



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief June 2022



A beneficiary receives its foodkit. ©Karolyn Ureña/WFP

## 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.



The boundaries, names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Population: **10.5 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **88 out of 189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

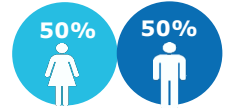
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5**

## In Numbers

**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 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.

Contact info: Angel Camacho (angel.camacho@wfp.org)

Country Director: Gabriela Alvarado

Further information: [WFP Dominican Republic](#)

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

| Total Requirement<br>(in USD) | Allocated Contributions<br>(in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements<br>(in USD) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>45.1 m</b>                 | <b>20.6 m</b>                       | <b>4.5 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

- 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.