



**Executive Board of the
United Nations Development
Programme and of the
United Nations Population Fund**

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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Country programme document for Cuba

Proposed UNFPA assistance: \$5.5 million: \$3 million from regular resources and \$2.5 million through co-financing modalities and/or other, including regular, resources

Programme period: Five years (2008-2012)

Cycle of assistance: Seventh

Category per decision 2005/13: C

Proposed indicative assistance by core programme area (in millions of \$):

	Regular resources	Other	Total
Reproductive health	1.75	2.0	3.75
Population and development	0.75	0.4	1.15
Gender	0.25	0.1	0.35
Programme coordination and assistance	0.25	-	0.25
Total	3.00	2.5	5.50

I. Situation analysis

1. Cuba is a middle-income country. According to national reports, three out of eight Millennium Development Goals have been attained: universal primary education; gender equality and the empowerment of women; and the reduction of child mortality. Cuba expects to attain three other Millennium Development Goals by 2015: the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; improved maternal health; and halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other diseases.

2. Cuba faced an economic crisis in the mid-1990s. Contributing factors included the disruption of trade with former trading partners in Eastern Europe; the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba; and the exclusion of Cuba from international financial markets. The Cuban economy began to recover in 1994; in 2006, the gross domestic product (GDP) grew 12.5 per cent, indicating gradual and steady improvement. This figure includes the value of basic social services such as education and health, which are available free of charge.

3. Despite these achievements, the Government faces challenges in meeting the needs of the population and in achieving sustainable development. Although pronounced inequalities do not exist in the country, some provinces, mainly in the eastern region, require more support than others.

4. In 2006, the population was estimated at 11.24 million, of which 75 per cent live in urban areas. Cuba has reached an advanced stage of demographic transition. In the next two decades, 25 per cent of the population will be over 60 years of age. The Government considers ageing as its main demographic challenge.

5. During 2001-2003, life expectancy at birth was 77 years (approximately 75 years for males

and approximately 79 years for females). Both the infant mortality rate and the maternal mortality ratio have declined in recent decades. The adolescent fertility rate is one of the lowest in Latin America, having decreased from 60.2 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 in 1995 to 44.9 births in 2005. Nevertheless, adolescent fertility remains a concern.

6. The contraceptive prevalence rate in 2005 was 77.1 per cent among women of reproductive age. Abortion rates have declined. Nevertheless, some couples who wish to limit the size of their families do not use contraceptives on a regular basis, indicating a need for further counselling and awareness-creation efforts.

7. Although the overall incidence of sexually transmitted infections has declined, cases of HIV are growing. Even though most cases (80 per cent of the total) occur among males, an increase in the number of female cases has been observed in the last five years. The AIDS incidence rate began to decrease in 2002, primarily because people living with HIV have free access to antiretroviral drugs, which can delay the onset of AIDS. There is a need for initiatives that focus on preventing HIV.

8. In spite of the significant progress made in the areas of women's empowerment and gender equality, violence within the family is still a concern that needs to be addressed.

9. The United Nations is a major development partner in Cuba. Cuba fully endorses the UNFPA mandate, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Millennium Development Goals.

II. Past cooperation and lessons learned

10. Since 1974, UNFPA has implemented six country programmes in Cuba, providing more than \$26 million in assistance. The Executive Board approved the sixth country programme

(2004-2007) for a total of \$4 million. This programme focused on: (a) protecting and promoting sexual and reproductive rights; and (b) improving the effectiveness of national and local policies related to sexual and reproductive health, gender equity, and population and development. UNFPA and the Government implemented 12 interrelated projects on these issues from 2004-2007.

11. With regard to reproductive health, the sixth country programme: (a) helped to integrate a sexual and reproductive health approach with a gender perspective into the national health care system; (b) encouraged the media to promote responsible and healthy sexual and reproductive behaviour; (c) helped to improve sexual and reproductive health services; (d) broadened the availability of modern contraceptives, which contributed to a reduction in unwanted pregnancies and a decrease in abortion rates; and (e) helped to integrate sexual and reproductive health issues, with a gender perspective, into the educational system.

12. In the areas of population and development and gender, the programme helped to: (a) upgrade the capacities of professionals and institutions to process and analyse sociodemographic information and data for policies and programmes; and (b) conduct evidence-based research in reproductive health, population and development, including population ageing, and gender.

13. The programme complemented initiatives supported by United Nations partners, particularly the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and the World Health Organization, as well as initiatives of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

14. UNFPA cooperation has helped to build capacity and to develop best practice models that may benefit other countries in the region. Even though important results have been achieved with regard to population and development, reproductive health and gender issues, continued support is essential to achieve national goals in these areas and to prevent setbacks.

III. Proposed programme

15. UNFPA developed the proposed country programme through a participatory process involving the Government, national institutions and United Nations organizations. The programme reflects the priorities of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which takes into account challenges in five priority areas: (a) human development; (b) natural disasters and risks; (c) environment and energy; (d) health; and (e) food security. The country programme, which will contribute especially to priority areas (a) and (d), has been harmonized with the cycles of UNDP, UNICEF and the United Nations World Food Programme.

