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 on crisis response.

WFP has been present in Dominican Republic since 1969.

Operational updates

- WFP, the Government of the Dominican Republic and the Government of Mexico held a virtual workshop as part of the South-South Triangular Cooperation initiative. This space served for high-level decisionmakers to exchange dialogue on the adaptability of social protection systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 100 people participated in the virtual meeting. In March, two workshops will take place with the Governments of Peru and Colombia, discussing the interoperability of databases and social records and the inclusion of excluded population in the social protection system. The content will serve to create a dossier on lessons learned to be shared with governments from the region.

- WFP, the Embassy of China, the social protection programme “Progresando con Solidaridad” and the National Health Service held an event at a Primary Health Care Unit in the Province of Santiago Rodriguez, where the delivery mechanism of the nutritional complementary food and micronutrient powder was presented. With the support of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), more than 100,000 children under five years of age, elderly, pregnant and lactating women and girls, people living with HIV and other chronic diseases are receiving nutritious complementary food and micronutrient powder to strengthen their nutritional quality and immune systems.

- WFP hosted the regional Logistics Response Team on an exploratory mission to prepare for the logistics training to be held in June 2021 in the country. The training is designed as a full simulation exercise, first of its kind to be held in Latin America and the Caribbean, and will be conducted in an emergency scenario, designed to highlight the various areas of intervention in a disaster situation and strengthen national government capacities. The training is part of the Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) which seeks to increase the effectiveness of humanitarian response through capacity building.