

## Crisis response revision of Dominican Republic country strategic plan (2019–2023) and corresponding budget increase

|   | Current                                     | Change            | Revised                                     |
|---|---|-------------------|---|
| <b>Duration</b>                         | <b>1 January 2019–<br/>31 December 2023</b> | <b>No change</b>  | <b>1 January 2019–<br/>31 December 2023</b> |
| <b>Beneficiaries</b>                    | <b>3 376 000</b>                            | <b>282 400</b>    | <b>3 658 400</b>                            |
| <i>(USD)</i>                            |   |                   |   |
| <b>Total cost</b>                       | <b>11 606 178</b>                           | <b>16 430 187</b> | <b>28 036 365</b>                           |
| Transfers                               | 7 526 107                                   | 13 952 254        | 21 478 361                                  |
| Implementation                          | 2 348 498                                   | 1 353 192         | 3 701 690                                   |
| Adjusted direct support costs           | 1 023 214                                   | 153 000           | 1 176 214                                   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                         | <b>10 897 820</b>                           | <b>15 458 445</b> | <b>26 356 265</b>                           |
| Indirect support costs<br>(6.5 percent) | 708 358                                     | 971 742           | 1 680 100                                   |

Gender and age marker code\*: 3<sup>1</sup>

\* <http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

### Rationale

1. The COVID-19 outbreak hit the Dominican Republic in early March 2020. As of 5 May, 8,480 have been infected and 354 have died. On 19 March the Government declared a state of national emergency and appealed for international assistance, suspending commercial activities, except those dedicated to basic services. Movements have been restricted through curfews.
2. Social distancing measures to contain the outbreak have caused the loss of livelihoods, supply chain disruptions affecting food availability and resulting in increased food prices, hampering purchasing power to access food, and seriously affecting the food security of the population.
3. According to the Central Bank, over 700,000 formal employees lost their jobs. The population of the informal sector (52 percent) are most impacted due to their unstable income and lack of social protection. Tourism, the main gross domestic product (GDP) share and employment sector, will be most impacted. According to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the most affected companies are small businesses, which generate 2.7 million jobs. As COVID-19 spreads, a reduction in income from remittances from the United States and Spain could imply a reduction of income of poor households and an increase in poverty.
4. An estimated 8 million people have had their access to food disrupted. According to initial estimates based on secondary data, approximately 3.3 million people will be in moderate food insecurity and 750,000 people will be in severe food insecurity.

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<sup>1</sup> The gender and age marker should be reviewed in case of a new strategic outcome or additional activity.



5. The Government has expanded its social protection programme to provide cash transfers of USD 100 per household (1/3 of the basic food basket cost for a poor household) per month for two months to six million people. It also activated food assistance programmes to target different people with a one-day ration, up to 300,000 people per day.
6. However, immediate gaps exist in the Government response, due to the magnitude of the situation and extreme loss of livelihoods, the portion of vulnerable undocumented people, and a migrant population not able to access social protection programmes. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 75 percent of the migrant community with formal status lost their livelihoods and cannot access national social protection assistance, 98 percent of which are Haitians.
7. WFP estimates 282,400 people in extreme poverty, dedicated to informal employment, undocumented, vulnerable to malnutrition, and/or living with chronic conditions such as HIV, which are not part of government social assistance programmes, require immediate food assistance.
8. This budget revision will allow WFP to increase its budget and strategic orientation to accommodate two additional strategic objectives for crisis response and continue delivering on its commitments towards zero hunger and enhancing global partnerships.
9. The budget revision will cover the period from 1 May 2020 up to 31 December 2020.

## Changes

### Strategic orientation

10. WFP's crisis response is part of the United Nations' response in support to the Government Commission for COVID-19, which coordinates the national response, and will be channelled through:
  - Strategic outcome 4: aligned with WFP Strategic Result 1, will focus on safeguarding the access to food of affected populations. Activity 4 will "provide emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to shock affected populations".
  - Strategic outcome 5: aligned with WFP Strategic Result 8, will focus on providing logistics coordination and common services in support of the emergency response. Activity 5 will "provide on-demand services to humanitarian and development partners".
11. WFP is working with government partners to enhance response efforts and establish coordination mechanisms in logistics and food security, under government leadership. Should humanitarian partners request WFP services, WFP will work together with the Government and partners to implement a common services strategy that addresses the needs for these operations. Some partners have expressed interest in support with storage, transport, and customs.
12. The transition will be ensured through the continued capacity strengthening of the Government and local responders (Dominican Red Cross), under country strategic plan (CSP) strategic outcomes 2 and 3 with a building-back better approach.
13. The CSP had one previous budget revision in December 2019, approved by the regional director, to accommodate additional confirmed contributions for strategic outcome 3.

