



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



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COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STRATEGY (CDCS)

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ACRONYM LIST

| | |
|--------|---|
| ART | Antiretroviral Treatment |
| ARV | Antiretroviral |
| C-TIP | Counter-Trafficking in Persons |
| CBSI | Caribbean Basin Security Initiative |
| CDCS | Country Development Cooperative Strategy |
| CLA | Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting |
| CLM | Community-led Monitoring |
| CMM | Conflict Mitigation and Management |
| CWT | Combating Wildlife Trafficking |
| CRD | Consejo Regional de Desarrollo |
| DR | Dominican Republic |
| DRM | Domestic Resource Mobilization |
| DO | Development Objective |
| F/GBV | Family/Gender-based Violence |
| FBO | Faith-based Organization |
| FC | Focus Clients |
| FTA | Fiscal Transparency and Accountability |
| GBV | Gender-based Violence |
| GODR | Government of the Dominican Republic |
| IDEC | Iniciativa Dominicana para una Educación de Calidad |
| IR | Intermediate Result |
| KP | Key Population |
| MARN | Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales |
| MEL | Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning |
| MEPyD | Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo |
| MINERD | Ministerio de Educación de la República Dominicana |
| MMA | Marine Managed Area |
| MMD | Multi-Month Dispensing |
| MSP | Ministerio de Salud Pública |
| NDS | National Development Strategy |
| NPI | New Partnership Initiative |
| PES | Payment for Ecosystem Services |
| PFM | Public Financial Management |
| PIRS | Performance Indicator Reference Sheet |
| PLHIV | People Living with HIV |
| PMP | Performance Management Plan |
| PPP | Public-Private Partnership |
| PPR | Performance Plan and Report |
| PSE | Private Sector Engagement |

| | |
|------|--|
| SEED | Sustainable Environmental and Economic Development |
| SME | Small and Medium Enterprise |
| SNS | Servicio Nacional de Salud |
| TIP | Trafficking in Persons |
| WASH | Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene |
| YES | Youth, Education, and Security |

I. PREFACE - AUGUST 2023 UPDATE

From February-May 2023, USAID/Dominican Republic (DR) conducted its Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) Mid-Course Stocktaking (MCST). The MCST consultative process included multiple touchpoints, garnering input from more than 85 percent of the Mission's staff, including individuals from three technical and five support offices. A May 11 capstone event represented the culmination of four months of preparations, surveys, focus groups, and other analyses to inform the MCST. The purpose of the capstone event was to share the findings of the surveys and focus groups with the entire Mission and engage in a discussion about how to respond to and act on those findings, including (but not limited to) any necessary changes to the CDCS itself.

This update to the CDCS reflects those changes. Specifically, there was consensus across the Mission that the updated CDCS should capture significant changes in context that occurred since the development of the original strategy in 2019, including:

1. Expanded efforts of USAID/DR in supporting communities, the private sector, and the government of the Dominican Republic (GODR) in addressing climate change;
2. Increased interest and momentum expressed by the GODR for preventing, detecting and mitigating corrupt practices;
3. The impact of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, particularly in terms of the CDCS's stated risks and assumptions; and
4. Broadened Agency-wide focus on advancing inclusive, locally led development.

These changes are reflected throughout the text of the CDCS, and in the updated Results Framework (Table 1), which includes updates to the Intermediate and Sub-Intermediate Results and Cross-Cutting Lenses.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of the Dominican Republic (DR) 2020-2025 Country Development Cooperative Strategy (CDCS) is to promote a more secure and inclusively prosperous Dominican Republic that advances local and transboundary resilience. As one of the United States' closest neighbors, prosperity and security in the Dominican Republic directly impact the United States. Reflecting close economic, diplomatic, and social ties, the USAID/Dominican Republic CDCS advances America's strategic priorities and secures the foundation for the Dominican Republic to lead its own development.

Since its original inception, this strategy's focus on improving wellbeing for the most vulnerable, and building local and national capacities that drive commitment for responsive governance, continues to support and further expands national security initiatives related to crime, violence and corruption; illicit trade in wildlife and trafficking in persons; climate adaptation and mitigation, including renewable energy; health and infectious disease control; countering malign actors; and market-based development.

While the intent and overall strategic approach buttressing this goal has not changed, a Midcourse Stocktaking exercise the Mission conducted in 2023 highlighted key changes in both the country's context and alignment of Agency priorities that necessitated updates to the CDCS Results Framework. When the original CDCS was developed in 2020, analysis of FY2020 Country Roadmap metrics for the Dominican Republic indicated higher Capacity than Commitment and an overall average standing within its regional grouping. Capacity metrics highlighted robust macroeconomic growth and achievements in measured poverty, yet the Dominican Republic exhibited continuing deficiencies in education quality and a persistent decline in safety and security. In Commitment, the Dominican Republic exhibited a steady decline in liberal democracy and social group equality that ranks among the lowest globally. Taken together, the Roadmap painted a picture of a country where many have not benefited from macro-level prosperity, government institutions could better support human and environmental wellbeing, and personal safety remains the top concern for Dominicans.

