



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

January 2021



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 country's socioeconomic landscape has been severely impacted by COVID-19 containment measures. The Government declared a state of emergency in March 2020 and continued to extend it throughout the year. WFP's assessment on the food security situation estimates that some 287,000 people (2.7 percent of the population) are severely food insecure as of end 2020, compared to 1 percent the previous year, while 3.7 million people (35.5 percent) are in moderate food insecurity, compared to 19 percent in 2019.

WFP work in Dominican Republic focuses on strengthening capacities to achieve food security, improve nutrition, promote sustainable food systems, as well as increasing capacities, preparedness and programme focus areas towards crisis response.

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**

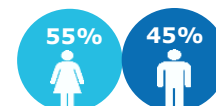
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of
children under 5.**

In numbers

USD 3 million next six months net funding requirements

57.3 mt of food assistance distributed

16 329 people assisted



Operational updates

- WFP and social protection program "Progresando Con Solidaridad" (PROSOLI) held the "Probando un Chin" cooking national competition. The initiative highlighted the values of Dominican food culture and its nutritional contribution. Multiple innovative recipes were developed, based on fortified rice and complementary fortified food that the WFP delivers each month to households.
- WFP, in coordination with the National Health Service and PROSOLI, trained medical practitioners in 110 primary healthcare centres on prevention of micronutrient deficiencies and providing specialized nutritious foods for children 6-59 months of age, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly. WFP also supported People Living with HIV to develop 25 new urban vegetable gardens and provided tools and materials
- The Dominican Fill the Nutrition Gap (FNG) study was presented and revised with key government stakeholders in a workshop held by WFP and the National Secretariat for Food Sovereignty, Food Security and Nutrition. This study identified critical gaps in access to a nutritious diet. The Government will engage in sectorial discussions to define an action roadmap based on FNG findings with WFP support.
- WFP is supporting the national school feeding programme in adapting the Menu Plus tool, which will allow for the calculation of nutritious and low-cost menus for schools.
- WFP and FAO led the context analysis and action definition areas for the Food Security Cluster, while the Government, World Bank, European Union and UN agencies led COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment (CRNA). The results will define the Government's priorities and medium-term plan for response and recovery regarding COVID-19.

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Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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28 million

7.5 million

3 million

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

- Within the Forecast-Based Financing (Fbf) project framework, WFP delivered emergency response kits for local responders to engage in early-warning, flood anticipatory actions in the provinces located in the Yaque del Norte River Basin.
- WFP Dominican Republic delivered cash-based transfers to 690 families, activating the global long-term agreement with Western Union, and carrying out beneficiary targeting and distributions with the Dominican Red Cross. A workshop on lessons learned was held with the Dominican Red Cross and IFRC to improve future joint interventions in these areas.
- WFP finalised a study on the impact of COVID-19 measures on household purchasing power and food security, identifying the main occupational groups affected by the lockdown restrictions.

Monitoring

- WFP finished the remote assessment on food security indicators, with national level representation. Initial results indicate an increase in food security in 2020. Based in the CARI*, 35.5 percent of the population is on moderate food insecurity and 2.7 percent in severe food insecurity.
- WFP is working together with PROSOLI and the National Health Service in a decentralised evaluation of joint nutrition interventions.

Partnership

- WFP continues to seek productive relationships with new national government authorities to provide technical assistance and effective program implementation. WFP is developing a resource mobilization strategy, including a broader alignment with the Government.

Donors

Chinese International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA); Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO); Government of the Dominican Republic; USA (BHA-OFDA); Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Strategic and Special Projects of the Presidency of the Republic (PROPEEP); DSM; and Mastercard.