacities of Cuban institutions. In addition, WFP promotes nutrition-sensitive local food systems and supports efforts to improve resilience and disaster risk management.

Reporting Period: February 2026

**Photo Caption & Credit:** WFP staff support food assistance in eastern Cuba as part of the Hurricane Melissa Response Plan. WFP Cuba.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### Emergency Preparedness and Response

- WFP sustained food assistance in eastern Cuba under the Hurricane Melissa Response Plan, reaching a cumulative 875,000 people since October, while adapting operations to mitigate disruptions caused by power outages, fuel shortages, and reduced logistical capacity.
- WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concluded the Ireland-funded Multi-Hazard Early Action project, convening a national closing workshop that strengthened the capacities of over 200 national and local stakeholders and six government institutions, and advanced concrete follow-up actions for the Anticipatory Action (AA) Hurricanes Plan and the proposed AA Drought Framework.

### Nutrition

- WFP advanced implementation of the NUTRIVIDA project — implemented in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and funded by Canada, which aims to improve the nutrition of children and pregnant and breastfeeding women — through the procurement of nutritious food from local suppliers, while progressing local consultations, coordination, and key operational steps.
- WFP developed a technical tool to calculate nutritional adequacy and requirements for three macronutrients, in line with the standards applied by social protection institutions.

### Locally Sourced School-Based Feeding Programme

- Following Spain's approval of financing under the Cuba–Spain Debt Swap Programme, the conditions were established to begin implementation, with WFP acting as the implementing partner and providing technical and operational support to the national school feeding programme.
- As part of this approved financing, WFP supported the upcoming 2026 implementation of commodity vouchers for the School Feeding Programme through training and sensitization workshops held from 1–7 February in Manatí, Gibara, Urbano Noris, Niceto Pérez, Guamá and Jiguaní. The workshops brought together local authorities, line

ministries, financial institutions and producer organizations, reaching 114 participants, and strengthened understanding of operational, financial and coordination procedures.

### Social Protection

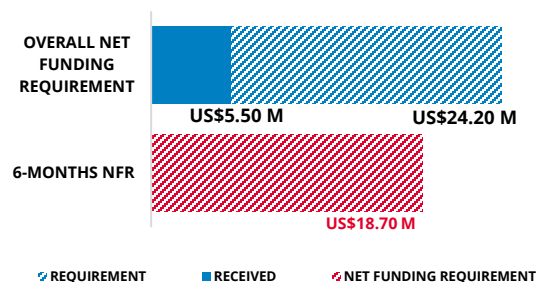
- In February, WFP provided targeted technical support to national institutions, with a focus on ongoing operational processes, and closely followed up on procurements under the PROSOCIAL project, which aims to strengthen social protection delivery and service quality for vulnerable populations.

### Resilience and Livelihood Support

- WFP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) convened, jointly with the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment (CIMA), a consultative meeting with more than 30 national counterparts to advance a joint proposal to the Loss and Damage Recovery Fund, aimed at strengthening resilience, and early recovery capacities in communities affected by climate-induced shocks and disasters.
- WFP, in partnership with the National Insurance Company, submitted the proposal “Bringing Innovation to Scale” to the Moonshots for Development (M4D) Open Innovation Challenge, seeking to pilot and scale innovative financing and risk-transfer solutions that enhance resilience and protection for vulnerable populations.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

### Country Strategic Plan (2021-2026)



### Donors CSP 2021-2026

Australia, Canada, China, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Cuba, European Union, Cuba, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Portugal, Republic of Cyprus, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the FAO, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the UNDP, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), donors to the Immediate Response Account, and private donors.