



World Food Programme

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WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

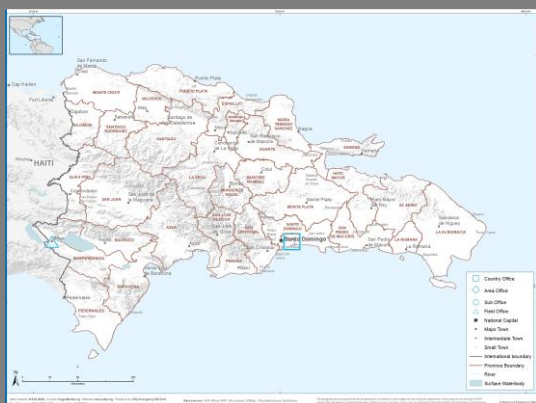
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Operational Context

The Dominican Republic, like other Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean, is highly exposed to severe weather events—including hurricanes, flooding, and droughts—that disrupt livelihoods, damage infrastructure, and strain food systems. Around 25% of households are highly vulnerable to climate shocks, which disproportionately affect poor and hazard-prone communities. These risks are compounded by the global food crisis, instability in neighboring Haiti, and tightened immigration policies. Nutritional challenges—such as micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity—particularly affect women and children. Vulnerable groups, including undocumented individuals, migrants, smallholder farmers, and informal workers, often fall outside the reach of social protection systems. Despite strong institutional frameworks, the country's geographic proximity to Haiti and its role as a regional transit corridor add complexity to emergency response. In this evolving climate and geopolitical landscape, the Dominican Republic remains both exposed and strategically positioned to support regional resilience.

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

US\$ 494K six-month net funding requirements (Nov. 2025 – Apr. 2026), representing 22 percent of total requirements.

Operational Updates

WFP and the Social Development Directorate of Supérate (DDSS) formalized collaboration to strengthen shock responsive social protection in the Dominican Republic through a Memorandum of Understanding that incorporates a joint project aimed at embedding anticipatory action within national systems. Backed by a \$600K host government investment, this initiative enhances institutional capacity to act before impacts occur—protecting vulnerable populations and reinforcing the role of social protection in disaster risk governance. As part of this effort, the first meeting of the Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action for Social Protection was held, bringing together WFP, DDSS, the Single Beneficiary System (SIUBEN), and the Dominican Institute of Meteorology (INDOMET) to advance the design of an activation protocol for hurricane-triggered early response within the social protection system. The session focused on defining institutional roles, technical thresholds, and coordination mechanisms with national risk governance entities, including the Emergency Operations Center (COE) and the National Integrated Information System (SINI), laying the groundwork for a more proactive and equitable response framework.

WFP leveraged geospatial intelligence and coordination to support inclusive, government-led emergency response.

Tropical Storm and Hurricane Melissa provided a live opportunity to fine-tune ANACAONA—the Automated System for Weather Analysis and Issuance of Operational Alerts—developed by WFP with funding from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO). Through ANACAONA, real-time monitoring supported decision-making across national and local institutions, including the National Emergency Commission, and the Social Development Directorate of Supérate, reinforcing coordination between adaptive social protection and emergency response systems. The platform also supported WFP in activating preparedness measures. In the Yaque del Norte watershed, WFP activated the readiness phase for anticipatory actions for over 4,000 households, initiating preparatory measures in case humanitarian assistance became necessary. In parallel, a contingency agreement was established to enable the rapid deployment of food assistance to up to 6,000 families in the southwest, if conditions warranted activation. While not all measures were ultimately triggered, the readiness architecture proved essential for timely decision-making. In the post-event phase, WFP remained in conversation with national authorities to explore ways to complement government-led response efforts. In parallel, WFP coordinated with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to design support strategies for populations outside the social protection system - ensuring no one is left behind in the response.

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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 million	11.8 million	494,869

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 CPMR-led efforts to improve emergency decision-making through data integration. Over 70 representatives from public institutions, sectoral entities, and emergency response organizations in provinces of Bajo Yuna River watershed were trained on the use of data for decision-making in emergency preparedness and response. The initiative, developed under the Anticipatory Action project in the Bajo Yuna watershed, was led by the Regional Committee for Prevention, Mitigation and Response (CPMR) of the Northeast, with technical support from WFP. The training aimed to strengthen local and interinstitutional capacities to act proactively in the face of emergencies, using timely and reliable data.

WFP participated in a technical mission to Guatemala focused on sharing experiences on anticipatory action, drought early warning systems, and parametric microinsurance. The exchange strengthened regional coordination and mutual learning to improve preparedness for climate-related emergencies.

Monitoring

A technical mission was carried out to strengthen institutional monitoring mechanisms through the revision and consolidation of key tools, such as the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and the Feedback Mechanism (CFM) strategy. These instruments enable the country office to systematically monitor response quality, manage sensitive cases—including those related to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)—and ensure that the voices of affected populations are meaningfully considered in decision-making. By promoting staff ownership of these processes, the mission reinforced WFP's capacity to deliver more transparent, accountable, and people-centered programming.

Challenges

Tropical Storm Melissa offered a valuable opportunity to identify areas for strengthening emergency coordination and inclusive targeting. The event highlighted the importance of further integrating anticipatory action protocols across decentralized levels. It also underscored the need to expand coverage for populations outside formal social protection system—such as migrants. Many of them hesitate to seek help due to fears of deportation, underscoring the vital role of interagency collaboration and the active engagement of cooperating partners in ensuring protection and inclusion. Melissa further emphasized the need to refine needs identification processes to enable evidence-based prioritization.

Funding

In anticipation of Hurricane Melissa's regional impact, WFP launched an early humanitarian appeal for USD \$74 million to assist up to 1.1 million people across the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti, and Cuba. The appeal was issued ahead of landfall, based on pre-storm analysis and early action protocols, allowing WFP to preposition supplies, secure contingency agreements, and support government-led preparedness and response. In the Dominican Republic, WFP has offered technical and operational support to national authorities to assess damages and prioritize needs in food assistance, logistics, and early recovery. These efforts aim to ensure that funding mobilized contributes to an inclusive and effective response.

Donors

European Union (DG-ECHO), Government of the United States of America, Ireland, GFFO, Friends of Japan, and Social Development Directorate of Supérate (Government of the Dominican Republic), UK - Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.