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## Dominican Republic country strategic plan (2019–2023)

Duration	1 January 2019–31 December 2023
Total cost to WFP	USD 10,174,911
Gender and age marker*	3

\* <http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

### Executive Summary

In the Dominican Republic, impressive economic growth and social policies have contributed to the reduction of hunger and poverty. Significant inequality and exclusion persist, however, and almost half the population is at high risk of poverty. In addition, food insecurity, stunting, anaemia, overweight and obesity remain major concerns. The main drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition in the country are limited access to food, the absence of education on nutrition, poor eating habits, lack of food regulations, gender inequalities and extreme poverty.

The country's development priorities are outlined in its national development strategy, which extends to 2030. The country has developed a national Sustainable Development Goal 2 road map with WFP support and has identified the following priorities for achieving zero hunger: strengthening the design and implementation of legal frameworks related to food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture and disaster risk reduction; strengthening the design and implementation of social protection, public health and sustainable agriculture programmes; generating consistent sex- and age-disaggregated data and gender analysis of the food security and nutrition situation, policies and programmes; providing adequate resources for programmes and interventions; strengthen public institutions, particularly in terms of human resources; promoting nutrition education; and ensuring inter-institutional coordination.

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This country strategic plan is based on the recommendations of the zero hunger strategic review and consultations with the Government and key stakeholders. The WFP country office has drafted this country strategic plan in line with the Government's expectations and the country's efforts to achieve zero hunger. WFP's contribution is mainly to provide expertise in nutrition, social protection and emergency response, as well as to act as a convenor for stakeholders. WFP is seen by the Government as a partner that ensures quality and facilitates initiatives against hunger. The country strategic plan includes a "whole of society" approach – involving national and provincial authorities, disaster management agencies, national non-governmental organizations, the International Red Cross and private sector and other institutions – where no one is left behind<sup>1</sup>. WFP's engagement with national stakeholders is aimed at an integrated and multisector approach focused on reducing food insecurity and malnutrition through three strategic outcomes:

- Civil society and public and private institutions in the Dominican Republic are strengthened and coordinated and are able to address the zero hunger issues of the most vulnerable populations by 2023.
- The most nutritionally vulnerable groups have improved their nutrition status by 2023.
- National and local systems are strengthened and coordinated, improving resilience to shocks, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction among vulnerable populations by 2023.

WFP will increase its support for policy decision making with advocacy, communications and high-quality programme design and technical assistance. It will continue to enhance and expand its partnerships with government stakeholders, including the Office of the Vice-President, the Ministry of the Presidency, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, the Ministry of Education, the national public canteens authority, the national institute for early childhood development and the national system for disaster prevention, mitigation and response. It will establish new partnerships with the private sector, academia, other United Nations agencies, donors and civil society and will continue to collaborate with the other Rome-based agencies.

The country strategic plan will contribute to the Dominican Republic's national development strategy, national Sustainable Development Goal 2 road map, national food sovereignty and food and nutrition security plan, national disaster risk management plan and United Nations development assistance framework for 2017–2022, as well as the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17 and WFP Strategic Results 2 and 5.

### **Draft decision\***

The Board approves the Dominican Republic country strategic plan (2019–2023) (WFP/EB.1/2019/8-A/5) at a total cost to WFP of USD 10,174,911.

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<sup>1</sup> WFP. 2017. The Whole of Society Approach to Zero Hunger. Available at: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/25d7439d3951478d8b5fb4e4687cea7b/download/>.

\* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the decisions and recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

## 1. Country analysis

### 1.1 Country context

1. The Dominican Republic is an upper-middle-income country with a population of approximately 11 million people.<sup>2</sup> It shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti and covers 48,442 square kilometres, making it the second largest country in the Caribbean.
2. The country has an average gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 5.3 percent per year.<sup>3</sup> This impressive economic growth has not translated into major social progress, however. Significant inequality and exclusion persist. The country is classified as “high” on the 2016 Human Development Index (0.722), yet when adjusted for inequality, the index decreases by 21.7 percent (0.565).<sup>4</sup> Its Gini Index of Income Equality is 0.471<sup>5</sup> and its 2017 Gender Inequality Index value is 0.451.<sup>6</sup>
3. In 2016, the prevalence of multidimensional poverty was 23.1 percent and the poverty rate was 30.5 percent, and 45.7 percent of the Dominican population was at high risk that any major social, economic or natural shock would push them into moderate poverty.<sup>7</sup> Important inequalities persist in wealth distribution between rural and urban areas, as well as between men and women. Extreme poverty affects up to 45 percent of the population in rural and border regions. Those most severely affected by poverty and food insecurity are women, children under 5, adolescents, migrants of Haitian origin, smallholder farmers and people with disabilities.<sup>8</sup>
4. Despite being an important food producer, the Dominican Republic is a net importer of food.<sup>9</sup> Its food systems and livelihoods are threatened by climate change, natural hazards and systemic shocks such as fluctuations in commodity prices. According to the Climate Risk Index, the Dominican Republic is the tenth most vulnerable country to climate change in the world, with neighbouring Haiti in second place.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Dominican Republic national statistics office estimate for 2018, based on the national population census.

<sup>3</sup> World Bank. 2017. Dominican Republic overview. Available at <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/dominicanrepublic/overview>.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Development Programme. 2016. Human Development Report 2016: Human development for everyone. Available at [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016\\_human\\_development\\_report.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development. 2017. Boletín de Estadísticas Oficiales de Pobreza Monetaria. Año 2, No. 4 (Bulletin of Official Poverty Statistics, Year 2, No. 4), October 2017. Available (in Spanish) at <http://economia.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/drive/UAAES/Informes%20%26%20Boletines/Pobreza%20monetaria/Boletin%20de%20Estadisticas%20Oficiales%20de%20Pobreza%20Monetaria%204%20final.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Development Programme. 2015. Gender Inequality Index. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>. Accessed on 10 November 2018.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Development Programme. 2016. Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean - Multidimensional progress: Well-being beyond income. Available at <https://crds.cepal.org/2/en/documents/undp-human-development-report-latin-america-and-caribbean-2016>.

<sup>8</sup> Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development. 2017. Boletín de Estadísticas oficiales de Pobreza Monetaria. Año 2, No. 4 (Bulletin of Official Poverty Statistics, Year 2, No. 4), October 2017. Available at <http://economia.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/drive/UAAES/Informes%20%26%20Boletines/Pobreza%20monetaria/Boletin%20de%20Estadisticas%20Oficiales%20de%20Pobreza%20Monetaria%204%20final.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2016. Dominican Republic. Country fact sheet on food and agriculture policy trend. July 2016. Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5814e.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> Eckstein, D., Künzel, V. and Schäfer, L. 2018. Global Climate Risk Index 2018. Available at <https://germanwatch.org/sites/germanwatch.org/files/publication/20432.pdf>.

## 1.2 Progress towards SDG 2

5. *Access to food.* The country has a moderate prevalence of hunger.<sup>11</sup> The proportion of undernourished people decreased from 34.3 percent in 1990 to 12.3 percent in 2014–2016.<sup>12</sup> Although there is a surplus of food availability in the region,<sup>13</sup> access to food is undermined by inequalities, restricted purchasing power of vulnerable groups, limited coverage of basic services and safety nets, inadequate regulation of markets and agriculture and recurrent natural and economic shocks. The basic family food basket costs an average of 2.25 times the minimum wage, yet 50 percent of the Dominican working population earns less than the minimum wage.<sup>14</sup>
6. The overall unemployment rate was 13.3 percent in 2016,<sup>15</sup> but the rate for women was more than twice that for men. The wage gap between women and men is 21 percent overall, rising to 42.8 percent<sup>16</sup> in the informal sector. Only 44.5 percent of working women are part of the formal labour force, compared to 74.5 percent of men. The country's score on the Femininity Index of Poor Households is 132, the third highest in the region. This reflects the lower economic autonomy and purchasing power of women aged 20–59 years, which translates into greater vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition.<sup>17</sup>
7. Participatory consultations for the formulation of the United Nations development assistance framework for 2018–2022 (UNDAF) and the zero hunger strategic review highlighted that elderly people, the Dominican-Haitian population, small-scale farmers, day labourers, fishermen, women and people suffering from chronic illnesses such as HIV and tuberculosis are highly vulnerable to food insecurity.<sup>18</sup> A 2013 WFP study<sup>19</sup> on households with people living with HIV/AIDS found that 88 percent were food-insecure, with 58 percent severely food-insecure.

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<sup>11</sup> von Grebmer, K. and others. 2017. 2017 Global Hunger Index: The Inequalities of Hunger. Available at <https://doi.org/10.2499/9780896292710>.

<sup>12</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization. 2016. Panorama of food and nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean. Available at <http://www.fao.org/americas/publicaciones-audio-video/panorama/2016/en/>.

<sup>13</sup> Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean . 2018. Food Security and Nutrition: Latin America and the Caribbean (<https://dds.cepal.org/san/estadisticas>).

<sup>14</sup> Central Bank of the Dominican Republic. 2018. Cost of family basic food basket by quintiles and national: 2011-2018. Available at [https://gdc.bancentral.gov.do/Common/public/estadisticas/precios/documents/Costo\\_Canasta\\_quintiles\\_base\\_2010.xls](https://gdc.bancentral.gov.do/Common/public/estadisticas/precios/documents/Costo_Canasta_quintiles_base_2010.xls) .

