

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

November 2021



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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, while 3.7 million people (35.5 percent) are in moderate food insecurity.

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: **10.5 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **88 out of 189**

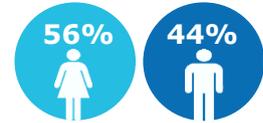
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

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In Numbers

USD 1.7 m six months (December 2021-May 2022) net funding requirements, representing 59% of total



Operational Updates

- Dominican Republic's First Lady received WFP to advocate and to raise awareness on the Food Security and Nutrition situation in the country, and WFP's mandate to provide technical support on humanitarian assistance and disaster risk reduction.
- WFP's Country Director and the technical team held high level meetings with the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Agriculture, Customs and Port Authorities, to activate the mechanisms of the Humanitarian Corridor to deliver assistance to Haiti.
- WFP was invited to the National Congress of Agriculture and Smallholders. WFP Country Director and Regional Nutrition Advisor presented WFP's analysis on COVID-19's impact, highlighting challenges and opportunities in working together on the links between climate change, food security and food systems.
- WFP and the Social Protection Programme, Supérate, hosted a high-level and technical meeting to discuss the development of a pilot to improve social protection mechanisms that are nutrition sensitive, and include adaptative mechanisms to climate shocks and emergencies, and a strong monitoring and evaluation component.
- WFP hosted a regional training with the National Social Registry Institution (SIUBEN) to improve their technical capacity on web mapping with the improvement of data management and visualisation. The workshop concluded with the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between both organisations to continue the support to SIUBEN, particularly for the implementation of the Digital Agenda.
- WFP's Country Director participated as a speaker at the second WFP Global Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation to present Dominican Republic's experience and lessons learnt in the two phases of the project implemented during 2021.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
45.1 m	15.2 m	1.7 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 supported the National Consultation for the reform of the legal and institutional framework for disaster risk management led by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development.
- WFP technical teams received on-site training to improve local skills in supply chain, food procurement, and technological skills to implement cash-based transfer (CBT) mechanism by using the corporate tool SCOPE.

Monitoring

- WFP presented the results from the Nutrition Component’s decentralized evaluation, an assessment on the programme ran by WFP together with the Social Protection Programme, Supérate, and the National Health Service to improve food security and nutrition levels in the country.

Challenges

- In November, due to internal administrative procedures and delays from the providers, WFP had challenges in providing cash and food transfers. WFP is working on improving and accelerating the process to ensure assistance delivery in December.

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), Social Protection Programme Supérate (former PROSOLI), Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, USAID’s Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).