



## WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

### WFP Assistance

TF 200657: Nutrition Component within "Programme Progresando con Solidaridad" (Jan 2014-Dec 2016)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
	4.6m	4.6 m (100%)

With the objective of ensuring the food and nutrition security of the population, WFP and the country's leading social protection programme led by the Vice Presidency's Cabinet for Social Policy, *Progresando con Solidaridad*, have partnered together since 2009.

WFP provides a complete package of interventions, including capacity development to community leaders and health practitioners, coordination amongst actors, community nutrition education and the promotion of preventive care for children through primary healthcare units. Through the primary health care system and practitioners of the Ministry of Health, WFP provides micronutrient powders to 78,900 children aged 6-59 months; complementary nutritious foods (Supercereal Plus) to 9,500 children at risk of chronic or acute malnutrition; and Supercereal to pregnant and nursing women with micronutrient deficiencies and to the elderly with inadequate food consumption.

The baseline survey of the nutrition component (2011) found an anaemia prevalence of 60.9 percent in children aged 6 to 59 months enrolled in the *Progresando con Solidaridad* programme. The midterm evaluation of 2013, reported a 50 percent reduction in anaemia prevalence, with a significant decrease among children aged 6-23 months, corresponding to the greatest window of opportunity for programme impact.

Capacity Development HIV/AIDS & Nutrition	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
	12,000	12,000 (100%)

WFP provides continuous support to the Ministry of Public Health. WFP has trained health care providers of the Ministry of Health on nutrition counselling for people living with HIV. WFP has also strengthened

## Highlights

- The 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the First meeting of the presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in LAC took place in Santo Domingo from 29 October to 1 November, where food security was highlighted as an important action area.

programmes of the Ministry of Public Health to monitor child growth and development, through trainings and field visits. In its HIV and nutrition activities, WFP provides direct support to 290 doctors, psychologists and counsellors of 77 integrated health units and 175 women living with HIV through nutrition education activities. The programme assists 36,400 people living with HIV who attend the integrated health centres.

### WFP & Disaster Risk Reduction

Forecast-Based Emergency Preparedness for Climate Risks (Jan 2016-2017)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
	288,600	172,900 (60%)

WFP's *Forecast-Based Emergency Preparedness for Climate Risks* project focuses on the German Federal Foreign Office's action plan for humanitarian adaptation to climate change. The project complements WFP's efforts to improve government capacities to reduce risk and provide necessary humanitarian assistance to population affected by disasters. It focuses on:

- improving climate risk analysis and understanding;
- developing an integrated early warning systems based on indicators and thresholds, and linking these to standard operating procedures for preparedness;
- Strengthening core areas of response management capability.

The project counterpart in the Dominican Republic is the National Emergency Commission.

## In Numbers

**14,406** children from 6 to 59 months

**403** pregnant and nursing women

**300** elderly adults

**Assisted under TF 200657**  
November 2016

## Operational Updates

- WFP is supporting capacity strengthening of organizations that integrate the National Disaster Management System to prepare to respond, and assess slow onset crisis, by piloting a Food and Security and Nutrition Early Warning System. The project involves FAO/WFP/OXFAM/PLAN and is funded by ECHO.
- In support to strengthening of national emergency preparedness capacities, the National Emergency Commission held, with the support of WFP, a workshop to update the early warning protocol to hydro-meteorological events between the Center for Emergency Operations, the National Water Resources Institute and the Meteorology Office. Standard Operating Procedures including for the Ministry of Agriculture were developed. The activities were part of the German funded Forecast-based Financing initiative.
- The Ministry of Health, Programme Progresando con Solidaridad and WFP convened follow up meetings with diverse stakeholders for further development of the country action plan for rice fortification.
- With the objective of strengthening the control and promotion of child growth and development for children aged 0 to 5 years, 45 medical practitioners in nutrition counselling, treatment of malnutrition and distribution of micronutrient powders and Super cereal.
- Within the framework of the UNiTE campaign to end gender violence, WFP held province level gender awareness meetings with government stakeholders and community leaders in the province of Duarte.
- WFP Dominican Republic CO continues supporting WFP Haiti Hurricane Matthew Emergency Operation by purchasing food commodities as part of its food assistance to the affected communities.

## Challenges

Systems of heavy rainfall have affected several parts of the country during the last few weeks, particularly affecting the north. The president of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Danilo Medina, decreed a National Emergency in the provinces affected. At this stage international cooperation has not been requested.

## Partnerships

WFP's main partners are the Vice Presidency and the *Progresando con Solidaridad* programme. Other partners include the ministries of Health, Agriculture, Presidency and the National Emergency Commission. WFP also works in close collaboration with other UN agencies, such as FAO, UNDP, UNICEF and PAHO/WHO and NGOs such as Oxfam and Plan in joint initiatives to strengthen capacities in nutrition and disaster risk management.

## Country Background & Strategy



The Dominican Republic despite a continuous GNP growth rate, suffers from marked income inequality at 45.7 in the World Bank GINI index (2014). The inflation rate is 1.36 percent (2016) and the poverty rate is 40.9 percent (2012). The poorest half of the population receives less than 20 percent of GDP, while the richest receive nearly 40 percent. The Dominican Republic is characterised by persistent poverty, lack of dietary diversity, micronutrient deficiencies, deficient quality of public health services, weak agricultural structures and recurrent natural and economic shocks.

The prevalence of chronic under nutrition is 7 percent nationally (2013); yet some provinces present rates two to three times higher. The family members most vulnerable to malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, are young children, pregnant and nursing women, and people suffering chronic illnesses, the elderly and Haitian immigrants. HIV prevalence has levelled at 0.8 – 1 percent throughout the last decades. A study conducted by WFP on a sample of 36,931 people living with HIV reported that 88 percent were food insecure and 58 percent were classified as severely food insecure. The geographical position of the island of La Hispaniola places the Dominican Republic in a zone highly prone to disasters such as hurricanes and tropical storms.

WFP has been present in the Dominican Republic since 1967.

Population: 9.8 million

2015 Human Development Index: 148 out of 187

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 7% of children between 6-59 months

## Donors

Government of the Dominican Republic (Progresando con Solidaridad Programme), German Foreign Federal Office, ECHO, UN UBRAF.