



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC JUSTICE AND SECURITY FOR ALL

OBJECTIVE

The goal of the activity is to increase accountability and citizen confidence in governance by improving the efficacy of national-level justice institutions in the Dominican Republic. The Activity will enable the Dominican justice actors to address root causes of crime and violence, increase public safety, and deliver justice that is responsive to all peoples' needs.

COUNTRY OR REGION SITUATION

Widespread crime and violence undermine safety and security in communities throughout the Dominican Republic, with citizen security being the top concern for Dominicans, followed by unemployment, the economy, and corruption.¹ The Dominican Republic is ranked as the fourth most crime-prone country in the Caribbean and is in the top 15 percent globally for homicides.² Despite a continuous decline in homicides for the past 10 years, murder rates remain high at approximately 12.5 per 100,000 people, accounting for 1,026 homicides in 2019 and 940 in 2020.³ Organized crime is a pervasive challenge due to the illicit flow and trafficking of goods, money and persons, with the country serving as a primary transit point for arms and narcotics as well as a strategic location for transnational criminal groups to launder illicit proceeds.

¹ "Citizen security, crime and violence in five high-risk communities in the Dominican Republic." Criminal Justice System Strengthened Project, Chemonics International. USAID Dominican Republic, 2019 and LAPOP 2018/2019 AmericasBarometer for the Dominican Republic.

² OSAC Dominican Republic 2019 Crime & Safety Report.

<https://www.osac.gov/Country/DominicanRepublic/Content/Detail/Report/a82172f0-f827-4656-bd39-15f4aec20e0d>

³ <https://insightcrime.org/news/analysis/2020-homicide-round-up/>

OUR WORK

Through this activity, USAID expects to significantly increase accountability and reduce levels of impunity for serious crimes in the Dominican Republic, thus improving citizen confidence in government. The program seeks to achieve an overall improvement in the number of cases resolved or prosecuted with the selected municipalities. This requires implementation and institutionalization of more efficient internal processes within the individual justice institutions, and enhanced coordination and communication among the various institutions to ensure greater effectiveness and accountability.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Performance of criminal justice institutions and inter-institutional coordination improved.
- Prevention and enforcement measures that better prioritize, manage, and resolve criminal cases are improved, operational, and reduce crime and violence.
- Citizen security of the target municipalities improved.
- Strategies and people-centered approaches are implemented to reduce root causes of conflict.
- Justice sector actors among various institutions are collaborating on policy, operations, resource allocation, information sharing, and processes, resulting in improved prosecutions and reductions in impunity.
- Results of institutional strengthening, collaboration, and reform are sustainable over time through durable partnerships among key stakeholders (Government of the Dominican Republic, police, civil society, and private sector).
- Community Justice Houses capacity to provide legal services to vulnerable populations strengthened.
- Improved accountability and reduced levels of impunity, improving citizen confidence in government institutions.
- Increased prosecution rates, particularly for serious crimes, in selected municipalities having a positive societal impact.

Duration: September 2022 - September 2027

Budget: US \$24 million

Implementing Partner or Contractor: Chemonics International

CONTACT

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