



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic

Country Brief

July 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 the 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**

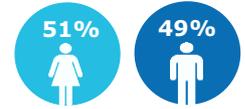
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5.**

In numbers

USD 0 six-month net funding requirements

26.421 Mt of food assistance distributed

4,090 people assisted in July



Operational Update

- Together with the Ministry of the Presidency and the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP hosted a high-level forum to promote the national dialogues in preparation of the 2021 Food Systems Summit. The event congregated key actors from Government, the private sector, NGOs, local actors, and other related institutions in the country.
- WFP met with the technical team of the State Economic Canteens to provide technical assistance to strengthen nutrition and food security standards, increase Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) capacities, and support through WFP's supply chain expertise.
- WFP activated the logistics humanitarian corridor financed by BHA/USAID and ECHO, supporting the WFP Haiti office and other United Nations (UN) Agencies in Haiti, with an UNHAS flight (inbound and outbound).
- WFP is coordinating joint actions with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Dominican Red Cross in the areas of emergency preparedness and DRR.
- WFP held a meeting with the Congress to promote the formation of the Food Security and Nutrition Commission and implementation of the related legal framework. The meeting supported the positioning of the topic in the national agenda.
- WFP delivered direct food assistance to 736 households with support from MasterCard Caribbean, assisting vulnerable populations, and particularly migrant families, affected by COVID-19.
- WFP hosted a regional mission to support nutrition and food security actions in the country through the social protection scheme. WFP continues to provide technical advice to Government institutions to advance the development of a roadmap and action plan following the Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis and rice fortification strategy.

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

Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

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

14.4 million

0 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

Monitoring

- WFP hosted a mission for the external decentralized evaluation of the nutrition component in the country. Evaluators met with the WFP technical team as well as with Government counterparts, UN agencies, and implementing partners at the national and local levels.

Challenges

- The Dominican Republic went through a new peak of COVID-19 cases during the month of July. Government continues to promote the vaccination programme throughout the country. The Socio-economic impact of the pandemic crisis will have long-term consequences, with food and nutrition insecurity already showing a considerable increase.

Donors

Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), DSM, Government of the Dominican Republic, Mastercard, National Institute for Comprehensive Care for Early Childhood (INAPI), Supérate (former PROSOLI), Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF), USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).