WFP Dominican Republic
Country Brief
May 2022

In Numbers

USD 0.9 m six months (June - November 2022) net funding requirements, representing 11 percent of total

USD 0.3 m of cash assistance distributed

89,805 people assisted* in May 2022

*Preliminary figures

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.

Operational Updates

- WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization participated in the eighth meeting of National Council for Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security to discuss the progress and way forward of the National Plan for Food Security and Nutrition Sovereignty.

- In line with South-South and Triangular Cooperation, WFP welcomed a delegation from the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion, the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation and the National Institute of Civil Defense of Peru, to share experiences and lessons learned on the design and implementation of emergency-responsive social protection systems.

- WFP together with the Ministry of Health celebrated the graduation of the Nutrition Diploma’s first cohort. The six-month programme was prepared to improve knowledge of public health personnel and technicians in food security and nutrition.

- WFP and the Social Beneficiary Registry (known as SIUBEN, for its Spanish acronym) jointly launched a web-based mapping platform, DATOS SIUBEN, where socioeconomic indicators and demographic variables can be explored and visualized at provincial and municipal levels. This will enhance government capacities for better data management and informed decision-making.

- WFP together with Ministry of Agriculture, National Institute of Vocational Technical Training as well as the local partner Clínica de Familia and a private sector partner, started an organic and hydroponic farming workshop in La Romana Province to increase livelihoods and nutritional resilience of vulnerable populations.

Population: 10.5 million
Income Level: Upper middle
2018 Human Development Index: 88 out of 189
Chronic malnutrition: 7.1% of children under 5

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45.1 m</td>
<td>20.6 m</td>
<td>0.9 m</td>
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**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 carried out various activities within the Forecast Based Financing project: checking on the technological infrastructure and telecommunication equipment of the National Meteorological Office; capacity strengthening for Mitigation and Response committee; meetings with local government and community leaders in Castaños and Monte Cristi Provinces.

- In preparation for the hurricane season, WFP continued coordinating the working group for the Social Protection Emergency Vouchers. Government entities including Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, Social Subsidy Administration, Supérate, and SIUBEN worked together to design an implementation plan for the delivery of emergency vouchers.

- WFP participated in the Ministry of Health’s event “Healthy Route: Change Your Lifestyle” in La Vega. Large number of men and women as well as children participated in WFP activities to promote diverse diets and healthy lifestyles, such as quizzes about nutritious food, healthy weight awareness, and fortified rice tasting.

**Monitoring**

- Prior to the implementation of the cash-based transfer project in Palo Verde and Monte Cristi Provinces, WFP carried out field assessments to ensure selected retailers are ready to meet beneficiaries’ demand.

- WFP carried out a Supply Chain Gap Analysis for the State’s Economic Canteens (CEED) to assess the efficiencies and resilience of the institution’s procedures and jointly draft a plan to strengthen CEED’s capacities.

**Challenges**

- Due to the continued impact of the pandemic and the Ukraine crisis on global supply chains, WFP activities are experiencing disruptions.

- Sources of financing for nutrition activities are limited. However, WFP keeps endeavouring toward new resourcing opportunities.

**Donors**
Dominican Republic, European Union (DG-ECHO), Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, United States of America (USAID’s BHA), and private donors.

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