

SAVING  
LIVES  
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LIVES



# Supporting LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS to strengthen SOCIAL SAFETY NETS in Cuba

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WFP CUBA  
Funding proposal



World Food  
Programme

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The World Food Programme (WFP) supports Cuban communities, authorities and institutions **to contribute to the food security and nutrition of the population**, with emphasis on the most vulnerable.

Since the beginning of its work in Cuba in 1963, WFP has implemented 21 emergency operations and 8 development projects, accounting for more than **302 million dollars**.

**Main lines of work of WFP in Cuba:**

- **Provide food assistance to nutritionally vulnerable groups** – children, pregnant and lactating women, elderly people – through social safety nets (day-care centres, primary schools, maternity and elderly homes, community canteens);
- **Strengthen agricultural value chains and their linkages with social safety nets** for the stable supply of nutritious and quality food;
- **Strengthen the resilience of communities, disaster risk management and adaptation capacities to climate change** at the local level.



## 1. SUMMARY

The project aims to support the **Food Self-Supply Municipal Programme** (PAM for its acronym in Spanish)<sup>1</sup>, as a platform to contribute to food and nutrition security at the local level. This will



reinforce the use of local resources to ensure a more diversified, nutritious and quality diet for the population. It will also **strengthen the links between agricultural cooperatives and social safety nets – especially the school feeding programme – and to enhance the resilience of local food systems to natural disasters and climate change** in selected municipalities. Through this project, WFP aims to enhance the efficiency, sustainability and nutritional orientation of the most relevant agricultural value chains in each territory as a main source of food supply for the social safety nets programmes, as well as to strengthen capacities at the national and local level.

## 2. CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

Cuba is known for its social safety nets, which include programmes for vulnerable groups and a highly subsidized monthly food basket for the entire population. However, diet diversity is poor due to the limited and unstable availability of nutritious foods, and inadequate eating habits.



In this context, a number of municipalities in the eastern region face challenges in terms of food security and nutrition, given their exposure to natural disasters and the impact of climate change, as well as their dependence on imported food (either from other provinces or from the international market). Nevertheless, there are several opportunities at the local level that could revert the current situation.

In particular, the national school feeding programme is designed to support boarding and half-boarding schools, whose mothers are employed. It does not include the “external” schoolchildren (70 percent of the total) whose mothers are unemployed and consequently have more limited access to food especially in rural areas.

<sup>1</sup> The PAM is a government programme aiming at boosting local production and reducing food imports.

Moreover, in rural areas the availability of and access to food is limited as compared to urban areas. Despite the unavailability of specific information on this population group, different researches show that children enrolled in day-care centres consume a better-quality diet as compared to those staying at home. Hence, the latter are at higher risk of suffering from nutritional deficiencies such as iron-deficiency anaemia. This same situation could be occurring with children in external primary schools. Institutional food assistance represents a protection factor, as well as a financial support for families.

The context presented above highlights the relevance of supporting the Government in assisting children in external primary schools through the school feeding programme.

Increasing the efficiency, sustainability and resilience of the country's social safety nets and their linkages with local production is a national priority that the World Food Programme (WFP) has been supporting throughout the past four years in eastern Cuba.

Based on the results and lessons learned from the previous operations, and capitalizing the local capacities and tools developed by other projects and programmes implemented by other agencies – such as UNDP, FAO and IFAD – WFP will continue strengthening food value chains to enhance their supply to social safety nets, mainly the school feeding programme.

As agreed with the Government, WFP's work will focus on strengthening the capacities of smallholder farmers in the most relevant agricultural value chains in each municipality, contributing to enhance the linkages with social safety nets with a view to increasing food availability and promoting the consumption of a diverse and nutritious diet by vulnerable groups assisted through these safety nets (i.e. children in day care centres, primary schoolchildren, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly).





## 3. DESCRIPTION

### 3.1 Objective

Strengthen the capacities and the resilience of local food systems to natural disasters and climate change to ensure a stable supply of nutritious, diversified and quality food to social safety nets, mainly the school feeding programme.

### 3.2 Components

- a) Provide technical assistance to local and national decision makers on management models that promote greater linkages between municipal agricultural production and local development, and with government food and nutrition-based programmes, by facilitating high-level and technical exchanges between Cuban and institutions from other countries.
- b) Provide training, equipment and technology to smallholder farmers, cooperatives and other relevant agricultural value-chain stakeholders in each municipality to increase food availability for social safety nets, considering nutrition criteria.
- c) Strengthen smallholder's marketing systems and key community stakeholders to increase linkages between local production and social safety nets, as well as with input and service providers.
- d) Strengthen local risk management – with emphasis on the knowledge and reduction of the main vulnerabilities, and on early warning systems – starting from enhancing the capacities of national and local decision-makers and implementers to respond to climate change and natural disasters, as well as to monitor food security and nutrition.
- e) Provide food assistance to vulnerable groups through social safety nets with emphasis on the school feeding programme (including children in external primary schools of rural areas);
- f) Strengthen food processing capacities in social safety nets through the provision of equipment and tools, as well as technical assistance and training to experts and decision makers involved in the management of these safety nets.

### 3.3 Geographical targeting

The proposed activities will focus on ten municipalities in the eastern region of Cuba, which are among the most exposed to the impact of natural disasters and climate change. The targeted municipalities will be defined with the Government, based on the results of the vulnerability analysis of local production to drought conducted in 2017 during the first phase of the DIPECHO project funded by the European Union.



For selecting the target municipalities, the following criteria will be considered: a) that local production is insufficient to achieve the results of the Food Self-Supply Municipal Programme<sup>2</sup>; and b) that the municipalities are not supported by other projects.

### 3.4 Expected results

- R1.** The activities that strengthened the linkages between local food production and social safety nets have generated evidence of their contribution to local development, as well as food security and nutrition;
- R2.** Farmers and other key agricultural value chains stakeholders have improved their capacities and resilience to ensure a stable supply of safe, quality and nutritious foods to the social safety nets, mainly to the school feeding programme;
- R3.** Vulnerable groups have received food assistance and messages on healthy diet and nutrition that contribute to meet their recommended dietary allowance (RDA) of energy and nutrients;
- R4.** Local institutions engaged in food and nutritional programmes have enhanced their capacities to deliver food to beneficiaries, ensuring quality standards, effectiveness and sustainability of the social safety nets;
- R5.** Communities, technical institutions, as well as national and local authorities have strengthened risk management and preparedness capacities to respond to natural disasters, to reduce their negative impact on food security and nutrition;
- R6.** Promoted knowledge sharing and South-South cooperation.

### 3.5 Implementation strategy and sustainability

In Cuba, all activities are implemented jointly with national and local government counterparts: Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG), Ministry of Education (MINED), Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP), Ministry of Environment (CITMA), Ministry of Domestic Trade (MINCIN), Ministry of External Trade and Foreign Investment (MINCEX), Civil Defence and Local Governments.

WFP will also promote synergies with other United Nations agencies to maximize results and avoid duplications, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United

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<sup>2</sup> The Food Self-Supply Municipal Programme aims at increasing local food production to ensure the availability of a 30-pound food ration (comprising root tubers, vegetables, fruit and grains) per capita. This ration is additional to that provided under the monthly food ration for the entire population.



Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO). In addition, partnerships will be promoted with projects funded by the European Union to enhance the resilience of food systems at the local level.

Emphasis will also be placed on identifying opportunities for South-South Cooperation activities in the region.

## 4. TOTAL ESTIMATED BUDGET

The total estimated budget of this proposal amounts to **USD 5,000,000**, mainly for:

<b>1-Capacity Strengthening</b>		<b>3,920,000</b>
<i>Provide technical assistance to local and national decision makers on management by facilitating high-level and technical exchanges</i>	100,000	
<i>Provide training, equipment and technology to smallholder farmers, cooperatives and other relevant agricultural value-chain stakeholders</i>	2,500,000	
<i>Strengthen smallholder's marketing systems and key community stakeholders</i>	100,000	
<i>Strengthen local risk management</i>	520,000	
<i>Provide food assistance to vulnerable groups through social safety nets and strengthen their food processing capacities</i>	600,000	
<i>Monitoring and evaluation</i>	50,000	
<i>Communication and visibility</i>	50,000	
<b>2- Implementation Cost</b>		<b>339,741</b>
<b>3- Direct Support Costs</b>		<b>435,095</b>
<b>Total Direct Cost (1+2+3)</b>		<b>4,694,836</b>
<b>Indirect Support Costs = 6.5%</b>		<b>305,164</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,000,000</b>



## United for strengthening social safety nets in Cuba

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