



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office Country Brief July 2023



WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain meeting with Prime Minister the Honourable Mia Amor Mottley. Courtesy/Government of Barbados

Operational Context

The WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office covers 22 countries and territories in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. As a collection of Small Islands Developing States and coastal countries (SIDS), climate change, economic and other shocks are significant threats for the region owed to their size, location, and reliance on imports. Already weakened by high indebtedness and limited fiscal space, these compounded impacts have created significant challenges to national economies in protecting people, livelihoods, and infrastructure. The pandemic and the cost-of-living-crisis have led to an increase in vulnerability in the Caribbean negatively affecting food security, livelihoods, and incomes, with the greatest impacts on the poorest populations. As of May 2023, WFP estimates that 4.1 million people or 52 percent of the population are food insecure in the sub-region. The pandemic renewed focus on the need for more resilient systems in the sub-region, including the strengthening of food systems to better withstand shocks related to climate change.

The Multi-Country Office was established in 2018 and assists governments and regional institutions in strengthening their emergency preparedness and resilience capacity in the face of shocks, including through social protection, disaster risk management and food systems.



Population: 7.9 million

Income Level: lower-middle, upper-middle, high-income

In Numbers

USD 8.3 m six-month (August 2023 – January 2024) net funding requirements, representing 55 percent of the total

Operational Updates

- On 7 July, WFP Executive Director, Mrs. Cindy McCain, met with the Prime Minister of Barbados, the Honourable Mia Amor Mottley, to discuss the climate crisis impacts on the Caribbean. The Executive Director also met with all WFP staff in the country.
- WFP and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica entered a new agreement to augment the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF SPC) tropical cyclone policy covering the 2023 and 2024 hurricane seasons. The 2023 policy, if triggered, could pay out a maximum of USD 40.8 million of which USD 5.5 million would be earmarked towards cash transfers through the government's social protection system, providing coverage to reach 41,000 people over a three-month period.
- Technical assistance was provided to the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to conduct a mapping exercise to develop a Project Mapping Dashboard for the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour. The dashboard will provide a comprehensive overview of ongoing projects. It will allow the Ministry to improve data management, identify cross-project dependencies, promote linkages with other sectors and establish effective coordination mechanisms for better outcomes in the agricultural sector.
- WFP continued to support priority countries in social protection and disaster management, including training in information management, shock-responsive social protection, emergency preparedness and supply chain management. In July 106 professionals were trained in shock-responsive social protection and emergency preparedness in Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Guyana.
- Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) was completed for cash transfers provided through the government's social protection system in response to the east coast trough in the Commonwealth of Dominica in November 2022.
- Work on the Caribbean Regional Logistics Hub and Centre of Excellence in Barbados continued to progress in July. WFP completed the technical evaluation of bids in preparation to commence phase 2 of the Hub planned to begin in September.

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Multi-Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD) as of June 2023	Allocated Contributions (in USD) as of June 2023	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
69.5 m	25.1 m	8.3 m

Strategic Result 1: Resilience Building

Strategic Outcome 1: National government and regional institutions in the Caribbean have strengthened capacity to prepare for, adapt and respond to shocks and climate change

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance and capacity strengthening to national governments and regional institutions in areas of WFP's expertise.

Strategic Result 2: Crisis Response

Strategic Outcome #2: Crisis affected populations in the Caribbean are able to meet their food, nutrition, and other needs during and in the aftermath of shocks.

Activities:

- Provide emergency food assistance through cash-based and/or food in-kind transfers to shock-affected populations.

Strategic Result 3: Crisis Response

Strategic Outcome #3: Common services and platforms enable government in the Caribbean to have rapid, effective, and coordinated response to shocks.

Activities:

- Provide support to nationally or regionally led emergency responses

Monitoring

In July, WFP conducted the PDM for the May CBT to 606 beneficiaries in the five communities affected by the November 2022 East Coast trough in the Commonwealth of Dominica. Key findings include:

- 86 percent of respondents were satisfied with the overall assistance programme;
- 91 percent of respondents stated they were informed about how, when and where to collect the assistance, however only 13 percent were familiar with the selection process;
- Respondents reported that they primarily used the assistance to purchase food (72 percent), pay for utilities (15 percent) and other expenses (5 percent);
- 67 percent reported that the benefits received improved their food consumption;
- 21 percent of respondents interviewed reported improved food diversity; and
- 41 percent of respondents reported the benefits allowed them to meet their household needs better.

- PDM is ongoing in Belize following the completion of the Hurricane Lisa Recovery Assistance Programme implemented with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprises in support of impacted smallholder farmers.

Challenges

- Delays in the confirmation of forecasted funding for the Regional Logistics Hub and Centre of Excellence have created risks for the completion of the operational warehouse facility within the planned timeline.

Partnerships

- WFP continued its engagement with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to discuss WFP corporate engagement with International Financial Institutions globally and explore opportunities for collaboration in areas such as disaster risk financing, shock-responsive social protection, digitalization, and climate finance. The CDB's work in the region is built on the pillars of environmental resilience, financial inclusion, institutional capacity and social development, which aligns with the work of WFP and provide significant opportunities to scale up the Multi-County Office work through strategic partnerships.
- In July, WFP was awarded USD 1.1 million (EUR 1 million) from the European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection towards the implementation of the Multi-Country Strategic Plan to strengthen disaster management and social protection systems for improved national and regional response to crisis.

Donors

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