



WFP Cuba Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP has launched an emergency operation to complement the immediate response launched the previous month in assistance to the populations affected by Hurricane Irma in Central Cuba.
- WFP is providing technical assistance to government counterparts to strengthen food security and nutrition for vulnerable groups.
- WFP supports the strengthening of agricultural value chains by organizing service fairs to bring together producers and service providers.
- WFP promotes the reduction of gender stereotypes and women's empowerment among the supported cooperatives.

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%)	47,200

*November 2017 – April 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	54,300

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 635,000 affected people (22 municipalities in the provinces of Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Matanzas, Sancti Spíritus 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 635,000 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: 635,000

(October 2017 - immediate response emergency operation for Hurricane Irma)

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Orestes Sarmiento Díaz
Caption: Country Office field mission to monitor the storage, handling and distribution of food donated by WFP to the hurricane-affected populations.



October 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP launched an emergency operation to continue assisting the populations affected by Hurricane Irma in Central Cuba (Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila, Matanzas, Sancti Spíritus and Villa Clara provinces). This operation complements the immediate response launched soon after the hurricane. To date, WFP assisted 635,000 people with rice and beans, thanks to the food stocks already prepositioned in the country for a potential disaster response. WFP is also supporting national and local authorities with mobile storage units to strengthen food protection capacities.
- WFP supports the Government in strengthening its food-based social safety nets. Between 17–19 October, WFP facilitated a training session for national authorities with an expert from WFP Regional Bureau. The aim was to share tools to enhance the targeting of social protection programmes for vulnerable groups.
- WFP continues to strengthen the bean value chain in six provinces. Given the positive results of the capacity development workshops on the self-assessment tool for cooperatives – held in Guantanamo province last June – WFP has replicated these events in all municipalities of Granma, Holguin and Las Tunas provinces. WFP also met with representatives of the project “Biomás” – funded by the Swiss Cooperation – in Santiago de Cuba to exchange experiences on drought-resilient agricultural practices. The United Nations Development Programme also took part in the exchange.
- WFP organized a series of workshops in each of the five eastern provinces to strengthen the capacities of 250 people – including farmers and representatives of local institutions – on comprehensive drought management. The participants were trained on the use of various tools (developed by national/local institutions with WFP’s support) that will be piloted at the municipal level in the following months. A module on gender equality in drought management also formed part of the training.

Challenges

- The Country Office is facing funding challenges for the emergency response operation to Hurricane Irma and for the coming Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan.
- As stressed by Cuban 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, 200 farmers from the provinces of Holguín, Granma and Las Tunas have been sensitized.

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, Germany, European Union, Italy, private sector, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Switzerland.

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