



INSTITUTIONALISED OPACITY IN MEXICO'S MANAGEMENT OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO CUBA

Press Release- Food Monitor Program

Havana, 9 April 2026

The Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) has classified as reserved information, for a period of five years, all details of humanitarian aid dispatched to Cuba in 2026 [1]. The measure, requested by the government of Miguel Díaz-Canel through a verbal diplomatic note, restricts public access to data on the management, composition, and destination of 3,125 tonnes of food and medicine delivered across four maritime shipments between February and March of this year.

The Cuban government justifies the decision as a security strategy aimed at preventing potential disruption by groups deemed dissident. In practice, this measure eliminates the traceability of resources, given the absence of any public information on inventories, distribution routes, or final beneficiaries.

The absence of such mechanisms limits independent verification of the assistance provided. Food Monitor Program (FMP) has identified consistent indicators — gathered through field monitoring and citizen testimonies in Havana, Artemisa, and Mayabeque — pointing to the presence of donated goods in state-run shops trading in Freely Convertible Currency (MLC), placing them beyond the reach of the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

This pattern is not exceptional. Similar conduct has been documented in previous cycles, including the commercial sale of supplies associated with the World Food Program (WFP) in 2021 and 2025 [2], in contexts where a lack of public information prevents confirmation that aid has been properly distributed.

Reports from international bodies reinforce these concerns. The WFP has acknowledged that administrative and logistical constraints on the part of the Cuban state have impeded the implementation of its programs, including the failure to disburse resources earmarked for technical assistance in previous cycles [3].

This operational control is being exercised in a critical context in which, according to the 2025 Food Security Survey, 10% of the population goes to bed without having eaten, while 77% perceive that the political elite does not face the same conditions of food insecurity as the rest of the country [4].

Food Monitor Program denounces the fact that the institutionalization of opacity delegitimizes independent oversight and undermines accountability in the management of

humanitarian aid. Assistance that lacks external audits, transparency across chains of custody, and access to verifiable information ceases to function as a relief mechanism and risks becoming the discretionary administration of resources intended for the survival of the most vulnerable population.

References

- [1] [Cuba asks Mexico to reserve humanitarian aid, accuses dissidents of potential sabotage](#)
- [2] [Column: Where does the humanitarian aid delivered to Cuba go? | Food Monitor Program](#)
- [3] [Cuba sells the donations it receives in times of crisis — Diario Las Américas](#)
- [4] [2025 Food Insecurity Survey | Food Monitor Program](#)