



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief December 2019



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 up to 2030 in its: National Development Strategy; National Zero Hunger Road Map; and National 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 major 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)**

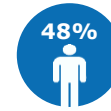
Income level: **Upper middle**

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

In numbers

212.7 mt of food assistance distributed.

114,150 people assisted.



Operational updates

- The study, "The Cost of the Double Burden of Malnutrition: Social and Economic Impact in the Dominican Republic", was made public. WFP, ECLAC, the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP), and the Vice Presidency, elaborated the study based on official data from 2017. The study shows that the cost of malnutrition reached 2.6% of the Gross Domestic Product as per 2017 data.
- The following actions took place as part of the project "Caribbean Humanitarian Corridors", funded by the General Directorate of Civil Protection and the European Humanitarian Aid Operations:
 - i. A communication plan with a road map for awareness-raising and advocacy was developed.
 - ii. The company that will design the Dominican Red Cross' humanitarian warehouse was selected. The warehouse will strengthen logistical and response capabilities of the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response, as well as serves as a regional model for the humanitarian supply chain.
 - iii. The three consortia financed by the EU/ECHO developed the 2020 work plan with key actions along thematic priorities.
 - iv. A regional response plan for Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic was developed. The plan defines the steps to establish a humanitarian corridor, as well as the deployment protocols for humanitarian assistance from the DR to the other countries.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/dominican-republic

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)		
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
11.6 m	4.9 m	0.5 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 can 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.

- The standard operating protocols for social protection in emergencies were reviewed and adjusted as part of the support that WFP provides to strengthen the role of social protection in emergency situations.
- WFP DR is preparing for the Joint Decentralized Evaluation of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP), to take place in 2020. The evaluation will inform on the progress on Strategic Outcome 2 (Nutrition).
- As part of the pilot initiative of Forecast based Financing (Fbf) implemented by WFP Dominican Republic and funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Relations, a theoretical and practical exercise was carried out to calibrate thresholds, define triggers, validate preparatory actions, and define anticipated actions in the face of floods in the *Yaque del Norte* River Basin.

Monitoring

- Monitoring visits took place this month, covering 32% of the national monthly plan.
- With WFP support, the national programme Progressing with Solidarity (PROSOLI) assisted 114,150 people with specialized nutritious food, representing 95% of the annual target. Of this total, 72,392 were children between 6 and 59 months; 5,659 pregnant and nursing women; and 29,536 the elderly.

Partners

Government of the Dominican Republic, Germany (FbF Global Initiative), ECHO, USA (USAID/OFDA).
 WFP signed a contract with the Chinese International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) for a donation of US\$900,000 to distribute powdered micronutrients and fortified foodstuffs to families most affected by the recent drought.
 Other partners are UNAIDS UBRAF, FAO ECHO-funded consortium project.