



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



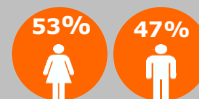
WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

November 2019

In numbers

150.75 mt of food assistance distributed

92,681 people assisted



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Operational Context

The Dominican Republic has experienced economic growth and stability during the past decades, and social policies have contributed to the reduction of hunger and poverty. The country's food security priorities are outlined in its National Development Strategy and the Plan for Food Sovereignty, Food Security and Nutrition (2019-2022).

Income distribution and gender inequalities persist, and almost half the population is at high risk of poverty. In addition, low purchasing power amongst poor households combined with poor eating habits, lack of diet diversity and nutrition education lie at the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition. Persistent micronutrient deficiencies and increasing overweight and obesity remain significant concerns. The country suffers from recurrent natural shocks, which affect food systems. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, it is one of the most vulnerable to climate risks.

WFP has been present in the Dominican Republic since 1969. WFP focuses on strengthening national capacities in the areas of nutrition, social protection, emergency preparedness, and disaster risk management, working in partnership with the Government and society as a whole.



Population: **11.08 million** (estimated)

2016 Human Development Index: **0.722 (high)**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5.**

Operational Updates

- WFP is working with the Government to improve the design of shock responsive social protection response modalities.
- WFP, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Dominican Red Cross held a retreat to develop the 2020 action plan for the joint project "Improving Humanitarian Response and Corridors in the Caribbean". The plan focuses on (a) Strengthening capacities and coordination among both, national government response and social protection institutions, for a more efficient end to end supply chain management; (b) Improving emergency preparedness and response capacities of the Dominican Red Cross; and (c) Enabling and enhancing a humanitarian corridor to facilitate binational and regional humanitarian response from the Dominican Republic.
- WFP participated in the 7th Forecast-Based Financing (FbF) dialogue platform organized jointly with the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Red Cross, and IFRC. The conference connected scientists, humanitarians, donors and Governments.
- The Vice-presidency, the business alliance "Sanar una Nación", the National Council for Food Sovereignty, Food Security and Nutrition (CONASSAN) and WFP have established the National Zero Hunger Movement for social empowerment towards zero hunger and healthier eating habits. Within this movement, these institutions are working on a communication campaign for digital, community engagement, and a zero-hunger recipe book.
- WFP, Oxfam, the National Emergency Commission, the European Union Delegation, and the National Bureau for Multilateral Cooperation held a Humanitarian Fair with over 100 representatives of government authorities, civil society, private sector and international cooperation actors. The fair aimed to showcase the Disaster Risk Reduction projects funded by the European Union and ECHO, present best practices and generate dialogue and collaboration among the different projects.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
10 m	4 m	0.4 m

Strategic Result 1: Strengthen and coordinate public and private institutions.

Strategic Outcome 1: Civil society and public and private institutions are strengthened and coordinated and are able to address the zero hunger issues of the most vulnerable populations by 2023.
Focus area: Root causes.

- Activities:**
- Provide technical assistance to government, civil society, private sector, academic and social entities in order to generate an inclusive and coordinated national alliance, enhance legal frameworks and develop policies, communication strategies and programmes for improving food security and nutrition.

Strategic Result 2: Improve the nutritional status of vulnerable populations.

Strategic Outcome 2: The most nutritionally vulnerable groups have improved their nutrition status by 2023.
Focus area: Root causes.

- Activities:**
- Support public health and social protection programmes in implementing comprehensive strategies and systems that follow a rights-based approach to improving the nutrition status of populations who are vulnerable to malnutrition at different stages in the life cycle.

Strategic Result 3: Improve resilience to crises, better adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risk.

Strategic Outcome 3: National and local systems are strengthened and coordinated, improving resilience to shocks, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction among vulnerable populations by 2023.
Focus area: Resilience-building.

- Activities:**
- Provide technical assistance, promote evidence generation and support advocacy strategies for disaster risk management, emergency preparedness and response and climate change adaptation among institutions and vulnerable communities.

- WFP and the national programme *Progresando con Solidaridad* (PROSOLI) assisted 63,028 children between 6 and 59 months; 4,021 pregnant and nursing women and 25,632 elderly with 150.75 metric tons of specialized nutritious food.

Monitoring

- WFP and PROSOLI have enhanced the national social protection programme's beneficiary management system, which monitors specialized nutritious food distribution and nutritional status. This has led to improvements in beneficiary monitoring and registration coverage.

World Food Day

For World Food Day, WFP supported the activities of the Vice Presidency, among which the concert "The Best Voices Sing Against Hunger" and the inter-university debate in which 30 young people sought to answer the question: "Do developed countries have a responsibility to assist in the eradication of hunger in developing countries?".

A press conference was also held with FAO, UNICEF, WHO, and the UN Resident Coordination Office to present the report "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" (SOFI) 2019'. The press conference also highlighted the country's achievements in the area of undernourishment.

Partners

Donors: Government of the Dominican Republic, Germany (FbF Global Initiative), ECHO, USA (USAID/OFDA).

Other partners are: UNAIDS UBRAF, FAO ECHO-funded consortium project.