



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

March 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 on 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**

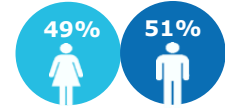
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5.**

In Numbers

USD 3 million next six-month net funding requirements

3.73 mt of food assistance distributed

37,052 people assisted
in March



Operational updates

- WFP held an event with the First Lady of the Dominican Republic and President of the Cabinet for Children and Adolescents, Raquel Arbaje de Abinader, and the National Institute for Comprehensive Care for Early Childhood (INAIPI) to present the Nutritional Actions for Early Childhood programme and to officially sign an agreement between both organizations.
- WFP, the Government of the Dominican Republic and the Government of Peru held a virtual workshop as part of the South-South Triangular Cooperation initiative. The discussion revolved around the interoperability of databases and the social protection systems response to COVID-19.
- WFP, the Ministry of Public Health (MSP) and the rice industry held a meeting on the progress made in the fortification strategy of the cereal to reduce the micronutrient deficiency in the Dominican population.
- WFP held an event together with the National Student Welfare Institute (INABIE) to officially sign a cooperation agreement to work together towards reducing malnutrition in the public school system at the national level.
- WFP met with the National Social Subsidies Administrator (ADESS) to address the optimization of the focalization and payment processes of the Government's social protection programmes.

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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)
29 million	7.7 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

- WFP participated in the Binational workshop held together with the UNCT Dominican Republic and the UNCT Haiti to identify areas where the UN can support cross-border dialogue and collaboration between the countries' Governments.
- WFP had a virtual meeting with USAID BHA DR to welcome the new Head of Health of USAID BHA in the country and discussing possible future cooperation areas.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted a post distribution monitoring (PDM) survey in nine provinces for WFP's nutrition programme, funded through the contribution from CIDCA. In total, 219 beneficiaries were interviewed both remotely and in person. Key results show that 92% and 93% of all respondents reported that they are very or extremely satisfied about the assistance and the overall programme, respectively. Likewise, 86% of households have an acceptable food consumption score (FCS), while 11% have borderline and 3% have poor food consumption. The results of the PDM will serve to inform the implementation of the nutrition programme in 2021.

Donors

Chinese International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA); Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO); DSM; Government of the Dominican Republic; Social Protection Programme "Progresando con Solidaridad" (PROSOLI); Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF); and Mastercard.