



WFP DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

COUNTRY BRIEF

April 2026

Key highlights

- Together with UNHCR and Civil Defense, WFP delivered food assistance to flood-affected households, while supporting a national emergency simulation to strengthen adaptive social protection.
- WFP prepared geospatial coordination with SINI and EIGEO and laid the groundwork for inter-municipal collaboration under the Resilient Watershed project.
- In nutrition, WFP co-led the Technical Table on Food Fortification, prioritizing rice fortification as a cost-effective policy, while community workshops strengthened grassroots resilience.
- WFP sustained support to the DR-Haiti logistics corridor, ensuring humanitarian air services and highlighting the value of inter-institutional coordination.

IN NUMBERS



USD 1.6M (FEB – JUL 2026) net funding requirements

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The Dominican Republic, like other Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean, is highly exposed to severe weather events such as hurricanes, flooding, and droughts, which disrupt livelihoods, damage

infrastructure, and strain food systems. Ecosystem degradation further reduces natural protection against extreme events. Around 25% of households are highly vulnerable to climate shocks, disproportionately affecting poor and hazard-prone communities.

Territorial inequalities leave rural and border provinces with fewer opportunities and higher poverty rates, while 53.4% of total employment is informal. Global food price volatility, dependence on remittances, and localized migration pressures compound these risks, intersecting with persistent micronutrient deficiencies and the double burden of malnutrition disproportionately affecting women, children, and excluded groups. These vulnerabilities are now exacerbated by global market instability linked to the Middle East crisis, which is driving food price volatility, energy cost increases, and risks of supply chain disruption, raising concern for national food security and household resilience.

- WFP's strategy links national planning with local action to address recurrent shocks systemically. Evidence and data guide interventions, building government capacity so central decisions translate into community protection. Climate services and risk management tools are embedded in social protection through local networks, enabling anticipatory action. Pre-positioning, disaster risk finance, and logistics corridors ensure rapid response when systems are strained. Platforms such as ANACAONA and the DR-Haiti corridor exemplify collective resilience.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Food assistance

- WFP, together with UNHCR and the Civil Defense, carried out a humanitarian response in the Bajo Yuna communities affected by sudden floods. The operation delivered 594 food kits to vulnerable households in María Trinidad Sánchez and Samaná, ensuring timely and organized coverage through participatory assemblies that reinforced transparency and community engagement. UNHCR complemented the assistance with non-food items, while the Civil Defense facilitated access to critical areas and supported logistics and security. This joint action not only addressed urgent food security needs but also generated key lessons to strengthen territorial preparedness for future hydrometeorological events, confirming the relevance of WFP's collaborative approach and the value of inter-institutional coordination for faster, more effective, and community-centered responses.

Adaptative Social Protection

- WFP supported with technical expertise the Social Policy Cabinet in leading a national emergency simulation exercise to strengthen adaptive social protection. Organized under the framework of the Integral Strategy for Adaptive Social Protection (EIPSA), the exercise was spearheaded by the Cabinet with technical support from Expertise France, funded by the European Union and implemented by AFD. The simulation tested inter-institutional coordination and the articulation of social protection measures with the national risk management system, generating a series of recommendations. This process reinforces the country's ability to deliver timely, inclusive, and efficient responses to shocks while promoting more strategic use of public resources.
- WFP participated in the VIII Regional Consultative Forum of the Central American Policy for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR), convened by the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Disasters in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC), in Panama. Accompanying national institutions such as the Social Policy Cabinet and Supérate, WFP supported their active engagement with regional platforms on

disaster risk management, adaptive social protection,

- and anticipatory action. The Dominican Republic's experience was shared in sessions on adaptive social protection and anticipatory action, providing visibility to national advances. The forum also offered a key opportunity to build capacities within Supérate's new leadership, expand regional exposure, and foster connections with other countries. Additionally, WFP facilitated the participation of the Ministry of Women, enabling the identification of practices and alliances to further integrate gender perspectives into emergency response, an area where the Dominican Republic has already made significant progress.

