ABSTRACT. We consider the Dirichlet problem for the quasilinear elliptic system

$$-\operatorname{div}\sigma(x, u(x), Du(x)) = f \qquad \text{on } \Omega$$
$$u(x) = 0 \qquad \text{on } \partial\Omega$$

for a function $u : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}^m$, where Ω is a bounded open domain in $\mathbb{R}^n$. For arbitrary right hand side $f \in W^{-1,p'}(\Omega)$ we prove existence of a weak solution under classical regularity, growth and coercivity conditions, but with only very mild monotonicity assumptions.