



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

March 2025



Participants in the needs assessment exercise for the Government Canteens

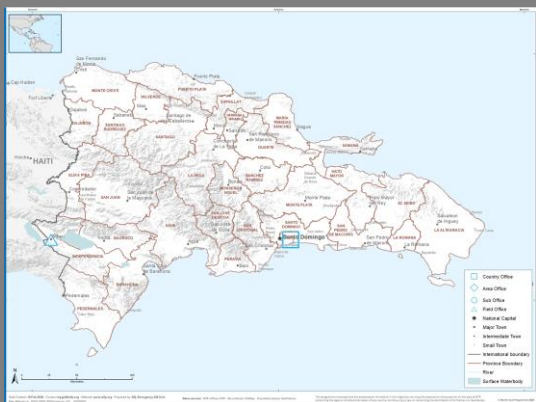
Operational Context

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 2 m six months Mar. 2025 – Aug. 2025 net funding requirements, representing 44 percent of total.

Operational Updates

WFP strengthened the capacity of 345 community members living in San Fernando de Monte Cristi through trainings on the role of anticipatory actions in preventing the effects of extreme weather events on food security and nutrition. Funded by the Ireland's Trust Fund to Support Climate Change and Disaster Resilience in Small Island Developing States, this activity builds on other donor's funded initiatives implemented by WFP, aimed at strengthening the resilience of the Northern Yaque Basin. WFP's integrated and holistic approach ensures that the targeted population receives comprehensive support to maintain food security in emergency situations and build resilience of livelihoods for long-term sustainability.

WFP supported the Emergency Operation Center (COE) in updating its Tsunami Standard Operating Procedure and Protocols, as part of the fourteenth annual Regional Tsunami Exercise, CARIBE WAVE 2025, held in March. The updated SOPs and protocols provided the COE with the necessary steps and procedures to ensure a consistent and effective response to such an emergency. As a follow-up step to the simulation, participants agreed to gather lessons learnt and identify challenges to be addressed to further strengthen the country's preparedness and response capacity.

As part of the Automated Analysis System for Weather Events and Issuance of Operational Alerts Project (ANACAONA), and under WFP's leadership, the capacity of the National Integrated Information System (SINI) through its Interinstitutional Geospatial Team (EIGEO), was enhanced in geospatial data analysis, management, and application. SINI is a governmental platform that systematizes data related to threats, vulnerabilities, and risks. The workshop covered topics such as spatial data infrastructure policy, social data visualization applications, and cartographic symbology, and was facilitated by WFP, the National Geographic Institute and the Single Beneficiary System (SIUBEN). This initiative is aimed at building a more robust and efficient geospatial information system that supports effective decision-making and response in emergency situations.

WFP continues to support the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development for the development of a national policy on early warning system, finalizing the draft document and coordinating the consultation workshops. The Dominican Republic is one of the world's most vulnerable nations to climate change. Adopting an Early Warning System policy will contribute to building a more consistent, effective and resilient approach to disaster management. The consultation phase provides the opportunity to fine-tune the policy based on the feedback and input from a diverse range of stakeholders. This stage is crucial for ensuring that the policy is comprehensive and widely accepted, fostering ownership and facilitating implementation.

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	210K	2 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 strengthened its partnership with Social Protection Program Supérate through a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a cooperation framework to enhance shock responsive social protection. Support will be provided to integrate social protection with disaster risk management and promote the adoption of anticipatory actions as part of social safety nets in times of emergency. Providing support early will contribute to reducing the impact of disasters on vulnerable populations and the overall cost of emergency responses.

WFP carried out a needs assessment of the Government Canteens (CEED) to identify areas for improvement and design an action plan to enhance capacity in both regular and emergency situations. Government Canteens provide affordable meals to vulnerable populations and play a crucial role in emergencies by quickly scaling up their operations to provide ready-to-eat food for the affected population. Support will contribute to strengthening the country's capacity to address food insecurity and malnutrition, and to increasing its response capacity to emergencies.

Monitoring

Members of the National Committee for the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), including WFP, conducted a review and technical evaluation of the results of the IPC, carried out in November 2024. This marks the culmination of a 5-month process which will lead to the release of results by the National Food Security and Nutrition Council (CONASSAN) in April. The IPC is a valuable tool for understanding the nature and severity of food crises, which will enable WFP and local stakeholders to make well-informed strategic decisions to address food insecurity effectively.

Challenges

Due to funding shortfalls, 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 remain 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 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. WFP is proactively seeking collaboration with both government and private sector actors. These efforts extend beyond humanitarian response to advance the “changing lives” agenda.

Donors

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