



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief April 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**

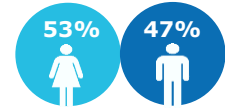
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5**

In Numbers

USD 1.4 m of cash assistance distributed*

USD 0.8 m six months (May - October 2022) net funding requirements, representing 89% of total

44,042 people assisted* in April 2022



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- WFP's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean visited the country and held fruitful meetings with main government partners such as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Congress, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Presidency, to discuss about food systems, school meal programs, and WFP support to the country.
- WFP's Country Director along with Regional Director hosted a High-level Dialogue on Disaster Risk Management organized as part of an initiative financed by USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), to discuss directions of action identified toward preparedness and resilience of government and community.
- Following up on the national commitments made at the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, WFP and the Secretariat for Food Sovereignty and Security and Nutrition (SETESSAN, for its Spanish acronym) formalised eight coalitions towards the implementation of the National Roadmap for Equitable and Resilient Food Systems.
- WFP supported the National Institute of Student Welfare (INABIE, for its Spanish acronym) in training teachers and technicians in standard anthropometric measurements according to the Integrated Surveillance System for School Food and Nutrition (SISVANE, for its Spanish acronym).
- WFP, INABIE and the Ministry of Education participated in the IX Regional Forum on School Feeding held in Colombia, where INABIE presented new actions to ensure adequate and nutritious quality for school meals.
- WFP participated in the Ministry of Health's event "Healthy Route: Change Your Lifestyle" in San Pedro de Macoris. WFP carried out different activities to promote diverse diets and healthy lifestyles, such as quizzes about nutritious food, healthy weight awareness, and fortified rice tasting.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
35.6 m	19 m	0.8 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 continued supporting the Social Protection System in preparation for the Hurricane Season. Weekly workshops have been held to define the procedures to activate the new emergency voucher scheme. Key government institutions of the social protection system continue to take part of the process: *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 Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development participated in the workshops as coordinator. Also, UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, and World Bank were part of the Social Protection working group coordinated by WFP.
- WFP hosted a support mission from the regional bureau to establish a service provision strategy to foster the Government and Humanitarian Sector's supply chain. This strategy could also support the humanitarian corridor, if activated.

Monitoring

- WFP carried out household surveys and community meetings in the provinces of Dajabón and Monte Cristi to collect data for implementing the project supported by the European Commission (DG-ECHO) to build resilience of the vulnerable population affected by the pandemic.
- WFP hosted planning workshops with cooperating partners in La Romana to prepare for the implementation of the COVID-19-response project through the urban family gardens initiative.

Challenges

- As much as the extended impact from the COVID-19 and Ukraine crises continue to affect the global supply chain, great part of WFP's programme activities are experiencing disruption for impeded logistical arrangement by the Government and other cooperating partners. WFP keeps endeavouring toward expanding new financing opportunities from multiple sources.

Donors

European Union (DG-ECHO), Dutch State Mines, Dominican Republic, National Institute for Comprehensive Care for Early Childhood, Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, United States of America (USAID's BHA), Multi Partners Trust Fund.