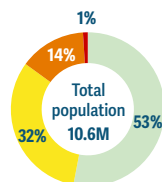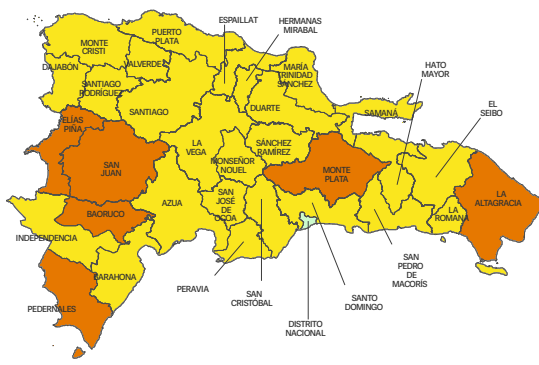# Dominican Republic ⚠

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | High food prices and hurricanes drove acute food insecurity in early 2023. However, improvements are foreseen through August 2024.

PEAK 2023 (OCTOBER 2022–FEBRUARY 2023)

1.6M people or **15%** of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. Of them, 142 500 people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

The estimate is from the first IPC analysis conducted for the country, which was conducted in 2022. The high numbers reflect price surges in the preceding years that affected the real income and food access of vulnerable households. A later analysis found that, by November 2023, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity was down to 1.2 million people (11 percent) due to lower prices and increased employment opportunities.
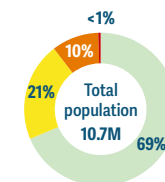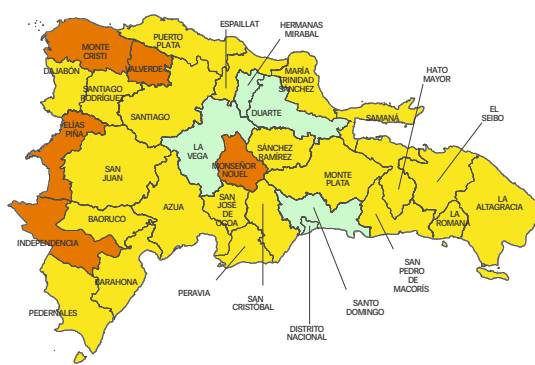

Total population 10.6M — 53%, 32%, 14%, 1%

Source: Dominican Republic IPC TWG, January 2023.

PROJECTION 2024 (DECEMBER 2023–APRIL 2024)

1.1M people or **10%** of the analysed population projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity. Of them, 19 700 people were projected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

This is a significant decline compared with the 2023 peak, especially in the number of people in IPC Phase 4, reflecting increased crop production and subdued inflation, amid a modest growth of economic activity in 2023. The decreasing trend is expected to continue due to an anticipated increase in the minimum wage, decreasing unemployment and favourable weather conditions in the first months of 2024 (IPC, 2023; FAO, 2024).

Total population 10.7M — 69%, 21%, 10%, <1%

Source: Dominican Republic IPC TWG, December 2023.

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Economic shocks After almost a decade of economic growth and reduced poverty rates (OECD, December 2023), from 2022 the country faced significant economic shocks, with food prices, particularly for basic grains, reaching their highest in 15 years by the end of 2022 and early 2023. In January 2023, food inflation peaked at 11.4 percent, severely impacting food access. The lingering impacts of COVID-19 and a high prevalence of respiratory infections and dengue fever led to job losses and reduced income in informal sectors and tourism, constraining household purchasing power during the October 2022–February 2023 peak period (IPC, January 2023). However, by early 2024, food inflation had decreased to 5.3 percent, marking some economic improvements (WB, February 2024).

Border closures with Haiti and Haitian population movements negatively impacted the Dominican agricultural labour force and bi-national trade, affecting food availability and access in three provinces (IPC, December 2023).

Favourable climate conditions forecasted for 2024 could positively influence crop planting and labour demand, potentially creating employment opportunities and enhancing economic access to food (IPC, December 2023).

Weather extremes Localized food shortages adversely affected food availability, particularly in areas where many households had depleted their reserves and resorted to crisis or emergency strategies. The situation was exacerbated in 2022 by hurricane Fiona, which affected around 10 000 households in 12 provinces. Torrential rains in mid-November 2023 displaced 37 000 people and cause significant economic losses to the agricultural sector (FAO, February 2024 On the other hand, forecasts predicting neutral El Niño conditions in 2024 offer optimistic prospects for crop production, with a likely positive impact on food availability and access (IPC, January 2023; IPC, December 2023).

DISPLACEMENT

0.1M refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants by 2023

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

History of the food crisis Included for the first time in the GRFC 2023, this upper-middle-income country has recorded a decline in the number of people facing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) since October 2022–February 2023, to 1.1 million during December 2023–April 2024. Analysis for the May–August 2024 period projects fewer than 1 million people.

The number of people in IPC Phase 4 has followed a similar trend, going down from 142 000 in the 2023 peak to a projected 20 000 in the May–August 2024 post-harvest period, mostly driven by the arrival of good 2024 harvests.

1 - None/Minimal　2 - Stressed　3 - Crisis　4 - Emergency　5 - Catastrophe/Famine　Total population