



# WFP Cuba Country Brief

## Highlights

- WFP continues to provide food and technical assistance to the populations affected by Hurricane Irma in Central Cuba.
- WFP facilitated two high-level field visits by the European Union and the Director of the Sustainable Development Goal Fund.
- WFP continues to strengthen the capacities of local and national institutions, farmers and cooperatives to enhance social protection programmes.
- WFP promotes the reduction of gender stereotypes and women's empowerment among the supported cooperatives.

## WFP Assistance

Country Programme 200703	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
(Jan 2015-Dec 2017)	13.2 m	13.2 m (100%)	-

\*December 2017 – May 2018

WFP supports Cuban authorities to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of national food-based social protection programmes for vulnerable groups, strengthening agricultural value chains and promoting resilience.

**Support to food-based safety nets:** WFP supports national efforts to make food-based safety nets for vulnerable groups more sustainable and efficient. To strengthen the National Plan for the Prevention and Control of Anaemia, WFP focuses on iron supplementation, as well as food fortification and diversification for children aged 6 to 23 months and for pregnant or nursing women. WFP also complements other national food-related safety programmes targeted at schoolchildren, pregnant women and elderly people. Finally, WFP helps strengthening the national Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System by promoting studies for a greater understanding of the current food security and nutrition situation.

**Strengthen food value chains:** WFP is working in close collaboration with the Government to strengthen local agricultural value chains, with a focus on beans. It promotes a new management model that increases sustainability through linkages between agricultural production and food-based safety nets, by stimulating food production. This will contribute to a reliable, timely and stable food supply to social protection programmes and reduced food imports. Capacity development and augmentation is at the core of WFP's activities.

**Strengthen resilience and disaster risk management:** WFP supports the Government's response to climate-related hazards. It contributes to

the integration of food security vulnerability analysis into national early-warning systems for drought and hurricanes, and helps disseminate this information to national and local decision makers. Separately, an emergency contingency stock was established to enable WFP to provide assistance to 275,000 people for one month, in case of a natural disaster.

Emergency Food Assistance to Victims of Hurricane Irma in Cuba	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
IR-EMOP 201107 (Sep 2017-Dec 2017)	1.5 m	1.5 m (100%)

Following the impact of Hurricane Irma, WFP launched an immediate response emergency operation to support the Cuban authorities in preserving the food security and nutrition of 637,000 affected people (22 municipalities in the provinces of Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Matanzas, Sancti Spiritus and Villa Clara). Food assistance (rice, beans and vegetable oil) is being provided for a period of 20 days to the affected populations, including vulnerable groups (children under five, pregnant and lactating women, school-aged children, and the elderly).

Emergency Food Assistance to Victims of Hurricane Irma in Cuba	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
EMOP 201108 (Oct 2017-Feb 2018)	4.2 m	2.2 m (52%)

To complement its immediate response to Hurricane Irma, WFP has approved an emergency operation to continue food assistance to 637,000 affected people (including vulnerable groups) in the 22 impacted municipalities, as well as to strengthen the food storage and protection capacities of local institutions.

## In Numbers

**People assisted: 709,000**  
(October 2017 – emergency operation for Hurricane Irma and Country Programme)

**Main Photo** Credit: © Maikel Cordero Cisneros/Radio SG La Voz del Azucar, Urbano Noris municipality, Holguín province  
Caption: Gender sensitization workshop in the municipality of Urbano Noris (Holguin province), with actors of the bean value chain.



November 2017

## Operational Updates

- WFP continues to provide assistance to the populations affected by Hurricane Irma in Central Cuba (Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Matanzas, Sancti Spiritus and Villa Clara provinces). To date, WFP assisted 637,000 people with rice and beans, thanks to the foods stocks already prepositioned in the country for a potential disaster response. The distribution of vegetable oil is underway. WFP also supports national and local authorities with mobile storage units to strengthen food protection capacities.
- As part of its nutritional activities, WFP has facilitated community events in all targeted provinces to sensitize beneficiaries and partner institutions on the properties of micronutrient powders (MNPs) and their consumption. These events are known as Festivals of “Chispitas”, the name used for MNPs in Cuba.
- Under the efforts to strengthen the bean value chain in six provinces, WFP is facilitating the organization of “Bean Variety Fairs” to test different bean varieties and foster good practices amongst the value chain actors. A similar initiative focused on fresh vegetables was organized in the urban areas of Santiago de Cuba.
- WFP continues to strengthen the capacities of farmers and local institutions on comprehensive drought management. A pilot phase has begun to implement all the tools developed for drought management at the municipal level. An [official field visit](#) by a European Union delegation (the main donor for these activities) was organised to show operational progress and exchange with beneficiaries and authorities.
- WFP facilitated an [official visit by the Director of the SDG Fund](#) to the province of Santiago, where it is strengthening drought resilience in urban and peri-urban areas as part of a joint project with UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme.

## Challenges

- Funding challenges are faced for the coming Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan.
- As stressed by Cuba authorities, drought continues to represent a challenge to public water supply and agricultural production, particularly in the south-eastern provinces.

## Gender equality and women’s empowerment

- WFP continues to coordinate the replication of gender sensitization workshops – previously facilitated in four eastern provinces – at the municipal level. So far, 250 farmers from the provinces of Holguín, Granma and Las Tunas have been sensitized.
- On the occasion of the 16-day Orange campaign against violence, WFP Cuba is also promoting numerous initiatives, both at the national and local level.

Co



Over the last 50 years, Cuba’s comprehensive social protection programmes have largely eradicated hunger and poverty. In 2011, the Government of Cuba launched a process to update its economic model to improve efficiency, reduce costs and increase sustainability of social protection programmes. These efforts are guided by the Government’s commitment to ensure that no Cuban is left unprotected. In this process, food security was identified as a national priority.

In 2015, WFP launched its first [four-year Country Programme for Cuba](#), to support government efforts to strengthen its food security and nutrition.

WFP works in the five eastern provinces (Granma, Guantanamo, Holguin, Las Tunas and Santiago de Cuba), which have the lowest development rates and are prone to drought, torrential rains and occasional earthquakes. In addition, WFP works in the provinces of Pinar del Rio and Matanzas in western Cuba, which are very exposed to tropical cyclones with severe impacts on food security and nutrition.

All WFP operations in Cuba support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2 on achieving food security and nutrition. Activities are also aligned with WFP’s Strategic Objectives of promoting food security and nutrition, as well as resilience to climate disasters.

WFP has been present in Cuba since 1963.

Population: **11.2 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Life expectancy: **79 years**

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

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)