



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

December 2024



Participants to the training for Social Protection System staff members

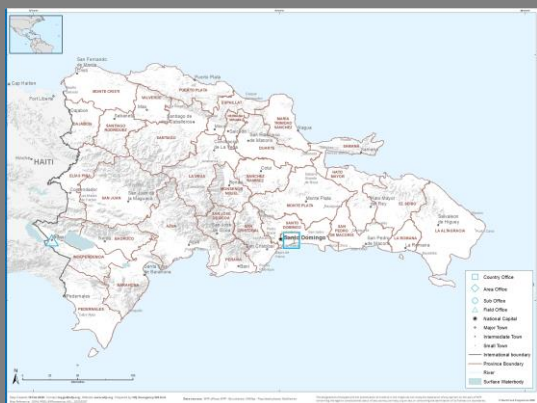
Operational Context

Despite strong economic performance over the past decades and a high overall human development ranking, persistent structural inequalities and natural shocks have hindered equitable improvements in health, education, and income distribution for all.

The last Integrated Food Security Phase Classification available (2024) categorized 1 million people (almost 10 % of the population) in phase 3 or above (crisis and emergency). Micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity remain significant concerns. Rising basic food prices undermine the purchasing power of vulnerable populations and their capacity to access nutritious food without compromising their livelihood assets. This situation is exacerbated by the impact of recurrent hurricanes, floods and droughts that damage food systems and disproportionately affect these communities.

The increasing frequency of adverse climatic events underscores the urgent need for accelerated efforts to enhance resilience and adaptation in an inclusive manner.

WFP, present since 1969, works to strengthen food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable food systems in the country.



Population: **10.7 million**

2022 Human Development Index: **82 out of 193**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 1 m six months (Dec. 2024 – May. 2025) net funding requirements, representing 28 percent of total.

Operational Updates

WFP led the final meeting of the year of the Adaptive Social Protection Interinstitutional working group, during which significant progress was made towards strengthening the national system. Under WFP's leadership, the working group carried out a thorough review and agreed on incorporating crucial elements into the World Bank updated version of the technical guide for the activation of the emergency subsidy. This decision was based on the results of a workshop organized by WFP, where lessons learnt from previous activations and on the capacity of its implementors were analyzed – that is the National Single Beneficiary System (SIUBEN), the Administrator of Social Subsidies (ADESS), and Súperate. In addition, Expertise France presented the Comprehensive Adaptive Social Protection Strategy, which was reviewed to consider the changing context and the transversal integration of the gender perspective. WFP strongly believes in the coordination of efforts to reduce duplication, build complementarity and amplify the impacts of initiatives aiming at building the resilience of the most vulnerable to safeguard their wellbeing in time of adversity.

WFP reaffirmed its commitment “to leave no one behind” through a set of activities consisting in training the Social Protection System staff members to offer quality service to people with HIV, and in facilitating the design of the Operational Plan for Implementing the Strategy for Inclusion of People Living with HIV (PWH) in the Social Protection System of the Dominican Republic. People living with HIV face emotional distress resulting from discrimination. Inadequate services may result in further marginalization and worsened health conditions. WFP supported the organization of a training in coordination with the National Council for HIV and AIDS (CONAVIHSIDA) and UNDP, aiming at ensuring that social protection system's staff empathetically guide PVIH through available services, promoting equitable access. In addition, WFP organized a workshop to design the operational plan aiming at facilitating the effective inclusion of PWH in the country's social protection programs.

WFP supported the validation of a guideline focused on ensuring proper nutrition of affected individuals during times of emergency. This key milestone will contribute to ensuring a coordinated and effective food distribution at all stages of an emergency, without compromising the health and well-being of vulnerable populations. This event was led by the Ministry of Public Health and involved technicians from various institutions, including the National Institute for Student Welfare (INABIE), Supérate, the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), UNICEF, and FAO.

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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	1.4 m	1 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

WFP shared its expertise and leadership in the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) during a workshop with staff from UNDP. In times of emergencies, WFP deploys UAS to collect crucial information that is then used to ensure effective and coordinated response efforts. During the training WFP shared best practices and lessons learnt, and trained participants in topics such as applicable laws for the use of UAS in the Dom. Rep., fundamentals of aerodynamics, meteorology and GPS navigation, as well as operational flight planning and handling of irregular or emergency situations.

Results of the National Micronutrient Survey 2024, co-financed by WFP, were released in a public event gathering institutions such as the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama, Ministry of Health, National Institute of Student Welfare. Results show that iron deficiency anemia remains one of the most critical nutritional problems in the Dominican population, particularly affecting women and children. In all population groups, a correlation was observed between sedentary behavior, unhealthy eating habits, and the increase in overweight and anemia. This unhealthy lifestyle particularly contributes to the rise in malnutrition among children in school age, and disproportionately young girls, highlighting the need to promote healthier habits and physical activity. The National Micronutrient Survey is expected to inform national public health and nutrition policies targeting at-risk populations, including children, to tackle these problems.

Monitoring

To fulfil its commitment with transparency and accountability, WFP is in the process of preparing its Annual Country Report. This reporting cycle marks the second year WFP will be reporting under the Corporate Results Framework (2022-2025), indicating the progress WFP's programmes have achieved towards the objectives identified in the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. Final report is expected to be published in March.

Challenges

Due to funding shortfall, WFP is pursuing new resource opportunities by exploring partnerships with the private sector and engaging with government entities to address challenges related to food security. WFP is mobilizing resources to address capacity strengthening needs of the State to respond to possible emergencies, as well as those caused by increased migration flows between the Dom. Rep. and Haiti. Massive repatriations since 2022 remains a concern. This context is putting at risk the food security of Haitian nationals and their descendants living in the country. This population also faces several humanitarian protection risks and deprivations.

Partnerships

WFP is actively working to diversify its partnerships and build strong alliances to support the implementation of its strategic plans. To expand its network of cooperating partners and broadening its resource mobilization efforts, WFP forms alliances with bilateral and regional cooperation agencies and organizations.

Donors

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