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

• In response to Hurricane Fiona, WFP is working with the Government to deliver an emergency voucher to affected households. WFP has assisted the social protection programme Supérate and the Social Subsidies Administrator in designing, implementing and monitoring the emergency voucher.

• WFP, in collaboration with the National Institute of Early Childhood Care, delivered ready-to-eat food rations to 500 households affected by Hurricane Fiona in the provinces of El Seibo and San Pedro de Macorís.

• To evaluate the situation of the most vulnerable and their needs after the impact of Hurricane Fiona, WFP along with UNICEF and a delegation from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations visited primary care facilities in Bateyes, one of the poorest rural areas in the country.

• WFP supported the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) with humanitarian flights via the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services and logistical services to deliver 100 hospital beds from the Dominican Republic to Haiti in support of the Cholera response in Haiti.

• A delegation from WFP Guatemala visited the Dominican Republic to exchange experiences and lessons learned on the country’s HIV and nutrition project, which is implemented jointly by WFP, the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Council on HIV/AIDS and local partners. The delegation met project counterparts and visited La Romana province to see firsthand the family and community gardens managed by the participants.
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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<td>45.1 m</td>
<td>21 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 contributed to the second Forum of Food Labeling organized by the National Consumer Protection Observatory, in coordination with the National Institute of Student Welfare, Ministry of Public Health, Food and Agriculture Organization, PAHO and UNICEF.

**Monitoring**

- The United Nations Emergency Technical Team, led by WFP, carried out needs assessments in the provinces affected by the Hurricane Fiona to plan assistance for recovery.

**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.

**Partnerships**

- WFP officially launched Feed Their Dreams (Alimenta Sus Sueños), the joint campaign with the social protection programme Supérate and other partners, as part of the actions of the Zero Hunger movement in the country. Under the campaign, videos and other communication materials will be produced and disseminated to raise awareness and promote behavioural change towards healthy lifestyles and nutritious eating.

- WFP participated in the Ministry of Health’s event, Healthy Route: Change Your Lifestyle in Higuey. In the event, men, women and children participated in WFP-led activities to promote diverse diets and healthy lifestyles, such as quizzes about nutritious food, healthy weight awareness, fortified rice tasting and storytelling.

**Capacity Strengthening**

- WFP met with the National Council for Food and Nutrition Sovereignty and Security, led by the Ministry of the Presidency, to present the preliminary results of the evaluation of the National Plan on Nutrition and Food Sovereignty and Security.

**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.