



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 in March due to the COVID-19 outbreak, which has been maintained. 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, 750,000 people will be in severe food insecurity as a result of 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**

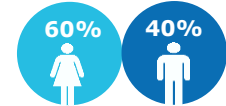
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5.**

In numbers

US\$ 13.4 m six-month net funding requirements

31.5 MT of food assistance distributed.

1,635 people assisted.



Operational updates

- Within the framework of the Caribbean Humanitarian Corridors project, funded by ECHO, WFP began the construction of an humanitarian warehouse for the Dominican Red Cross, with capacity to store non-food items for emergency response for 5,000 families
- As part of the project "Strengthening the Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity of the Dominican Republic", funded by BHA/OFDA, WFP delivered telecommunications equipment to the Dominican Red Cross.
- WFP completed the Drought Resilience project, implemented with FAO, Plan International and Oxfam. Results include the creation of standard operating protocols (SOP) for communication, surveillance, preparation and response to emergencies caused by drought.
- WFP designed a pilot to activate a forecast-based financing mechanism model through cash-based transfers, for the Yaque del Norte river basin. This process integrates the main forecast, warning and response entities.
- Together with Oxford Policy Management, WFP prepared a document on social protection system's response to COVID-19, detailing best practices of different institutions and indicating which issues should be further addressed. Public institutions within the social protection system participated in this process, along with other agencies of the United Nations system forming part of the adaptive social protection group coordinated by WFP.
- With WFP technical support, the General Directorate of Medicines, Food and Health Products published the second monitoring reports on the quality control system for fortified rice produced in country. These reports seek to generate relevant information to support dialogue between the Dominican

Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
28 m	7.3 m	13.4 m

28 m 7.3 m 13.4 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.

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

government and the national producers of rice, as well as to introduce adjustments to the enrichment process.

- WFP trained World Vision technicians on nutrition emergency assistance intervention to vulnerable populations, funded by CICETE. In addition, 35 new technicians from the National Health Service received training on the nutrition component implemented by the PROSOLI program with WFP support throughout the country.
- The preliminary report of the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) study was finalized and is currently awaiting to be validated by the government. The report seeks to explain the nutritional gaps among the population in certain contexts, in addition to identifying the barriers to adequate consumption.

Monitoring

- Jointly with the relevant national institutions, WFP prepared a market analysis of the retail sector, focused on specified items within the basic food basket. The results were presented to the new authorities, along with recommendations to maximize the use of cash transfers, reduce market inefficiencies, and increase people's purchasing power and access to a greater variety of nutritional products.

Partnership

- WFP continues to seek productive relationships with new national government authorities, with the aim of continuing partnerships to provide technical assistance and effective program implementation.

Donors

British Foreign Commonwealth Office; Chinese International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA); Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO); FbF Global Initiative funded by Germany, Government of the Dominican Republic; USA (BHA-OFDA); Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF); and Canada Government.