### Strategic outcomes

#### ***Strategic outcome 4: Crisis-affected populations are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of shocks***

14. WFP will provide emergency assistance to the most affected populations, supporting their access to food (Strategic Result 1) in a coordinated effort that will complement the national government



response. WFP will seek to adapt its assistance to the diverse needs of populations and complement these with interventions under strategic outcome 2 to meet the nutrition needs of vulnerable groups.

15. This strategic outcome will be accomplished through the following output:
  - Affected populations receive cash-based transfers or in-kind food assistance to meet basic food needs (Strategic Result 1) and preserve their nutrition status (Strategic Result 2).

#### **Key activity**

*Activity 4: Provide emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to shock affected populations*

16. WFP will target vulnerable people in severe food insecurity who have lost their livelihoods and are unable to access food through government programmes with emergency food assistance via in-kind and cash/voucher distributions.

#### **Strategic outcome 5: Humanitarian and development partners have access to reliable services throughout the crisis**

17. WFP will provide on-demand logistics storage, transport and coordination services supporting humanitarian partners, such as NGOs and United Nations agencies, through the delivery of common services (Strategic Result 8).
18. This strategic outcome will be accomplished through the following output:
  - Affected populations benefit from on-demand services to humanitarian and development partners in order to receive humanitarian assistance in a timely manner.

#### **Key activity**

*Activity 5: Provide on-demand services to humanitarian and development partners*

19. As the crisis unfolds, it will require flexible and coordinated responses to affected populations. WFP will leverage its supply chain expertise to provide on-demand service provision to partners on a cost-recovery basis, according to need.
20. Indicator monitoring will be captured through WFP's country office tool for managing programme operations effectively (COMET). Output indicator information with gender and age disaggregated beneficiary figures will be provided.
21. Field monitors will undertake distribution and post-distribution monitoring to measure operational performance, adapted to COVID-19 containment measures. A beneficiary feedback mechanism will be established, taking into account access and protection issues. WFP will carry out food security assessments for key performance indicators such as the food consumption score, to measure progress and results. Remote and mobile data collection will be prioritized.
22. WFP will conduct periodic risk assessments and ensure timely communication to partners and other stakeholders on revisions to programme response. Particular attention will be paid to risks related to security and access constraints. WFP will ensure food distributions are carried out applying COVID-19 hygiene and social distancing measures. Double rations will be considered, as well as distributions to small groups throughout a given month.

#### **Beneficiary analysis**

23. There is an increase in tier 1 beneficiaries with the addition of strategic outcome 4.



24. WFP will support 282,400 beneficiaries in extreme poverty, dedicated to informal employment, undocumented, vulnerable to malnutrition, and/or living with chronic conditions such as HIV, which are not part of government social assistance programmes.
25. Older persons and pregnant and lactating women part of beneficiary households of the general food assistance will receive Super Cereal within the household ration.

| <b>TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY</b> |                 |                          |                          |                        |                           |                          |                   |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Strategic outcome</b>   | <b>Activity</b> | <b>Period</b>            | <b>Women (18+ years)</b> | <b>Men (18+ years)</b> | <b>Girls (0-18 years)</b> | <b>Boys (0-18 years)</b> | <b>Total</b>      |
| 1  | 1               | Current                  | 600 000                  | 500 000                | 900 000                   | 800 000                  | <b>2 800 000*</b> |
|  |                 | Increase/decrease        | 0                        | 0                      | 0                         | 0                        | 0                 |
|  |                 | Revised                  | 600 000                  | 500 000                | 900 000                   | 800 000                  | <b>2 800 000</b>  |
| 2  | 2               | Current                  | 52 000                   | 25 000                 | 65 000                    | 58 000                   | <b>300 000**</b>  |
|  |                 | Increase/decrease        | 0                        | 0                      | 0                         | 0                        | 0                 |
|  |                 | Revised                  | 52 000                   | 25 000                 | 65 000                    | 58 000                   | <b>300 000</b>    |
| 3  | 3               | Current                  | 550 000                  | 550 000                | 600 000                   | 600 000                  | <b>2 300 000*</b> |
|  |                 | Increase/decrease        | 0                        | 0                      | 0                         | 0                        | 0                 |
|  |                 | Revised                  | 550 000                  | 550 000                | 600 000                   | 600 000                  | <b>2 300 000</b>  |
| 4  | 4               | Current                  | 0                        | 0                      | 0                         | 0                        | 0                 |
|  |                 | Increase/decrease        | 110 136                  | 112 960                | 31 064                    | 28 240                   | <b>282 400</b>    |
|  |                 | Revised                  | 110 136                  | 112 960                | 31 064                    | 28 240                   | <b>282 400</b>    |
| 5  | 5               | Current                  | 0                        | 0                      | 0                         | 0                        | 0                 |
|  |                 | Increase/decrease        | 0                        | 0                      | 0                         | 0                        | 0                 |
|  |                 | Revised                  | 0                        | 0                      | 0                         | 0                        | 0                 |
| <b>Total (without overlap)</b>   |                 | <b>Current</b>           | <b>951 000</b>           | <b>450 000</b>         | <b>1 037 500</b>          | <b>937 500</b>           | <b>3 376 000</b>  |
|  |                 | <b>Increase/decrease</b> | <b>110 136</b>           | <b>112 960</b>         | <b>31 064</b>             | <b>28 240</b>            | <b>282 400</b>    |
|  |                 | <b>Revised</b>           | <b>1 061 136</b>         | <b>562 960</b>         | <b>1 068 564</b>          | <b>965 740</b>           | <b>3 658 400</b>  |

