



World Food Programme

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WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

August 2025



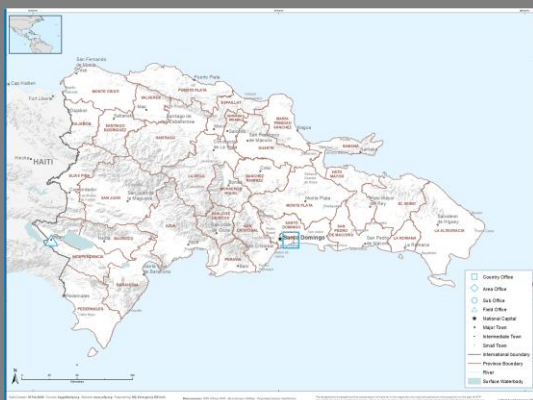
Celebration of community assemblies in Bajo Yuna Region

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% 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.



In Numbers

USD 4 m net funding requirements (Aug. 2025 – Jan. 2026), representing 67 percent of total.

Operational Updates

WFP facilitated a South-South Cooperation webinar on shock-responsive social protection, bringing together government representatives from the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. The Dominican Republic shared its experience in emergency response mechanisms, highlighting the use of the Basic Emergency Form (FIBE) as a key targeting tool for activating emergency cash transfers. Good practices such as interinstitutional coordination, integration with existing social registries, and rapid field deployment were showcased, while logistical and financial challenges—particularly those related to territorial data collection and system interoperability—were openly discussed. Guatemala expressed strong interest in adapting these lessons to strengthen its own emergency transfer schemes, aiming for a more efficient, coordinated, and people-centered response.

WFP is expanding its Anticipatory Action (AA) work in the Dominican Republic by piloting a hurricane-level trigger in Bajo Yuna, a region historically exposed to tropical cyclones and recurrent flooding. Building on previous AA experience focused on flood risk in Valverde Mao and Montecristi, this new initiative—supported by Ireland's Trust Fund—targets 2,500 households and aims to generate operational evidence for hurricane preparedness. As part of the pilot rollout, WFP facilitated community assemblies across 40 communities in Samaná, María Trinidad Sánchez, and Duarte provinces, with support from the Dominican Civil Defense and local leaders. These assemblies introduced the AA approach and helped assess community interest and readiness for participation. The evidence generated through this pilot will directly inform and strengthen WFP's support to the government in integrating AA into the national social protection system, reinforcing early warning capacities and enabling more coordinated responses in high-risk areas.

WFP is supporting the government in embedding AA within the national social protection framework, drawing on operational evidence from flood response in the Yaque del Norte watershed. WFP collaborated with the Dominican Civil Defense to deliver risk management workshops for family supervisors from Supérate's Directorate of Social Development. The training equipped frontline personnel to guide vulnerable households from Valverde (Mao), Duarte, Monte Cristi y María Trinidad Sánchez provinces, in preparing for and responding to hydrometeorological threats. This initiative strengthens the operational link between social protection and civil protection systems, advancing a more integrated and community-centered approach to emergency preparedness. It also lays the foundation for a scalable, government-led AA model—linking early warning systems to social protection delivery and enhancing anticipatory response capacity in high-risk areas.

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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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	4 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 supported coordination on climate and disaster resilience through the UN interagency Grupo Planeta, which convened a meeting to advance collaboration on disaster risk management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and sustainable ecosystem governance. Co-led by WFP and FAO, Grupo Planeta provides a space for dialogue, coordination, and joint advocacy among UN agencies and key stakeholders, aimed at strengthening integrated responses to the country's environmental and humanitarian challenges. The meeting focused on two key areas: reviewing progress on the UN System's joint climate strategy, with a view to consolidating a shared roadmap for territorial impact; and planning a dialogue event to be held on September 22, in observance of the National Day for Disaster Prevention and Emergency Response. The event will bring together diverse actors to reflect on good practices, challenges, and opportunities to enhance community resilience and emergency preparedness.

Monitoring

WFP concluded the Market Functionality Index (MFI) study assessing 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 identified critical areas for market improvement, guiding WFP's interventions and enhancing government social programs to better address food insecurity.

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

In response to funding shortfalls, WFP is pursuing new resource opportunities while advancing a sub-regional approach: Building a Shared Vision for a Stronger Caribbean. Offices responsible for the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Haiti convened to explore how achievements in emergency preparedness and response could be leveraged across countries to support national priorities and unlock broader sub-regional opportunities. The dialogue laid the groundwork for a shared vision to guide collective efforts in food security, resilience, and emergency preparedness throughout the Caribbean. This alignment does not imply the creation of a new regional programme—it reflects a commitment to streamlining support, amplifying impact, and positioning WFP strategically within a rapidly evolving global landscape.

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).