



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)*
	18.6 m	13.5 m (75%)	-

*March - August 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

On 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: over 88,000
(January 2017 - Country Programme)

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



February 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP continues assisting the populations affected by hurricane Matthew in eastern Cuba through distribution of rice and beans. WFP is also strengthening food storage capacities in the two hardest-hit municipalities with mobile storage units and lightning.
- 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 collection for the [National Food Consumption Survey](#) is underway in all targeted provinces. To date, over 80 percent of the planned interviews were carried out.
- As part of the process to strengthen the bean value-chain in six provinces, WFP started implementing its 2017 training programme for key value chain actors in five provinces (Granma, Guantanamo, Holguin, Las Tunas and Matanzas). The programme entails strategic thematic areas such as production technologies, management skills and cooperativism, institutional framework and gender. WFP also distributed 1,000 manuals on sustainable bean production to farmers and cooperatives in all target provinces. In addition, a high-level meeting was organised in early February with the Vice-Minister of Agriculture to share operational results and explore further institutional support needed for programme implementation.
- As part of the EU-funded drought resilience activities, WFP hosted a workshop in all five eastern provinces focusing on communication tools for decision-making. This process gave continuation to the workshop launched last month at the national level. WFP is also following up on the drought early warning system pilot phase, which is being implemented in 20 target municipalities from November 2016 to April 2017, under the supervision of national institutions. 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.

Challenges

- WFP urgently needs 0.5 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 central provinces.

Mid-Term Evaluation of the Cuba Country Programme:

- WFP provided support to the independent team that is conducting a mid-term evaluation of the WFP Cuba Country Programme. The team flew to Cuba in late February to interview WFP's partners and government counterparts, before embarking on a field mission that will be finalised in mid-March. At the end of the visit, the evaluation team will share the preliminary findings with WFP and its government counterparts.

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.