



# WFP Cuba Country Brief

April 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: In Guamá municipality (Santiago de Cuba), woman cooperative member shares with her colleagues the latest monthly climate bulletin produced by the local meteorological station. The improved linkages between early warning institutions and farmers is part of WFP's efforts to strengthen the comprehensive management of drought.

## In Numbers

**1,400 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 12.71m** total requirements

**645,000** people assisted

49%



51%



## Operational Updates

- WFP assists 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 also supported national and local authorities with mobile storage units, pallets and lightning equipment to strengthen food-handling capacities.
- WFP is working with national institutions on a behavioural change communication strategy on nutrition, to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and obesity. An Action Plan was approved by the various entities that will participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of the strategy (including staff from the ministries of Health and Education and the Faculty of Communications). A training workshop is being organised to strengthen their capacities in healthy food and nutrition, as well as to share good practices from other behavioural change communication strategies.
- As part of its contribution to strengthen the bean value chain in six provinces, WFP continues implementing its training programme for cooperatives and decision makers. A group of WFP beneficiaries participated in the International Seed Fair to present their experiences in using quality seeds to improve their yields.
- WFP continues to strengthen the capacities of farmers and local institutions on comprehensive drought management. Knowledge-sharing workshops were facilitated in each of the five eastern provinces to share the main results and lessons learned with the implementation of tools for comprehensive drought management. The participants – about 250 people, including local experts in disaster risk management, farmers and national counterparts – stressed the high relevance, effectiveness and timeliness of these tools to strengthen preparedness capacities to face drought.

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| WFP Country Strategy  |                                     |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Total Requirement<br>(in USD)   | Confirmed Contributions<br>(in USD) | Six Month<br>Net Funding<br>Requirements<br>(in USD) |
| <b>Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan</b>  |                                     |  |
| <b>12.71 m</b>  | <b>5.81 m</b>                       | <b>-2.86 m</b>                                       |
| <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.<br><i>Focus area: Root causes</i>  |                                     |  |
| <b>0.66 m</b>   | <b>0.48 m</b>                       | <b>-0.5 m</b>  |
| <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.<br><i>Focus area: Crisis response</i>  |                                     |  |
| <b>3.27 m</b>   | <b>. m</b>                          | <b>0.03 m</b>  |
| <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.<br><i>Focus area: Root causes</i>   |                                     |  |
| <b>1.81 m</b>   | <b>0.89 m</b>                       | <b>-0.04 m</b>                                       |
| <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.<br><i>Focus area: Root causes</i> |                                     |  |
| <b>4.48 m</b>   | <b>3.86 m</b>                       | <b>-2.39 m</b>                                       |
| <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.<br><i>Focus area: Resilience building</i>                                       |                                     |  |
| <b>1.07 m</b>   | <b>0.09 m</b>                       | <b>0.03 m</b>  |

## 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 over 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. The first field mission to Haiti (department of Gonaïves) took place in April 2018 involving representatives from the Cuban Civil Defence, the Institute of Meteorology and the Institute of Hydraulic Resources. The objective was to strengthen capacities of Haitian institutions in risk assessment, disaster monitoring and contingency plans. In addition, WFP Cuba is supporting the Dominican Republic to set up an emergency operation simulation centre to respond to high intensity hurricanes.

## Gender

- WFP continues replicating the gender sensitization workshops in selected cooperatives to reduce gender stereotypes (mainly “machismo”) and promote women’s empowerment. A workshop was recently facilitated in Las Tunas province with the participation of 50 farmers (48% women) from six different cooperatives.

## Donors

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