<sup>15</sup> Central Bank of the Dominican Republic estimates for 2016. Available at <https://www.bancentral.gov.do/a/d/2539-mercado-de-trabajo-enft>.

<sup>16</sup> Dominican Political Observatory, 2016. International Women's Day. Between advances and setbacks in the Dominican Republic. Available (in Spanish) at [http://www.opd.org.do/images/PDF\\_ARTICULOS/Sociedad\\_Civil/Dia-Internacional-de-la-Mujer-2016.pdf](http://www.opd.org.do/images/PDF_ARTICULOS/Sociedad_Civil/Dia-Internacional-de-la-Mujer-2016.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> United Nations Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. 2014. Índice de feminidad en hogares pobres: América Latina (17 países) (Index of femininity in poor homes: Latin America (17 countries). Available (in Spanish) at <https://oig.cepal.org/es/indicadores/indice-feminidad-hogares-pobres>.

<sup>18</sup> HIV prevalence in the country is 0.8 percent for women and 1 percent for men.

<sup>19</sup> Rojas, P. and others. 2011. "The HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Dominican Republic". Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care. Vol. 10, No. 5. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21368008>.

8. *End malnutrition.* Stunting affects 7.1 percent of children under 5 (8 percent of boys and 6 percent of girls), with significant differences according to poverty levels and mothers' education. For example, stunting affects 11.3 percent of children in the poorest population quintile, up to 13 percent of children in the poorest regions and 10 percent of children whose mothers did not have access to formal education.<sup>20</sup> The acute malnutrition rate is 4 percent, with no differences by sex.<sup>21</sup> The rate of teenage pregnancy is 20 percent, the second highest in the region.<sup>22</sup> Children of mothers under 20 have the highest prevalence of underweight and low birth weight.<sup>23</sup>
9. Micronutrient deficiencies are a significant public health concern. The prevalence of anaemia is 34 percent among women and girls of reproductive age (15–49 years), 37 percent among women and girls who have given birth within the previous 12 months, 28 percent among children aged 6–59 months and up to 61 percent among children aged 6–11 months.<sup>24</sup> Anaemia prevalence among children of poor households is higher than the national average.<sup>25</sup> Only 6.7 percent of children are exclusively breastfed to six months of age, the second lowest rate in the region.<sup>26</sup>
10. Obesity and overweight are a growing concern: 7.6 percent of children under 5 and 28 percent of people aged 15–49 years are overweight. The percentage of females who are overweight or obese is 50.5, compared to 38.8 percent of males. While the prevalence of overweight among children under 5 decreased between 1998 and 2012, the prevalence of obesity among adults increased by 10 percentage points and the prevalence of overweight by 2.5 percentage points.<sup>27</sup>
11. The zero hunger strategic review identified various drivers of malnutrition, including poor dietary diversity caused by limited access to food, absence of nutrition education and healthy lifestyles, poor eating habits, lack of regulation of product labelling, poor regulation and implementation of food fortification, gender inequalities and extreme poverty.

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<sup>20</sup> Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Development. Social Indicators System of the Dominican Republic: Health Indicators (Sistema de indicadores sociales de la Republica Dominicana: Indicadores de Salud). 2014. Available (in Spanish) at <http://economia.gob.do/download/3504/google-driver/1kewmWtUOXEazrtzogsLFCmDHIA7KEWba/SISDOM%202016.%20Indicadores%20de%20Salud.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> Centre for Social and Demographic Studies (Dominican Republic), ICF International, National Public Health Laboratory (Dominican Republic). 2013. Dominican Republic special demographic and health survey 2013. Available (in Spanish) at <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-fr292-dhs-final-reports.cfm>.

<sup>22</sup> Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. Maternity in adolescents (Maternidad en adolescentes). Available (in Spanish) at <https://oig.cepal.org/es/indicadores/maternidad-adolescentes>.

<sup>23</sup> Centre for Social and Demographic Studies (Dominican Republic), ICF International, National Public Health Laboratory (Dominican Republic). 2013. Dominican Republic special demographic and health survey 2013. Available (in Spanish) at <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-fr292-dhs-final-reports.cfm>.

<sup>24</sup> Centre for Social and Demographic Studies (Dominican Republic) and others. Dominican Republic National Micronutrient Survey 2009. Available at <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/record/dominican-republic-national-micronutrient-survey-2009>.

<sup>25</sup> WFP. 2015. How the Government of the Dominican Republic Reduced Anemia by 50% in Vulnerable Children, with support from WFP: A Case Study on Nutrition-Sensitive Programming in a Middle Income Country. Available at <https://www.wfp.org/content/how-government-dominican-republic-and-wfp-reduced-anemia-50-percent-children>.

<sup>26</sup> Centre for Social and Demographic Studies (Dominican Republic), ICF International, National Public Health Laboratory (Dominican Republic). 2013. Dominican Republic special demographic and health survey 2013. Available (in Spanish) at <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-fr292-dhs-final-reports.cfm>. This is more than six times lower than the rate in Haiti.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid; and Pichardo, R. and others. EFRICARD II. Available at <http://www.unibe.edu.do/sites/default/files/internados/efricard-2.pdf>.

12. *Smallholder productivity and incomes.* Agricultural productivity is low and investment in innovation is minimal; 72 percent of farms are small or very small; smallholder farmers own only 38 percent of cultivated land. Agriculture's share of GDP fell from 25.7 percent in 1965 to 5.8 percent in 2015, partly because of growth in other economic sectors.<sup>28</sup> The Agriculture Orientation Index stood at 0.19 in 2015, compared with 0.36 in 2011.<sup>29</sup>
13. According to a WFP 2017 livelihood mapping study,<sup>30</sup> the occupational groups with the lowest incomes are small-scale farmers, herders and fishermen, which is attributable to the informal nature of their employment and the limited opportunities to produce food. Migrants of Haitian origin prevail in these groups. Six percent of smallholder farmers and 10 percent of herders are women.<sup>31</sup> Compared to men, women farmers have lower incomes and more limited access to land titles, agricultural technologies and credit. The zero hunger strategic review identified insufficient access to credit, a lack of public policies supporting agriculture modernization, a lack of social protection programmes targeting smallholder farmers, crop plagues and diseases, gender inequalities and climate-related hazards as the main factors hindering productivity and reducing rural household incomes.
14. *Sustainable food systems.* The zero hunger strategic review concluded that food systems are threatened by climate change, soil erosion, high exposure to natural hazards and systemic shocks such as commodity price fluctuations. According to a 2017 WFP integrated context analysis,<sup>32</sup> the highest recurrence of shocks and vulnerability to food insecurity are in former sugar cane production areas in the border region and in the east. Gender inequalities also undermine food systems. In order to effectively support transformative changes towards sustainable development, women's unpaid care and domestic work need to be recognized and redistributed so that they are equitably shared with other household members.
15. The 2014-2016 El Niño-related drought caused losses of 10–12 percent of agricultural production.<sup>33</sup> Floods in 2016 and 2017 also caused significant losses. Although the country has a public agricultural insurance programme, smallholder farmers bear the brunt of agricultural losses due to climate-related hazards and increases in food prices.<sup>34</sup> In 2017, as a result of heavy rains and hurricanes Irma and Maria, public expenditure for relief, recovery and reconstruction accounted for 1.45 percent of GDP.<sup>35</sup> Women and girls are most vulnerable to disasters and climate-related shocks due to prevailing gender inequalities.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>28</sup> World Bank. 2015. See <http://www.bancomundial.org/es/news/feature/2015/03/11/exports-dominican-republic>.

<sup>29</sup> The Agriculture Orientation Index for government expenditures is defined as agriculture's share of government expenditures, divided by agriculture's share of GDP, where agriculture refers to the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sectors.

<sup>30</sup> WFP. 2017. Dominican Republic livelihood zones study (publication pending).

<sup>31</sup> Ministry of Women. 2017. <http://www.mujer.gob.do/index.php/noticias/item/348-la-mujer-rural-con-mayor-pobreza-y-desigualdad-que-sus-homologos>.

<sup>32</sup> Publication pending.

<sup>33</sup> Diario Libre. 2016. Sequía causó pérdidas en 2015 a más de 6.2 millones de personas en Haití, República Dominicana y Cuba. 27 May 2016. Available at <https://www.diariolibre.com/economia/sequia-causo-perdidas-en-2015-a-mas-de-6-2-millones-de-personas-en-haiti-republica-dominicana-y-cuba-KG3833972>.

<sup>34</sup> World Bank. 2012. Agricultural Risk Management in the Caribbean. Lessons and Experiences 2009-2012. Available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/842071468010837254/pdf/756510ESW0P1170bean0Insurance0Final.pdf>.

<sup>35</sup> Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development. 2017. Análisis del desempeño económico y social de República Dominicana (Analysis of economic and social performance in the Dominican Republic). Available (in Spanish) at <http://economia.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/drive/UAAES/Analisis%20Desempeno%20Economico%20y%20Social/Boletin%202017-20180823.pdf>.

<sup>36</sup> Oxfam and Plan International. 2013. Women and girls in the context of disasters: three case studies of vulnerability and capacity in the Dominican Republic (Mujeres y niñas en contexto de desastres. Tres estudios de caso sobre Vulnerabilidades y Capacidades en la República Dominicana). Available at <http://dipecholac.net/docs/files/caribe/mujeres-y-ninas-contexto-desastres-16.pdf>.

