



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Country Name Country Brief August 2018



## Operational Context

The Dominican Republic has experienced economic growth and stability during the past decades. However, income distribution remains unequal, quality of health services is inadequate, and poverty still affects just over 40 percent of the population, with 10.4 percent living in extreme poverty.

Poverty and inequality, coupled with a lack of diverse diets and a weak agricultural structure, lie at the roots of food insecurity and malnutrition. Chronic undernutrition affects 7 percent of children under 5; overweight is increasing; and anaemia affects one in three women of reproductive age and up to 61 percent of children aged between 6 and 11 months. The country suffers from recurrent natural shocks; according to the Global Climate Risk Index; it is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

WFP has been present in the Dominican Republic since 1969. WFP's role currently focuses on strengthening national capacities and programmes in of nutrition, social protection, emergency preparedness and disaster risk management, working in partnership with the Government. WFP also supports the development of public policies to reduce hunger and malnutrition.



Population: **9.8 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **101 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

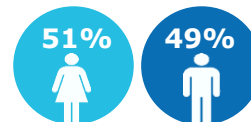
## In Numbers

**274.015 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ m** cash based transfers made

**US\$ 0.06 m** six months (August 2018 – January 2019) net funding requirements

**20,000 people assisted**  
in August 2018



## Operational Updates

- The Ministry of Health, supported by WFP, is organizing a national forum on Rice Fortification for World Food Day to present advances and reach consensus with public and private stakeholders on initiating rice fortification in the country.
- WFP and FAO are accompanying the Ministry of the Presidency and Ministry of Economy and Planning in developing the National Food Security and Nutrition Plan with national stakeholders, based on the National Food Sovereignty and Food Security and Nutrition Law.
- Both agencies are also accompanying the Ministry of Economy in local planning efforts in the Southwest of the country, related to resilience and rural development.
- The Cabinet for Social Policies, Centre for Emergency Operations and social programmes for Emergency response, revised shock-responsive social protection standard operating procedures in case of emergencies, supported by WFP.
- WFP supports nutrition-sensitive interventions of Programme Progresando con Solidaridad (PROSOLI) and the National Health Service to provide micronutrient powders or Supercereal Plus to children 6 to 59 months, beneficiaries of PROSOLI, and Supercereal to pregnant and lactating women and the elderly throughout the country.
- Under a WFP, IFRC, Dominican Red Cross capacity strengthening initiative, WFP will support supply chain training of Dominican Red Cross heads of province and heads of technical areas.
- WFP launched a process for the development of hydrological and climatic studies for the Yaque del Norte River basin and development of triggers for flooding and early warning alerts, under the forecast-based financing initiative.

Contact info: Elisabet Fadul (elisabet.fadul)

Country Director: William Vigil

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/dominican-republic](http://www.wfp.org/countries/dominican-republic)

**Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>2.7 m</b>	<b>1.82 m</b>	<b>0.06 m</b>

**Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition**

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Nutritionally vulnerable groups targeted by social safety net and public health programmes throughout the country improve their nutritional status by 2025.  
**Focus area:** *Root cause*

- Activities:**
- Implement comprehensive nutrition and capacity strengthening strategies with the staff of the social safety net programmes and the Ministry of Public Health to enhance programmes' impact on the nutritional status of the population.

**Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food**

**Strategic Outcome 2:** People living with HIV in the eastern and southern regions of the Dominican Republic have access to diversified and nutritious food by 2030.  
**Focus area:** *Root cause*

- Activities:**
- Foster capacity development by providing nutrition training and promoting urban vegetable gardens for PLWH.

**Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening**

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Disaster Risk Management and Social Protection institutions in the Dominican Republic strengthen their capacities in preparedness and response to climate stresses and shocks by 2030  
**Focus area:** *Resilience*

- Activities:**
- Provide technical assistance to the NEC, the COE and GCPS in early warning and shock-responsive social protection related to FNS.

**Monitoring**

- WFP and PROSOLI developed a module within PROSOLI's beneficiary management system to register beneficiaries receiving specialized nutritious foods and their nutritional status.
- WFP has finalized a Capacity Needs Mapping Analysis implemented with the Red Cross as basis for the national society capacity strengthening initiative in the country. Milestones were developed for the project to monitor progress.
- The logical framework for the Forecast-based Financing (FbF) Project in the Dominican Republic has been finalized and a baseline evaluation is being designed for WFP to be able to measure if the FbF mechanism and efforts implemented achieved expected results.

**Challenges**

- Rebagging of Supercereal at national level results in delays in food distributions, as well as delays in receiving government resource allocations.
- Heavy rainfall is affecting programme operations in certain provinces.

**Donors**

Dominican Republic, Germany funded forecast based Financing global initiative, Multilateral donors, UN funds.