



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

January 2026

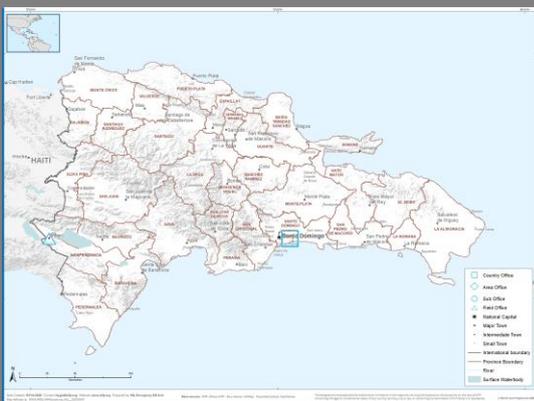


Drone piloting practical training session.

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\$ 1.8M six-month net funding requirements (Jan. 2026 – Jun. 2026), representing 56 percent of total requirements.

Operational Updates

WFP continues to strengthen protection, gender and age sensitive disaster governance by supporting the celebration of the first annual meeting of the Consultative Team on Protection, Gender and Age (EC PGE), a national inter institutional mechanism formally attached to the National Emergency Commission. In this working session, members advanced institutional safeguards by finalizing the Civil Defense Protocol for the Prevention and Response to Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse, while also agreeing on a joint work plan for the coming semester. Framed within a project financed by ECHO and implemented by WFP, the session convened representatives from government institutions, academia and civil society— including the Ministry of Women, Civil Defense, National Disability Council (CONADIS), Ministry of Agriculture, UASD University, Circle of Women with Disabilities (CIMUDIS), Dominican Red Cross, Aldeas Infantiles SOS NGO and National Council for HIV and AIDS (CONAVIHSIDA)—consolidating inter institutional and cross sectoral collaboration and reinforcing national systems to ensure protection and accountability across disaster response operations.

WFP participated in the launch event of the Dominican Red Cross Climate Change and Environment Policy, reinforcing national dialogue on risk management and climate resilience. The working session convened institutions engaged in disaster risk governance and climate action, with keynote interventions from the President of the Dominican Red Cross, the Executive President of the National Council for Climate Change, and the Vice-Minister for Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. This collective engagement strengthens inter-institutional coordination and highlights the growing commitment of national actors to integrate climate considerations into humanitarian and disaster response systems.

WFP conducted a practical training session on drone piloting for staff from the National Integrated Information System (SINI) and the Single Beneficiary System (SIUBEN), supporting government entities in the licensing process of their personnel as certified drone pilots. The initiative strengthens national capacities for data collection and disaster response, while ensuring compliance with aviation standards. Technical experts from the National Institute of Civil Aviation (IDAC) contributed to the process by facilitating complementary theoretical and practical workshops, preparing participants for upcoming evaluations and reinforcing institutional readiness to operationalize drone technology in emergency management.

WFP participated in the Inter Institutional Drought Roundtable held at the headquarters of the Dominican Institute of Meteorology, alongside FAO and national institutions. The session focused on reviewing the Roundtable’s action plan and presenting the latest climate outlook within the framework of the National Drought Response Plan. —

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
47.2 million	12.3 million	1.8 million

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

— Convened under the leadership of government counterparts, the meeting brought together representatives from the Ministry of Environment, the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources (INDRHI), the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Institute of Potable Water and Sewerage (INAPA). WFP’s participation complemented national discussions, contributing technical perspectives to reinforce evidence-based coordination and preparedness for drought risks.

WFP participated in the internal Monitoring and Results Analysis Workshop 2025 of the United Nations Cooperation Framework; a technical session aimed at finalizing the monitoring of the 2024 2025 Joint Work Plan through the joint measurement of product indicators and setting indicative targets for 2026. The workshop also provided space to reflect on achievements and challenges encountered during the 2025 implementation, identify key milestones and bottlenecks, and revisit priorities for 2026—including communication, advocacy, strategic partnerships and resource mobilization. Technical staff from across the UN System took part, representing inter agency working groups such as the Results Groups, the M&E Group, GICOM, RIAMR and GIG, reinforcing collective accountability and alignment under the Cooperation Framework.

Monitoring

To fulfil its commitment to transparency and accountability, WFP is preparing its Annual Country Report. This annual exercise provides a comprehensive overview of programme achievements, challenges and lessons learned, highlighting how WFP’s interventions contribute to national priorities and the objectives of the 2024 2028 Strategic Plan. The final report is expected to be published in March.

Challenges

Institutional changes have introduced new dynamics in governance. The July 2025 merger of the Ministries of Finance and Economy, with functions transferred to the Presidency, reshaped fiscal coordination. In January 2026, changes at the Ministry of Women and within social protection structures opened new opportunities to strengthen collaboration on gender-sensitive social protection. These shifts call for adaptive engagement, yet WFP remains confident, building on longstanding partnerships and a shared commitment to zero hunger.

Funding

WFP is actively seeking to diversify its funding sources to implement the humanitarian-development nexus in the Dominican Republic. Adequate resources are needed not only to sustain adaptive social protection, but also to strengthen climate resilience, disaster risk management and climate-change adaptation. Diversified funding will allow WFP to bridge immediate humanitarian response with long-term solutions, addressing structural vulnerabilities that drive food insecurity and limit community resilience.

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.