

Information on the country strategy Cuba

For each partner country of VLIR-UOS, a country strategy has been developed. The country strategy represents the strategic niche for VLIR-UOS cooperation in a country, with specific **thematic areas** and an institutional and/or regional focus, based on the needs and national priorities of the country with regard to higher education and development. The [VLIR-UOS Country Strategy for Cuba](#) fits in with the Cuban national strategy to increase attention to the development of Eastern ('Oriente') Cuba and to give priority to information society (**ICT for development**) and guaranteeing **food security** with attention for sustainability, **environment** and quality of life (public and preventive **health**). Another important subject is the link between socio-cultural development, tourism development and the role and impact of **cultural heritage**. For the **geographical focus**, the priority for development should be in the **Eastern provinces** of the country (Camagüey, Las Tunas, Holguin, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo). This regional focus on the East however does not rule out the inclusion of strong specialist partners in other parts of Cuba in projects and programmes. As for the **institutional** focus, there are no strategic limitations.

Information for potential synergy and complementarity

Synergy and complementarity (S&C) can improve the impact of development cooperation interventions and is a top priority of the Belgian minister of Development Cooperation and encouraged by the reform of non-governmental cooperation in 2016. In order to promote S&C, all Belgian non-governmental development actors were invited to elaborate a Joint Strategic Framework (JSFs) per country in 2016. These JSFs provide information about the goals to which the actors want to contribute, and also indicate potential for synergy and complementarity. In the table below, a general overview of relevant information from the **Joint Strategic Framework** Cuba is provided for each **thematic area** of the VLIR-UOS **country strategy**. The Joint Strategic **Goal** relevant for each theme is listed, together with the **Belgian non-governmental actors** which are active in **Cuba** with funding of the Belgian development cooperation. By providing this list, VLIR-UOS wants to facilitate **synergy** and/or complementarity with programmes of other Belgian actors. Synergy and complementarity will also be integrated as an element in the **selection** of interventions, more in particular when discussing the (developmental) relevance of project proposals. The last updated version of the JSF Cuba can be found [here](#).

Thematic area of the VLIR-UOS country strategy	Potential match with the Joint Strategic Goal of the Joint Strategic Framework	Belgian Non-Governmental Actors active in this area
FOOD SECURITY and AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION	(2) Contribute to the design of resilient, fair, inclusive and sustainable food systems and improve food security for the population	Oxfam, HI, ARES
ENVIRONMENT	(1) Strengthen the resilience capacities of the Cuban population faced with climate change and disasters and contribute to the elimination/reduction of sources of pollution .	Oxfam, HI, ARES
	(3) Strengthen the qualitative and quantitative access of the population to drinking water by eliminating/reducing pollution sources and promoting the rational exploitation of water resources for the development of human ecosystems and the environment, taking into account the negative consequences of climate change .	Oxfam

PUBLIC HEALTH	(5) Improve health of the population and, more specifically of persons with disabilities and / or the elderly.	HI, ITG, ARES
SOCIO-CULTURAL and TOURISM DEVELOPMENT	(Decent Work) Guaranteeing labour rights , extending social protection and promoting social dialogue for all	FOS, Oxfam
	(4) Contribute to economic development, through a strengthening of the social and solidarity economy (ESS) by the non-state sector and public enterprises.	HI, Oxfam
ICT and APPLICATIONS	(6) Ensure and improve access and quality of education, vocational training and research and stimulate innovation in order to contribute to sustainable development	VLIR-UOS, ARES, ITG, HI
Crosscutting themes for HIGHER EDUCATION and RESEARCH (information management, language and communication...)		

More information about the other Belgian actors active in **Cuba** with funding of the Belgian development cooperation can be found in the table below. Their own suggestions for possible cooperation with academics are also provided, but this should not be seen as an exhaustive list. Academics and ICOS (institutional coordinators for development coordination at level of the Flemish HEIs) elaborating a project proposal are invited to contact relevant organisations for more information and/or to enquire them on potential collaborations.

NGA	Short description of the activities in Cuba	Name of the local partner(s)	Region(s)	Suggested research topics	Contact person
Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur (ARES)	ARES will finance from 2017 to 2021 a research for development project (PRD) aimed at creating an agro-ecological system for cocoa production. In the field of environment and industry, ARES will support another PRD whose objective is the development of a biotechnological process to transform by-products of sugarcane into usable substances for animal food.	Universidad de Guantánamo (UG) Cuban Research Institute on Sugarcane By-products (ICIDCA)	La Habana Guantanamo		Benoît Moreau
Humanity & Inclusion (HI)	The HI program in Cuba works to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, their families and those who are vulnerable or at risk of developing a disability. 2 Specific Objectives/projects: (1)Community Based Rehabilitation, (2) Socio-Economic Inclusion.	SO 1: Provincial Direction of Public Health of Pinar del Rio SO 2: Provincial Administrative Committee of the Province	Pinar del Rio Santiago de Cuba		Cuba: Office Handicap Int.: Philippe Martinez Belgium: Jonathan Maitrias
Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde (ITG)	ITM programme contributes to achieving better population health outcomes and promoting sustainable human development by building capacities through collaborative research and action in the field of health and by putting the Cuban expertise to value at international level through supporting academic networking	Institute of Tropical Medicine Pedro Kourí (IPK) National Institute of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiology (INHEM)	La Habana, Santiago, Cienfuegos	*Digitalization within infectious disease surveillance and control (for example tuberculosis, arbovirose, STI) *Interactome and epigenetic research on arboviruses	Veerle Vanlerbergh e
Oxfam Solidariteit	The results aim to strengthen the resilience of the producers in the management of the productive systems, to improve the articulation	Asociación Nacional de Agricultores Pequeños (ANAP)	Santiago de Cuba	An experimental space to demonstrate the economic, social and	Jérôme Fauré

	<p>between producers, technicians and local decision-makers in the agricultural management of the municipality and to influence the provincial and national agricultural policies. promoting a family agriculture with greater empowerment of women producers as a sustainable agricultural model that contributes to food security.</p>	<p>Delegación Provincial del Ministerio de la Agricultura (MINAG), del Ministerio de Ciencia Tecnología y Medio Ambiente, provincia Guantánamo, provincia Santiago de Cuba Universidad Provincial de Guantánamo - UPG</p>	Guantanamo	<p>environmental sustainability of resilient production systems in the face of natural phenomena. Linked to the above: - Research on agro-ecological or renewable energy practices that are the most cost-efficient for food security. - key elements and how can the articulation of territorial actors influence the efficient management of a drought?</p>	
<p>Fonds voor Ontwikkelings Samenwerking (Socialistische Solidariteit) (FOS) - IFSI</p>	<p>FOS will contribute with its program to strengthen different social actors: unions, women's organizations, movements, etc. to improve working and living conditions for workers and social protection of vulnerable population groups.</p>	<p>Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Industria - Rama de la Industria Ligera Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Industria Alimentaria y la Pesca Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores Azucareros Central de Trabajadores de Cuba Federación de Mujeres Cubanas Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual Unidad de Promoción de la Salud y Prevención de enfermedades</p>	Cuba	<p>Research on sexual and reproductive health and rights</p>	<p>Kwaku Acheampong Yves Van Gijzel</p>

	Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Industria - Rama de la Metalurgia			
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More information can be found on our [Cuba page](#) of the website or by contacting the VLIR-UOS programme coordinator and focal point for Cuba [Peter De Lannoy](#)