\* Tier 3 beneficiaries.

\*\* 200,000 tier 1 beneficiaries and 100,000 tier 2 beneficiaries.

### **Transfers**

26. Strategic outcome 4 includes capacity strengthening of Government and partners in emergency food distributions, food security assessments and retail sector assessments whilst also ensuring the transition to emergency food assistance to be provided under government programmes.
27. Strategic outcome 4 includes food transfers for 100,000 beneficiaries for 60 days, and CBT transfers for 182,400 beneficiaries for 60 days.



28. WFP will provide cash-based transfers for accessible affected populations, allowing men and women beneficiaries to meet their differentiated preferences. WFP will assess the feasibility of different transfer mechanisms, including the set-up of a CBT platform for direct cash transfer through financial service providers and partnerships with trusted cooperating partners.
29. Beneficiaries will receive USD 0.84 per person per day to purchase food and other basic items locally, which is equivalent to the value of the general food distribution (GFD) food basket on local markets and the Government provided assistance through its social protection programme. Cash and voucher transfers will follow WFP guidelines.<sup>2</sup>
30. However, municipalities on the border with Haiti, traditionally poor and food-insecure, are experiencing market closure. Undocumented vulnerable Dominicans and migrants not accessing social protection programmes have difficulty in obtaining assistance through cash and voucher transfers. Also, the Government prefers migrants to be assisted through low profile interventions. Therefore, a component of in-kind food assistance is necessary.
31. The GFD ration will cover 87 percent of daily energy requirements (established at 2,070 kcal per day per person), promoting dietary diversification through the distribution of local products in coordination with government local farmers markets that WFP will also support during the COVID-19 response. WFP will provide a pre-packaged food kit with rice, beans, vegetable oil, oats, pasta and salt.
32. WFP will procure food using local purchases due to global supply chain disruptions. Commercial sector trucks will be contracted to transport food directly to final delivery points managed by cooperating partners/WFP staff.

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<sup>2</sup> A plan of operations will be prepared to outline detailed procedures, steps, processes, assumptions, risks and limits governing the implementation of the cash and voucher component. It will clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities of WFP and its partners concerning key operational arrangements.



| <b>TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) or CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (USD/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY</b> |                           |  |               |                         |                                   |              |
|--|---------------------------|--|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
|  | Strategic outcome 2       |  |               | Strategic outcome 4     |                                   |              |
|  | Activity 2                |  |               | Activity 4              |                                   |              |
| Beneficiary type   | Children aged 6–59 months | Pregnant and lactating women and girls | Older persons | General food assistance |                                   |              |
| Modality   | Food                      |  | Food          | Food                    | General food assistance – in-kind | Cash/voucher |
| Cereals  |                           |  |               |                         | 421                               |              |
| Pulses   |                           |  |               |                         | 80                                |              |
| Oil  |                           |  |               |                         | 36                                |              |
| Salt   |                           |  |               |                         | 5                                 |              |
| Super Cereal   |                           |  | 100           | 100                     |                                   |              |
| Super Cereal Plus  |                           | 100                                    |               |                         |                                   |              |
| Micronutrient powder   | 1                         |  |               |                         |                                   |              |
| Total kcal/day   | -                         | 410                                    | 380           | 380                     | 1 772                             |              |
| % kcal from protein  | -                         | 16                                     | 14            | 14                      | 10                                |              |
| Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)  |                           |  |               |                         |                                   | 0.84         |
| Number of feeding days per year  | 120                       | 90                                     | 90            | 120                     | 60                                | 60           |

