



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

June 2024



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

In Numbers

USD 2 m six months (May 2024 - Oct 2024) net funding requirements, representing 49 percent of total.

Operational Updates

- In line with the implementation of the strategy to strengthen food security through rice fortification, we provided assistance to the Ministry of Health in updating the technical and regulatory documents that support rice fortification.
- In coordination with technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, CONAVIHSIDA and local authorities, the development of the **comprehensive response strategies to HIV through a Food and Nutrition Security (SAN) approach** in the Dominican Republic was initiated. It is expected to be implemented in 2024 in the provinces of Valverde Mao, La Vega and Santo Domingo Norte.
- As part of the joint implementation of the ProRural project, alongside the Dominican Agro-business Board, the confirmation of the network of community advisors was initiated, as a strategy for empowerment and resilience of leaders in food and nutritional security.
- Under the strategy followed by the Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change unit, the ECHO Mission was able to observe the advances of the Humanitarian Corridor and Supply Chain project.
- Within the framework of its South-South and triangular cooperation strategy, WFP DOCO, under the unified strategy between the Adaptive Social Protection unit and the Nutrition Unit, hosted the exchange of experiences between Peru and the Dominican Republic to build the foundations of a Food Complementarity Governance in Peru.
- Within the framework of capacity building for adaptive social protection programs and the response capacities of the Dominican State, PMA, through the Social Protection and Early Action Unit, supported SIUBEN to assess, using drones, the effects caused by the floods that occurred in early June 2024.

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 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

Contact info: Emilie Amri (emilie.amri@wfp.org)

Country Director: Gabriela Alvarado

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/dominican-republic

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
47.2 m	2.4 m	2.4 m

Strategic Result 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition in the Dominican Republic are able to meet their food and other essential needs at all times.

Focus area: *crisis response*

Activities:

- Provide humanitarian assistance to affected populations and people most vulnerable to disasters, emergencies and prolonged crises while strengthening social protection systems through a gender and protection approach

Strategic Result 2: People have better nutrition, health and education outcomes

Strategic Outcome 2: Food- and nutritionally insecure populations in the Dominican Republic have access to diverse diets throughout the life cycle by 2028.

Focus area: *Root causes*

Activities:

- Provide direct transfers and strengthen the capacity of households and people to improve their access to and consumption of diverse diets, through a gender-transformative and social protection approach

Strategic Result 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods

Strategic Outcome 3: Climate-vulnerable populations in the Dominican Republic, including smallholder farmers and other actors in food value chains, are more resilient and benefit from sustainable, healthy and equitable food systems by 2028.

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: National programmes and systems are strengthened

Strategic Outcome 4: Public, private and civil society institutions at the national and local levels in the Dominican Republic have strengthened systems that improve resilience in the face of shocks, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and food and nutrition by 2028.

Focus area: *Resilience-building*

Activities:

- Provide technical skills and strengthen the capacity of institutions at the national and local levels to enable them to improve policies, strategies and programmes related to food security and nutrition through a gender-transformative, protection and climate resilience approach.

Strategic Result 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective

Strategic Outcome 5: Government institutions and humanitarian and development actors in the Dominican Republic receive efficient and effective services by 2028.

Focus area: *Resilience-building*

Activities:

- Provide supply chain and other services to government institutions and humanitarian and development actors to facilitate their efforts to meet the needs of target populations

Monitoring

WFP participated in the workshop “EvalPro 4: Managing a Decentralized Evaluation”. The course allowed the M&E unit to better understand processes, quality requirements, and the roles of the Evaluation Committee and Reference Group, as well as understanding better strategic decisions making regarding future decentralized evaluations to be adopted in the DR CO.

Challenges

- As predicted, the 2024 hurricane season is displaying to be exceptionally hyperactive with numbers significantly above historical averages. Flash floodings have been present in various areas of the country, specially in the Distrito Nacional, as well as the impacts of hurricane Berly’s passage through the Caribbean. Flash floods, directly related to climate change, have caused significant damage.
- 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 INDOMET (Dominican Meteorological Institute). 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 is taking part in the collective effort with Dominican Republic Interagency Network of Alliances and Resource Mobilization to enhance strategic partnerships with the private sector. The 1st Sustainability Forum with the Private Sector was held with the aim of addressing future challenges and promoting opportunities for the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). During the forum, various crucial issues for the sustainable development of the country were discussed, including innovation, the importance of diversity and equality for inclusive development, business sustainability and shared value.
- 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.

Donors

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