



World Food Programme

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational context

The Dominican Republic has experienced economic growth and stability during the past decades. However, the food security situation has been affected by inequalities in income distribution, poverty and lack of dietary diversity. Persistent micronutrient deficiencies and increasing overweight and obesity remain major concerns. The country suffers from recurrent natural shocks, which affect food systems. The country's food security priorities are clearly highlighted in numerous national policies.

The Dominican government declared a state of emergency on March due to the COVID-19 outbreak, which was maintained even with the change of government (Presidency and Congress) in August. Social distancing measures have resulted in the suspension of most of the country's commercial activities, causing loss of livelihoods, supply chain disruptions, increase in food prices, reduced purchasing power, and seriously affected the food security of the population. An estimated 8 million people have had their access to food disrupted. According to initial estimates, approximately 3.3 million people will be in moderate food insecurity and 750,000 people will be in severe food insecurity as a result to the crisis.

WFP work in Dominican Republic focuses on strengthening capacities to achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable food systems.

WFP has been present in Dominican Republic since 1969.



Population: **11.08 million** (estimated)

2018 Human Development Index: **0,745 (high)**

Income level: **Upper middle**

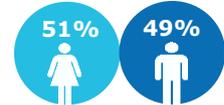
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5.**

In numbers

US\$ 14 m six-month net funding requirements

0.10 MT of food assistance distributed.

51 people assisted.



Operational updates

- Under the framework of the current USAID/BHA award, WFP hosted a virtual webinar on emergency logistics, in order to launch the first national certificated course on humanitarian supply chain and its role in crisis contexts. The initiative, carried out in conjunction with the Technological Institute of Santo Domingo (INTEC), seeks to strengthen technical logistics capacities in emergencies, for both the public and private sector.
- WFP co-leads the food security sector with FAO. Efforts are focused on coordinating actions in nutritional education and information for the COVID-19 response, including assessments, and mapping of food assistance needs and implementation.
- WFP continues informing the whole humanitarian community about the provision of services. Some partners have requested technical assistance to coordinate shipment through the Service Marketplace.
- WFP designed a national retail supply chain strategy, involving than one hundred retail stores in eleven provinces, with the aim to identify measures to improve purchasing power.
- WFP and the social protection programme PROSOLI are coordinating with the National Health Service (SNS) to reactivate the nutrition component to prevent and manage micronutrient deficiencies and undernutrition through the network of Primary Care Clinics. WFP and PROSOLI are also working to provide information about nutrition and healthy eating in the context of COVID-19, through social networks, small retail shops, and soon with the use of communication for behaviour change tools, such as nudging, a chatbot and radio initiatives. 245 Primary Care Clinics already received nutritious food and educational materials for nutrition counselling.

Contact info: Orlando Vásquez (orlando.vasquez@wfp.org)

Country Director: Romain Sirois

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

Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023

| Total Requirements (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 19,9 m | 2.7 m | 14 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.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable and utilize resilient practices that help maintain ecosystems.

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

Focus area: *Resilience-building.*

Activities:

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

Strategic Result 5: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology in humanitarian and other situations.

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development partners have access to reliable services throughout the crisis.

Focus area: *Resilience-building.*

Activities:

- Provide on-demand services to humanitarian and development partners

- WFP transported 400 hygiene kits to the Haitian Red Cross in the framework of the Caribbean humanitarian corridor project, funded by ECHO.
- WFP and UNHCR delivered 1,270 food kits to vulnerable groups in the provinces of Barahona, Independencia, El Seibo, San Pedro, Hato Mayor and La Romana, including migrants, elderly and pregnant women.

Monitoring

- 200 new staff of PROSOLI and SNS were trained in information gathering and monitoring of beneficiaries.

Challenges

- The ongoing 2020 hurricane season could bring weather events that would exacerbate the food insecurity crisis caused by Covid-19, due to potential impact to infrastructure, supply chains, and incomes.
- An increase in the exchange rate between the Dominican Peso and the US Dollar contributes to rising costs of basic food commodities, accentuating food insecurity among the population.
- Food security actors, the government, and NGOs have highlighted the lack of a means to map food security needs among various vulnerable populations.

Donors

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