



# WFP Cuba Country Brief

March 2018

## Operational Context

Over the last 50 years, Cuba's comprehensive social protection programmes have largely eradicated poverty and hunger. Although effective, these programmes mostly rely on food imports and strain the national budget. Recurrent natural shocks place further challenges to food security.

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 Goals 2, 5 and 17.

WFP has been working with Cuba since 1963.



Population: **11.2 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **67 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2015 Gender Global Indicator: **62 out of 188**

### Main Photo

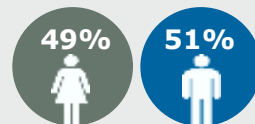
Credit: WFP/Marianela González  
Caption: WFP Cuba Country Director, Laura Melo, highlights the importance of gender equality during the Gender Learning Fair jointly organized with the Ministry of Agriculture and other national entities and UN agencies.

## In Numbers

**60 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 12.71m** total requirements

**77,500 people** assisted  
in February 2018



## Operational Updates

- WFP provides assistance to populations affected by Hurricane Irma in Central Cuba with rice, beans and vegetable oil. Distribution to the affected populations will continue in the following months. WFP is also supporting national and local authorities with mobile storage units, pallets and lightning equipment to strengthen food-handling capacities. In mid-March, WFP facilitated a field visit from the European Union to selected hurricane-affected municipalities, to assess progress of the emergency response and exchange views with counterparts and beneficiaries.
- WFP is working with national institutions on a behavioural change communication strategy on nutrition, to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and obesity. WFP facilitated an induction workshop with all actors that will participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of the strategy, including the ministries of Health and Education and the Faculty of Communications. The main capacity gaps were identified to inform further trainings.
- As part of its contribution to strengthen the bean value chain in six provinces, WFP supported selected cooperatives in the production of bio-fortified beans to be provided to children, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly beneficiaries of social safety nets. Bean variety demonstration plots were also set up in the province of Pinar del Rio, where 200 participants could test different varieties to determine the most suitable for each territory.
- WFP continues to strengthen the capacities of farmers and local institutions on comprehensive drought management. The pilot phase to make use of tools developed for drought management at municipal level is coming to an end. A workshop will be held next month in the five target provinces to exchange results and challenges related to the use of these tools.

Contact info: [wfp.havana@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.havana@wfp.org)  
Country Director: Laura Melo  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/cuba](http://www.wfp.org/countries/cuba)

WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan</b>		
12.71 m	5.81 m	-2.86 m
<b>Strategic Result 1:</b> Everyone has access to food		
<b>Strategic Outcome 1:</b> Primary school children and elderly people assisted by state institutions in targeted municipalities have access to adequate food through strengthened social protection programmes all year long. <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
0.66 m	0.48 m	-0.5 m
<b>Strategic Outcome 2:</b> Vulnerable people in shock-affected municipalities have stable access to basic food to meet their dietary requirements following a natural disaster. <i>Focus area: Crisis response</i>		
3.27 m	. m	0.03 m
<b>Strategic Result 2:</b> End malnutrition		
<b>Strategic Outcome 3:</b> Nutritionally vulnerable people in targeted municipalities are able to meet nutritional requirements through strengthened social protection programmes all year long. <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
1.81 m	0.89 m	-0.04 m
<b>Strategic Result 3:</b> Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes		
<b>Strategic Outcome 4:</b> Smallholder farmers and agricultural value chain stakeholders in targeted municipalities have enhanced capacities to contribute to sustainable food production systems for stable and high-quality food supply to social protection programmes by 2018. <i>Focus area: Root causes</i>		
4.48 m	3.86 m	-2.39 m
<b>Strategic Result 5:</b> Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs		
<b>Strategic Outcome 5:</b> Communities, technical institutions and local authorities in selected municipalities have strengthened disaster risk-management systems to reduce the impact of natural hazards on food security by 2018. <i>Focus area: Resilience building</i>		
1.07 m	0.09 m	0.03 m

## WFP Country Activities

<b>SO 1</b>	1 - Provide food assistance to vulnerable people benefiting from food-based social protection programmes and promote technical assistance and training of experts and decision makers engaged in these programmes.
<b>SO 2</b>	2 - Provide unconditional food assistance to shock-affected populations from prepositioned food stocks to ensure a swift delivery.
<b>SO 3</b>	3 - Provide specialized nutritious foods to vulnerable people and technical assistance and training to experts and decision makers of national and local institutions engaged in nutrition programmes.
<b>SO 4</b>	4 - Provide training, equipment and technical support to smallholder farmers, traders and other stakeholders of food value chains.
<b>SO 5</b>	5 - Provide training and technical assistance to decision makers and smallholder farmers to improve local risk-reduction management.

## Monitoring

- WFP has a system in place to continuously monitor the implementation of project activities to ensure accountability, transparency and measure operational performance. These tasks are conducted in close collaboration with national and local counterparts.
- WFP carried out all visits planned to monitor the storage of WFP food assistance, and 90 percent of the visits to monitor food distribution to final beneficiaries.

## Challenges

- Funding challenges are envisaged for the coming Country Strategic Plan.
- Complex and lengthy procurement procedures, both at international and local levels present an important bottleneck.

## South-South Cooperation

- The tripartite project funded by Germany and implemented by WFP to strengthen disaster management and response capacities in the Caribbean has entered into its second phase. An action plan – covering the period 2018-2020 – was approved by all Cuban institutions involved in the project. This includes preparatory activities for the organization of the first field mission to Haiti, scheduled for April 2018. The mission (including experts from the Cuban Civil Defence, the Institute of Meteorology and the Institute of Hydraulic Resources) will strengthen capacities of Haitian institutions in the department of Gonaïves in risk assessment, monitoring and contingency plans.

## Gender

- As part of the celebrations for the International Women's Day, WFP promoted the organization of the first learning fair on the implementation of the [Gender Strategy of the Agriculture System](#). The fair was a result of the strong collaboration among various actors, including the Ministry of Agriculture, United Nations agencies and Cuban associations that support gender equality in the agricultural sector. Women and men farmers and donors representatives also participated. This event led to the establishment of a working group, which will play a key role in bolstering coordination among national entities and other UN agencies to promote gender equality in the Agriculture System as part of the 2030 Agenda.

## Donors

Brazil, Canada, Central Emergency Response Fund, Cuba, Germany, European Union, Italy, private sector, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Switzerland.

