



RESULTS REPORT 2023

United Nations
Development Programme
in Cuba



In summary:

US \$38 million

invested in Cuba's sustainable development.

The highest investment in 50 years

of **UNDP** cooperation with Cuba.

Gold seal for **gender work** in the **office and the cooperation program**.

• **106 socio-economic initiatives** contribute to boosting local development and **create employment opportunities**.

• **1 Multidimensional Vulnerability Index pilot study is conducted in 21 communities**.

• **105 entrepreneurs trained** to become part of the **territorial production network**.

• **35 private-public partnership** facilitate better jobs and services for **14 556 people**.

• **86.4%** of people **living with HIV** receive **ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY**.

• **23 legal counselling services** help to reduce **GENDER AND LEGAL BARRIERS**.

• **8** Unión Eléctrica brigades were **trained and equipped** to ensure the sustainability of autonomous photovoltaic systems in remote communities.

• **1 pilot route** of Havana's **public bike system** contributes to the **reduction of polluting emissions** and provides an alternative public transportation system.

• **90 000 people** ensured habitable conditions in homes and shelters after **Hurricane Ian**

• **The coverage of the hydrological surveillance system** was increased by **90%** in **Ciego de Avila** and **40%** in **Camagüey** to ensure the monitoring of water supply sources



**Fernando Hiraldo
del Castillo**

UNDP Resident
Representative
in Cuba

Consistent with national priorities, we will continue to serve as a gateway to knowledge, technologies and innovation. Likewise, we will continue to articulate efforts by integrating actors through alliances, anticipating demands for cooperation, and offering flexible, agile and context-adjusted responses.



FIFTY YEARS OF HONORING A COMMITMENT



In 2023, we reached the half-century milestone of cooperation with Cuba, since our permanent office was established in the country in 1973. It has been 50 years of coordinated work with institutions, social organizations, and individuals in support of national strategic priorities. A summary of the impact of these partnerships and our commitment to moving towards the horizon of sustainable development throughout these years is available on our website.

WHAT PROJECTS DID WE WORK ON IN CUBA IN 2023?

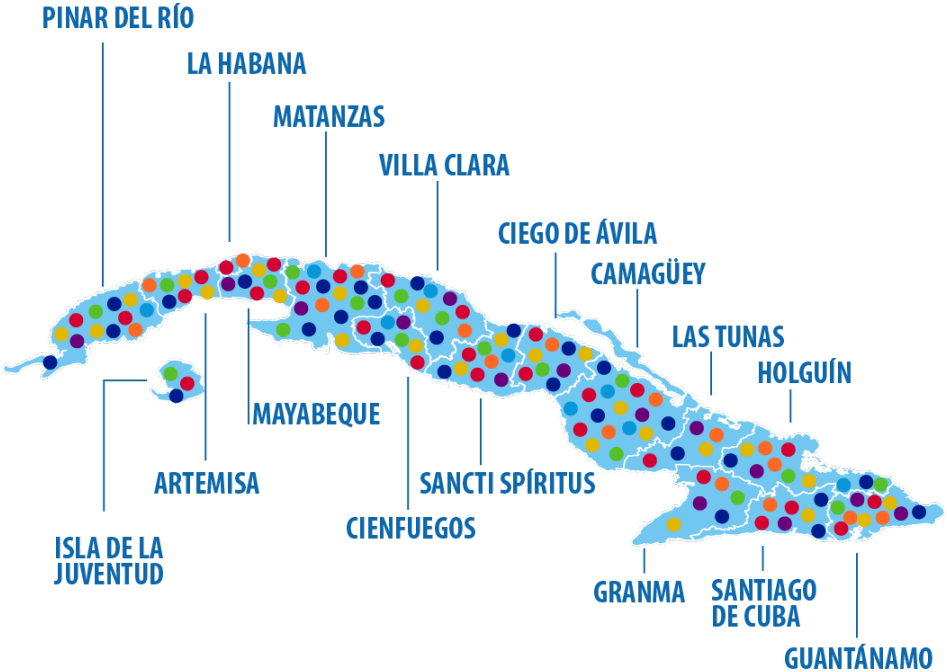
- AdaptHabana, adaptation of coastal zones
- Agrofrutales, local fruit chains
- Local Self-Supply Project for Sustainable and Healthy Food (ALASS)
- BIOFIN II
- Climate Finance Capacities in Cuba. Phase II
- CIFFRA, methodologies for program budgeting
- Ecoatlas
- Ecovalor
- Ozone depleting substances phase-out: HCFCs
- Youth Employment
- Environmental Finance
- Vocational Training for Youth and Workers (PROFET)
- Institutional Strengthening for Ozone Layer Protection (OTOZ XII)
- Local Renewable Energy Sources for Local Development (FRE local)
- Job creation and food self-sufficiency in response to COVID-19



