



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

February 2025



Participants to the regional event on Disaster Risk Financing and Social Protection in the Caribbean

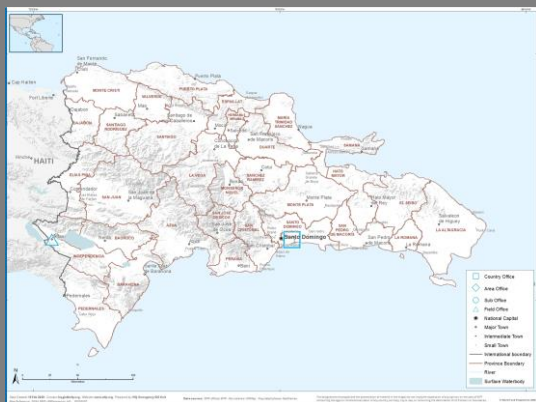
## Operational Context

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**

## In Numbers

**USD 1 m** six months Feb. 2025 – Jul. 2025 net funding requirements, representing 33 percent of total.

## Operational Updates

**Under WFP's leadership, the Adaptive Social Protection Interinstitutional working group celebrated its first meeting of the year.** WFP presented the working group's scope of work for members to review. Through this process, members reaffirmed their commitments to advancing the working group by defining clear roles and responsibilities and establishing common agreed objectives and norms. This structured approach will strengthen efforts to raise awareness about Adaptive Social Protection and contribute to attracting further national and international support and collaboration. Members also established 2025 first semester's priorities consisting in strengthening the emergency voucher guidelines, enhancing the National Single Beneficiary System (SIUBEN) survey protocol used in times of emergency, and in starting to coordinate the hurricane season preparedness's efforts.

**WFP continues to support the Dominican government developing a more inclusive, secure and responsive system for delivering social protection assistance to the most vulnerable.** WFP and Supérate Social Protection Program's representatives participated to the regional event *Strengthening Resilience: A Bridge between Disaster Risk Financing and Social Protection in the Caribbean*, where discussions focused on macro-level disaster risk financing tools and their effective integration into national strategies, particularly through social protection measures. Integrating disaster risk financing would allow the Dominican Republic to be better prepared to respond to natural disasters enabling quicker and more efficient response to climate shocks.

**WFP supported the National Integrated Information System (SINI) in the definition of the next steps for the reactivation of its Interinstitutional Geospatial Team.** SINI is a governmental platform aiming at systematizing data related to knowledge of threats, vulnerabilities, and risks. The team is composed of representatives from multiple organizations such as the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Program and seeks to prevent duplication of efforts in the generation of geospatial data, ensuring a more prepared response during emergencies, ultimately protecting lives and livelihoods.

**WFP reaffirmed its commitment to participating in national efforts to enhance preparedness and response to drought-induced emergencies** during a high-level official event celebrating the activation of the Interinstitutional Working Group on Droughts. Climate crisis has exacerbated the impact of drought in the Dominican Republic. The working group composed of representatives from multiple organizations such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and FAO seeks to promote the development of anticipatory actions to reduce the risk of crops and food loss due to drought.

## Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>47.2 m</b>	<b>200K</b>	<b>1 m</b>

### 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 experience in the implementation of early warning systems** during the *Regional Workshops on Community Early Warning Systems*, organized by the Dominican Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross. The Dominican Republic is one of the world's most vulnerable nations to climate change. WFP's work is currently contributing to reducing the vulnerability of 20 communities located in high-risk areas of Montecristi and Valverde as part of its Resilient Basin Project.

## Monitoring

**WFP demonstrated its commitment to fostering a culture of data-driven decision-making during its participation in the Workshop for the creation of a research data ecosystem** organized by the National Statistics Office and the University Network for the Advancement of Dominican Education. WFP presented its experience collecting and analysing data on key aspects such as food security, market functionality, nutrition, and disaster response. Data produced by WFP contributes to inform policymakers, promote transparency and accountability, and ensure an optimal allocation of resources. Some WFP notable contributions to this research data ecosystem include the *Market Functionality Index (MFI)* study which assesses market conditions and the *Emergency Food security Assessment (EFSA)* which assesses food security of households and communities.

## 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

The Interagency Network for Partnerships and Resource Mobilization of the United Nations System in the Dominican Republic, to which WFP belongs, held its annual meeting to review the financing trends in the current context of international cooperation and its impact on the work of the UN. Reduction in international funding requires diversifying sources (e.g. from private and national sources) and adopting a nexus approach to maximize the efficient use of available funding.

## Donors

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