



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief August 2022



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**

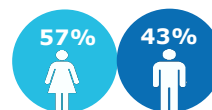
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5**

In Numbers

USD 3.1 m six months (September 2022-February 2023) net funding requirements, representing 52% of total

USD 169,340 of cash assistance distributed

4,953 people assisted
in August



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- Together with the National Institute of Comprehensive Care for Early Childhood (INAPI, for its Spanish acronym), WFP hosted workshops to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week, a global campaign that aims to generate public awareness and support for breastfeeding. WFP participated in the launch event of a project for the promotion of breastfeeding and human milk banks and, at a workshop on food safety, provided training to 162 INAPI health nutrition agents on food quality and safety.
- WFP continues supporting social protection programmes and collaborating with key national stakeholders. WFP met with the National Social Registry Institution and the National Council for HIV and AIDS, a multisector strategic body that coordinates the national response to HIV/AIDS. The meeting aimed to discuss the registration of 20,000 people with HIV within the social protection programmes. Furthermore, WFP and *Supérate*, a centralized social assistance programme that facilitates the beneficiaries' transition into the labour market, shared information on the status of their ongoing activities and discuss further collaborations.
- WFP provided capacity-building training for first responders within a regional initiative relating to using Unmanned Aircraft Systems, more commonly known as drones, for risk management and emergency response. The training included a course for professional drone pilots, an advanced photogrammetry course and a specialized course on the use of drones in an emergency.
- WFP and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) met to share their country's strategic objectives and discuss the development of a collaborative project on climate actions.
- To make its supply chain more efficient, WFP started discussing with DP World, a leading global port operator, to explore using the Caucedo Logistics Centre, one of the main logistics centres inside a port facility in the region.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
45.1 m	20.6 m	3.1 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 participated in the Ministry of Health's event "*Healthy Route: Change Your Lifestyle*" in San Francisco de Macorís. 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.
- As coordinator of the United Nations Emergency Team, WFP facilitated the inter-agency emergency response planning workshop in preparation for the cyclone season.

Monitoring

- WFP carried out distribution monitoring of its cash-based transfers in contracted retailers in the Northern region to ensure beneficiaries had unhindered access to their assistance.

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

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