



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

June 2023



WFP Dominican Republic Country Office and Santo Domingo Sub-office for Haiti staff with WFP Executive Director © WFP

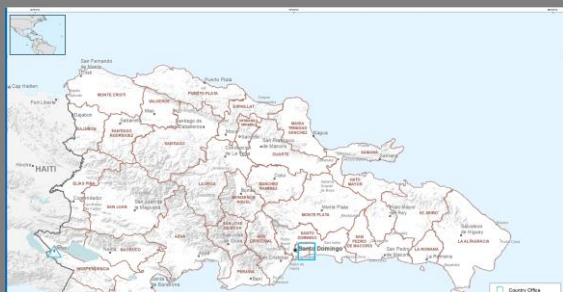
Operational Context

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.



Population: **10.5 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

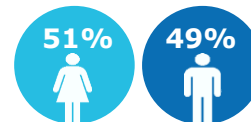
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5 years**

In Numbers

USD 800,991 cash-based transfers made*

USD 2 m six months (July-December 2023) net funding requirements, representing 98 percent of total

31,638 people assisted*
in JUNE 2023



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- WFP with the support of the European Commission (DG-ECHO) works closely with the Government to strengthen the country's national and local disaster management systems. On 1 June, WFP arranged a participatory workshop to revise protocols for hydrometeorological events forecasting and early warning systems. Key public institutions and partners such as the US Agency for International Development, Plan International, and World Vision actively participated.
- On 19 and 20 June, WFP facilitated a South-South and Triangular Cooperation meeting between Cuba and the Dominican Republic Governments to strengthen adaptive social protection schemes. High-level officers and experts from Cuban institutions visited the Dominican Republic's national social protection program *Superate* (Unique Beneficiary System and Social Subsidy Administrator). They learned and exchanged about tools and practices of beneficiary and supply chain management in the context of cash-based transfer (CBT) and policy interventions for food and nutrition security such as rice fortification.
- On 21 June, WFP Executive Director, Cindy McCain, Regional Director for Latin America and Caribbean Lola Castro, and Country Director for the Dominican Republic Gabriela Alvarado, met with the Dominican Republic Vice President, Raquel Peña. Vice President Peña recognized WFP's contribution to strengthening Government's capacities for nutritional food security and climate resilience. Mutual interest was reaffirmed in continuing collaboration with WFP's expertise and innovative mechanisms in shock-responsive social protection, anticipatory actions, emergency preparedness and logistics corridor.

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

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
45.1 m	27.8 m	2 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 #: 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 27 to 29 June, WFP provided data collection and interview workshops for the Family Garden pilot project in Monte Cristi Province. Participants were local-level public officers of the national social protection programme *Superate* and Ministry of Agriculture and doctors and nurses from the Primary Health Centers. The trained participants will conduct a household survey in July to assess community needs and opportunities.

Challenges

- Due to limited financing for nutrition activities, WFP keeps pursuing new resourcing opportunities from international finance groups, the private sector and individual donors.
- Due to the current Haiti crisis, WFP is mobilizing resources to tackle urgent humanitarian needs, resulting in a rise in irregular migration since 2022 as people flee due to violence. At the same time, the food security of Haitians and descendants living in the Dominican Republic is increasing. Fear of mass repatriation (started in November 2022) affected families unable to find regular jobs or livelihood.

Partnerships

- WFP is participating in the collective effort with the Dominican Republic Interagency Network of Alliances and Resource Mobilization to enhance strategic partnerships with the private sector. On 1 June, the first tripartite dialogue was made among private sector companies, the Government, and the United Nations interagency network based on the new Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development 2023-2027.
- On 20 June, the United Nations Global Compact mission organized another private-sector dialogue to advocate corporate sustainability and social responsibility. The new country strategy, as well as universal principles for human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption, was presented to various companies and business associations, including the National Council for Private Companies, National Association of Young Entrepreneurs, National Network for Business Support for Environmental Protection, Dominican Association of Multiple Banks and Association of Industries of the Dominican Republic.

Donors

Dominican Republic, European Union (DG-ECHO), Germany, United States of America (USAID's BHA), UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework and private donors such as LDS Church and Mastercard.

Additional support has been provided by the United Nations Multi Partner Trust Fund.