In Numbers

34.5 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 4.5 m six months (July - December 2022) net funding requirements, representing 61% of total

5,000 people assisted* in June 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

- The Regional Office of the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the European Commission has conducted a monitoring field visit related to the humanitarian corridor and prepositioning for the 2022 cyclone season. The discussions confirmed that WFP’s emergency preparedness and prepositioning strategy is well aligned with their priorities.

- WFP delivered food assistance to 1,000 households vulnerable to food insecurity in the east and northern regions within the framework of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund. As part of the intervention, the beneficiary families also received nutrition counselling.

- WFP, the Ministry of Agriculture, and local cooperating partner, Clínica de Familia, installed 60 family gardens in the eastern region, engaging people living with HIV to promote healthy diets, increase adherence to treatment and guarantee a sustainable livelihood to this vulnerable population.

- WFP held a meeting with the Ministry of Environment to align the strategies and priorities of both institutions and prioritize joint actions regarding disaster risk reduction and climate change.

- WFP and the Emergency Operations Centre (COE) held a high-level coordination meeting to prepare for the 2022 Hurricane Season. In this activity, WFP donated satellite radios to COE to strengthen the institution’s preparedness and response capacities.

- WFP and the National Institute for Integral Attention to Early Childhood have coordinated a pilot project to optimize the reconciliation time of food delivered, automating it to facilitate coordination, follow-up, and accountability.

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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Monitoring

- As part of the COVID-19 emergency response intervention funded by the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the European Commission, WFP identified the most vulnerable households to food insecurity in the eastern and northern regions, especially, migrants and undocumented populations, and registered them in WFP’s beneficiary information and transfers management platform to access cash assistance.

- WFP carried out trainings to contracted retailers in the northern region to enable the transfer of value vouchers to selected households; the trainings covered protection related issues and the use of WFP’s beneficiary information and transfers management platform.

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 continue to be 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.

Additional support has been provided by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund.