



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Dominican Republic Country Brief

June 2021



Operational Context

The Dominican Republic has experienced economic growth and stability during the past decades. However, the food security situation has been affected by inequalities in income distribution, poverty, and lack of dietary diversity. Persistent micronutrient deficiencies and increasing overweight and obesity remain major concerns. The country suffers from recurrent natural shocks, which affect food systems. The country's food security priorities are clearly highlighted in numerous national policies.

The country's socioeconomic landscape has been severely impacted by COVID-19 containment measures. The Government declared a state of emergency in March 2020 and continued to extend it throughout the year. WFP's assessment on the food security situation estimates that some 287,000 people (2.7 percent of the population) are severely food insecure as of end 2020, compared to 1 percent the previous year, while 3.7 million people (35.5 percent) are in moderate food insecurity, compared to 19 percent in 2019.

WFP work in the Dominican Republic focuses on strengthening capacities to achieve food security, improve nutrition, promote sustainable food systems, as well as increasing capacities, preparedness, and programme focus areas on crisis response.

WFP has been present in Dominican Republic since 1969.



Population: **11.08 million**
(estimated)

2018 Human Development Index:
0,745 (high)

Income level: **Upper middle**

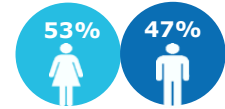
Chronic malnutrition: **7.1% of children under 5.**

In numbers

USD 0 six-month net funding requirements

143.89 mt of food assistance distributed

22,887 people assisted
June 2021



Operational Updates

- WFP, as part of the preparation for the Atlantic Hurricane Season, carried out an interinstitutional exercise with government and humanitarian organizations to simulate emergency scenarios, test the standard procedures to activate early actions, and put into practice WFP's forecast-based financing mechanism through cash-based transfers.
- WFP is adapting its humanitarian response action plan to anticipate, prepare and respond to rapidly intensifying and slow onset climate shocks in the Dominican Republic with the support of the European Commission - DG ECHO.
- WFP donated emergency preparedness kits to the Civil Defense for the 2021 Hurricane Season. This donation is framed within WFP's efforts to strengthening national and local actors' capacity to prepare and respond to emergencies in the Dominican Republic, with BHA's support.
- WFP hosted a regional mission to support the development of a strategy to improve food security and nutrition in the country through the social protection scheme. WFP is providing technical advice to advance the Government's roadmap to improve the current situation of food insecurity and establish a strategy for fortified rice.
- WFP distributed food kits, together with local NGOs, to vulnerable migrant population that have been greatly affected by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the country. These distributions will assist 1,400 households, financed by MasterCard Caribbean.
- WFP held a cross-sectoral event to validate, at a technical level, the proposals resulting from the national and local dialogues as preparation for the National Food Systems Summit that will be hosted together with WFP in July.

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Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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45.1 million

13.9 million

0 million

Strategic Result 1: Strengthen and coordinate public and private institutions.

Strategic Outcome 1: Civil society and public and private institutions are strengthened and coordinated and are able to address the zero hunger issues of the most vulnerable populations by 2023.

Focus area: *Root causes.*

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance to government, civil society, private sector, academic and social entities in order to generate an inclusive and coordinated national alliance, enhance legal frameworks and develop policies, communication strategies and programmes for improving food security and nutrition.

Strategic Result 2: Improve the nutritional status of vulnerable populations.

Strategic Outcome 2: The most nutritionally vulnerable groups have improved their nutrition status by 2023.

Focus area: *Root causes.*

Activities:

- Support public health and social protection programmes in implementing comprehensive strategies and systems that follow a rights-based approach to improving the nutrition status of populations who are vulnerable to malnutrition at different stages in the life cycle.

Strategic Result 3: Improve resilience to crises, better adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risk.

Strategic Outcome 3: National and local systems are strengthened and coordinated, improving resilience to shocks, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction among vulnerable populations by 2023.

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: Food systems are sustainable and utilize resilient practices that help maintain ecosystems.

Strategic Outcome 4: Crisis-affected populations are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of shocks.

Focus area: *Resilience-building.*

Activities:

- Provide emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to shock affected populations

Strategic Result 5: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology in humanitarian and other situations.

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development partners have access to reliable services throughout the crisis.

Focus area: *Resilience-building.*

Activities:

- Provide on-demand services to humanitarian and development partners

- WFP participated in a high-level meeting with the restructured social protection programme, previously “Progresando con Solidaridad”, and now converted to the programme “Supérate”. WFP will continue supporting the actions towards improving the nutritional status of vulnerable population and enhancing the social protection capacity to respond to emergencies.
- WFP held meetings with the Ministry of Women to develop joint actions for the improvement of women’s nutritional status, particularly from those living in women shelters, managed by the Ministry.

Monitoring

- WFP led a technical meeting with the National Social Subsidies Administrator (ADESS) to discuss developing an updated Market Functionality Index (MFI) in 2021.

Donors

Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO); DSM; Government of the Dominican Republic; Mastercard; National Institute for Comprehensive Care for Early Childhood (INAIFI); Supérate (former PROSOLI); Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF); USAID’s Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).