



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

May 2024



Certificate awarding event Diploma Course.
Photo credit: @WFP Dominican Rep.

Operational Context

The Dominican Republic has seen economic improvement following the pandemic, but food insecurity and insufficient economic access to nutritious and diverse diets remain a concern, with significant fluctuation in commodity prices.

The country is facing gender and social inequality which slows down its development, in addition to being highly vulnerable to climate change, and extreme weather events, suffering the impact of hurricanes, gradual, sudden and coastal floods, as well as recurrent droughts that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable population and their livelihoods. The prevalence of malnutrition, anaemia, overweight and obesity continues to be a threat to the health and well-being of the population. The country loses approximately 2.6 percent of its GDP due to malnutrition.

The 2024 Global Food Crisis Report declared the Dominican Republic as the second of seven countries facing an acute food crisis. WFP's work in the Dominican Republic focuses on strengthening capacities to achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable food systems. Additionally, our efforts aim to increase preparedness and enhance program focus areas for crisis response. Beyond capacity building, we support populations excluded from social protection systems, who are often the most vulnerable. The Dominican Republic faces direct consequences of climate change, further adding to the country's vulnerability. Our operations also ensure support for the Haiti operations through our logistical capacities and government collaboration.

WFP has been present in Dominican Republic since 1969.

Population: **11.2 million**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2022 Human Development Index: **82 out of 191**

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

In Numbers

USD 2.4 m six months (May 2024 - Oct 2024) net funding requirements, representing 50 percent of total.

Operational Updates

Workshop Caribbean partners of ECHO, Barbados. WFP participated in the ECHO workshop in Barbados to further define the strategies to ensure an effective disaster preparedness and emergency response in the Caribbean.

As part of the agreement between WFP and the Ministry of Health, **health professionals from key government institutions**—INAIFI (National Institute for the Integral Attention to Early Childhood), Ministry of Public Health, INABIE (National Institute of Student Welfare), and Supérate (Social Protection)—**have enhanced their capacities by participating in a diploma course on food security and nutrition.** The course was facilitated using INFOTEP's methodological platform.

Through **WFP's logistics corridor strategy, PAHO now benefits from warehouse logistics services for storing medicines in controlled temperatures.** Additionally, critical supplies were transported by UNHAS, providing a critical means to transport of essential medicines to Haiti for their operations during a period when air and land access were officially closed. This was possible due to the preexisting agreements between WFP and the DR government to support Haiti operations.

WFP conducted an **introductory workshop** for Social Protection, focusing on Anticipatory Actions and Climate Change with the objective to **strengthen the capacities in Disaster Risk Management for Social Protection at key communities.**

WFP and FAO have coordinated **the reactivation of the inter-institutional technical group for Drought**, with the purpose of socializing the advances in Anticipatory Actions at regional and country level.

WFP in collaboration with UNDP and DHL, **trained Punta Cana airport officials as well as government first responders on how to operate a logistical set up during disasters**, highlighting their critical role in humanitarian aid distribution and the benefits of coordinated efforts through its GARD Program (Getting Airports Ready for Disasters).

Monitoring

Real-Time Monitoring (RTM) system for food security is now live. This will provide timely and accurate data to track food security conditions, enabling quicker responses to emerging needs and ensuring better resource allocation. This tool will be critical to better monitor the trends of the country, in particular during the upcoming hurricane season, where the country has already started to see the negative effects of climate change (droughts or flash floods affecting the agricultural sector).

Challenges

The pre- and post-electoral environment in the country posed a challenge for WFP, as much of their work touched on sensitive and polarized issues during this period. Nevertheless, existing alliances are expected to resume and strengthen post-election process.

WFP continues to seek new resource opportunities from international financial groups, the private sector and individual donors, with limited funding for nutrition activities.

WFP is mobilizing resources to address urgent humanitarian needs due to alarming cyclone season forecasts. The 2024 hurricane season is expected to be exceptionally hyperactive with numbers significantly above historical averages. Possible impact scenarios include flash flooding and major hurricanes. Flash floods, directly related to climate change, have caused significant damage, human deaths and displacement

The beginning of the 2024 Hurricane Season is already seen to be very active, thus, the country office has activated the monitoring and follow-up of hydrometeorological events in close collaboration with ONAMET (National Meteorological Office). Through the EPR unit, the office is in permanent contact with the National Emergency Commission, the Emergency Operations Center and the Civil Defense.

Partnerships

WFP continues to make efforts to diversify its partnerships with solid alliances for the scope of our 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

European Union (DG-ECHO), United States of America (USAID BHA), Ireland.