



Country card

Cuba





HI Team and intervention areas

HI Cuba, in the Latin America Regional Program, has 8 staff members.

Cuba





General data of the country

a. General Data

DATA	Cuba	Haiti	Belgium
Population	11.3	11.5	11.5
IHDI	/	0.303	0.859
Gender-related Development Index	0.943	0.875	0.974
Maternal mortality	38	732	3
GINI Index	/	41.1	27.2
Population within UNHCR mandate	220	/	105.050
INFORM index	2.4	6.3	1.7
Fragile State Index	60.1	99.7	31.9
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	48.7	5.8	100
Net official development assistance received (millions)	499.66	726.46	0

b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Ban Treaty Mine	Non-ratified
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Ratified on 06/04/2016
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratified on 06/09/2007



c. Geopolitical analysis

The Republic of Cuba, the biggest country in the Caribbean, developed as a socialist country after the end of the revolution in 1959. After the fall of the Soviet Union in the early 90s, the country, whose economy was strongly tied to the USSR, entered a long period of economic challenges (*periodo especial*), that ended also through a progressive diversification of the national economy.

However, while many countries (including the whole EU) have recently revised their position against Cuba and fostered economic, cultural and political exchanges, the embargo imposed on the country by the USA is still heavily affecting not only the growth capacity of the island, but life of all the Cubans.

Cuba is currently experiencing the most severe economic crisis since the "special period" following the collapse of the USSR in the early 1990s. The Cuban economy has been hit hard by the tightening of the US embargo and sanctions since 2018, as well as by the difficulties of its main ally in the region, Venezuela, while its growth had already slowed down since 2013. Despite a limited human toll, the COVID-19 crisis has only worsened an already precarious situation by depriving the country of one of its main resources, tourism. Cuban GDP fell by 11% in 2020, and then raised to 0,4% in 2021.

Since 1 January 2021 and monetary unification, the country has experienced galloping inflation, increased difficulties for the population to obtain basic necessities and, as a result, timid demonstrations by civil society - a growing dissatisfaction among the population. A year after the large demonstrations of July 11th 2021, the streets of Havana are quiet, but the root causes of the protests persist: long food lines, electricity cuts, and fuel and medicine in short supply. As the economic conditions worsen, over 140,000 Cubans have left the island between October 2021 and June 2022, the highest numbers in decades.



Summary of HI presence in the country

Present in Cuba since 1998 and always working in strong partnership with the 3 local disabled people organisations (ANCI, ACLIFIM and ANSOC), HI has initially supported prosthesis and orthosis production and community based rehabilitation (CBR). In time, attention has shifted to support to civil society and inclusive education, sided by emergency response to hurricanes.

Today, the trust and recognition gained throughout the years, together with the lively interaction with the disabled people organisations, has brought HI to focus on socioeconomic inclusion of persons with disability. Meanwhile, the program is embodying the nexus through its action in Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, implemented in Cuba and, more recently, through support to partners in Dominican Republic. In this framework, the program has responded to the emergency created by the F4 tornado which hit La Habana in January 2019.



Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships.



Project title & main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Project start and end date	Donors who finance the project
<p>Reinforcement of a strategy of labour inclusion for people with disabilities through the strengthening of associations in three municipalities in the province of Granma, Cuba</p> <p>Economic Inclusion, Accessibility of the environment & Information & Communication Technologies, Inclusive Governance, Social development and Social Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and training • Support for the development of economic initiatives • Adaptation of jobs • Improvement of tools and working conditions • Policies strengthening 	<p>Beneficiaries with disabilities: 400 Activists: 200 Social workers: 114</p>	<p>Civil Society Organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asociación de Cubanos con Limitades Fisicas Motores • Asociacion Nacional de Ciegos • Asociacion Nacional de Sordos de Cuba. • Federation of Cuban Women <p>Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerio Salud Publica • Ministerio de Educacion • Ministerio del Trabajo y Seguridad Social • Ministerio Comercio Exterior y Inversión Extranjera 	<p>Granma province, municipalities of Bayamo, Manzanillo and Bartolomé Maso</p>	<p>2020.03 – 2022.12</p>	<p>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation</p>
<p>Inclusive Pinar del Río - Economic inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities and their families, with emphasis on women and youth, in inclusive municipalities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Personalized Support • Self-employment kits • Awareness and Training • Counseling to Employers • Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 449 persons with disabilities (223 women and 226 men) and their family members • 3 special schools • 2 technical schools 	<p>Civil Society Organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asociación de Cubanos con Limitades Fisicas Motores • Asociacion Nacional de Ciegos • Asociacion Nacional de Sordos de Cuba • Federation of Cuban Women <p>Authorities:</p>	<p>Pinar del Río province, municipalities of Pinar del Río and Consolación del Sur</p>	<p>2022.02 – 2024.03</p>	<p>Québec Sans Frontière</p>



<p>Economic Inclusion, Inclusive Governance, Accessibility of the environment & Information and Communication Technologies, Social development and Social protection</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 community workshops • 2 counseling centers for women and their families • 60 activists • 80 enterprises and cooperatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerio Salud Publica • Ministerio de Educacion • Ministerio del Trabajo y Seguridad Social • Ministerio Comercio Exterior y Inversión Extranjera 			
<p>Cuenca Resiliente: a multi-hazard, inclusive Early Warning System in the basin of Cuyagateje river, favoring disaster preparedness in Cuba</p> <p>Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation</p>	<p>Improve technical capacities, knowledge and articulated and inclusive practices of monitoring, appreciation, warning and preparedness for protection against hydro-meteorological events, drought episodes and forest fires of authorities, technical staff, economic actors, and women and men from the 14 communities involved.</p>	<p>243 women and 240 men</p>	<p>CARE International Estado Mayor Nacional de la Defensa Civil Gobierno Provincial y Gobiernos Municipales Centro Provincial de Gestión para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres Centros Municipales de Gestión para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres. Delegación Provincial de Recursos Hidráulicos Centro Meteorológico Provincial Asociaciones cubanas de personas con discapacidad Delegación provincial y municipales de la Agricultura Cruz Roja Cubana</p>	<p>Province of Pinar del Río</p>	<p>06.2021 – 11.2023</p>	<p>ECHO (European Union Humanitarian Aid)</p>



Donors

<p>Québec sans frontières</p>  <p>QSF QUÉBEC SANS FRONTIÈRES UN ALLER-RETOUR DIFFÉRENT</p>	<p>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation</p>  <p>Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra</p>
<p>ECHO</p> 