### **Macroeconomic environment**

16. The average GDP growth rate of the Dominican Republic was 4.88 percent from 2000 to 2017 and is expected to remain stable between 2018 and 2020.<sup>37</sup> Growth is mainly driven by construction, manufacturing and tourism. Inflation is expected to remain below 4 percent annually.<sup>38</sup>
17. The country has made considerable progress in transforming its economic base and diversifying its exports, but further reforms are needed to maintain competitiveness. The Government's most recent macroeconomic policies have introduced fiscal reforms to generate additional revenue and keep the high fiscal deficit in check. The country has also adopted a gender-responsive approach to public planning and budgeting.
18. Despite high economic growth, unemployment has not fallen substantially. Unemployment remained stagnant between 2000 and 2016, at around 13 percent, while population growth decreased by 3.4 percent during the same period. In 2016, 53 percent of the labour force was employed in the informal sector.<sup>39</sup> Female labour force participation rates are low, especially in the formal sector.

### **Key cross-sector linkages**

19. Although the country made significant progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, it did not achieve most of them. Health expenditure is less than 2 percent of GDP. Basic and primary education covers most children and is gender-balanced but is not of optimal quality. Tax revenue is only 14 percent of GDP, the second lowest in the region, after Guatemala.
20. The country needs to strengthen its legal framework and take action to reduce gender inequality, discrimination and violence against women; 25 percent of adult women have suffered from physical violence and 31 percent have suffered from emotional violence. The official femicide rate is 2.2 per 100,000, the eighth highest in the region.<sup>40</sup> The incidence of girl marriage is high: 36 percent of women between 20 and 24 were married before the age of 18. Child marriages are directly associated with adolescent pregnancies.<sup>41</sup>

### **1.3 Hunger gaps and challenges**

21. The 2016–2017 national zero hunger strategic review was a highly participatory process that identified the following main challenges to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: the need for coordinated and comprehensive long-term strategies and policies and improved capacities of public and private institutions to address differentiated nutrition needs according to gender inequalities, lifecycle needs and interests and health conditions; the need for high-quality primary health care, food fortification and early childhood development; and the need to safeguard access to food for people without access to basic services and safety nets. Nutrition surveillance, improved market and retail stores that offer

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<sup>37</sup> GDP average growth has been calculated based on World Bank 2018 data for the Dominican Republic. See <https://data.worldbank.org/country/dominican-republic?view=chart>, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects#data>, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?end=2017&locations=DO&start=2000> and <http://api.worldbank.org/v2/en/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?downloadformat=excel>.

<sup>38</sup> Trading Economics. Dominican Republic inflation rate. See <https://tradingeconomics.com/dominican-republic/inflation-cpi>.

<sup>39</sup> Central Bank of the Dominican Republic. 2016. National Survey of Work Force. Población ocupada e ingresos recibidos sector informal. Available at: [https://gdc.bancentral.gov.do/Common/public/estadisticas/mercado-de-trabajo//documents//pob\\_informal\\_rama\\_15.xls](https://gdc.bancentral.gov.do/Common/public/estadisticas/mercado-de-trabajo//documents//pob_informal_rama_15.xls).

<sup>40</sup> See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (<https://oig.cepal.org/es/indicadores/femicidio>).

<sup>41</sup> Presidency of the Dominican Republic. 2018. National voluntary review, 2018. Commitments, advances and challenges with sustainable development. (In Spanish.) Available at <http://economia.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/drive/VIPLAN/ODS/INV%20RD%202018%20-%20definitivo%20FF%20v2.compressed.pdf>.

- better prices to consumers,<sup>42</sup> food price monitoring and stronger and more inclusive engagement of civil society and the private sector are crucial to ensuring successful interventions for zero hunger.
22. Evidence generation, surveillance and evaluation capacities remain a challenge. Data is being collected for only 37 percent of the SDG indicators; the current sources of information for 19 percent of the indicators need to be improved and sources for the remaining 44 percent have yet to be identified. Development and implementation of effective social protection, public health and food security policies and programmes require population data disaggregated by sex, age and geographical location, along with participatory gender analyses.
  23. The country's current legal framework is outdated and incomplete, especially regarding agriculture, gender equality, disaster risk management, nutrition, land and urban planning and water management.
  24. The zero hunger strategic review concluded that the prevalence of various forms of malnutrition in the country is strongly correlated with education and social and cultural norms, underlining the need for gender-transformative approaches to nutrition counselling, education and communication strategies to promote a change in dietary habits.
  25. Although national emergency preparedness capacities have increased, the 2017 Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index indicates that stronger linkages between forecasts and preparedness activities are required, as are improved synergies among early warning systems, emergency response stakeholders and social protection programmes and between national protocols and community-level practices.<sup>43</sup> Enhanced forecasting and supply chain capacities are also needed, as well as improved planning, targeting and gender-transformative approaches to food security and nutrition interventions and more robust interventions for resilience building and adaptation to climate change. The public cost of late responses to disasters is estimated at 14 to 38 percent of the resources allocated to the health sector in 2013.<sup>44</sup>
  26. Climate change and extreme meteorological events are a major concern. Drought is becoming a disaster. For example, the June 2018 hydric balance<sup>45</sup> indicated that the southern, northern and eastern provinces were affected by absolute drought (less than 25 mm of stored water). Action is essential to improve the resilience and preparedness of communities using local development frameworks.

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<sup>42</sup> The poorest segments of the population purchase their food on a daily or weekly basis from small neighbourhood shops known as colmados.

<sup>43</sup> WFP. 2017. Recommendations resulting from the internal exercise "Revision of the Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index in the Dominican Republic". See [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YhiPV\\_M12M7F-i9wftFqE5QxwfeOvHFD/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YhiPV_M12M7F-i9wftFqE5QxwfeOvHFD/view?usp=sharing) (only available in Spanish).

<sup>44</sup> Ishizawa Escudero, Oscar Anil and Van Der Borght, Rafael. 2015. Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance in Dominican Republic. (In Spanish.). Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. Available (in Spanish) at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/115161468179340561/Disaster-Risk-Financing-and-Insurance-in-Dominican-Republic>.

<sup>45</sup> National Meteorology Office. 2018. Hydric Balance, June. Available at: <http://onamet.gov.do/m/pdto/03w-wagro/03w-wbalance-hidrico/ano-2018/>.



27. Migration is a major challenge. According to the most recent national survey of immigrants, 5.6 percent of the population are immigrants, of which 61.6 percent are men and 38.4 percent women. People born in Haiti represent 87.2 percent of immigrants. Only 45 percent of Haitian immigrants have a legal immigration status in the country, meaning that more than half do not have access to basic social services such as education and social protection programmes and 95 percent do not have medical insurance.<sup>46</sup>

#### **1.4 Key country priorities**

##### **Government**

28. The constitution of the Dominican Republic recognizes the right to food. The national development strategy for 2012–2030<sup>47</sup> establishes policies that address poverty and food insecurity, nutrition, gender equality, disaster risk management and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The country is currently developing a national plan for gender equality for 2018–2030.
29. In 2016, the Government created a high-level inter-institutional sustainable development commission to oversee the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Social Policy Cabinet, which coordinates the high-level commission's subcommission for SDGs 1–5, was the lead convenor of the zero hunger strategic review and the SDG 2 road map, with technical support from WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The priorities identified in the review are strengthening and application of legal frameworks, strengthening of programme design and implementation, regular generation of up-to-date evidence, fundraising, (strengthening of institutions, promotion of nutrition education and inter-institutional coordination.
30. In 2018, the Government, accompanied by the United Nations system, identified five accelerators for achieving the SDGs: reduction of multidimensional poverty, competitiveness and decent employment, sustainable production and consumption, populations resilient to climate change and other risks and solid and inclusive governance.<sup>48</sup>
31. The country's main social protection policies and social safety net programmes are aimed at tackling the causes of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. They are led by the Social Policy Cabinet of the Office of the Vice-President through its Progresando con Solidaridad (progressing with solidarity) national social protection programme (PROSOLI) and by the Ministry of Education through its school feeding programme and its network of early childhood centres.
32. The 2016 law on food sovereignty and food and nutrition security is a core legal instrument for the country's progress towards SDG 2. Formulation of the law began in 2010 with WFP and FAO support. In 2018, a national food sovereignty and food and nutrition security plan was completed with technical support from WFP and FAO, based on the SDG 2 road map.
33. The national system for disaster prevention, mitigation and response was established under law 147-02. Climate change adaptation is reflected in the constitution (article 194), the

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<sup>46</sup> United Nations Population Fund. 2017. Summary of the National Survey of Immigrants. Available (in Spanish and French) at <https://dominicanrepublic.unfpa.org/es/publications/resumen-de-la-encuesta-nacional-de-inmigrantes-2017>.

<sup>47</sup> Dominican Republic, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development. 2012. Law 1-12: National Development Strategy 2030. Available (in Spanish) at <http://economia.gob.do/mepyd/wp-content/uploads/archivos/end/marco-legal/ley-estrategia-nacional-de-desarrollo.pdf>.

<sup>48</sup> United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean. 2018. Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS). Report of interagency joint mission. Dominican Republic. (Transversalización, aceleración y asesoría en políticas (maps) informe de la misión conjunta interagencial: República Dominicana) Available (in Spanish) at <http://economia.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/drive/VIPLAN/ODS/INFORME%20MAPS%20-%20FINAL-%20INFORME%20COMPLETO.pdf>.

national development strategy (axis 4), the national adaptation strategy for the agriculture sector and decree 269-15.<sup>49</sup> The Dominican Republic is a signatory to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement on climate change and has established its nationally determined contribution for the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

### ***United Nations and other partners***

34. The Government and United Nations agencies agreed on the UNDAF focus areas: poverty, food security and environmental sustainability; social services and gender equality; and institutional strengthening and human rights. WFP supports actions in the first area through assistance with food security and nutrition, risk management and social protection and in the second area through assistance with gender-transformative approaches to sustainable development and empowerment of women and vulnerable populations.
35. WFP, FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) jointly support national efforts to achieve SDG 2 through collaboration in areas such as the zero hunger strategic review and the SDG 2 road map, addressing gender inequalities, implementing the law on food sovereignty and food and nutrition security, resilience building and sustainable local development.

## **2. Strategic implications for WFP**

### **2.1 WFP's experience and lessons learned**

36. WFP is recognized for its national efforts on food security and nutrition, social protection, disaster risk reduction, supply chain management, resilience-building and emergency preparedness and response. Stakeholders highlight WFP's capacity to engage in policy development; promote intersectoral coordination and work in nutrition-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection; foster synergies among government entities and programmes, civil society and the private sector; coordinate technical assistance; conduct research; and advocate for public engagement in zero hunger.
37. With seed funding, the WFP country office has leveraged important scalable initiatives for national impact: the national rice fortification process; supply chain optimization for small retail shops; capacity strengthening for forecast-based financing and a global pilot for shock-responsive social protection, in conjunction with the World Bank, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other United Nations agencies. These innovative initiatives can serve as reference points for WFP's role in upper-middle-income countries.
38. A 2017 evaluation of the WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014–2017) concluded that there was a need to enhance cost-effective collaboration modalities.<sup>50</sup> In line with this finding, the country office will further promote South–South and triangular cooperation. A 2016 WFP study on capacity strengthening in food security and nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean also recommended the promotion of a stronger nexus between food security and nutrition, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.<sup>51</sup> In addition, a synthesis of operation evaluations in Latin America and the Caribbean covering 2013–2017

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<sup>49</sup> This decree establishes the national policy on climate change.

<sup>50</sup> WFP. 2017. Policy Evaluation: WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014–2017): Evaluation Report (Report number OEV/2016/010). Available at [https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000015489/download/?\\_ga=2.89384029.7901765.1522747786-1100104783.1519126666](https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000015489/download/?_ga=2.89384029.7901765.1522747786-1100104783.1519126666).

<sup>51</sup> WFP. 2016. Strengthening Capacities in Food Security and Nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean: Analysing the Past, Building the Present, and Looking to the Future. Available at [https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/liaison\\_offices/wfp284838.pdf?\\_ga=2.198679023.1118816148.1538494553-1719669725.1523994524](https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/liaison_offices/wfp284838.pdf?_ga=2.198679023.1118816148.1538494553-1719669725.1523994524).

- particularly recognized the added value and high impact of emergency cash-based transfers and evidence generation.<sup>52</sup> WFP therefore requires better partnership and resource mobilization strategies and communication and advocacy capacities to encourage the design of policies for food security and nutrition with an integrated gender focus.
39. Gender inequalities hinder the achievement of zero hunger in the Dominican Republic. The country office needs to pay more attention to gender in its analysis and programming, in accordance with the WFP gender policy, to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment through all aspects of this country strategic plan (CSP). WFP will foster gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive social protection interventions as part of its support for government programmes, which will require stronger partnerships with stakeholders.
  40. Participatory and consultative processes, such as the development of the law on food sovereignty and food and nutrition security and the SDG 2 road map, which were both supported by WFP and FAO, as well as the rice fortification process, have leveraged WFP's capabilities as a convener and policy advocate for the improvement of the national food security agenda.
  41. The WFP and PROSOLI joint nutrition strategy within the social protection programme has had remarkable success. In 2013, after two years of implementation, an evaluation<sup>53</sup> revealed a 50 percent reduction in anaemia prevalence among participating children under 5. A 2017 study<sup>54</sup> confirmed a significant improvement in the nutritional status of beneficiary children. From 2014 to 2017, the chronic malnutrition rate fell from 12 to 5 percent, and the prevalence of acute malnutrition decreased by more than 80 percent.<sup>55</sup>
  42. WFP needs to further promote gender-transformative nutrition education strategies. According to a 2017 WFP<sup>56</sup> study on eating habits, 40 percent of women and girls who are pregnant or have young children do not know which foods are good sources of micronutrients and only 37 percent of medical practitioners at primary health centres provide nutrition counselling.
  43. Political support and private sector participation in food fortification are key to meeting SDG target 2.2 (eradicate all forms of malnutrition). This is particularly valid for fortified rice, which can significantly reduce micronutrient deficiencies.
  44. According to the zero hunger strategic review, managing food losses and enhancing the supply chain and storage capacities of retailers and smallholder farmers can improve food systems and facilitate early action before climate hazards have severe impacts.
  45. Recent emergency simulation exercises have confirmed the need to improve coordination and communication between institutions and the population and revealed gaps in addressing the needs of affected populations immediately after a shock and during recovery.

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<sup>52</sup> WFP. 2017. Operation Evaluation Series: Regional Synthesis 2013–2017. Latin America and the Caribbean Region (Report Number OEV/2017/102). Available at <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000023760/download/>.

<sup>53</sup> WFP. 2015. How the Government of the Dominican Republic Reduced Anemia by 50% in Vulnerable Children, with support from WFP: A Case Study on Nutrition-Sensitive Programming in a Middle Income Country. Available at <https://www.wfp.org/content/how-government-dominican-republic-and-wfp-reduced-anemia-50-percent-children>.

<sup>54</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency, Dominican Republic Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance and the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo. 2017. Impact assessment of PROSOLI nutrition component (publication pending). The study was funded by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which also had an important role in its design.

<sup>55</sup> Figures are limited to the social protection programme beneficiaries. However, it is important to note that PROSOLI covers 25 percent of the population.

<sup>56</sup> WFP and Contacto Directo. 2017. Qualitative study habits and attitudes on feeding and supplementation. (Publication pending.)

46. According to a 2017 study on shock-responsive social protection,<sup>57</sup> there is a need to reduce institutional fragmentation within the social protection system and among emergency response stakeholders. WFP organized a senior-level meeting in 2018 at which stakeholders agreed to develop a comprehensive strategy for social protection and disaster risk management.

## **2.2 Opportunities for WFP**

47. Considering the country context, lessons learned, national priorities, the outcome of the zero hunger strategic review and consultations with the Government, civil society, other United Nations agencies and the private sector, the opportunities to support the Dominican Republic's work to achieve SDG 2 described in the following paragraphs have been identified.
48. The Government is concerned that there is a lack of updated and disaggregated official data on which to base the assessment of national progress towards zero hunger. WFP will provide technical assistance with evidence generation and the updating of national statistics on food security and nutrition, resilience and climate change, ensuring that data are disaggregated by sex, age and geographical area, and will assist with gender analyses.
49. Effective, coherent and inclusive social protection, nutrition, education and health programmes are a priority in the national development strategy for 2012–2030. WFP will continue to support the development and enhancement of nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes, nutrition-specific public health interventions and stronger coordination among social protection institutions and the ministries responsible for health, agriculture and education and will promote inclusive and innovative approaches to addressing the needs of the population groups most vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition: women, children under 5, adolescents, Haitian immigrants, smallholder farmers, the elderly and people with disabilities and chronic illnesses.
50. The Government, private sector and civil society recognize that there is a need to enhance the linkages between the national, subnational and community levels as a national priority and have explicitly manifested the desire to improve nutrition education. WFP will contribute to improving the coordination, coherence and inclusiveness of national food security and nutrition policies and programmes, focusing on the enhancement of subnational institutions, including communities, and the social fabric, "leaving no one behind" and addressing nutrition education gaps through social and behaviour change communication strategies.
51. The Government considers that strengthening national capacities to improve resilience, reduce vulnerability to disasters and promote climate change adaptation measures is urgently needed and is a sine qua non for sustainable development. WFP will continue to provide social protection and disaster risk reduction institutions with specialized support in food security and nutrition, early warning, emergency preparedness and response, resilience building and climate change adaptation.
52. Experience sharing and new modalities for cooperation are particularly prioritized by upper-middle-income countries as innovative alternatives to traditional official development assistance. WFP will facilitate sharing, provide technical assistance and promote good practices, knowledge creation and South-South cooperation for the development of nutrition communication, education strategies, national strategies for rice fortification and disaster risk reduction.

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<sup>57</sup> Oxford Policy Management and WFP. 2017. Study on Shock Responsive Social Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean: Dominican Republic case study. Available at [https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000063547/download/?\\_ga=2.257944395.130086051.1531069515-368196765.1522086107](https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000063547/download/?_ga=2.257944395.130086051.1531069515-368196765.1522086107).

53. The achievement of zero hunger requires that legal frameworks be developed, updated and fully implemented. WFP will support the design, implementation and review of legal frameworks and national plans for food security and nutrition, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and promote gender-transformative approaches in these areas.
54. The Rome-based agencies have committed themselves to working closely to support countries in achieving SDG 2. WFP will enhance and promote joint initiatives with FAO and IFAD in the Dominican Republic.

### **2.3 Strategic changes**

55. This five-year CSP proposes strategic shifts for WFP in the Dominican Republic to address gaps and take advantage of opportunities to support the country in achieving SDG 2. Unlike the logic of past interventions, which were mainly focused on strengthening government technical capacities for nutrition-sensitive social protection and disaster risk reduction, the CSP includes a new rights-based, gender-transformative, life-cycle and whole-of-society approach in which WFP plays a strategic convener role and advocacy and communication are central elements in the fight against food insecurity. The main strategic shifts are:
  - an invigorating convening, advocacy, social communication and education approach to promoting coherence, healthy nutrition behaviours and inclusive public policies for strategic changes and commitment to SDG 2 targets, with special focus on people who are vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition and excluded populations;
  - enhanced and systematic generation of evidence for advocacy and decision making, promoting a new advisory role on policy and programme design and implementation for WFP;
  - fostering a coherent lifecycle approach in social protection programmes, leveraging WFP's experience in nutrition-sensitive and gender-responsive social protection, with a strengthened focus on women and adolescent girls;
  - capacity strengthening initiatives for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response, resilience-building and climate change adaptation through innovative and inclusive partnerships with communities, civil society and local, regional and national governments. WFP will accompany the development of a comprehensive social protection and disaster risk reduction strategy and will work on new Rome-based agency initiatives for resilience and sustainable local development;
  - fostering of South-South and triangular cooperation for enhanced nutrition, disaster risk reduction and social protection programmes based on sharing of best practices.

## **3. WFP strategic orientation**

### **3.1 Direction, focus and intended impacts**

56. The Dominican Republic can be one of the first countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve SDG 2. Reductions in stunting and anaemia, improved resilience capacity, enhanced emergency preparedness and response, suitable climate change adaptation actions, public and private initiatives addressing vulnerable populations and their food access challenges, strategies promoting behavioural changes leading to healthier diets and lifestyles and gender equality are all factors that would improve food security and nutrition. WFP will support the Government and civil society in pursuing those objectives.
57. The proposed CSP is the direct result of the comprehensive and participatory process that involved local communities and beneficiaries, the Government, civil society and international cooperation stakeholders in the development of the zero hunger strategic review and the SDG 2 road map. WFP will use its convening capacity to strengthen inter-institutional

coherence and coordination, raise awareness throughout society on the importance of an adequate diet and foster food security through rights-based, gender-transformative approaches. It will strengthen nutrition-sensitive social protection and high-quality primary health care interventions tailored to the life cycle and assist in addressing capacity gaps in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and resilience. A stringent gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation strategy will be used in implementing the CSP. WFP's budget for the CSP for 2019–2023 is USD 10.3 million.

### **3.2 Strategic outcomes, focus areas, expected outputs and key activities**

#### ***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***

58. The country office will leverage its convener role and adopt rights-based, gender-transformative and whole-of-society approaches to the 2030 Agenda. Under this strategic outcome, WFP will promote advocacy and social mobilization towards zero hunger through a national movement, with particular focus on the populations that are the most vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition, such as migrants. A social and behaviour change communication and education strategy will be applied. WFP will provide technical assistance to the Government to enhance policy and programme coherence, promote dialogue, improve evidence generation and support the improvement of monitoring systems.
59. This strategic outcome will contribute to WFP Strategic Result 5 and SDG target 17.9. It is aligned with targets 2.3.4 and 2.4.2 of the second axis of the national development strategy for 2012–2030, “a society with equal rights and opportunities”, and target 3.5.3 of the strategy's third axis, “an inclusive, competitive and sustainable economy”. It will contribute to all axes of the national SDG 2 road map. Strategic outcome 1 will support the achievement of SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 16, as activities will focus on inclusiveness and non-discrimination, access to food and basic services, equal opportunities for women and men, nutrition education, productive inclusion<sup>58</sup> and responsible consumption and production.

#### ***Focus areas***

60. This strategic outcome focuses on eradicating the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition by strengthening capacities, improving coordination and mobilizing society as a whole.

#### ***Expected outputs***

61. This strategic outcome will be delivered through two outputs:
- The population of the Dominican Republic (tier 3) benefits from strengthened and coherent institutions, legal frameworks, policies and programmes for improving eating habits and addressing food security and nutrition needs.
  - Vulnerable groups (tier 3) benefit from a multi-stakeholder and inclusive national social movement that fosters awareness and inter-institutional coordination platforms and social and behaviour change communication strategies for improving food security and nutrition.

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<sup>58</sup> “Productive inclusion” refers to helping vulnerable households gain access to the formal job market and generate higher incomes, helping smallholder farmers gain access to markets and generally drawing the most vulnerable populations into productive economic activities.

### **Key activities**

*Activity 1. 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 (Activity category 9; modality: capacity strengthening)*

62. WFP will focus on three complementary sub-activities:
- Enhance food security and nutrition systems by strengthening local governance and improving policies and programmes' impact, coherence and comprehensiveness, to the equitable benefit of the different population groups.
  - Support the development of a national movement to foster advocacy and communication strategies for zero hunger and partnerships with the Government, the private sector, civil society, academia and religious leaders to influence public policymaking and position the issue of food security and nutrition on the public agenda.
  - Provide technical assistance for the development of national communication and education strategies for gender-transformative behaviour changes for improved nutrition and eating habits.
63. In close coordination with FAO, WFP will support the implementation of the law on food sovereignty and food and nutrition security, providing technical assistance to the Ministry of the Presidency, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development and the national council for food sovereignty and food and nutrition security for improved governance and coordination of food security and nutrition policies and programmes, particularly at the local level.
64. WFP will provide technical assistance to the Office of the Vice-President, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, the Ministry of Women and the private sector for the development of legal frameworks and comprehensive policies to address malnutrition, promote rice fortification, support early childhood development, build resilience and strengthen planning at the local level. WFP will provide nutrition and supply chain technical assistance to the private sector to improve capacities to produce high-quality fortified rice.
65. WFP will foster inter-institutional coordination, strengthen targeting and promote life-cycle approaches for nutrition-sensitive, food-based and gender-responsive social protection programmes under the Social Policy Cabinet, the Ministry of Education, the National Institute for Student Welfare (INABIE), the National Institute for Early Childhood Development (INAIPI), the national public canteens authority,<sup>59</sup> the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance and the National Health Service.
66. In coordination with the Government, the private sector, civil society, other United Nations agencies, religious leaders, academia and minority rights groups, WFP will support the development of coordination platforms, advocacy, communication and education strategies for improved nutrition and eating habits, taking into consideration specific gender and age needs.
67. These actions will be part of "El Movimiento Hambre Cero" (the "Zero Hunger Movement") a national movement for achieving zero hunger that will follow a rights-based, gender-transformative approach, giving a voice to and promoting equitable outcomes for the most vulnerable and excluded people.

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<sup>59</sup> Comedores Económicos del Estado Dominicano, or CEED.

68. WFP will continue to support the implementation and monitoring of the SDG 2 road map through multisector partnerships with key government entities and programmes, academia, the private sector, religious leaders, civil society, community organizations, women's rights organizations, migrant organizations, local governments, United Nations agencies and South-South and triangular cooperation partners.

***Strategic outcome 2: The most nutritionally vulnerable groups have improved their nutrition status by 2023***

69. WFP will support the Government in strengthening and developing high-quality nutrition interventions through social protection programmes and primary health care, targeting children under 5, pregnant and lactating women and girls, adolescent girls, elderly people and people living with HIV and/or tuberculosis, ensuring that most vulnerable groups have increased access to nutritious and fortified food. This will include direct transfers of specialized nutritious foods to the most vulnerable groups through government programmes.
70. Given the rising overweight and obesity rates, WFP will support social protection programmes with nutrition counselling and gender-transformative strategies tailored to nutrition interventions.
71. WFP will foster improved operational coordination between social protection programmes and the ministries responsible for public health and education to deliver nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions to the most vulnerable population groups.
72. This strategic outcome will contribute to WFP Strategic Result 2 and SDG target 2.2. It is aligned with targets 2.2.1, 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 of the second axis of the national development strategy for 2012–2030 "a society with equal rights and opportunities". It will also contribute to axes 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the national SDG 2 road map. Strategic outcome 2 will support the attainment of SDGs 1 and 3 through strengthened social protection systems, increased access to basic health services, reduced infant mortality rates and increased adherence to anti-retroviral therapy regimens for people living with HIV/AIDS.

***Focus areas***

73. This strategic outcome focuses on tackling the root causes of malnutrition among vulnerable populations, supporting the implementation of national social protection nutrition-sensitive and gender-responsive programmes and providing specialized nutritious foods to vulnerable groups.

***Expected outputs***

74. This strategic outcome will have three outputs:
- Children aged 6–59 months, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and girls and elderly people at risk of malnutrition (tier 1) receive specialized nutritious foods as part of national public health and social protection programmes for improving nutrition status.
  - Most nutritionally vulnerable groups at different stages in the life cycle and people living with HIV and/or TB (tier 2) benefit from strengthened services, surveillance systems and programmes for improving nutrition status.
  - Nutritionally vulnerable groups (tier 2) benefit from nutrition counselling and education delivered through government public health and social protection programmes in order to improve their knowledge of nutrition and eating habits.



**Key activities**

*Activity 2. 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 (Activity category 6; modality: food transfers; capacity strengthening)*

75. WFP will closely work with the Office of the Vice-President, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, the Ministry of Education and other relevant social protection entities for institutional capacity strengthening and coordinated interventions, focusing on three complementary sub-activities:
  - Strengthen evidence generation and malnutrition drivers data, baselines and the impact of existing programmes to improve decision making, programme design, implementation and public and private social engagement.
  - Enhance institutional capacities for implementation of nutrition-specific social protection and primary health care policies, including through applying gender-transformative approaches.
  - Provide specialized nutritious foods and behaviour change activities for the most vulnerable populations.
76. Nutrition interventions are mainly delivered through social protection programmes. Targeting generally focuses on the most vulnerable groups using poverty criteria only. The high level of fragmentation within the social protection system results in duplication of activities and targeted beneficiaries. Social protection institutions do not apply comprehensive lifecycle approaches or coordinate monitoring, continuity or coherence of the benefits received by targeted populations.
77. WFP will increase support for gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes: it will design age- and gender-specific activities to address micronutrient deficiencies, undernutrition, overweight and obesity among vulnerable groups and continue to provide specialized nutritious foods for children aged 6–59 months, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and girls, elderly people and people living with HIV and/or TB. This may be extended to other social protection programmes such as INAIPI. Long-term opportunities for handing over responsibility for the provision of specialized nutritious foods will be addressed with the Government.
78. WFP will provide technical assistance for institutional capacity strengthening to the Social Policy Cabinet, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, INAIPI and INABIE.
79. WFP will enhance the capacities of health, education and social protection professionals through specialized nutrition, gender and food security training. Knowledge of nutrition among nutritionally vulnerable groups and households affected by HIV/AIDS will be enhanced through urban gardening and nutrition counselling activities, which will be implemented in collaboration with the National Health Service, the Ministry of Agriculture, the networks of people living with HIV and the National Council for HIV and AIDS.
80. WFP will closely work with the Government, the private sector, academia, civil society and other United Nations agencies to generate up-to-date sex-age-territory disaggregated data to a) inform actions to maximize the impact of interventions to improve nutrition and b) improve the design and implementation of existing interventions. Actions will include assisting small retail shops to increase their supply of nutritious foods at better prices for the vulnerable segments of the population.

***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***

81. WFP will continue to provide technical assistance to national and local institutions in disaster risk reduction, forecast-based financing, climate change adaptation and emergency preparedness and response. WFP will enhance national supply chain management capacities to support emergency operations.
82. WFP will leverage its partnerships with the National Commission for Emergencies and the social protection system to continue to promote comprehensive strategies and enhance linkages between social protection and disaster risk reduction. Based on the consensus among those involved in the national disaster risk management system, and recognizing the capacities of both the emergency response and social protection sectors, WFP will contribute to strengthening social protection structures with gender-responsive tools and protocols as innovative approaches to emergency preparedness and response and early recovery.
83. This strategic outcome will contribute to WFP Strategic Result 5 and SDG target 17.9. It is aligned with targets 4.2.1. and 4.3.1. of the fourth axis of the national development strategy for 2012–2030, “a society in which production and consumption are environmentally sustainable and people adapt to climate change”. It will also contribute to axes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 of the national SDG 2 road map and support the attainment of SDGs 1, 5, 6, 11, 13 and 15. It is aligned with the objectives and goals of the Sendai Framework.

***Focus areas***

84. This strategic outcome focuses on resilience-building to help vulnerable populations and the Government deal with climate change and disasters by relying on forecast-based financing mechanisms and ensuring sustainable food security and local development.

***Expected outputs***

85. This strategic outcome will be delivered through one output:
  - Populations exposed to adverse events (tier 3) benefit from legal frameworks, policies, institutions and social protection programmes for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, reducing the risks of natural hazards for food security, nutrition and sustainable development.

***Key activities***

*Activity 3. 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 (Activity category 9; modality: capacity strengthening)*

86. WFP will provide technical assistance with a food security focus to Government and first responders such as the Dominican Red Cross for improved emergency preparedness and strengthened capacities to reduce risk and provide humanitarian assistance to shock-affected populations. Interventions will focus on two sub-activities:
  - Improving climate-related and risks analysis - including gender and age risk analyses – to support decision making and enhance national and community capacities for early warning, supply chain, emergency preparedness and response, climate change adaptation and resilience building.
  - Develop comprehensive, gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and social protection strategies to address the needs of the most vulnerable populations from preventive and reactive perspectives.

87. WFP will also build on existing emergency preparedness actions, such as standby agreements with local supermarkets for the provision of food kits during emergencies and with the Government for the implementation of cash-based transfers using the government social protection and cash transfer system.
88. WFP will continue to support national and local institutions in strengthening their capacities for disaster risk reduction, forecast-based financing and emergency preparedness and response at all levels, including local governments and communities. It will also build on innovative pilot projects to use drones for cargo delivery, to enhance private sector involvement in emergency preparedness and response and to improve supply chain efficiency and local targeting capacities to identify and assist vulnerable populations. WFP will promote South-South and triangular cooperation for emergency preparedness and response, evidence-building, monitoring and early warning linked to early actions.
89. National institutions have demonstrated the capacity to address national emergencies and provide support to neighbouring Caribbean states. The country has historically supported the humanitarian community as a staging area for support to Haiti. The Government is interested in enhancing related supply chain capacities. In coordination with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, WFP will provide the Government and the Dominican Red Cross with technical assistance in managing supply chains and a national humanitarian hub, including, to ensure effective interventions and assistance, training, assessments, standard operating procedures and supply chain decision making tools. WFP will support government efforts to improve post-harvest practices, handling, storage and the maintenance of minimum stocks at the local and household levels to ensure post-shock availability of food in line with the forecast-based financing approach.
90. WFP will continue to expand joint initiatives with FAO, IFAD, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local partners on resilience-building and climate change adaptation linked to local sustainable development and food security. WFP will continue to use its three-pronged approach to contribute to planning, informed decision making and the design of joint proposals, particularly in rural areas, for the equitable benefit of women and men. WFP will support increased productivity, climate change adaptation and improved market linkages for smallholder farmers and other vulnerable population at the local level.
91. WFP will enhance the capacities of and coordination among disaster risk reduction and social protection stakeholders through emergency simulations and lessons-learned exercises, evidence generation and the development of integrated strategies for vulnerable populations. This will be linked to forecast-based financing activities related to early warning and the development of standard operating procedures for early actions by the Government and communities in case of flooding or drought.

### **3.3 Transition and exit strategies**

92. The Government of the Dominican Republic is a WFP partner and donor. The country continues to face serious challenges in its effort to achieve zero hunger by 2030 and the Government sees WFP as a strategic partner in finding long-term solutions to persistent food security and nutrition gaps. The country's skewed income distribution reflects structural challenges and inequalities; hence it is crucial to promote equitable, inclusive and sustainable development policies and processes. Handover and exit strategies will be discussed with the Government and will be considered in a 2022 country strategic plan evaluation. Exit strategies will be triggered mainly by sustainably overcoming vulnerabilities and inequalities to achieve food security.
93. In coordination with the Government, WFP will foster a combination of direct provision of specialized nutritious foods, policy engagement, capacity strengthening and technical support in line with WFP's upper-middle-income country approach. The Government trusts WFP's role, quality standards and specialized support to improve capacities and efforts to

achieving sustainable development. Given that gender equality is a sine qua non in achieving zero hunger and all the other SDGs, WFP will foster gender-transformative approaches. WFP will mainly play an accompanying role, ensuring evidence gathering, the scalability of interventions, knowledge management, the adoption of new tools, lessons learned and handover.

## 4. Implementation arrangements

### 4.1 Beneficiary analysis

94. WFP has estimated the number of beneficiaries for each strategic outcome and activity, many of which are likely to overlap:

- Strategic outcome 1: 2.8 million beneficiaries (tier 3), including women, children and adolescents, people living with HIV, undernourished people, people living in extreme poverty, households headed by women, smallholder farmers, migrants, refugees, undocumented people (mainly Haitians) and elderly people.
- Strategic outcome 2: 300,000 beneficiaries (tier 1). The beneficiaries of the nutrition interventions will be vulnerable populations targeted by the Government's main social protection programmes, children under 5 (45,000 girls and 45,000 boys), people living with HIV/AIDS (2,000 women), women and girls of reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women (20,000) and girls (30,000) living in poverty or extreme poverty, elderly people (25,000), and adolescent boys (13,000) and girls (20,000), including people with disabilities. In addition, 20,000 social protection and health professionals will receive training.
- Strategic outcome 3: 2.5 million people (tier 3) who are vulnerable or highly vulnerable to food insecurity, climate change and disasters will benefit from capacity strengthening for disaster risk reduction and social protection institutions.<sup>60</sup>

<b>Strategic outcome</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	1. Institution support for food security and nutrition	900 000	800 000	600 000	500 000	<b>2 800 000<sup>b</sup></b>
2	2. Nutritional support for vulnerable groups	65 000	58 000	52 000	25 000	<b>300 000<sup>c</sup></b>
3	3. Capacity strengthening for resilience, disaster risk reduction and climate-smart agriculture	550 000	550 000	600 000	600 000	<b>2 300 000<sup>d</sup></b>
<b>Total<sup>e</sup></b>		<b>1 037 500</b>	<b>937 500</b>	<b>951 000</b>	<b>450 000</b>	<b>3 376 000</b>

<sup>a</sup> Girls and boys are beneficiaries under 18 years old.

<sup>b</sup> Tier 3; the country office estimates that 25 percent of the population of the Dominican Republic will benefit indirectly from food security and nutrition communication and advocacy strategies. In addition, there are 2 million students in the public education system and PROSOLI benefits 2.6 million people through its conditioned cash-based transfers.

<sup>c</sup> 200,000 tier 1 beneficiaries and 100,000 tier 2 beneficiaries.

<sup>d</sup> Tier 3; according to the 2017 integrated context analysis, 2.3 million people live in areas with frequent or average recurrence of natural crises and frequent recurrence of food insecurity or in areas with moderate food insecurity and frequent exposure to serious climate-related shocks.

<sup>60</sup> According to the 2017 integrated context analysis for the Dominican Republic.

<sup>e</sup> Excluding overlap; all strategic outcome 2 beneficiaries and 75 percent of strategic outcome 3 beneficiaries will be also benefit from strategic outcome 1.

## 4.2 Transfers

### *Food and cash-based transfers*

Strategic outcome 2				
Activity 2				
Beneficiary type	Children aged 6–59 months		Pregnant and lactating women and girls	Elderly people
Modality	Food		Food	Food
SuperCereal (MIXCSB)			100	100
SuperCereal Plus (MIXCSB)		100		
Micronutrient powder	1			
Total kcal/day	-	410	380	380
% kcal from protein	-	16	14	14
Number of feeding days per year	120	90	120	60

Food type/cash-based transfer	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
MIXCSB - SuperCereal and SuperCereal Plus	2 343	1 565 522
Micronutrient powder	47	869 497
<b>Total (food)</b>	<b>2 390</b>	<b>2 435 020</b>
Cash-based transfers	-	-
<b>Total (food and cash-based transfer value)</b>	<b>2 390</b>	<b>2 435 020</b>

### *Capacity strengthening including South–South cooperation*

95. To support capacity strengthening relevant to the two main social protection programmes (PROSOLI and the school feeding programme), WFP aims to enhance the coherence and coordination of social protection policies and promote the inclusion of the most vulnerable populations. Rice fortification and improvement of retail shop capacities and prices will enhance access to food, benefiting the majority of the population. This will support efforts to effect systemic change and achieve SDG 2.
96. Activities linked to the three strategic outcomes will focus on capacity strengthening for policy development, institutional accountability, inclusion of marginalized sectors and the most vulnerable populations, gender equality, strategic planning and financing, evidence-based programme design and engagement of non-state actors. WFP will work with local stakeholders to improve national research, advocacy and communication capacities to

influence policymakers and promote behavioural changes that lead to healthier eating habits.

97. WFP will work with local governments and vulnerable communities in the design, planning and implementation of local initiatives, including multisector and gender-transformative approaches, combining nutrition, food security, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and response. WFP will support local-level integrated hunger solutions and disseminate lessons learned and best practices at the national level.
98. Together with the Government, donors and other United Nations agencies, WFP will identify best practices and successful experiences in food security and nutrition, social protection and disaster risk reduction to be shared through South–South and triangular cooperation. Disaster risk reduction exchanges with Cuba and Haiti may expand to other Caribbean countries, facilitated by the regional bureau in Panama. South–South cooperation with Chile and Colombia on social protection and nutrition policies will be encouraged.

#### **4.3 Supply chain**

99. All specialized nutritious foods considered under activity 2 will be purchased internationally and transported to a central warehouse managed by WFP. WFP delivers commodities to distribution points nationwide. Challenges include the need to strengthen the capacity of the Government as implementing partner to ensure effective inventory management, taking into account shelf-life and the stock rotation required for these foods. Opportunities for cost-effective local production of high-quality commodities and the sale of specialized nutritious foods in local markets will continue to be explored.

#### **4.4 Country office capacity and profile**

100. The WFP country office in the Dominican Republic is small, with only three fixed-term staff members, including one international staff member. Despite its limited human resources and funding, the office plans to continue making relevant contributions and achieving relevant results to assist the country in achieving its SDG 2 goals.
101. The country office will maintain its size. Staff structure and profiles will be reviewed to ensure correct implementation of the CSP. A service unit will continue to provide resource management and other services for the country office.
102. WFP will design a plan to help staff adjust to and operate under the new CSP, including training to increase staff capacities in resource management, gender, communication, advocacy, behaviour change strategies, evaluation management, external partnerships and political engagement.

#### **4.5 Partnerships**

103. For strategic outcome 1, within the framework of the Zero Hunger Movement, WFP will work with government institutions, public and private universities, civil society, faith-based organizations and private sector representatives. The movement will promote advocacy, communication, governance and knowledge to achieve zero hunger. The Ministry of Women will be a key partner for the movement and for achieving the other strategic outcomes of the CSP.
104. WFP will also work with the Ministry of Education and INABIE in the design and implementation of a national communication and education strategy for behaviour change leading to healthier eating habits. FAO will be invited to participate in these efforts.
105. WFP will continue to work with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, the Ministry of Agriculture and the private sector on rice fortification.
106. A memorandum of understanding with “Sanar una Nación” (“Heal a Nation”), the most relevant food-security private foundation in the country, will serve as an entry point for

- expanding WFP's relations with the private sector and broadening its partnerships to support the Zero Hunger Movement. WFP will also continue to explore additional South-South funding and partnership opportunities, including with the Mexican Mesoamerica Without Hunger initiative and others, where relevant.
107. Under strategic outcome 2, WFP will continue its close cooperation with its main social protection counterparts for the implementation of nutrition-sensitive social protection interventions within PROSOLI, the country's largest social protection programme. The Office of the Vice-President has reaffirmed WFP's role as its key partner in the fight against malnutrition. WFP will also provide technical assistance for the design and implementation of gender-transformative nutrition education activities under strategic outcomes 1 and 2. This collaboration model may be expanded to other social protection entities such as INAPI and CEED.
  108. For strategic outcome 3, WFP will continue to work with the national system for disaster risk prevention, mitigation and response, particularly the National Emergency Commission and the Emergency Operations Centre, to enhance national emergency preparedness and response capacity. WFP will contribute to the design of standard operating procedures for forecast-based early actions, preparedness and preventive measures to improve resilience to climate shocks and disasters. Synergies and joint strategies with the social protection system for shock-responsive social protection will be promoted, leveraging WFP's longstanding partnerships with government entities.
  109. WFP will continue to closely work with the Ministry of the Presidency, the Dominican Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for the establishment of a national humanitarian depot to be used by national, international and humanitarian NGOs. WFP will also provide technical assistance to the President's Social Assistance Plan to enhance its emergency response supply chain and planning capacity.
  110. WFP's whole-of-society approach will entail robust advocacy with civil society under strategic outcome 3 to enhance resilience and emergency preparedness and response within the SDG 2 framework. Together with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, WFP will implement a pilot project for strengthening the capacity of the Dominican Red Cross, focusing on supply chain and emergency response capacities and the inclusion of food security and nutrition criteria in emergency preparedness and response. WFP will partner with Oxfam and Plan International in a consortium funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Department and coordinated by FAO, aimed at improving national resilience to drought and related capacities.
  111. Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the UNDAF and considering the strategic objectives of this CSP, the Rome-based agencies will increase their joint resilience-building and local sustainable development efforts, as well as their efforts to promote gender equality, food security and nutrition in accordance with the SDG 2 road map and the law on food sovereignty and food and nutrition security. The United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF and the World Bank will also be partners for disaster risk reduction, resilience and shock-responsive social protection. WFP and UNICEF will actively collaborate in promoting nutrition-sensitive emergency response.
  112. WFP will promote strategic partnerships with climate change stakeholders in government agencies, NGOs, donors, United Nations agencies and universities and may set up bilateral collaboration schemes with Haiti. Consortiums and Rome-based agency alliances for long-term green funding opportunities will be particularly encouraged.

## **5. Performance management and evaluation**

### **5.1 Monitoring and evaluation arrangements**

113. The country office will be fully committed to accountability, transparency and generation of evidence of good practices and lessons learned to support its work. WFP will document and present progress towards capacity strengthening and ending malnutrition in line with the strategic outcomes of the CSP. A full-time monitoring and evaluation staff member will coordinate the measurement of processes, results and impacts.
114. Project outputs will be tracked using WFP's country office tool for managing effectively (COMET). In order to determine capacities at different times and to measure the outcomes of capacity-strengthening activities, outcome monitoring will use the Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard for strategic outcomes 1 and 3 and determine the Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index for strategic outcome 3. In collaboration with partners, WFP will monitor progress towards strategic outcome 2 using quantitative and qualitative outcome indicators and will promote gender-responsive monitoring. To inform programme design, WFP will work closely with the Government to strengthen national monitoring and evaluation capacities and systems and enhance programme monitoring protocols, nutrition surveillance systems and the collection of project implementation data.
115. The CSP will undergo an independent country strategic plan evaluation managed by the Office of Evaluation in 2022, with the intention of meeting accountability needs on WFP's overall country portfolio performance and results and to inform future strategic programme orientation. This will be complemented, in late 2020, a decentralized evaluation of activity 2 aligned with stakeholder demand, covering data availability, evidence and learning needs. This decentralized evaluation will be carried out jointly with the Government. In addition, a mid-term review will be conducted in 2021.

### **5.2 Risk management**

#### ***Strategic risks***

116. Due to the Dominican Republic's classification as an upper-middle-income country, there is a risk of reduced funding for WFP operations in the country, including from the Government is the main donor. The country office will work to broaden and diversify its donor base and will seek to increase the Government's financing, as well as South-South cooperation. New consortiums and partnerships with other United Nations agencies and NGOs will also be considered.
117. The country is one of the most vulnerable in the world to disasters and climate change. A major emergency that exceeds the country's capacities could occur during the CSP period. WFP will continue to support the Government and other public and private stakeholders with capacity strengthening for emergency preparedness and response and will work internally on enhancing WFP's preparedness. If there is a crisis that exceeds the Government's capacities, WFP will revise the CSP (subject to Board approval, as appropriate) to develop a specific strategic outcome aimed at responding to the crisis.
118. Gender-based violence and gender inequalities may hamper the effective and equitable inclusion of women and men in CSP activities and limit the achievement of output and outcome targets. To address gender inequalities, all activities will focus on the inclusion of women, with their numbers being slightly higher in activities under strategic outcomes 1 and 2. Activities will also be designed considering the particular needs of women and men, girls and boys and to ensure the promotion of modern ideas of masculinity.



### **Operational risks**

119. There is a minimal to moderate risk that partner government staff will not comply with their promised distribution of specialized nutritious foods before shelf-life expiry. As a mitigation measure, WFP will carry out regular field monitoring visits to identify appropriate and timely solutions and will hold periodic training sessions in addition to provincial and regional and national coordination meetings. There is a minimal risk related to SuperCereal Plus and SuperCereal pipeline breaks due to delays in international purchases of these commodities and their arrival at local distribution points. To control this risk, WFP will prepare distribution plans and have transport contracts in place prior to the arrival of SuperCereal Plus and SuperCereal in the country.
120. There is a minimal risk of financial and supply chain mismanagement. WFP regularly reviews its internal procedures and requests support from the regional bureau when required to strengthen its regular monitoring system to detect abnormalities and immediately implement any needed corrective measures.

### **Fiduciary risks**

121. Criminals in the Dominican Republic are increasingly making use of violence and weapons. WFP works with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security to ensure staff safety, compliance with the United Nations minimum operating security standards and the strict application of security protocols. The Department of Safety and Security has assigned the country a security level of 2 (low). The country office has a security focal point.

## **6. Resources for results**

### **6.1 Country portfolio budget**

<b>Strategic outcome</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	294 526	279 094	257 928	267 145	210 230	<b>1 308 923</b>
2	1 629 186	1 698 523	1 339 134	1 425 470	939 480	<b>7 031 794</b>
3	698 088	653 214	482 892			<b>1 834 194</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 621 800</b>	<b>2 630 831</b>	<b>2 079 954</b>	<b>1 692 615</b>	<b>1 149 710</b>	<b>10 174 911</b>

### **6.2 Resourcing outlook**

122. Due to the rapid economic growth of the Dominican Republic, donors' interest in the country, as with most countries in the region, decreased noticeably between 1995 and 2010, with donations falling from 0.8 to 0.4 percent of GDP and likely to fall by half again by 2025. Bilateral and multilateral donors tend to give priority to official development aid through government institutions and local NGOs, thus leaving limited opportunities for international organizations. Private sector corporate social responsibility is gradually emerging in the country, with a rise of involvement in social issues, especially issues related to education, health and the environment.

### **6.3 Resource mobilization strategy**

123. The main resource partner for WFP is the Government of the Dominican Republic, through the Office of the Vice President. Over the past three years, WFP has also received funds from traditional international donors for work on resilience, emergency preparedness and response, early warning and disaster risk reduction. WFP will seek financial resources for the implementation of activities advancing gender equality.

124. The country office has developed a partnership action plan outlining WFP's positioning and partnership opportunities. WFP will promote existing partnerships, explore new ones and diversify its donor portfolio by exploring new financial instruments, enhancing coordination and promoting synergies with the other Rome-based agencies, non-traditional donors, international financial institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector. In addition, WFP will develop a communication and visibility strategy to raise the public profile of the SDG 2 challenges.

**ANNEX I****LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (2019–2023)****Strategic Goal 1: Support countries to achieve zero hunger****Strategic Objective 2: Improve nutrition****Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition****Strategic outcome 2: The most nutritionally vulnerable groups have improved their nutrition status by 2023**

Outcome category: Improved consumption of high-quality, nutrient-dense foods among targeted individuals

Nutrition sensitive

Focus area: root causes

**Assumptions**

Funding and partnership commitments for the implementation of nutrition and social protection strategies remain stable.

Nutrition remains a priority for Social Protection and Health stakeholders so that they maintain their commitment and political will towards nutrition interventions and improved outcomes.

International supply chain for SNF maintains its regular function.

Nutritionally vulnerable groups targeted by the social safety net programme under the health conditionality component comply with their responsibility of attending health consultations for monitoring of their nutritional status.

No major disasters occur, exceeding the country capacities and implying the delay of interventions.

A climate of political, economic and social stability is maintained, allowing work to continue safely throughout the country.

WFP maintains its strategic position as a credible partner for the implementation of zero hunger strategies.

**Outcome indicators**

- Prevalence of stunting among targeted children under 2 (height-for-age as %)
- Proportion of beneficiaries who recall and practice a key nutrition message
- Proportion of children 6–23 months of age who receive a minimum acceptable diet
- Proportion of eligible population that participates in programme (coverage)
- Proportion of target population that participates in an adequate number of distributions (adherence)

**Activities and outputs****2. 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 (Activity category 6; modality: food transfers; capacity strengthening) (CSI: Institutional capacity strengthening activities)**

Children aged 6–59 months, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and girls and elderly people at risk of malnutrition (tier 1) receive specialized nutritious foods as part of national public health and social protection programmes for improving nutrition status. (B: Nutritious foods provided)

Most nutritionally vulnerable groups at different stages in the life cycle and people living with HIV and/or TB (tier 2) benefit from strengthened services, surveillance systems and programmes for improving nutrition status. (C: Capacity development and technical support provided)

Nutritionally vulnerable groups (tier 2) benefit from nutrition counselling and education delivered through government public health and social protection programmes in order to improve their knowledge of nutrition and eating habits. (E: Advocacy and education provided)

**Strategic Goal 2: Partner to support implementation of the SDGs****Strategic Objective 4: Support SDG implementation****Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs**

**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**

Outcome category: Enhanced capacities of public- and private-sector institutions and systems, including local responders, to identify, target and assist food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations

Focus area: root causes

**Assumptions**

Stable institutional and political commitment at the implementation of the SDG 2 roadmap.

Key stakeholders for zero hunger maintain their commitment in the promotion of behavioural changes of healthy eating habits.

National stakeholders maintain their interest in improving coordination and promoting comprehensive and inclusive strategies for zero hunger.

No major economic, political or social conflicts negatively affect efforts to empower the more vulnerable population.

No major disasters occur, exceeding the country capacities and implying the delay of interventions.

A climate of political, economic and social stability is maintained, allowing work to continue safely throughout the country.

**Outcome indicators**

Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard

**Activities and outputs**

**1. 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 (Activity category 9; modality: capacity strengthening). (CSI: Institutional capacity strengthening activities)**

The population of the Dominican Republic (tier 3) benefits from strengthened and coherent institutions, legal frameworks, policies and programmes for improving eating habits and addressing food security and nutrition needs. (I: Policy engagement strategies developed/implemented)

Vulnerable groups (tier 3) benefit from a multi-stakeholder and inclusive national social movement that fosters awareness and inter-institutional coordination platforms and social and behaviour change communication strategies for improving food security and nutrition. (C: Capacity development and technical support provided)

**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**

Outcome category: Enhanced capacities of public- and private-sector institutions and systems, including local responders, to identify, target and assist food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations

Focus area: resilience building

**Assumptions**

Climate change and DRR remain a priority for national stakeholders so that they maintain their commitment and political will towards resilience and EPR interventions and improve outcomes.

Groups especially vulnerable to natural shocks including those related to climate change maintain their commitment to improve their resilience.

No major disasters occur, exceeding the country capacities and implying the delay of interventions.

A climate of political, economic and social stability is maintained, allowing work to continue safely throughout the country.

The government and the private sector maintain their will and continue to support shock responsive social protection initiatives.

**Outcome indicators**

Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index

Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard

**Activities and outputs**

**3. 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 (Activity category 9; modality: capacity strengthening) (CSI: Institutional capacity strengthening activities)**

Populations exposed to adverse events (tier 3) benefit from legal frameworks, policies, institutions and social protection programmes for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, reducing the risks of natural hazards for food security, nutrition and sustainable development. (C: Capacity development and technical support provided)

**Strategic Goal 1: Support countries to achieve zero hunger****C.1. Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences****Cross-cutting indicators**

C.1.1: Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance)

C.1.2: Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements

**C.3. Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population****Cross-cutting indicators**

C.3.3: Type of transfer (food, cash, voucher, no compensation) received by participants in WFP activities, disaggregated by sex and type of activity



## ANNEX II

INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME (USD)				
	Strategic Result 5, SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 2, SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 5, SDG Target 17.9	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	
Focus area	Root causes	Root causes	Resilience	
Transfer	701 106	4 432 968	1 175 548	<b>6 309 622</b>
Implementation	384 137	1 412 448	424 486	<b>2 221 071</b>
Adjusted direct support costs	143 793	757 208	122 214	<b>1 023 214</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 229 036</b>	<b>6 602 623</b>	<b>1 722 248</b>	<b>9 553 907</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5%)	79 887	429 171	111 946	<b>621 004</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 308 923</b>	<b>7 031 794</b>	<b>1 834 194</b>	<b>10 174 911</b>

## Acronyms used in the document

CEED	Comedores Económicos del Estado Dominicano
CSP	country strategic plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization for the United Nations
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INABIE	National Institute for Student Welfare ( <i>Instituto Nacional de Bienestar Estudiantil</i> )
INAIPI	National Institute for Early Childhood Development ( <i>Instituto Nacional de Atención Integral a la Primera Infancia</i> )
NGO	non-governmental organization
PROSOLI	National Social Protection Programme ( <i>Progresando con Solidaridad</i> )
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNDAF	United Nations development assistance framework
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund