



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

August 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**

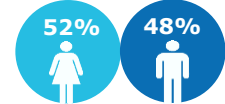
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5.**

In numbers

US\$ 2.1 m six months (September 2021-February 2022) net funding requirements

24.747 mt of food assistance distributed

4,125 people assisted
in AUGUST 2021



Operational Updates

- WFP Regional Director, Lola Castro, visited the WFP Dominican Republic Country Office and welcomed the newly appointed Country Director, Gabriela Alvarado. The Regional Director highlighted the importance of adapting to the changes in the region and the country to maintain our work's relevance.
- WFP Country Director met with the Chinese Ambassador in the Dominican Republic to continue working together to respond to COVID-19 consequences on food security and nutrition.
- WFP signed an agreement with the Ministry of Public Health to promote joint actions to prevent malnutrition in the country with the aim of improving the food security levels and healthy eating in the most vulnerable population.
- WFP Country Director met with the Canadian Ambassador in the Dominican Republic to discuss the current food security and nutrition situation in the country, including the effects of climate change on the island.
- WFP supported national humanitarian actors and the Dominican Government to deliver in-kind assistance through the logistics humanitarian corridor, in response to Haiti's earthquake.
- WFP hosted a mission to assess shipping and supply chain capacities in establishing the humanitarian corridor. The Ministry of Defense, national authorities and local actors have been involved.
- WFP and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) held a technical meeting to discuss joint efforts on the humanitarian corridor, including supply chain and storage of medicines and other health supplies, to better respond to emergencies in the island and neighboring countries.

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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 m

15 m

2.1 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

- WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) held workshops with local actors to promote community-based efforts to incorporate fruits and vegetables to the nutritional diet of Dominicans, as part of national efforts to commemorate the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.
- WFP held an exploratory meeting with the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ) to identify possible collaboration with climate change and disaster risk reduction programmes.

Monitoring

- WFP held meetings with local actors and community members to provide information on the Forecast-based Financing initiative, as well as to sensitize on the actions being taken to prepare and allow for early response to flood risks in the Yaque del Norte Basin.

Challenges

- The Dominican Republic is still facing the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season. This has exposed the island to the strike of two tropical storms that have hit the country and raised national emergency alerts. These shocks have highlighted the opportunity to strengthen emergency-preparedness and response efforts to build resilience to these events.

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 (INAIFI), Supérate (former PROSOLI), Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF), USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).