16. The programme will assist the Government in achieving development goals at national and local levels. It will seek to improve the quality of life for the population by strengthening local development processes, particularly in disadvantaged areas, and by improving the health status of the population. Interventions will focus on population and development, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS prevention.

17. UNFPA will promote South-South cooperation as a key strategy to build capacity and knowledge-sharing in the region. The programme will support technical assistance and partnerships in the areas of reproductive health, population and development, and gender.

Reproductive health component

18. The reproductive health component will have two outcomes: (a) access to high-quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services provided with a gender perspective; and (b) national mechanisms promote and provide HIV/AIDS prevention, counselling, testing and treatment. There are four outputs under this component.

19. Output 1: Increased institutional and technical capacity to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care to women and to adolescents of both sexes. To achieve this output, the programme will provide technical assistance to improve the capacity of service providers. In addition, the programme will strengthen institutional capacity in order to improve the application of norms and protocols on sexual and reproductive health, including HIV and AIDS. It will also promote the dissemination and use of the norms and protocols for training and other purposes.

20. Output 2: National health system strengthened to broaden the range of contraceptive options. UNFPA will work closely with the Government and with other public institutions to expand the number of contraceptive options available to the population, including adolescents. The programme will seek to make family planning commodities more accessible and acceptable to users, in an effort to reduce unwanted pregnancies and abortions.

21. Output 3: National educational and health systems strengthened to implement programmes on sex education and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS in all types and levels of schools. This will be achieved by strengthening information, education and communication on sexual and reproductive health. The programme will target

adolescents and young people and will expand educational activities on sexual and reproductive health in various types of schools, including teacher training institutes.

22. Output 4: Strengthened capacity of the national system for the prevention, diagnosis and surveillance of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, including the capacity to involve vulnerable groups in community interventions and to disseminate scientific and technical information on sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS. At the government level, this output will be achieved by strengthening the capacity of service providers. The programme will support processes related to condom acquisition, in order to increase the availability of condoms to prevent sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS. At the community level, the programme will help to empower vulnerable groups so they can participate in community initiatives related to HIV/AIDS prevention.

Population and development component

23. The population and development component has one outcome: population and development issues are integrated into the planning and implementation of development policies and programmes using a gender perspective. Two outputs will contribute to this outcome.

24. Output 1: Improved institutional and technical capacity at national, provincial and local levels to process, analyse and disseminate sociodemographic information, particularly information related to development, gender and reproductive health. To achieve this output, the programme will strengthen institutional capacities in order to integrate population and development, sexual and reproductive health, and gender into the planning and implementation of development policies and programmes.

25. Output 2: Improved institutional capacities to design policies at national, provincial and local levels that deal with the effects of the age structural transition, in particular, population ageing. To achieve this output, the programme will encourage evidence-based research on population issues and will train officials to analyse sociodemographic data on the age structural transition and its consequences.

Gender component

26. The expected outcome for the gender component is: a sociocultural environment conducive to gender equality. Two outputs will contribute to the achievement of this outcome.

27. Output 1: The skills of policymakers, officials and service providers are upgraded to mainstream gender and promote women's empowerment. To achieve this output, the programme will raise awareness among service providers and officials of the importance of integrating a gender perspective into all aspects of their work. It will also train professionals, technicians and officials to increase their knowledge of gender mainstreaming and other gender-related issues and concerns.

28. Output 2: Institutional capacities are strengthened to diagnose and prevent violence within the family. This output will be achieved by strengthening institutional mechanisms to empower women and to protect and promote their right to a life free from violence. Actions will include: (a) recognizing good practices and lessons learned on gender issues and preventing violence with the family; and (b) supporting actions that prevent and monitor violence within the family. The programme will support the design and implementation of an information system for the early detection of violence within the family, and will conduct community advocacy campaigns aimed at preventing violence against women and girls.

IV. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation

29. The national execution modality will be used to implement the programme. The UNFPA country office, in cooperation with national counterparts, will be responsible for overall programme monitoring and evaluation, which will be undertaken in accordance with established UNFPA guidelines and procedures. The UNFPA country office in Cuba will actively promote South-South cooperation.

30. The programme will employ a results-based management methodology, with monitoring and evaluation based on the UNDAF monitoring and evaluation plan. The Government and UNFPA will evaluate the country programme at least once a year to review achievements and provide strategic direction. UNFPA will also participate in the UNDAF midterm review.

31. The UNFPA country office in Cuba consists of a non-resident country director based in Mexico City, Mexico; an assistant representative; an administrative and financial assistant; and a secretary. The United Nations resident coordinator serves as the UNFPA representative. If necessary, UNFPA will earmark programme funds for additional staff in order to strengthen the programme implementation capacity of the country office. The UNFPA Latin America and the Caribbean Division and the UNFPA country technical services team in Mexico City, Mexico, will provide technical support.

RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR CUBA

National priorities: (a) improve the quality of life of the population by strengthening and fostering ownership of local development processes, with an emphasis on areas with low human development; and (b) to improve the health status of the population by 2015 UNDAF outcome: by 2012: (a) increase capacities to improve human development in selected municipalities; and (b) consolidate and strengthen actions to promote the health of women, children, adolescents, youth and the aged				
Programme component	Country programme outcomes, indicators, baselines and targets	Country programme outputs, indicators, baselines and targets	Partners	Indicative resources by programme component
Reproductive health	<p>Outcome: Access to high-quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services provided with a gender perspective</p> <p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of sexual and reproductive health consultations, including those for women with pre-pregnancy risks • Contraceptive prevalence rate • Reduced number of pregnancies among female adolescents • Decrease in the proportion of women undergoing abortion 	<p>Output 1: Increased institutional and technical capacity to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care to women and to adolescents of both sexes</p> <p>Output indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of physicians and primary health care personnel trained on sexual and reproductive issues with a gender perspective • Number of service providers who are knowledgeable about applying sexual and reproductive health norms and protocols <p>Output 2: National health system strengthened to broaden the range of contraceptive options</p> <p>Output indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of women using hormonal contraceptives 	<p>Ministries of: Public Health; Basic Industry; Education; and Higher Education</p> <p>Federation of Cuban Women</p>	\$3.75 million (\$1.75 million from regular resources and \$2 million from other resources)
	<p>Outcome: National mechanisms promote and provide HIV/AIDS prevention, counselling, testing and treatment</p> <p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidence and prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS • Proportion of the population aged 15-29 with comprehensive and accurate knowledge of HIV/AIDS • Number of epidemiological and sociocultural studies carried out among groups vulnerable to HIV/AIDS 	<p>Output 3: National educational and health systems strengthened to implement programmes on sex education and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS in all types and levels of schools</p> <p>Output indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of teaching levels and types of schools where sexual and reproductive health is integrated into the educational curricula • Percentage of males participating in training activities on sexual and reproductive health conducted in educational centres and during parental and student meetings • Number of publications with information on reproductive health, population and gender issues available to professors and health care personnel <p>Output 4: Strengthened capacity of the national system for the prevention, diagnosis and surveillance of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, including the capacity to involve vulnerable groups in community interventions and to disseminate scientific and technical information on sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS</p> <p>Output indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of condoms procured to satisfy the needs of the population to prevent sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS • Number of community interventions conducted on sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS • Number of professionals and technicians trained on prevention, diagnosis and surveillance, and on information and communication techniques on topics related to sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS 	<p>Ministries of: Public Health; Education; and Higher Education; National Centre for Sexual Education</p> <p>Federation of Cuban Women</p>	

Programme component	Country programme outcomes, indicators, baselines and targets	Country programme outputs, indicators, baselines and targets	Partners	Indicative resources by programme component
Population and development	<p><u>Outcome:</u> Population and development issues are integrated into the planning and implementation of development policies and programmes using a gender perspective</p> <p><u>Outcome indicator:</u> Number of policies and programmes that include population and gender-related issues</p>	<p><u>Output 1:</u> Improved institutional and technical capacity at national, provincial and local levels to process, analyse and disseminate sociodemographic information, particularly information related to development, gender and reproductive health</p> <p><u>Output indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of policymakers and professionals able to integrate population, gender and reproductive health into development efforts Number of studies and publications on population, gender and reproductive health issues that are produced and disseminated at national and provincial levels <p><u>Output 2:</u> Improved institutional capacities to design policies at national, provincial and local levels that deal with the effects of the age structural transition, in particular, population ageing</p> <p><u>Output indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of sociodemographic research studies conducted Number of officials able to analyse sociodemographic data on the age structural transition and its consequences 	<p>National Office of Statistics; Ministry of Public Health; National Centre for Sex Education; Centre for Demographic Studies</p> <p>Federation of Cuban Women</p>	\$1.15 million (\$0.75 million from regular resources and \$0.4 million from other resources)
Gender	<p><u>Outcome:</u> A sociocultural environment conducive to gender equality</p> <p><u>Outcome indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one information system designed and used for early detection of violence within the family Number of mechanisms in place to monitor gender equality 	<p><u>Output 1:</u> The skills of policymakers, officials and service providers are upgraded to mainstream gender and promote women's empowerment</p> <p><u>Output indicator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of policymakers, government officials and service providers who are able to mainstream gender into policies, programmes and services <p><u>Output 2:</u> Institutional capacities are strengthened to diagnose and prevent violence within the family</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of communities and municipalities with diagnosis and prevention systems in place Percentage increase in the number of community networks to prevent violence within the family and to support the victims of such violence 	<p>Ministry of Public Health; Ministry of Education; Centre for Sexual Education</p> <p>Federation of Cuban Women</p>	<p>\$0.35 million (\$0.25 million from regular resources and \$0.1 million from other resources)</p> <hr/> <p>Total for programme coordination and assistance: \$0.25 million from regular resources</p>