- Comprehensive Drought and Flood Risk Management
- Sustainable Land Management
- Mi Costa
- MSMEs: enterprises contributing to sustainable, effective and inclusive local development
- Marti Municipality, sustainable development
- Neomobility, low carbon transport system
- Articulated Platform for Integrated Territorial Development (PADIT)
- PROBIOCUBA
- Local production of building materials in Guantanamo
- Coastal Resilience
- Energy resilience after Irma
- Urban Resilience (Old Havana)
- Urban Resilience (Diez de Octubre)
- Matanzas Supertanker Base Emergency Response
- Immediate response and early recovery after hurricane Ian
- Differentiated HIV Services and COVID-19 Response Support
- Engineering Solutions - Havana Seawall
- Thalassia
- Sustainable Tourism
- Marine Surveillance in Cuba

WHERE AND WITH WHOM ARE WE WORKING IN CUBA?

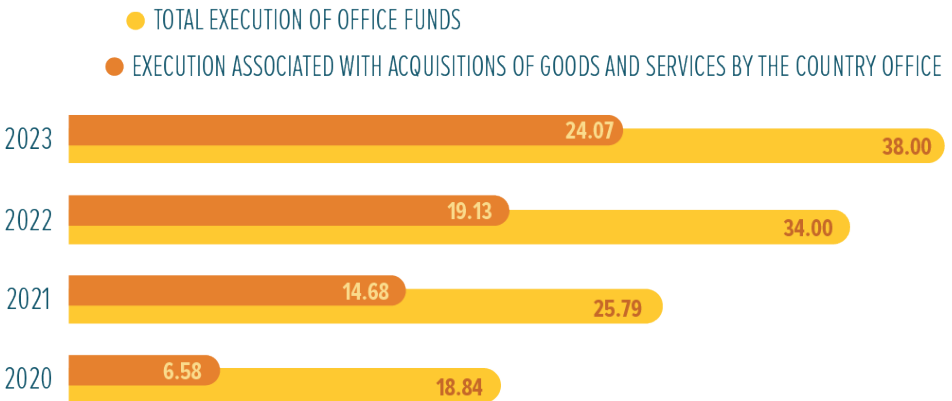
Explore this interactive map to find out where and with whom we work in the country.



KEY MILESTONES OF THE COUNTRY OFFICE'S WORK IN 2023

Another record of investment in Cuba's sustainable development

In recent years, Cuba has faced the intersection of different complex processes that affect its path towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In response to this challenge, for four consecutive years, UNDP Cuba, together with Cuban institutions, has increased the financial execution of funds entrusted to it by donors to implement projects aimed at supporting the country in overcoming its challenges.



- Growth in the Office's fund execution and acquisitions.

Increased funding for innovative and essential issues

In 2023, more than 30 million dollars were successfully allocated to projects addressing innovative and essential issues such as:

- sustainable tourism,
- sustainable use of *Thalassia testudinum*,
- the use of renewable energy sources at the local level,
- strengthening fruit production chains
- and the national response to HIV.



