



WFP Cuba Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP is providing food and logistical assistance to the populations affected by Hurricane Matthew in eastern Cuba.
- WFP supports the strengthening of drought-related early warning systems at provincial level and the use of vulnerability indicators for food security and nutrition in drought risk assessments.
- WFP continues strengthening the bean value-chain stakeholders through trainings, technical support and equipment.
- An independent team is conducting an evaluation of WFP Cuba Country Programme.

WFP Assistance

Country Programme 200703 (Jan 2015-Dec 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	17.5 m	13.3 m (76%)	-

*May - October 2017

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 is supporting 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 help disseminate this information to national and local decision makers. Separately, an emergency contingency stock was established to enable WFP, in case of a natural disaster, to provide assistance to nearly 275,000 people for one month.

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 EMOP 201034 (Oct 2016-Apr 2017)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	2 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	4.1 m	2.4 m (58%)	0.5 m

*March - April 2017

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 being 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.

In Numbers

People assisted: nearly 94,000
(March 2017 - country programme)

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Yordanka Fonseca
Caption: Technical assistance provided to bean value-chain stakeholders in the province of Las Tunas.



April 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP continues assisting the populations affected by hurricane Matthew in eastern Cuba through distribution of rice, beans and vegetable oil. WFP is also strengthening food storage capacities in the hardest-hit municipalities with mobile storage units and lightning equipment. WFP Country Director, Laura Melo, visited the worst affected municipalities to assess progress.
- WFP is supporting the Government in strengthening its food-based social safety nets. This includes the promotion of studies to assess trends in the population's dietary habits. Data quality control for the [National Food Consumption Survey](#) is underway.
- As part of the process to strengthen the bean value-chain in six provinces, WFP facilitated workshops at each of the bean variety fairs organized in seven municipalities in four provinces (Granma, Holguin and Las Tunas). All participants – including farmers and representatives from social safety net programmes – rated different bean commercial varieties according to their quality, taste and performance.
- WFP advanced strengthening drought resilience in the urban and peri-urban areas of Santiago de Cuba to ensure stable supply of fresh food to social protection programmes. A knowledge-sharing workshop on resilient agricultural practices was facilitated in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, which is implementing the Environmental Foundations for Local Food Sustainability project (BASAL).
- WFP finalized the pilot phase of the drought early warning system – implemented in 20 target municipalities from November 2016 to April 2017. The objective is to strengthen provincial drought early-warning systems in eastern Cuba, and to use food security and nutrition vulnerability indicators in drought risk assessments. WFP hosted three workshops in the provinces of Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba and Las Tunas to collect lessons learned with the participation of about 150 stakeholders.

Challenges

- WFP has a funding gap of 1.7 million for its response to Hurricane Matthew.
- 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:

- WFP facilitated a workshop to validate the results of the gender gaps assessment in the municipality of Union de Reyes. About 30 participants – including cooperatives' presidents, non-governmental organizations and the academia – took part in the discussions and committed to a set of actions aimed at fostering women's empowerment in their municipality.

Mid-Term Evaluation of the Cuba Country Programme:

- The independent team conducting the mid-term evaluation of the WFP Cuba Country Programme submitted a draft evaluation report that is currently under review by WFP.

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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