



WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office Country Brief

April 2024

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



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. In May 2023, WFP estimated that 4.1 million people or 52 percent of the population were 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 5.6 m six months (May 2024- October 2024) net funding requirements.

Operational Updates

- Jointly with GeoSphere Austria, WFP held a two-day kick-off workshop under the World Meteorological Organization's Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF) initiative. The workshop brought together representatives from the National Meteorological Services in Dominica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and regional entities such as the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, the World Meteorological Organization, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Participants discussed gaps and challenges they face in fulfilling their roles and mandates, including legal frameworks and communication with the public, data collection, public private sector partnerships and business models along the hydromet value chain and early warning system functioning. This event is part of a larger effort to boost national weather agencies' ability to issue early warnings and improve observation techniques, allowing communities to better respond to emergencies.
- As part of its continued assistance to help Caribbean governments strengthen social protection, WFP partnered with the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Organization, and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to hold a regional learning event in Saint Kitts and Nevis to assemble governments within the OECS to share experiences and lessons learned on strengthening social protection systems and preparing them for responding to shocks. Key issues discussed included the extension of social protection support to migrants and persons displaced by disaster, and the development of digital information management systems for social protection.
- In Saint Lucia, WFP provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Equity to develop a section on shock-responsive social protection for inclusion in the 2024 Economic and Social Review, emphasizing its importance within the broader framework of social protection initiatives.
- In partnership with the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elderly Affairs in Barbados, WFP implemented trainings in data and information management to 14 social protection professionals.

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Photo: *Rafaella, one of the beneficiaries in Belize.*

Photo Credit: @ WFP/ Irshad Khan

WFP Country Strategy

Multi-Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
85.3 m	38.6 m	5.6m

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

Operational Updates continued

- The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)-WFP partnership worked to support Participating States toward the roll-out of the CDEMA Logistics System (CLS) in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Antigua and Barbuda. Governments have benefited from trainings and technical support to establish the requisite framework to adopt and integrate the CLS into their national disaster management systems. For example, in Jamaica, WFP supported the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) to develop the Jamaica National Logistics Plan.
- WFP and CDEMA collaborated to train 21 disaster management professionals in emergency humanitarian logistics in Belize.

Partnerships

- WFP engaged with Global Affairs Canada, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC) and the Caribbean Development Bank to explore further opportunities for linking CCRIF SPC climate insurance policies to national social protection systems in Antigua, Belize, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada. This innovative approach allows governments to strengthen a critical area in their social protection systems, ensuring that assistance can be delivered quickly and efficiently complementing more tradition in-kind based assistance.
- WFP participated in and delivered a presentation at the 9th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Social Protection of the OECS. The primary focus of the meeting was to assess the sustainability and efficiency of the TAC, discuss the indicators for the Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment, and examine the monitoring and evaluation framework for the Social Inclusion and Social Protection Action Plan.

Donors

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Government of Canada, Government of New Zealand, European Union, UN Joint SDG Fund, the United States Agency for International Development, Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA).