



World Food Programme

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WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief July 2025

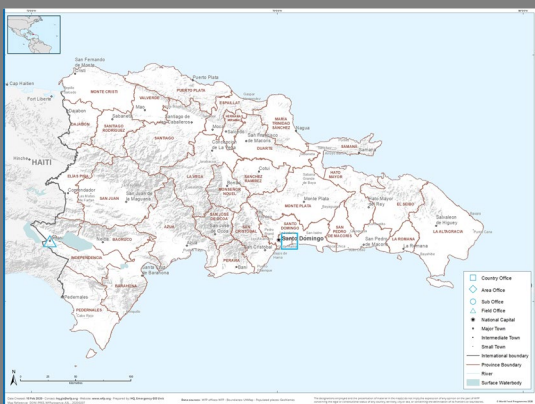


Operational Context

The Dominican Republic is a Small Island Developing State increasingly vulnerable to climate change, according to the 2022 Global Climate Risk Index. Approximately 25 percent of Dominican households are highly vulnerable to extreme weather events according to the Climate Shock Vulnerability Index. Intensifying hurricanes and recurring micro-disasters such as torrential rains and floodings, are not only increasing the humanitarian and economic toll, but also putting pressure on food systems. This crisis is exacerbated by the lingering global food crisis, instability in neighboring Haiti, and tightened immigration policies. Micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity remain significant concerns, particularly affecting women and children.

These overlapping challenges disproportionately affect those outside the social protection system, as well as undocumented individuals, migrants, smallholder farmers, and informal workers, highlighting the urgent need for inclusive and resilient support mechanisms.

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 3.6 m net funding requirements
(September 2025 – February 2026)

Operational Updates

- **WFP and the Government collaborated to establish a new United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flight route between Cap-Haïtien, Haiti and Las Américas International Airport** in the Dominican Republic as part of ongoing emergency support efforts in Haiti. The new route enhances connectivity for the humanitarian community in Haiti, facilitating faster access to major international airports and reducing travel time to improve the efficiency of humanitarian operations in and out of the country. Key institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX) and the Civil Aviation Board (JAC) provided support, reinforcing trust in UNHAS operations and procedures.
- **WFP is working with key government entities, including the Dominican Institute of Meteorology (INDOMET) and the National Integrated Information Service (SINI), to strengthen data management in emergency situations.** Work is ongoing with Automated Analysis System for Weather Events and Issuance of Operational Alerts (ANACAONA) tool, which is a dashboard that enhances national capacity to anticipate and respond to natural hazards, establishing a comprehensive threat and risk monitoring system, and strengthening data collection.
- **WFP has initiated its preparedness efforts for the hurricane season and is facilitating collaboration between the United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETE) and Civil Defense as a strategic approach to assess their respective readiness levels.** During a recent coordination session, representatives from Civil Defense and Sistema Integrado Nacional de Información (SINI) presented their operational capacities, tools, and available resources. This exchange enabled alignment on response scenarios and coordination regarding the availability of pre-positioned humanitarian kits and equipment, thereby strengthening joint emergency preparedness.
- **WFP supported Supérate in strengthening its disaster risk management capacities by collaborating on a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for programme facilitators.** This training equips facilitators to raise awareness and prepare families at the community level, using participatory and context-sensitive educational tools, such as WFP's Practical Guide for Community Facilitators, to strengthen family-level preparedness for emergencies.
- **WFP carried out a strategic mission in Bajo Yuna to present the Anticipatory Actions Project to key authorities.** The provinces of Duarte, María Trinidad Sánchez, and Samaná are among the most vulnerable to hurricanes and floods in the northeastern region.

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
47.2 m	1.9 m	3.6 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

- The project builds on previous experiences in Valverde Mao and Montecristi and introduces a pilot based on a Category 2 hurricane trigger to test new activation protocols. This initiative strengthens local emergency preparedness by enhancing early warning systems, improving data management, and planning targeted training for local response teams. These are the first steps for the integration of Anticipatory Actions mechanisms into Social Protection Systems.

Monitoring

- To support national efforts in aligning food systems transformation with climate action, the WFP Monitoring and Evaluation team participated in the High-Level Dialogue on the “Convergence Initiative for the Transformation of Food Systems and Climate Actions” in the Dominican Republic. The event was organized by the Ministry of the Presidency, through Secretaria Técnica para la Soberanía y Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional (SETESSAN), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Trade Treaties Office (OTCA), the National Council for Climate Change, and FAO. It aimed to create a space for interinstitutional dialogue and strengthen coordination between the public sector and international organizations to develop policies and strategies that promote a sustainable transformation of the food system, aligned with national climate action commitments.

Challenges

- Humanitarian challenges are escalating, driven by climate change, economic vulnerability, and regional instability. The 2025 hurricane season is forecasted to be above average, compounding risks of flash floods, displacement, and infrastructure damage. Vulnerable groups, including people outside of social protection systems, face heightened food insecurity. Despite recent improvements in preparedness, national response capacity remains insufficient, and international funding cuts further weaken early warning and disaster response systems, underscoring the urgent need for sustained donor support.

Funding

- WFP requires USD 3.6 million for its operations and is exploring partnerships with various entities, including the private sector and engaging with government entities to address challenges related to food security. WFP is also mobilizing resources to address capacity strengthening needs of the State to respond to possible emergencies and adopting a nexus approach to maximize the efficient use of available funding.

Donors

European Union (DG-ECHO), United States of America Government, Ireland, GFFO, Friends of Japan, and Supérate Social Protection Program (Government of the Dominican Republic).