

WFP Cuba Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP finalised its emergency operation for the populations assisted by hurricane Matthew in eastern Cuba, benefitting 182,000 people.
- WFP is working with government counterparts to promote nutrition for vulnerable groups and support behavioral change and nutrition education in schools.
- WFP supports the strengthening of agricultural value chains by organizing service fairs to bring together producers and service providers.
- The mid-term evaluation of the Cuba country programme was concluded with the publication of the final report and management response.

WFP Assistance

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

*August – January 2018

WFP focuses on assisting 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. The Country Programme entails three interlinked strategic areas of work:

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.

The Country Programme values the empowerment of women as a major driver of change. Special attention is devoted to gender equality by promoting a greater involvement of women in decision-making processes related to nutrition and agricultural production, both at the national and local levels.

Emergency Food Assistance to Communities Affected by Hurricane Matthew in Cuba	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
EMOP 201034 (Oct 2016-Jul 2017)	4.1 m	2.4 m (58%)

In October 2016, WFP launched an [emergency operation](#) to support the Cuban authorities in preserving the food security and nutrition of 179,000 people affected by Hurricane Matthew (seven municipalities in the province of Guantanamo and one in the province of Holguin). Food assistance (rice and beans, vegetable oil, fortified cereal and micronutrient powders) is provided to the most vulnerable population groups, including those who have lost their livelihoods, children aged 12-23 months, as well as pregnant and nursing women. In addition, WFP will strengthen the Government's logistical capacities by providing technical assistance and basic equipment to ensure the rehabilitation of warehouses and other food storage facilities. This operation was finalised on 31 July 2017.

In Numbers

People assisted: over 121,000

(June 2017 – country programme and emergency operation)

Main
Photo

Credit: WFP/Marianela Gonzalez
Caption: Education activities organized by WFP in Guantanamo, for the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, 17 June

Operational Updates

- WFP finalised its emergency operation to support the populations affected by hurricane Matthew in eastern Cuba. 182,000 people benefitted from WFP food assistance in eight municipalities. WFP also strengthened institutional food storage capacities with mobile storage units, lightning equipment, kitchen tools and warehouse scrubbing machines.
- The mid-term evaluation of the Food and Nutritional Education Strategy for Schools – launched by the Ministry of Education in June 2016 with WFP’s support – was concluded. As confirmed by all participants – 230 employees from the education sectors (90% women)–, the implementation of this strategy enhanced the coordination between the Ministries of Education and Health, and fostered a greater participation of communities and families in disseminating good nutritional practices.
- WFP advanced working with the Ministry of Health on the Behavioural Change Communication campaign on nutrition. A national team was formed and will conduct a situation analysis regarding: i) the current situation of anaemia and obesity among adolescents, children and pregnant mothers in Cuba; and ii) their nutritional habits.
- WFP continued to strengthen the bean value chains in six provinces. Two service fairs were facilitated in Las Tunas province – as part of a cycle started last month in Granma province –, bringing together service providers and producers. These events fostered an exchange between producers and service providers, where the first could learn about the services available in their territories and how to access to them.
- WFP is systematizing the pilot phase of the process to strengthen drought early-warning systems in eastern Cuba, and the use of food security and nutrition vulnerability indicators in drought risk assessments.

Challenges

- Nutritional support activities under the 2018 transitional interim country strategic plan face funding shortages – mainly for pregnant and lactating women- that need to be covered as soon as possible.
- As stressed by Cuba authorities, drought continues to represent a challenge to public water supply and agricultural production in the whole country, particularly in the central and eastern provinces.

Gender equality and women’s empowerment

- WFP facilitated gender sensitization workshops targeted at 120 farmers and their relatives in Granma, Guantanamo, Holguin and Las Tunas provinces. These workshops will be replicated by local teams in all cooperatives supported by WFP.

Mid-term evaluation of the country programme

- The mid-term evaluation of the country programme was concluded with the final evaluation report and the country office’s management response. Both documents were published on wfp.org.

Country Background & Strategy



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**

Donors

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

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