



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

September 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**

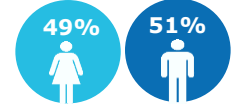
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5.**

In numbers

USD 3.3 m six months (October 2021 - March 2022) net funding requirements, representing 36% of total

USD 462,826 cash-based transfers made

65,433 people assisted in SEPTEMBER 2021



Operational Updates

- WFP Country Director met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, the Social Protection Programme (*Supérate*), and the Emergency Operations Center. WFP advocated to enhance disaster risk reduction and improve food security levels, as well as offered support to Government with the implementation of the recently launched digital agenda.
- At the USA/BHA Annual Partners Meeting in the Dominican Republic, WFP presented advancements on projects aimed at improving emergency preparedness and readiness at the national and local level, as well as enhancing the capacities to activate the Humanitarian Corridor.
- WFP hosted ECHO's regional team on a monitoring visit to assess the progress made in the implementation of the current project focused in adapting the humanitarian response to anticipate, prepare and respond to rapidly intensifying and slow onset climate shocks.
- WFP participated in a virtual event hosted by the Chinese Embassy in the Dominican Republic, where the Ambassador and the Director of the Social Protection Programme (*Supérate*) highlighted the importance of the partnership with WFP to assist the population most affected by COVID-19, with fortified nutritious food.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture and the Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security in their active participation in the Food Systems Summit, confirming the government's commitment to improve food systems.
- WFP participated at the Ministry of Health's event, Walking for Health, to promote healthy habits and nudge for social behavior change in communities suffering from the double burden of malnutrition.

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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

3.3 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 visited Caucedo Port to enhance WFP's humanitarian logistics support with the private logistics sector. The DP World team (in charge of Port Caucedo) presented expansion plans in the country, with a partnership with Dubai to make the Dominican Republic a logistics center with direct connections with the Middle East and Asian regions.
- WFP hosted a mission to assess CO's Supply Chain capacities, including procurement, quality control, and logistics, with the aim of improving internal capacities.
- Together with the Regional Director, the WFP Communications team participated in the Youth SDG Summit, exchanging on WFP's role and actions to achieve Agenda 2030 and the relevance of youth in the process to accelerate social impact.

Monitoring

- In line with the preparation of the Forecast-based Financing project, WFP carried out the targeting process in the northwest region of the country, Cuenca Yaque del Norte. More than 1,300 households were interviewed to potentially receive cash-based transfers in the event an activation of the mechanism is needed.

Challenges

- The Dominican Republic is still facing the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season. This continues to pose pressure on Government's capacity to prepare and assist emergencies. WFP is supporting Government's efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction initiatives and enhance national capacities in humanitarian assistance.

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