



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief March 2022



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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 (April - September 2022) net funding requirements, representing 76% of total

Operational Updates

- WFP held an intensive workshop to develop partnership action plans, with internal cross sector participation. Through extensive discussions, 13 priority government partners were identified and short- to mid-term action plans were established for each partner entity.
- WFP cash-based transfers team conducted field visits to establish coordination with local actors in the communities that are part of the WFP-UNICEF joint project to strengthen the community resilience of the vulnerable groups against COVID-19, funded by European Union (DG-ECHO). Meetings with the authorities of Castañuela and Guayubin municipalities, and the Monte Cristi Chamber of Commerce were held to discuss the interventions of the project.
- WFP welcomed the Regional Bureau for the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Deputy Regional Director, Ms. Kyung-nan Park, who together with WFP Dominican Republic Country Director, Ms. Gabriela Alvarado, held a meeting with Mr. Inho Lee, Korean Ambassador, and Ms. Nayeon Kim, Sub-Director of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). After a brief introduction of WFP activities in the LAC region, potential collaborations were discussed.
- WFP held a meeting with the National Institute of Student Welfare (INABIE, for its Spanish acronym) to discuss about quality improvement for the national school feeding programme and future cooperation areas between both institutions, including the completion of the programme's diagnosis under the SABER methodology.
- In preparation for the hurricane Season and to ensure internal and national readiness, WFP organized a series of workshops with the social protection institutions to define the procedures to activate the new emergency voucher scheme. Key government institutions of the social protection system attended the workshops include *Supérate*, Social Beneficiary Registry (SIUBEN, for its Spanish acronym), Social Subsidy Administrator (ADESS, for its Spanish acronym) and Social Policy Cabinet (GPS, for its Spanish acronym). The workshop also had the participation of UNICEF, FAO, UNDP WB, and other members of the Social Protection working group coordinated by WFP.

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Further information: 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)
45.1 m	17.9 m	1.6 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

Monitoring

- With the support of the Anticipatory Actions (AA) teams from headquarters and the Regional Bureau for LAC, the country office held a two-day workshop to redefine its AA Theory of Change and logframe to align it with its country strategic plan, government priorities and the AA global strategy. Moreover, key decisions were made to design its monitoring and evaluation plan, and impact evaluation to be ready for this hurricane season in case of an activation.

Challenges

- As much as the extended impact from the COVID-19 and the Ukraine crisis continue to disrupt global supply chain, much of WFP programme activities are experiencing disruption for impeded logistical arrangement by the Government and other implementing partners. WFP keeps endeavouring toward expanding new financing opportunities from various sources.

Donors

European Union (DG-ECHO), Dutch State Mines (DSM), Dominican Republic, National Institute for Comprehensive Care for Early Childhood (INAIPI), Social Protection Programme *Supérate* (former PROSOLI), Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, United States of America (USAID's BHA), and Multi Partners Trust Fund (MPTF).