

# WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

## December 2021

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



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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**

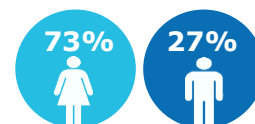
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5**

## In Numbers

**USD 1.6 m** six months (January-June 2022) net funding requirements, representing 64% of total

**2.78 mt** of food assistance distributed

**1,880** people assisted in DECEMBER 2021



## Operational Updates

- WFP hosted a virtual two-day international seminar for the South-South Cooperation Initiative, with more than 100 participants. Panels included presentations from the Governments of Colombia, Mexico and Dominican Republic, and the WFP offices in these countries, discussing about their social protection systems and their links with food security, nutrition and disaster risk management.
- WFP assisted with food kits more than 25 families in Sabana Perdida, in the north of Santo Domingo. WFP also instructed beneficiaries on healthy nutrition habits and techniques for cultivating in urban gardens to improve their access to healthy food and increase their food security.
- WFP hosted a mission from the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) team that held a two-day workshop with the main institutions from the Dominican Government and created a technical team that will continue following up on this initiative.
- WFP, the National Council for Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security (CONASSAN, for its Spanish acronym), and six other governmental institutions signed a commitment letter to pursue the implementation of a plan based on the results of the Fill the Nutrient Gap Analysis (FNG).
- WFP actively participated in a National Consultation for the reform of the legal and institutional framework for disaster risk management, during the roundtables organized by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development.
- WFP and the Ministry of Health launched a diploma to strengthen capacities of the technical personnel to improve knowledge on food security and nutrition in public policies.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/dominican-republic](http://www.wfp.org/countries/dominican-republic)

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>45.2 m</b>	<b>15.4 m</b>	<b>1.6 m</b>

**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 held a workshop to promote and empower institutions on the update of the Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index (EPCI) in the country. Main Government institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on disaster risk management participated and validated the 2021 updated index.

## Challenges

- In November, due to internal administrative procedures and delays from the providers, WFP faced challenges providing cash and food transfers to beneficiaries. Nevertheless, distributions resumed in December.

## Donors

European Union (ECHO), Dutch State Mines (DSM), Dominican Republic (the), Mastercard, National Institute for Comprehensive Care for Early Childhood (INAPI, for its Spanish acronym), Social Protection Programme *Supérate* (former PROSOLI), Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).