

CUBA

Cuba leads the Caribbean region in life expectancy, gender equality, education, health, social spending and disaster preparedness. Nevertheless, Cuba faces many development challenges.

At least 70% of its food is imported, wages are low, shortages of basic goods are chronic, and a dual-currency economy results in unequal access to goods and services. Cuba is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In recent years, it has experienced a greater frequency and severity of drought and hurricanes.

Cuba initiated broad reforms in 2007 and 2011 in an effort to modernize, diversify and decentralize its economy. Canadian development programming in Cuba aims to bolster agricultural production, strengthen food value chains and improve agricultural sector management. It will focus on supporting small farmers in particular, both women and men. Projects in sustainable economic growth include:

- training and certifying workers in energy and industry;
- bolstering workplace safety; and
- creating opportunities for women in non-conventional jobs.

Canada is training and equipping Cuba's auditors, improving economic governance through stronger public financial management. These initiatives support the implementation of Cuba's economic and social reforms aimed at protecting social development. Reforms are also helping to lay the foundations for decentralization, modernization, diversification and improved productivity in the Cuban economy.



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