



World Food Programme

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

January 2025

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



CN-PMR are being sensitized on humanitarian protection and gender issues

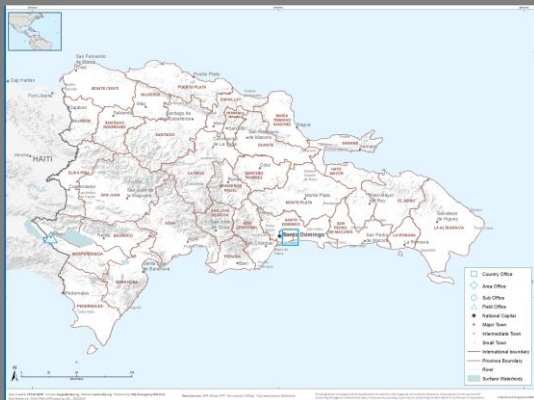
Operational Context

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.

From May 2024 to August 2024, the projected Integrated Food Security Phase Classification categorized approximately 1 million people (9% 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**

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In Numbers

USD 1 m six months (Jan. 2025 – Jun. 2025) net funding requirements, representing 28 percent of total.

Operational Updates

WFP Country Director, Ms. Gabriela Alvarado, met with Ms. Ada Hernandez, Permanent Representative, Ambassador to FAO, WFP, and IFAD for the Dominican Republic (DR), recently appointed by President Luis Abinader. The Ambassador reiterated her interest to continue fostering the alliance between government and WFP, and her collaboration as a spokesperson before the headquarters in Rome. On behalf of WFP, Alvarado presented the work carried out to support the government achieve Zero Hunger. Both representatives emphasized the importance of the DR's continued presence on the WFP Executive Board, as the agency leading governing body.

WFP and Plan International enhanced the awareness of humanitarian protection and gender in climate-related emergencies among Prevention, Mitigation, and Response Community Networks (CN-PMR) in 20 communities of Monte Cristi and Valverde, as part of the Resilient Basin Project. Vulnerable populations suffer from systemic inequalities which are often exacerbated in times of emergency, making it harder for them to prepare and recover. WFP has raised awareness among community members on the unique needs of vulnerable groups and has encouraged reflection on the key role of communities in building truly equitable preparedness and response plans, that ensure adequate protection while closing inequality gaps and guaranteeing the respect of everyone's rights in emergency situations.

WFP continues its efforts to promote fortified food, based on the findings of the recently concluded business model study on fortified rice to support further advocacy. Iron deficiency anemia, micronutrient deficiencies in vitamin A and zinc remain critical nutritional concerns for the Dominican population, particularly affecting women and children, according to findings from the National Micronutrient Survey 2024 co-financed by WFP. The business model study demonstrates the cost-effectiveness of the rice fortification strategy for improving long-term public health in vulnerable populations. Results will be used to facilitate advocacy among high-level decision makers in the government and rice production sector, informing national public health policies.

WFP met with cross-border transportation service provider and reaffirmed its intention to position the Dominican Republic as a logistical hub for emergency response. WFP will extend the availability of existing cross-border land transportation services to partners with no presence in the Dominican Republic who are providing humanitarian assistance in Haiti. This service will be essential in situations where the Dominican Republic serves as a temporary prepositioning area for humanitarian aid that will later be transported to Haiti by land due to security concerns. —

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 47.2 m | 200K | 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

Current efforts are ongoing to finalize the procedure that will be followed when requesting cross-border land transportation and customs services.

WFP reiterated its commitment to strengthening the country's capacity to handle future emergencies and disasters effectively, through a training organized with the Dominican Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross, in the context of the ECHO-funded project "*Adapting the Humanitarian Response to Anticipate, Prepare for, and Respond to Rapidly Intensifying and Slow-Onset Climate Shocks in the Dominican Republic*". The Dominican Republic is highly vulnerable to hydrometeorological events, ranking second in the Caribbean after Haiti. The Climate Shock Vulnerability Index indicates that 38% of the population is at high or above-average risk of being affected by climatic phenomena. During the training, emergency responders were equipped with the knowledge and skills required for the effective application of the logistics process in humanitarian response actions. Topics included humanitarian assistance, supply chain management, warehouse management, collection center management, fleet and transportation management, and logistics evaluation, all focused-on emergency response operations.

Monitoring

WFP is conducting the Market Functionality Index (MFI) study to assess market conditions across nine key dimensions: assortment of essential products, availability, price, supply chain resilience, competition, infrastructure, services, food quality, and access & protection. Strengthening markets is essential for improving food security, livelihoods, and access to essential needs. The findings will identify critical areas for market improvement, guiding WFP's interventions and enhancing government social programs to better address food insecurity.

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 DR and Haiti. Massive deportations 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 protections risks and deprivations.

Partnerships

To diversify its partnership base and forge strong alliances for the implementation of its strategic plan, WFP has been proactively enhancing collaborations with both government entities and the private sector. These efforts extend beyond humanitarian response to link and advance the "changing lives" agenda.

Donors

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