



Cuba



**MANDATE**

Handicap International aims to encourage initiatives aiming to build a more inclusive society by relying on and reinforcing the existing expertise, social structure and political will in favor of people with disabilities in Cuba.

**SITUATION**

The Republic of Cuba is the biggest country in the Caribbean, with more than 11 million inhabitants. According to the most recent census conducted by the Cuban government, there are more than 360,000 people with disabilities (PWD) in Cuba, that is, 3.26% of the population. 38% of people with disabilities suffer from a mental impairment and 25.22% from a physical or motor disability. Since 2011, the country has led a process of updating its socio-economic system and in 2015, Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced the restoration of dialogue between the two countries, after more than 50 years of absence. Despite people with disabilities' access to free medical care (Cuba allots 16.6% of its GDP to health and the staff is highly qualified), difficult transportation conditions and the lack of modern and/or specialised equipment (such as audiometry tests) limit this access. The island of Cuba is particularly prone to hurricanes which cause regular and serious economic damage to the country and worsen the living conditions of the population, particularly the most vulnerable people.

**INITIAL ACTIONS**

Since 1998, Handicap International has been implementing project with national partners (ministries and disabled people's organizations) through multisector steering committees which generate constant dialogue and a climate of trust with the partners. This legitimacy allowed Handicap International to successfully develop the following projects: support to a prostheses and orthotics production center (in 1998), community based rehabilitation projects in the provinces of Granma, Pinar del Rio and Holguin (since 2001), inclusive education projects in rural and urban areas (2007), support to the three national disabled people's organizations (2008) a socio-economic inclusion project (since 2014) and an inclusive disaster risk management project in partnership with Oxfam and care NGOs.



**KEY FACTS**

Human development index (HDI)*	67/188 classified countries
Life expectancy*	79.4 years
Gross National Income per capita * (PPA\$)	7,301 \$ per annum
Population**	11,26 million
Surface area**	109 890 sq.km

\*Human Development Report 2015

\*\* UNSD 2015

<b>Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities (CRPD)</b>	Ratified 06 september 2007
<b>Convention on cluster munitions (Oslo)</b>	State not party
<b>Mine ban treaty (Ottawa)</b>	State not party

**STAFF**

- National staff members: 8
- Expatriate staff members: 1

## Current projects 2016

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### Community-based rehabilitation

#### GOAL

Improving the prevention, case-management and understanding of severe intellectual disabilities in the community. Handicap International works with people with disabilities, their communities, representatives of organisations, and in conjunction with institutions working in the field of rehabilitation.

#### METHOD

In Cuba, more than 38 % of people with disabilities have an intellectual disability (and 17% have a severe and profound intellectual disability). This particularly high prevalence rate is due to several factors: a lack of information on the risk of children developing disabilities during pregnancy, a shortage of specialist medical equipment, poor guidance and preparation for families with disabled children, and the absence of a national integrated community-based rehabilitation model. This community-based rehabilitation project run by Handicap International aims to support people with disabilities in Pinar Del Rio province.

#### BENEFICIARIES

Direct beneficiaries:

- 375 people aged under thirty, with a severe and profound intellectual disability, living in one of five municipalities in the province of Pinar del Rio
- 817 professionals (obstetricians, family doctors, paediatricians, psychiatrists, nurses, multi-disciplinary teams, etc.)

Indirect beneficiaries:

- 1071 people with a severe and profound intellectual disability

#### PARTNERS

- The Ministry of Health, in charge of CBR projects (through the provincial health department of Pinar del Rio)
- The medical genetics centre, provincial and community network. This centre is tasked with:
  - preventing and diagnosing severe and profound intellectual disability
  - training medical staff in disability risk factors during pregnancy and childbirth
  - organising prevention awareness-raising campaigns
  - providing community-based and psychoeducational support to families

#### LOCATION

5 municipalities in the province of Pinar del Rio: Mantua, La Palma, Consolacion del Sur, Viñales and Pinar del Rio

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### Socio-economic inclusion

#### GOAL

Helping people with disabilities in the province of Granma to find a job appropriate to their skills, desires and the needs of their community.

#### METHOD

This project, which is based on the CBR process is implemented in Granma since 200. It aims to promote social and economic inclusion<sup>1</sup> of people with disabilities to integrate in their community and gain access to a job, through processes of rehabilitation, training, strengthening of self-esteem, and economic assessment. The beneficiaries are accompanied individually and supported by community advisors. Handicap International also aims to strengthen vocational trainings structures.

#### BENEFICIARIES

Direct:

- 2,370 people with disabilities:
  - 600 beneficiaries of a personalised inclusive employment plan
  - 400 beneficiaries (among them 160 are young people) of training in 57 new professional training areas (49 are specific and trade schools)
  - 277 people with disabilities benefiting from 226 tool modules for micro businesses
  - 350 beneficiaries in employment (salaried or self-employment)
  - 100 beneficiaries of jobs made available<sup>2</sup> for people with disabilities
- 150 community officers

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<sup>1</sup> To help them to be integrated in the community and to find a job.

<sup>2</sup> *Postes de travail rendus accessibles aux personnes handicapées.*

- 67 guidance officers
- 15 members of municipal rehabilitation committees

### Indirect:

- 16,000 people with disabilities in the province
- 600 families of PWDs who have received training, and 400 families of PWDs in employment
- 146,000 beneficiaries of the awareness-raising campaign (unemployed PWDs in Cuba)

### PARTNERS

- The Ministry for Work and Social Security (MTSS)
- Asociación Cubana de Limitados Físico - Motores (ACLIFIM)
- Asociación Nacional de Ciegos y Débiles Visuales (ANCI), which aims to foster the inclusion of people with visual impairments in society, education and employment by involving them in sporting, cultural and leisure activities.
- Asociación Nacional de Sordos de Cuba (ANSOC), which aims to represent people with hearing impairments, improve their social inclusion and their life conditions.
- Ministry for National Education (MINED), and more specifically the special educational and occupational training department.

### LOCATION

Granma province in 2 municipalities: Bayamo and Bartolomé Masó, which benefited from the first CBR project implemented in Cuba in 2001-2009.



## Inclusive disaster risk management

### GOAL

Strengthening the management skills of authorities, technical institutions and vulnerable populations regarding disaster risks, with a specific focus on women and people with disabilities, in the cities of Santiago, Guantanamo and Baracoa.

### METHOD

This project will improve local management skills regarding seismic risks by adopting an integral and inclusive, which will strengthen the 4 components<sup>3</sup> of the earthquake surveillance and warning system. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> components will be strengthened by increasing the capacities of the institutions responsible for humanitarian intervention and first aid in Cuba (Civil protection and Red Cross) through training and emergency means, pre-positioned in safe places. These training and means will be adapted to the women and pwd specific needs. Local population awareness activities (especially women and pwd) will also be raised to increase their preparedness to earthquakes.

### BENEFICIARIES

#### Direct:

- 80,321 people (about 10 % of the population in the 3 cities), including 51% women, 23.6 % young people and children, 31% older people and 16.2 % people with disabilities (including 6,273 women)
- 23 institutions of the urban centers of Santiago, Guantanamo and Baracoa

#### Indirect:

Inhabitants of Santiago and Guantanamo provinces will benefit from the program, i.e. 1,562,428 people, through the strengthening of the earthquake surveillance and warning spots network.

### PARTNERS

The project is conducted by Care and Oxfam. Handicap International, as technical partner, implements the activities regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities.

At national level, the following partners take part in the project:

- The Civil Protection
- The governments of the provinces and municipalities of Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo and Baracoa
- The Cuban Red Cross
- The National Centre of Seismologic Research
- The Ministry of Sciences, Techniques and Environment
- The Building Faculty of Oriente University
- The 3 Cuban disabled people's organizations: Asociación Cubana de Limitados Físico, Asociación Nacional de Ciegos y Débiles Visuales, Asociación Nacional de Sordos de Cuba

### LOCATION

The project is conducted in 3 cities very vulnerable to earthquakes: Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo and Baracoa.

<sup>3</sup> Watch and surveillance, warning, decision-making and protection.

## MAIN FUNDING BODIES

<p><b>Directorate General of Cooperation for Development and Humanitarian Aid (DGD)</b></p> <p><b>LA COOPÉRATION BELGE AU DÉVELOPPEMENT .be</b></p>	<p><b>Luxembourg Ministry for Foreign Affairs</b></p>  <p>THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs</p> <p>Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs</p>	<p><b>Japanese Embassy</b></p>  <p><b>De Parte del Pueblo Japonés</b></p>
<p><b>European Commission (ECHO)</b></p>  <p>Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection</p>		