Disaster Risk Management Preparedness

- WFP met with the director of the National Integrated Information System (SINI) to advance capacity-building efforts and strengthen inter-institutional geospatial coordination. Together with SINI and the Inter-Institutional Geospatial Team (EIGEO), agreements were reached to prepare draft missions and training workshops on the use of information-gathering tools that will support the update of vulnerability profiles in five provinces: Monte Cristi, Valverde, San Francisco, San Pedro, and La Altagracia. This collaboration reinforces national technical capacities and ensures that risk data is systematically integrated into planning for disaster preparedness and response.
- WFP, together with Plan International, advanced coordination with the municipality of Verón–Punta Cana under the Resilient Watershed project. The initiative will allow the local risk management team to share lessons learned with mayors and representatives from the Provincial and Municipal Committees for Prevention, Mitigation and Response (CP-PMR) of Mao and Monte Cristi, fostering inter-municipal collaboration and strengthening disaster risk management capacities. This exchange is an important step to scale local practices and embed resilience approaches across territories.
- WFP, together with FAO, UNEP and IFAD, launched the joint programme "Transforming the Food System of the Dominican Republic: The Scalable Model of the Yaque del Sur Basin" in San Juan, in coordination with the Technical Secretariat for Food Sovereignty and Nutritional Security (SETESSAN).

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The event included the socialization of ongoing initiatives in the basin and the San Juan Plan, the presentation of expected results, and the formal establishment of the programme’s technical committee. Participants defined roles and responsibilities, identified synergies with existing investments and actors, and agreed on initial operational priorities and next steps for Phase I implementation, setting up coordination channels between national and territorial levels to ensure effective governance and impact.

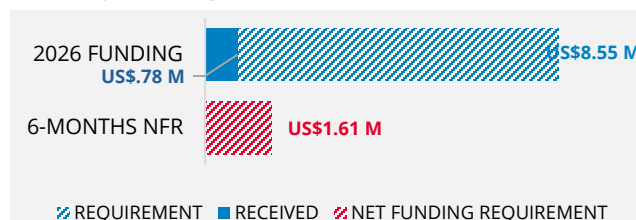
Nutrition

- WFP co-led, alongside the Ministry of Public Health, the first 2026 meeting of the Technical Table on Food Fortification, contributing technical expertise on rice fortification as a public health priority. The session convened WFP, the Ministry of Public Health, the General Directorate of Medicines, Foods and Health Products (DIGEMAPS), the Technical Secretariat for Food Sovereignty and Nutritional Security (SETESSAN), and the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP), consolidating an evidence-based space for inter-institutional coordination. Drawing on the National Micronutrient Survey, participants advanced the prioritization of rice fortification as a cost-effective policy to prevent deficiencies and sustainably reduce the burden on the health system—highlighting its strategic importance for nutrition and public health in the Dominican Republic.
- WFP, together with its partner Clínica de Familia, organized the Peer Multipliers Workshop on Nutrition and Food Security for beneficiaries of the sustainable gardens program. The workshop strengthened community capacities, encouraged ownership of knowledge, and promoted the replication of key messages on healthy eating and food security, in line with WFP’s focus on sustainability, empowerment, and resilience. By training peer multipliers, the initiative ensures that knowledge circulates within communities, amplifying impact beyond individual participants. This approach builds resilience at the grassroots level and supports sustainable improvements in nutrition and food security.
- WFP provided technical and programmatic support to the Technical Working Group on Food and Nutrition, under Component IV of the National Plan

for Food Sovereignty and Nutritional Security. In this space, WFP backed initiatives led by the Technical Secretariat for Food Sovereignty and Nutritional Security (SETESSAN) and the Ministry of Public Health, including the “Eat Well” (Comer Bien) campaign and the promotion of Food-Based Dietary Guidelines with a life-course approach. Together, these initiatives advance inter-institutional coordination and strengthen national capacities, reinforcing the country’s commitment to sustainable nutrition and public health.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)



Note: 2026 funding refers exclusively to contributions received during the calendar year 2026.

Donors:

Dominican Republic Host Government (Directorate of Social Development Superate), DG-ECHO, Private Donors (The Japan Association for WFP -JAWFP; DSM-Fiermenich), United Kingdom (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office -FCDO), Joint SDG Fund, US Government.