- We received a visit from the Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNDP, Michelle Muschett.

Gold Seal for gender work



UNDP Cuba's commitment and results in gender equality and women's empowerment have been recognized by UNDP's Global Gender Team with the Gold Seal, the highest certification that recognizes this paradigm as an essential part of the office's work.

UNDP Cuba was one of the first offices in the world to receive this recognition (2013-2014). Since then, the Gold Seal has been maintained in each new renewal cycle (2018 and 2023).

The re-certification of the Seal recognizes the meaningful integration of gender into the programmatic and operational management of the Office, which fosters an institutional culture that promotes equality and a zero-tolerance environment for discrimination, gender-based violence, sexist norms and stereotypes, as well as harassment and sexual exploitation in the workplace. At the same time, the certification highlights the positive results the country has achieved in its projects, with UNDP support, in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment.



Ivan Zverzhanovski

UNDP Deputy Resident
Representative in
Cuba.

“The exercise of articulation and innovation, of closing the gaps and facing the challenges, towards a horizon of sustainable development, is the commitment that UNDP plans to undertake with the country from now on, in partnership with national institutions and international partners who share the day-to-day efforts to achieve results”.

Financing for development

The country office has included financing for development as a cross-cutting issue on its agenda and is in dialogue with the main national actors: the Central Bank of Cuba (BCC), the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP) and the Ministry of Finance and Prices (MFP). During the year, the team’s programmatic capacity was strengthened through the implementation of a Sustainable Finance Academy.

In collaboration with the Cuban government, progress is being made to identify priority issues, including:

- the introduction of program-based budgeting;
- designing an enabling framework for environmental finance as an accelerator for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- green banking capacity building for key players throughout the national banking system;
- financing for productive transformation, especially for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs);
- access to international financial institutions (IFIs), such as the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), for the formulation and implementation of high-impact development projects;
- thematic bonds that contribute to the energy transition;
- and support for the formulation of a financing strategy for climate change mitigation in the transport sector.

Digital Transformation

The Workshop on Smart and Sustainable Cities, which brought together eighty participants and initiatives from all over the country, connected people, organizations, institutions and companies that contribute with different proposals to digitalize solutions to achieve the country’s sustainable development goals.

During this year, the programmatic capacity of the country Office team was enhanced with the development of training on the “En Forma Digital” tools, to expand the transformation processes in programs and projects.

The Neomobility project adopted digital tools for the Public Bicycle System and Mobility Management Center operations.

In 2023, progress was made in the development and implementation of digital systems that will improve the management, monitoring and evaluation of the National HIV Response by health institutions and key community organizations that provide health services at the community level.



Jessica León

UNDP Program
Coordinator in
Cuba

“I think there are still many challenges, but there are also many opportunities for young people to contribute to the development of the country. It is very rewarding for me to feel that I am helping to open doors to innovative solutions for development”.

CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CUBA | 2023

Learn more about these contributions in the expanded version of this report.



Main topics

- HIV prevention and diagnosis in primary health care and community settings.
- HIV treatment and care.
- Reducing gender and rights gaps.
- Information systems to strengthen HIV-related services.
- Pandemic preparedness.
- Quality youth employment training.

National partners

- Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP).
- Ministry of Education (MINED).

Donors

- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund),
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



Katia Cobarrubias

Health and
Development Project
Manager

“As part of our support to the National HIV Response, we are working to ensure that discriminatory norms and attitudes towards those most vulnerable to HIV are eliminated. We are proud of our work to enhance the capacity of civil society organizations that have traditionally been involved in the response to HIV in Cuba”.

In summary:

86,4 %

of people **living with HIV**

receive

ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY.

197

digitalizadores

para equipos

de **RAYOS X**

se incorporaron

a servicios de

atención de la salud.

3 digital information systems

are being installed to improve the quality of

HIV-related services.