| <b>TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE</b> |                |                  |              |                   |                |                   |
|---|----------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
|   | Current budget |                  | Increase     |                   | Revised budget |                   |
|   | Total (mt)     | Total (USD)      | Total (mt)   | Total (USD)       | Total (mt)     | Total (USD)       |
| Cereals   | 0              | 0                | 2 527        | 2 066 251         | 2 527          | 2 066 251         |
| Pulses  |                | 0                | 480          | 746 746           | 480            | 746 746           |
| Oil and fats  | 0              | 0                | 218          | 174 502           | 218            | 174 502           |
| Mixed and blended foods   | 2 343          | 1 565 522        | 0            | 0                 | 2 343          | 1 565 522         |
| Other   | 47             | 869 497          | 30           | 30 600            | 77             | 900 097           |
| <b>Total (food)</b>   | <b>2 390</b>   | <b>2 435 020</b> | <b>3 256</b> | <b>3 018 098</b>  | <b>5 645</b>   | <b>5 453 118</b>  |
| Cash-based transfers  |                | 0                |              | 9 192 960         |                | 9 192 960         |
| <b>Total (food and CBT value)</b>                                     | <b>2 390</b>   | <b>2 435 020</b> | <b>3 256</b> | <b>12 211 058</b> | <b>5 645</b>   | <b>14 646 078</b> |



## Cost breakdown

33. The revised budget increases the CSP budget with transfer modalities and associated costs for two new strategic outcomes and activities for crisis response.

|   | Strategic Result 5/<br>SDG Target 17.9 | Strategic Result 2/<br>SDG Target 2.2 | Strategic Result 5/<br>SDG Target 17.9 | Strategic Result 1/<br>SDG Target 2.1 | Strategic Result 8/<br>SDG Target 17.16 | Total             |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
|   | Strategic outcome 1                    | Strategic outcome 2                   | Strategic outcome 3                    | Strategic outcome 4                   | Strategic outcome 5                     |                   |
| Focus area                              | Root causes                            | Root causes                           | Resilience building                    | Crisis response                       | Crisis response                         |                   |
| Transfer                                | 0                                      | 0                                     | 0                                      | 13 582 978                            | 369 276                                 | <b>13 952 254</b> |
| Implementation                          | 0                                      | 0                                     | 0                                      | 1 222 468                             | 130 724                                 | <b>1 353 192</b>  |
| Adjusted direct support costs           |  |                                       |  |                                       |   | <b>153 000</b>    |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                         |  |                                       |  |                                       |   | <b>15 458 445</b> |
| Indirect support costs<br>(6.5 percent) |  |                                       |  |                                       |   | <b>971 742</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                            |  |                                       |  |                                       |   | <b>16 430 187</b> |

|   | Strategic Result 5/<br>SDG Target 17.9 | Strategic Result 2/<br>SDG Target 2.2 | Strategic Result 5/<br>SDG Target 17.9 | Strategic Result 1/<br>SDG Target 2.1 | Strategic Result 8/<br>SDG Target 17.16 | Total             |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
|   | Strategic outcome 1                    | Strategic outcome 2                   | Strategic outcome 3                    | Strategic outcome 4                   | Strategic outcome 5                     |                   |
| Focus area                              | Root causes                            | Root causes                           | Resilience building                    | Crisis response                       | Crisis response                         |                   |
| Transfer                                | 701 106                                | 4 432 968                             | 2 392 033                              | 13 582 978                            | 369 276                                 | <b>21 478 361</b> |
| Implementation                          | 384 137                                | 1 412 448                             | 551 914                                | 1 222 468                             | 130 724                                 | <b>3 701 690</b>  |
| Adjusted direct support costs           | 125 910                                | 651 992                               | 135 831                                | 253 906                               | 8 575                                   | <b>1 176 214</b>  |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                         | 1 211 153                              | 6 497 407                             | 3 079 778                              | 15 059 352                            | 508 574                                 | <b>26 356 265</b> |
| Indirect support costs<br>(6.5 percent) | 78 725                                 | 422 331                               | 200 186                                | 978 858                               | 0                                       | <b>1 680 100</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>1 289 878</b>                       | <b>6 919 739</b>                      | <b>3 279 963</b>                       | <b>16 038 210</b>                     | <b>508 574</b>                          | <b>28 036 365</b> |

