



World Food Programme

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

October 2023

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



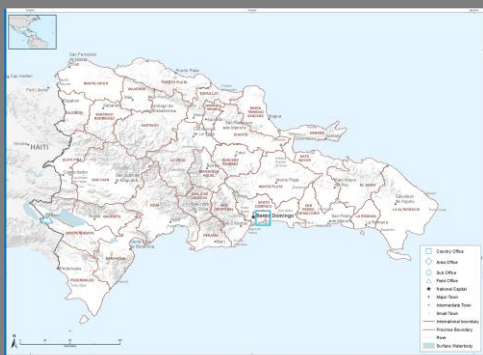
Training in Gender and Protection to Civil Defense.
Photo credit: @WFP Dominican Republic

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 convergence of the lingering effects of COVID-19, the global food crisis, food shortages, and climate shocks have left 1.55 million people, constituting 15 percent of the population, in crisis or worse levels of food insecurity (IPC3 and above). The country has the 2nd highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption in the LAC region (21 percent of the world population) and the 2nd highest prevalence of food-based coping strategies to respond to crises (44 percent).

WFP works in the Dominican Republic focuses on strengthening capacities to achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable food systems, as well as increasing capacities, preparedness, and program focus areas on crisis response. WFP has been present in the Dominican Republic since 1969.



Population: **10.7 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

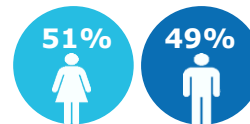
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In Numbers

USD 55,672 cash-based transfers made*

USD 2.7 m six months (November 2023 – April 2024) net funding requirements, representing 61 percent of total

2,885 people assisted*
in OCTOBER 2023



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In WFP's nutrition programming, HIV-affected individuals are a key focus due to their increased dietary requirements for immune system strengthening. In October, WFP collaborated with the Unified System of Beneficiaries, the National Council for HIV and AIDS, and the United Nations Development Programme to deliver aid through the *Supérate* social protection programme for 187 additional people with HIV and Tuberculosis.
- At the 2023 Latin American Congress on Nutrition in Ecuador, WFP, with the Ministry of Agriculture, the University of Massachusetts, and the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, presented the lessons learned and the impact of the strategy of nutritional counseling and urban gardens for Food and Nutrition Security of the population with HIV.
- In October, WFP delivered agricultural tools and vegetable seeds to 90 households in five communities in Montecristi as part of the *Supérate* social protection programme. The provincial directorate of Civil Defense has received technological equipment to improve data collection with drones to build digital flood models that contribute to decision-making. Additionally, WFP held a workshop on Disaster Risk Management with a focus on gender and protection.
- On 16 October, within the framework of the Early Warning Systems (EWS) Policy in the Dominican Republic, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development and WFP held the first meeting of the Inter-Institutional EWS Team. The event involved relevant stakeholders from government institutions responsible for EWS and it allowed for the validation of the diagnosis and the best practices document.
- On 27 October, WFP participated in the "EU - Latin America and the Caribbean Dialogue on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems" event organized by the European Union in Brussels to exchange ideas with other Latin American and Caribbean partners in support of the global transition to sustainable agrifood systems.

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	2.7 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

- Between 18 and 20 October, WFP participated in the First International Forum on Evaluation for Development organized by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development to discuss Monitoring and Evaluation Systems in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Challenges

- WFP keeps pursuing new resourcing opportunities from international finance groups, the private sector, and individual donors, with limited financing for nutrition activities.
- WFP is mobilizing resources to tackle urgent humanitarian needs due to the current Haiti crisis, resulting in increased migration flows since 2022 as people flee due to violence in Haiti. The border closure with Haiti in September 2023 has disrupted the trade and livelihoods of both countries, especially affecting smallholder farmers and retailers.
- At the same time, this context aggravated the food security of people of Haitian nationality and descendants living in the Dominican Republic, which is increasingly vicarious. Fear of mass repatriation since November 2022 has affected families who remain home and are unable to find a regular job or livelihood. This population also faces several humanitarian protection risks and deprivation of a safe and protective environment.

Partnerships

- WFP continues to make efforts to diversify its partnerships with solid alliances for the scope of its strategic planning, expanding the portfolio of cooperating partners in the territory, diversifying the sources of resource mobilization, with alliances with bilateral and regional cooperation agencies and organizations, to ensure the sustainability of our strategic planning.

Donors

Dominican Republic, European Union (DG-ECHO), United States of America (USAID BHA), and private donors such as Mastercard.