23 legal counselling services

help to reduce

GENDER AND LEGAL BARRIERS.

30

municipalities

in the country have

POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP) SERVICES.

107 **curricula**

for vocational technical education specialties

have been updated to provide the

necessary

skills for better access to the

labor market.

In a context of significant challenges for the country to provide universal health care with the required quality, UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), has supported the primary health care level with training, technical assistance, medical supplies and the most innovative tools available for HIV care: recommended antiretroviral drugs, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), rapid tests for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and HIV self-testing, among others.

In addition, we continued to support differentiated HIV prevention and care services in 30 communities to provide comprehensive care to the entire population living with or at risk of HIV infection, with an increasingly person-centered approach that focuses on their needs and expectations.

Main topics

- Transfer of powers to municipal governments and developing the capacity and tools to assume new roles.
- Implementing local development initiatives designed and managed from the territories.
- Promoting new ways of measuring development for more effective decision-making.

National partners

- Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP),
- Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS),
- Ministry of Finance and Prices (MFP),
- Central Bank of Cuba (BCC),
- Ministry of Higher Education (MES),
- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment (MINCEX),
- National Economic Research Institute (INIE),
- National Institute of Land Use and Urban Planning (INOTU),
- Territorial and local governments,
- National academic and civil society institutions.

Donors

- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS),
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC),
- Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG Fund).

1 roadmap to decentralization is promoted to **encourage sustainable and** autonomous territorial development.

106 socio-economic initiatives contribute to boosting local development and **create employment opportunities.**

1 The Cuban Gender Equality Observatory was strengthened to improve statistics for decision-making and policy-making.

1 Multidimensional Vulnerability Index pilot study is conducted in **21 communities.**

In a context where the country is promoting decentralization to diversify development efforts, we continue to accompany this process and the territorial development policy through:

- supporting the transfer of powers to local governments;
- building capacity and providing new tools and methodologies for them to improve their ability to fulfill the new roles assigned;
- and developing economic initiatives based on public-private partnerships that contribute to local development strategies.

Main topics

Territorial value chains led by provincial and municipal governments:

- Agri-food chains
- New economic actors
- Access to finance.

Main partners

- Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG),
- Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP),
- Territorial and local governments,
- Central Bank of Cuba (BCC),
- Ministry of Higher Education (MES).

Donors

- European Union (EU),
- Government of Canada,
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).



Aymara Hernández

Program Officer,
Productive
Transformation

“Our goal is to develop a more efficient and sovereign agricultural sector. An opportunity in the farmers, a sector with the capacity to adopt new practices and a commitment to the future”.

In summary:

6 local governments

have been supported to lead the **decentralization** of the

small livestock chain.

105 entrepreneurs trained to **become** part of the **territorial production network.**

35 private-public partnership facilitate better jobs and services for **14 556** people.

10 provincial governments

received courses to **improve** the contribution of **MSMEs to territorial development.**

The agrifood sector is one of the priorities for the productive transformation of the country. Accordingly, we have supported the transfer of technology to develop participatory, sustainable and nutrition-sensitive local food systems.

In this way, we have promoted changes in the way food self-sufficiency is managed at the municipal level. Under the leadership of local governments, new territorial actors were engaged to strengthen the territorial chain strategy, adopt environmentally sustainable practices based on the use of rRenewable eEnergy sSources (RES), and promote social inclusion, with a focus on women's empowerment.

With this work, UNDP continued to accompany the country in the implementation of the Law on Food Sovereignty and Food and Nutritional Security and the Agriculture Gender Strategy, promoting the introduction of methodologies for community food diagnostics with a nutritional approach and the characterization of value chains; as well as supporting the implementation of positive actions in favor of the participation and empowerment of women.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Main topics

- Nature-based solutions in coastal communities and economic sectors.
- Financial solutions for sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Use of renewable energy sources (RES).
- Sustainable urban mobility.
- Urban resilience to disaster risks in large cities.
- Early response and recovery from the effects of extreme weather events.
- Disaster risk prevention and adaptation to adverse weather events.

Main partners

- Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA),
- Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG),
- National Institute of Water Resources (INRH),
- Ministry of Energy and Mines (MINEM),
- Ministry of Transport (MITRANS),
- Ministry of Tourism (MINTUR),
- Ministry of Finance and Prices (MFP),
- Central Bank of Cuba (BCC),
- Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP),
- National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI),
- Territorial Governments,
- Civil Defense National General Staff,
- Institute of Meteorology (INSMET),
- Environmental Agency (AMA),

Main partners

- National Institute and Provincial and Municipal Delegations of Territorial and Urban Planning,
- Ministry of Construction (MICONS),
- Provincial and Municipal Housing Departments,
- Office of the Historian of the City of Havana,
- Cuban Fire Brigade,
- Company of Specialized Construction Services (SECONS),
- National Association of the Cuban Red Cross,
- Ministry of Education (MINED),
- Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP).

Donors

- Global Environment Facility (GEF),
- Green Climate Fund (GCF),
- Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (MLIF),
- European Union (EU),
- European Union (EU) Euroclimate Programme,
- Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO),
- Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE),
- Government of Germany,
- Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID),
- Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG Fund),
- United Nations Emergency Relief Fund (CERF),
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC),
- The Russian Federation,
- French Development Agency (AFD),
- Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI).

In summary:

1 pilot route of Havana's public bike system contributes to the **reduction of polluting emissions** and provides an alternative public transportation system.

90 000 people ensured habitable conditions in homes and shelters after **Hurricane Ian**

24 mini-industries have been created in Guantánamo for the production of building materials using local resources to contribute to housing reconstruction.

8 Unión Eléctrica brigades were **trained and equipped** to ensure the sustainability of autonomous photovoltaic systems in remote communities.

The coverage of the hydrological surveillance system was increased by **90%** in Ciego de Avila and **40%** in Camagüey to ensure the monitoring of water supply sources.

180 entities trained to improve coastal ecosystem protection services.

500 key players in the national banking system were trained to apply **Green Banking principles** and mechanisms.

10 000 people protected through **improved diagnostic, design and construction services** in municipalities vulnerable to building collapse in Havana.

In 2023, UNDP maintained its active cooperation agenda to promote the inclusion of the environmental dimension into national, territorial and sectoral development strategies.

Strengthening the capacity of institutions, sectors, governments and communities with innovative management and planning tools to improve natural resources management, resilience to climate change and disaster risk management are issues that stand out in the cooperation agenda.

● FUTURE PROJECTS

During 2024, three new projects will be launched with the financial support of the European Union.

Although the implementation of these initiatives represents a challenge given the complexity of the economic context, it is also a great opportunity to contribute to strategic issues for the country's development.

• New economic actors:

A joint program with the French Development Agency that will support the design of the enabling framework for MSMEs and their contribution to territorial development strategies. It will provide technical assistance for the design of development policies.

Amount: \$9.6 million.

• Sustainable municipalities:

Joint program with AICS to contribute to the ecological transition towards sustainable municipalities. It contributes to the territorial development policy and accompanies the strengthening of capacities for the decentralization of powers and the promotion of municipal autonomy, in dialogue with the national authorities responsible for its implementation. It will also contribute to the country's productive transformation policy by promoting sustainable local agri-food value chains based on agro-ecological production, applying circular economy principles.

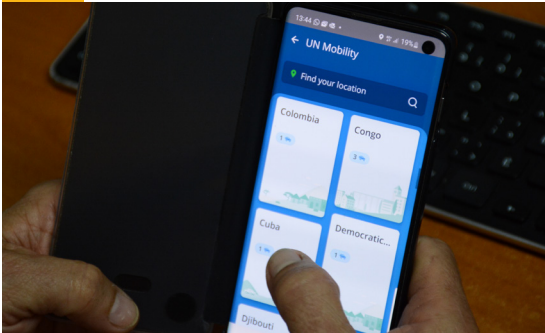
Amount: \$18.6 million.

• Biotechnology:

This project aims to strengthen the capacity of Cuba's biotechnology industry, a sector that has a significant impact on the national health system and drives the country's economic growth. It will be complemented by a loan from the Central American Bank for Economic Investment (CABEI).

Amount: \$6.6 million.

A MORE DIGITAL AND SUSTAINABLE OFFICE



UNDP Cuba implements digital management system for more efficient use of means of transportation



As of December 2023, UNDP Cuba has been implementing a digital transport management system to improve the efficiency in the use of means and resources for mobility.

Clean Energy at the United Nations Headquarters in Cuba.



Thirty-one percent of the electricity consumed by United Nations Headquarters in Cuba is generated by clean, renewable solar energy, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Office of Information Management and Technology and its Green Energy Team.



2023 IN STORIES: SELECTION OF ARTICLES ON JOINT EFFORTS TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



“Los micromachismos y violencias están en la vida cotidiana y hemos incorporado que son normales. Tenemos la responsabilidad de educar e impulsar el cambio”.

MASCULINITIES COMPLICIT IN GENDER EQUALITY AND NONVIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN CUBA



CLAY AND STONE BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN GUANTANAMO, CUBA



EXPERIENCE WITH ALASS



LIGHTS OF RESILIENCE: CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS INITIATIVES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN CUBA



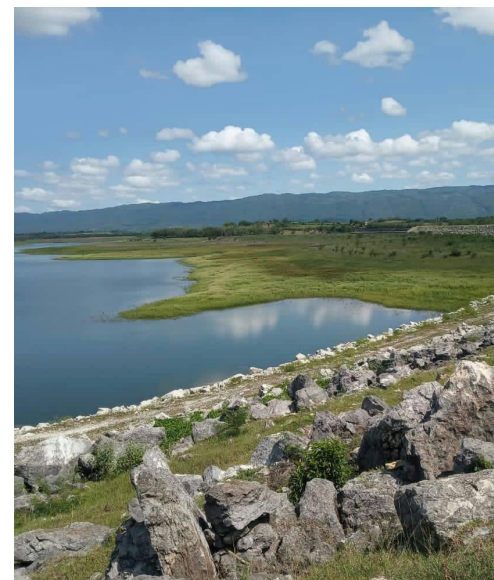
FOR A HEALTHY LIFE WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION: REDUCING GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS GAPS FOR A BETTER RESPONSE TO HIV



EARLY WARNINGS ARE BETTER: FOR GREATER RESILIENCE TO DROUGHTS AND FLOODS IN THE NORTH-CENTRAL REGION OF CUBA



BOOSTING THE DOMESTIC PRIVATE SECTOR IN LINE WITH CUBA'S STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES



WHEN WATER FAILS TO REACH THE LAND



VISITADOR@S BRINGS HEALTH SERVICES RELATED TO HIV AND OTHER STIS CLOSER TO PEOPLE'S HOMES



OUR VOICES, OUR COMMITMENT:

50 YEARS OF UNDP IN CUBA 



As part of the activities to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beginning of our cooperation with Cuba, we have gathered the voices of people from our team who help to dream and accompany the efforts towards sustainable development. Learn more about our agendas and our commitment through them.

UNDP has been collaborating with Cuba for half a century, through commitment and articulation of efforts for a better future for all people. In 2023, its work was marked by the will to accompany the country on the path to development in the face of the challenges it experiences.

In line with national priorities, UNDP has promoted access to knowledge and technologies, as well as innovation, in order to promote dialogues, alliances and offer solutions tailored to the national context, from a multidimensional vision of development and in an articulated manner with international cooperation partners, institutions and Cuban social organizations.



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