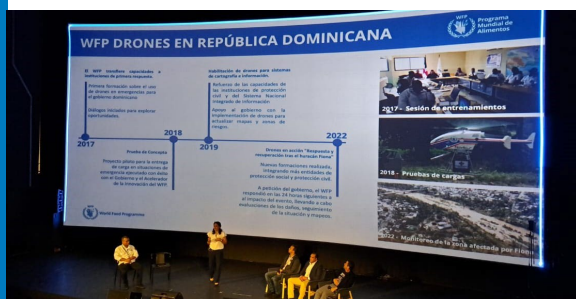




World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief April 2023

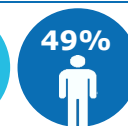


## In Numbers

**USD 144,840** cash-based transfers made

**USD 3.8 m** six months (May - October 2023) net funding requirements, representing 62 percent of total

**4,980 people assisted**



## Operational Updates

- WFP furthered its commitment to enhancing emergency preparedness and response by participating in the "Dominicana Innova 2023" National Drone Congress. This event was jointly organized by the Government's Office of Information and Communication Technologies and the Innovation Cabinet. As part of the initiative, which served as a platform for knowledge exchange, in a panel discussion titled "Drones: Allies in Search, Rescue and Emergency," WFP shared its experience of employing drone technology for assessment, search, rescue and monitoring tasks in emergencies and disasters, particularly in inaccessible, collapsed, or isolated regions. This information-sharing endeavour is part of WFP's strategy to strengthen government capabilities in managing and responding to emergencies.
- To improve the Government's capacity for anticipatory actions, WFP is bolstering national climate services in collaboration with the National Meteorological Office (ONAMET for its Spanish acronym). Six meteorological monitoring sites in Constanza, Jarabacoa, Monción, Las Matas de Santa Cruz and Santiago Rodríguez were visited, where automated meteorological stations were installed with WFP's assistance. These upgraded weather monitoring systems allow automated regular transmission of climate information, enabling timely and accurate forecasts.
- WFP continued to deliver assistance to 4,600 households not covered by the social protection programmes affected by Hurricane Fiona. These households will receive cash-based transfers (CBT) for three months to address their food and other needs through local markets. WFP conducted information sessions focused on smart purchase and nutrition counseling tailored to their specific lifecycle nutritional needs.

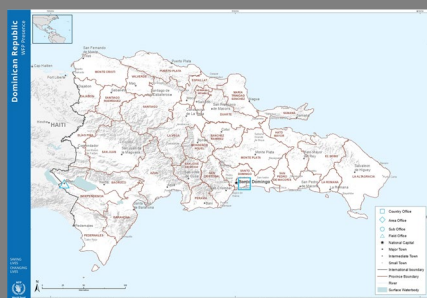
## Operational Context

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**

2021 Human Development Index: **80 out of 191**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

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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	25.9 m	3.8 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.

## Monitoring

- From 15 March to 21 April, WFP implemented simultaneous operations across nine provinces, assisting 4,600 households impacted by Hurricane Fiona and the global food crisis. The registration process was prioritized for undocumented migrants, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls. This assistance programme targeted provinces at the border and in the eastern regions (La Altagracia, Dajabon, Hato Mayor, Monte Cristi, Monte Plata, Samana, San Pedro de Macoris, El Seibo, and La Romana), which bore the brunt of Hurricane Fiona's impacts. While the registration process occurred concurrently, each province initiated and will conclude the CBT distribution at differing times between March and June. Baseline outcome indicators revealed that 51 percent of the registered households were experiencing borderline or poor food consumption, and 78 percent had resorted to emergency coping strategies.

## Challenges

- The socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 and the impacts of the Ukraine crisis on global supply chains create market supply disruptions resulting in operational delays, compounded by the crisis in Haiti, causing humanitarian access constraints to guarantee the security and safety of beneficiaries and partners.
- While financing sources for nutrition activities remain limited, WFP continues pursuing new resourcing opportunities to include various international bilateral and multilateral finance groups, private sector and individual donors.

## Donors

Dominican Republic, European Union (DG-ECHO), German Federal Foreign Office, UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, United States of America (USAID BHA), and private donors such as LDS Church and Mastercard. Additional support has been provided by the United Nations Multi Partner Trust Fund.