



Country card

Cuba





HI Team and intervention areas

HI Cuba, in the Latin America Regional Program, has 9 staff members

Cuba





General data of the country

a. General Data

DATA	Cuba	Haiti	Belgium
Population	11.3	11.40	11.5
IHDI	0.78	0.51	0.93
Gender-related Development Index	0.944	0.875	0.974
Maternal mortality	36	480	5
GINI Index		41.1	27.4
Population within UNHCR mandate	287	8	42.168
INFORM index	2.4	6.2	1.9
Fragile State Index	59.23	97.68	27.10
Public social protection	18.0	3.3	29.2
Net official development assistance received	4301.2	760.6	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.

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.

The new wave of infections from June 2021 onwards and the collapse of the health system in several provinces helped to drive thousands of Cubans into the streets on July 11th 2021 in a historic demonstration. Since then, the government has announced several measures to ease the daily life of Cubans (such as the possibility for individuals to import food and medicine in luggage without weight limits) and is trying to rebuild a certain social consensus.



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 (DPO), has brought HI to focus on socioeconomic inclusion of persons with disability and CBR. Meanwhile, the program is embodying the nexus through its action in IDRR (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 Havana in January 2019.



Overview on ongoing projects

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

Main sectors of intervention & title of project	Objective of project in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project and Donors
<p>Economic inclusion</p> <p>Strengthening of a strategy for the professional integration of people with disabilities through the strengthening of associations.</p>	<p>Improve access of persons with disabilities to different forms of employment based on inclusive development strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and training • Support the development of economic initiatives • Adaptation of jobs • Improvement of tools and working conditions • Policies strengthening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries with disabilities: 400 • Activists: 200 • Social workers: 114 • Members of Community Rehabilitation Management: 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries with disabilities: 400 • Activists: 200 • Social workers: 114 • Members of Community Rehabilitation Management: 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society Organisations: ACLIFIM, ANCI, ANSOC. • Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) • MINSAP, MINED, MTSS, MINCEX, MINSEP 	<p>Granma province, municipalities of Bayamo and Manzanillo</p>	<p>04.2021 – 08.2022</p> <p>COSUDE</p>
<p>Economic inclusion</p> <p>Inclusive Santiago - Economic insertion and empowerment of people with disabilities and their families, with</p>	<p>Empowerment and participation of people with disabilities in the socio-economic development of the Cuban East. Promote sustainable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and training • Support for the development of economic initiatives • Adaptation of jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries with disabilities: 900 • Activists: 200 • Professionals trained: 250 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries with disabilities: 900 • Activists: 200 • Professionals trained: 250 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society Organisation: ACLIFIM, ANCI, ANSOC, FMC, ANEC • Authorities: MINSAP, MINED, MTSS 	<p>Santiago province</p>	<p>01.2019 – 12.2021</p> <p>DGD</p>






emphasis on women.	opportunities for entering the labor market by strengthening capacities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of tools and working conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities: 20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities: 20 			
<p>Physical and Functional Rehabilitation</p> <p>Implementation of an inclusive and multidisciplinary community based rehabilitation model developed by actors from the community to the national level.</p>	An inclusive, inter-sector community based rehabilitation model, developed and implemented by local actors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the impact of the community based rehabilitation programme implemented for the last 15 years in 3 provinces. • Developing and testing the Cuban community based rehabilitation model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries with disabilities: 14,631 • Health professionals • Activists: 300 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries with disabilities: 14,631 • Health professionals • Activists: 300 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society Organisations: ACLIFIM, ANCI, ANSOC. • Public target: MINSAP, MINED. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Province of Pinar del Rio, municipalities of Mantua, Pinar del Rio, Consolacion del Sur, La Palma, Viñales. • Province of Artemisa, municipality of Bahia Honda 	01.2017 – 12.2021 DGD
<p>Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation</p> <p>Cuenca Resiliente: a multi-hazard, inclusive Early Warning System, favouring disaster preparedness in Cuba</p>	Strengthen the Early Warning Systems of the Cuyaguajeje river basin in the face of natural hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15,537 women (322 with disability) • 16,720 men (375 with disability) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARE International • Estado Mayor Nacional de la Defensa Civil. • Gobierno Provincial y Gobiernos Municipales (Guane, Sandino y Minas de Matahambre). • Centro Provincial de Gestión para la Reducción del Riesgo de 	Province of Pinar del Río	06.2021 – 05.2023 ECHO



					<p>Desastres (socio oficial del proyecto).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 de los municipios.• Delegación provincial y municipales de la Agricultura.• Cruz Roja Cubana de los municipios involucrados.		
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Donors

<p>Directorate-general Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD)</p>  <p>Belgium partner in development</p>	<p>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation</p>  <p>Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra</p>
<p>ECHO</p> 	<p>Embassy of Japan in Cuba</p>