



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

IFRC Country Cluster Office
(Haiti, Dominican Republic and Cuba)

COUNTRY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **Dominican Republic**, is a middle-income developing country, that, as reported by the National Statistics Office, has a population of 9,445,281 people. For the past two decades, this country has been one of the fastest growing economies of the Americas (World Bank), with an annual average growth rate of 5.4% (UNDP 2012). However, economic growth and human development have not been accompanied by an effective solution to reduce inequality, which means that not everyone has benefited from these positive changes. Although in the past two years there has been a reduction in poverty, it has not been as significant as the economic growth and, thus, the levels of extreme poverty are still very high.

Another important issue is the impact that climate change has on this country. The Dominican Republic is within the fifteen most vulnerable countries to climate change, which was seen in the recent severe drought and heavy rainy season.

It was estimated that approximately 87.3% of people of foreign origin residing in the Dominican Republic in 2012, i.e. 458,233, were born in Haiti (ONE, 2013a, 2012b). This highlights the extent of Haitian migration in the country, as well as the challenges and opportunities immigration presents for the Dominican Red Cross and its authorities

In the framework of the Hispaniola Red Cross Bi-national Plan, the IFRC Country Cluster Support Team will support cooperation and collaboration including peer-to-peer support and their respective governments in health, migration, disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and disaster management.

Movement partners, such as the Canadian Red Cross, provide regional program support in disaster response and preparedness. Collaboration with the government and international humanitarian actors, including NGOs and the United Nations system, takes place through the various coordination mechanisms and through the implementation of global agreements, such as those with UNDO, UNICEF, and WFP, as well as regional partnerships, such as with The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Needs Assessment

Floods are a major risk, as can be seen throughout the period of 2016-2018 where major flooding occurred throughout the country. The IFRC has launched an International Appeal to support the National Society and stakeholders across sectors and disciplines and have called for the enforcement of existing laws and the application of administrative measures to improve the quality of construction, reduce illegal construction, and improve the performance of the engineering community.

STATISTICS

15% Unemployment in the country

10% Population living below the poverty line

94.7% Population exposed to natural hazards

AREAS OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

CHF 720,000 required

The IFRC will focus on strengthening communities' understanding of risk, preparing communities to respond to disasters/crisis, and integrating community needs into local and national mechanisms. This will include adaptation to climate change and improved gender inclusion.

- National prioritization exercise and vulnerability assessments
- National 2019 Hurricane season campaign

HEALTH

CHF 480,000 required

The IFRC will focus on improving the health status of communities in infectious diseases, vector borne diseases, and water contact diseases.

- National health vulnerability assessment
- Epidemiological surveillance status assessment
- National Healthy Lifestyle campaigns to improve the health of communities using Community-based Health and First Aid approach

MIGRATION

CHF 80,000 required

The IFRC will develop a Migration Advocacy strategy and train volunteers in migration programming to provide assistance to migrants.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

CHF 660,000 required

The IFRC will continue to support the following actions:

- Review the organizational structure to enable improved operational branches, with a focus on emergencies
- Implement programs on leadership development, volunteer management, branch sustainability, and accountability to donors

ENSURE EFFECTIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT

CHF 200,000 required

Disaster response support will focus on increasing the capacities of the provincial Red Cross branches through:

- Prepositioning of NFI relief items for 5,000 families
- Training of staff and volunteers on disaster response components (logistics, DANA, contingency planning)
- Creating national intervention teams in at least 3 provincial branches
- Strengthening warehousing capacities.
- Establishing a Water in Emergencies training centre

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNER

CHF 40,000 required

The IFRC will support the National Society to leverage current partnerships through coalition building to support the scaling up of community resilience, as well as strengthening humanitarian response coordination in the country.

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

CHF 50,000 required

The IFRC will continue strengthening its Country Office in Santo Domingo and providing high quality technical support to regional Red Cross societies.

CONTACTS

For more information on the work of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Country, please contact:

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