



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office

Country Brief

October 2023



Decima, one of WFP beneficiaries in Dominica.

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 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 6 m six months (November 2023- April 2024) net funding requirements, representing 51 percent of total

Operational Update

- Following the sixth round of surveys on food security and livelihoods by WFP and CARICOM in May 2023, in September, WFP published country-specific reports for [Guyana](#) and [Antigua and Barbuda](#).
- WFP works with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) for the roll-out of the CDEMA Logistics System (CLS) in Guyana and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The CLS platform allows national, regional, and international humanitarian actors to register and track logistics, food, and other assets for CDEMA to call on in an emergency. Specific support focused on helping to improve warehouse management.
- In October WFP continued to support the Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development and Youth in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to build the resilience of smallholder farmers and other people vulnerable to climate and other shocks by increasing skills in agriculture, small business, and financial management.
- In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, WFP is working with the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) to implement a data preparedness programme. The programme will enhance coordination of disaster management actors, government bodies, and individuals participating in emergency response.
- The Government of Suriname joined the Global School Meals Coalition. This step signals the government's commitment to actions that can urgently re-establish, improve, and scale up food and education systems and encourage reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. WFP continued to liaise with other Caribbean nations to join the coalition.

WFP Country Strategy

Multi-Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
69.5 m	29.8 m	6 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

- In partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization, WFP conducted a scoping mission to Guyana to assess the national school feeding programme. Findings and recommendations will guide the work with the Ministry of Education in developing a nutrition-sensitive, locally sourced menu for schools.
- WFP participated in the "Caribbean Weak of Agriculture" supporting CARICOM and engaging in panel discussions on supply chains, food security analysis, data and information systems and more.

Partnerships

- WFP continues to mobilize support to complete the centre of excellence to facilitate capacitating disaster management experts in the Caribbean region. Significant private sector support and engagement is expected to be confirmed shortly.
- WFP is actively involved in discussions with UN agencies and governments around the "Early Warnings for All" initiative, to do what? Sign up? This is a global effort to ensure that the most vulnerable are protected from the impacts of the climate crisis and other hazards.

Challenges

- Establishing the Regional Logistics Hub and its warehouse to be ready for the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane season brings challenges around the reliance on several suppliers. This challenge needs to be addressed to ensure that the project advances within the anticipated timelines.

Donors

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Government of the Republic of Korea, Government of Canada, European Union, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, UN Joint SDG Fund, the United States Agency for International Development, Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA).