



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

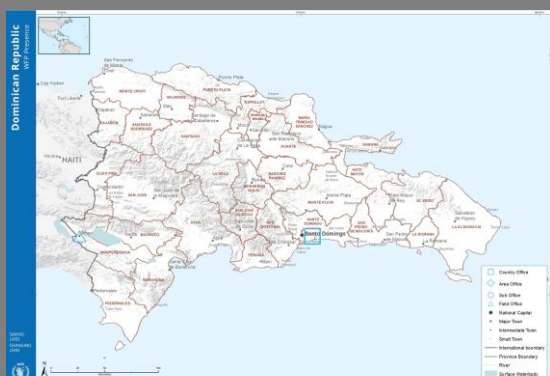
May 2023



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 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 of the food security situation estimates that some 287,000 people (2.7 percent of the population) are severely food insecure as of the end 2020, while 3.7 million people (35.5 percent) are in moderate food insecurity.

WFP works in the Dominican Republic since 1969 and focuses on strengthening capacities to achieve food security, improve nutrition, promote sustainable food systems, and increase capacities, preparedness, and programme focus areas on crisis response.



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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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/dominican-republic

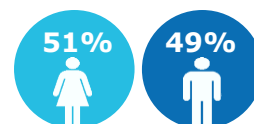
In Numbers

USD 995,784 cash-based transfers made*

USD 4.7 m six months (June - November 2023) net funding requirements, representing 73 percent of total

25,835 people assisted*
in MAY 2023

*Preliminary numbers



Operational Updates

- WFP continued assisting 4,600 households not covered by social protection programmes and affected by the global food crisis aggravated by shocks like Hurricane Fiona in September 2022 in nine provinces of the eastern and northeast regions. In May, these households (25,835 people) received a second distribution cycle to cover food and other essential needs. WFP is leveraging the strong community bonds of its implementing partners to achieve safe and dignified operations: Asociación Scalabriniana al Servicio de la Movilidad Humana – ASCALA, Centro Educativo y de Solidaridad con América Latina – CESAL, Fundación Etnica Integral – FEI, Plan International and World Vision.
- WFP continued advocating and discussing collaborative strategies for shock-responsive social protection, food fortification, climate resilience and disaster preparedness and management mechanisms with the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the Minister of Economy, Planning and Development and the President.
- In May, leveraging the visit of WFP Deputy Executive Director Ramiro Lopes da Silva, WFP held high-level meetings to highlight WFP's unique position and contribution to achieving the country's objectives toward food sovereignty and climate resilience by supporting Government and United Nations agencies' operations and carrying out direct interventions for both the Dominican Republic and Haiti.
- To improve the Government's capacity in nutrition, WFP and the Ministry of Public Health developed the Food and Nutrition with Public Health Perspectives diploma. 52 participants of the second cohort of this course graduated in May. Participants were selected from national institutions of the health sector and the social protection system, including the National Institute for Student Welfare, the National Institute for Early Childhood Care, the National Health Service, and the social protection programme Superate.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
45.1 m	26 m	4.7 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

- WFP is monitoring the food insecurity situation in the country. According to IPC projections (March – June 2023), 1.2 million people are acutely food insecure (IPC 3+), 11 percent of the population, with the highest prevalence in the border region, including Batoruco (25 percent of the population), Elías Piña (22 percent), Pedernales (25 percent), and San Juan (21 percent). It is worth noting that La Altagracia province in the eastern region (21 percent) and Monte Plata province (37 percent), were significantly affected by 2022 Hurricane Fiona.

Challenges

- Financing sources for nutrition activities are limited. However, WFP keeps pursuing new resourcing opportunities from international finance groups, the private sector, and individual donors.
- WFP is mobilizing resources to tackle urgent humanitarian needs such as the current Haiti crisis, which has led to an increase in migration since 2022 as people flee due to violence in the country.

Partnerships

- WFP and the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development are working together to develop a national Early Warning System policy to save lives, and to enhance the country's monitoring and evaluation capacities for public policies, plans, and programs. The Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences is designing a unified early warning scheme, to be presented in October. In addition, the Dominican and Costa Rican Governments have engaged in south-south cooperation exchanges to share best practices and lessons learned in establishing a national monitoring system.
- In May, the USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) visited the country to assess the complementarity between the proposed Early Warning System and previous initiatives and to understand the ongoing response to the global food crisis among vulnerable groups that are outside the national social protection system such as undocumented individuals, irregular migrants, and Dominicans of Haitian descent. BHA Regional Director met with WFP to get insight on WFP emergency preparedness strategy in collaboration with the Government.
- WFP continued to offer logistics corridor to national and binational partners. A 580 mt of rice shipment for Haiti's emergency response was received at the Port of Caucedo. An additional 160 mt of split peas and vegetable oil will also arrive in June.

Donors

Dominican Republic, European Union (DG-ECHO), Germany, the United States of America (USAID's BHA), and private donors such as Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church and Mastercard.

Additional support has been provided by the United Nations Multi Partner Trust Fund and the UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework