



WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office Country Brief August 2023

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Regional Director and WFP Caribbean Country Director meeting with Prime Minister St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

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 costal 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 moderately or severely 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.

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 10.7 m six months (September 2023 – February 2024) net funding requirements, representing 78 percent of total

Operational Updates

- WFP's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Lola Castro, and WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office (MCO) Country Director, Mr. Regis Chapman, met with Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and current President *pro tempore* of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Honourable Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, to discuss advancing the regional food security agenda and positioning WFP as a key partner. Proposals for WFP's support to CELAC over the next year were also discussed.
- WFP published country-specific Food Security and Livelihood Survey summaries for Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, which are available on wfp.org.
- WFP supported the Government of Belize to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for social protection, including during emergencies, taking from lessons learned during the Hurricane Lisa response.
- WFP supported the drafting of disbursement plans for the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC) climate insurance policies for the governments of Belize, Dominica, and Saint Lucia. The plans outline the process for distribution of funds from CCRIF SPC to the governments and from governments to impacted vulnerable populations after the occurrence of an insured event. This streamlining of processes will improve efficiencies in social protection, better enabling governments to respond to disasters.
- The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has joined the School Meals Coalition. The governments of Belize, Jamaica and Suriname also expressed their intention to join the coalition during the event in Brazil. The Coalition is an emerging initiative of a wide cross section of partners that drives actions that can urgently re-establish, improve, and scale up food and education systems, support pandemic recovery and encourage achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Disaster management professionals in Anguilla, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis received training in end-to-end supply chain management.
- Progress continues with construction of the Caribbean Logistics Hub and Center of Excellence.

Multi-Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
69.5 m	26.5 m	10.7 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 August 2023, key findings from July post-distribution monitoring were published showing that:
 - 93 percent of respondents were satisfied with the overall assistance programme;
 - 87 percent of respondents indicated they were informed about how, when, and where to collect the assistance; and
 - when asked "what benefits did you or your household experience as a result of the assistance?", 63 percent reported they could invest in their livelihood or business, while 43 percent reported that the benefits received improved their food consumption. Also, 16 percent were able to repair house/assets, 12 percent experienced less stress/worries and 10 percent expressed improved food diversity.

Partnerships

- From 8 to 10 August 2023, WFP Caribbean MCO participated in a round table panel discussion focused on the strategic response to external shocks impacting Caribbean Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) at the Preparatory Meeting of the Fourth International Conference on SIDS for the Caribbean in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, helping to position WFP's support to SIDS in the Caribbean and beyond.
- WFP Caribbean MCO representatives attended The Power of Multi-Sector Approaches for Human Capital Development event in Brazil. MCO Government counterparts from Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname participated in the high-level regional event. During the event, representatives of WFP Caribbean MCO engaged in bilateral discussions with the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Challenge

- Delays in confirming resources for the Caribbean Logistics Hub and Center of Excellence caused the postponement of the award of the contract for the next phase of construction. WFP is pursuing internal loan mechanisms to offset any further delays.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Italy (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation), Republic of Korea (the), United States of America (USAID's BHA), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Additional support has been provided by the United Nations Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund.