



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Cuba

COUNTRY BRIEF

April 2026



**900,000** Hurricane Melissa-affected people assisted between October 2025 and March 2026



**USD 16.1 M** required in the next six months (May – October 2026)

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In March 2026, despite operational delays caused by power shortages, limited fuel, and reduced logistical capacity, WFP continued implementing activities.
- From January to March, WFP provided food assistance to around 500,000 people.
- WFP sustained emergency food assistance in eastern Cuba under the Hurricane Melissa Response Plan, reaching a cumulative 900,000 people since October 2025, while adapting operations to power outages, fuel shortages, and reduced logistics capacity.

### 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.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### Emergency Preparedness and Response

- As coordinator of the Inter-Agency Technical Group on Emergency Preparedness and Response, WFP worked closely with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to lead the development of the Expanded Action Plan addressing the energy crisis and the impacts of Hurricane Melissa.
- WFP led the Inter-Agency Logistics Group to address fuel-related logistics constraints, establishing action protocols, procedures, and a roster of private-sector transport providers to ensure the movement of humanitarian cargo.

### Nutrition

- WFP conducted a technical review and identified alternative measures to enhance the nutritional adequacy of the WFP food basket.
- In response to the energy crisis, WFP took actions—in consultation with the Government of Canada—for the accelerated procurement of essential equipment and inputs under the NUTRIVIDA project, a nutrition initiative implemented with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) that aims to improve access to nutritious foods for children and pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- WFP undertook a technical recalibration of the methodology used to assess the nutritional value of rations under the School Feeding Programme, resulting in the adoption of the NUTVAL tool.

### Locally Sourced School-Based Feeding Programme

- WFP advanced data collection and analysis to assess the School Feeding Programme and inform the rollout of a cash-based transfer intervention (commodity-voucher) across 19 municipalities, within Cuba's challenging operating context. The initiative is expected to reach 74 schools, complement lunch rations for 12,677 students, and strengthen 42 local producer organizations through local procurement.

### Social Protection

- In March, WFP provided targeted technical assistance to national institutions and monitored procurement processes under the PROSOCIAL

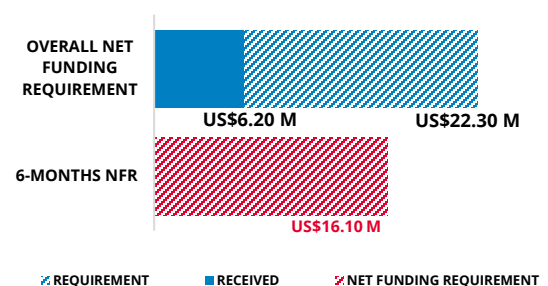
project, which supports the strengthening of the social protection system and the quality of services for vulnerable populations. In parallel, refrigeration equipment was distributed to social protection institutions in central Cuba to enhance food storage capacity and service continuity.

### Resilience and Livelihood Support

- In March, WFP continued strengthening resilient food systems by expanding local procurement and delivery of nutritious foods to the Social Protection System, reinforcing food security and nutrition outcomes through the PROSAN, *Actúa Diferente*, and NUTRIVIDA projects.
- WFP continued working with Cuba's Insurance Regulatory Authority to advance *Seguro+ Resiliente*, an initiative designed to strengthen climate risk insurance and financial protection mechanisms, enhancing the resilience of vulnerable populations and food systems to climate and economic shocks.
- In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Civil Defence, and other national institutions, WFP developed a proposal for the Loss and Damage Recovery Fund, aimed at supporting post-disaster recovery, restoring livelihoods and food systems, and strengthening institutional and community capacities to address climate-induced losses and damages.

## 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, Switzerland, 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.