In the two-and-a-half years since the original CDCS was developed, there have been significant changes in the DR context. National elections in July 2020 resulted in a change of government, ousting the party that had been in power for 16 years. The new government, under the leadership of President Luis Abinader, came to power with a mandate to bring sweeping reforms that advance citizen-responsive governance, combat corruption and increase transparency, improve service systems, and strengthen the wellbeing and resilience of communities. The Abinader administration has elevated transparency and rule of law, appointing an Attorney General famous for her integrity and independence and giving her broad autonomy; named anti-corruption advocates to key transparency posts in the government; and fired and even prosecuted appointees who failed to live up to Abinader's standards. In 2022, following significant U.S. technical support and advocacy, the Congress passed, and Abinader signed, a new civil asset forfeiture law, in the face of powerful interests fearful it could be used against them. In terms of democratic support, the United States asked the Dominican Republic to lead the anti-corruption cohort, alongside Kosovo, at the 2023 Summit for Democracy (S4D). The Dominican Republic was also chosen as one of 12 countries worldwide to receive funding under the Partnership for Democratic Development (PDD), a new USAID initiative that unlocks funding to strengthen democratic institutions and prevent democratic backsliding.

Some of these changes are reflected in FY2023 Country Roadmap Commitment metrics. For example, the DR improved on the measure of Liberal Democracy, a key component of Open and Accountable governance, moving from scores of 0.35 in 2020 to 0.52 in 2023. On a key measure of Inclusive Development, Social Group Equality, the DR moved from a score of 0.17 to 0.36. The DR's Capacity also improved in key areas measured by the Country Roadmap. Under Government Capacity, the dimension of Safety and Security increased from 0.48 in 2020 to 0.57 in 2023. Civil Society Capacity also continued its climb, moving from 0.90 to 0.96.

Other changes in context have deepened challenges the country is facing. The Dominican Republic uniquely shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, its less prosperous and politically unstable neighbor. Seeking economic opportunity through migration to the Dominican Republic, the Haitian and Haitian-descent population now numbered approximately 800,000 in 2019.¹ The July 2021 assassination of its president ushered in a new era of intense instability in Haiti, prompting increased irregular migration to the DR. This has exacerbated existing discrimination towards Haitian migrants, resulting in the high levels of poverty, constant fear of deportation, and frequent accusations of instigating crime and spreading infectious disease. Changes in 2013 to Dominican law rendered nearly 300,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent stateless, barring many from access to basic social services and deepening long-standing social tensions. Despite 2014 legislation to resolve this issue, leadership of the interior ministry and migration directorate continues to block implementation of this law, leaving thousands of stateless persons of Haitian descent who had previously applied for citizenship restitution in a state of limbo. The government also took steps to block the renewal of residency permits that had previously been issued to Haitians. As a result, 260,000 Haitians who held residency status in 2020 have been unable to renew their status. While most evident in the Dominican Republic-Haiti border region, the challenges and barriers faced by Haitian and Haitian-descent persons in the Dominican Republic are experienced nationwide.

In addition, the impact of the war in Ukraine and COVID-19 continue to be felt across Dominican society. The war in Ukraine triggered a new supply chain disruption, compounding the existing disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and amplifying the destabilization of both food and fuel markets globally. These price increases significantly deteriorated the terms of trade and public finances of developing countries that are net importers of fuels and food products, including the Dominican Republic, which in 2021 imported nearly 17% of its food and \$4.26 billion in mineral fuels, oils, and distillation products. The resulting inflation led to a 12.9% increase in food prices in the DR between 2021 and 2022.² The long-term impact of COVID can also be seen in educational attainment by Dominican schoolchildren, who suffered significant learning gaps when schools were closed. This is reflected in the Country Roadmap of Education Quality, a key component of Citizen Capacity, which saw little gain from its 0.38 score in 2020 to its 0.40 score in 2023.

Responding to these changes, this updated strategy represents USAID's commitment to employing its comparative advantage over the next two-and-a-half years to continue helping the Dominican Republic overcome constraints that limit progress and create the capacities and incentives that help the

¹ This is a commonly used estimate of the Haitian population in the Dominican Republic. Official data sources do not accurately or consistently account for the Haitian or Haitian-descent population, but UNHCR 2018 estimates a population "between 650,000 and one million." (<https://www.refworld.org/docid/49749d2e.html>)

²<https://tradingeconomics.com/dominican-republic/food-inflation#:~:text=Food%20Inflation%20in%20Dominican%20Republic%20is%20expected%20to%20be%2012.00,acording%20to%20our%20econometric%20models>

Dominican Republic advance. This strategy update comes at an opportune moment when new perspectives can facilitate pivotal reforms and the experience of global shocks demonstrate the need to further develop institutions and services that support secure, inclusive, and resilient prosperity. Through this CDCS, USAID advances a future where, driven by local structures and resources, Dominican youth develop productive and valued human capital, Haitian-descent populations in the Dominican Republic take part in shared growth, local efforts achieve HIV epidemic control, governments and communities build capacity for climate change adaptation and resilience, crime and security becomes a secondary concern for Dominicans, and public trust in GODR institutions rises.

DO1 will help the GODR develop the capacity to deepen citizen-responsive governance. Investments in evidence-based decision making, targeted improvements to sectoral legal frameworks, PEPFAR-driven alignment to global health and HIV standards, and interventions aimed at effective policy implementation boost capacities that catalyze GODR commitment to transparent and accountable state institutions. This will be coupled with strategic partnerships with media and civil society, the private sector, and Caribbean regional entities to ensure consistent and effective demand for improved education, citizen security, human rights, good governance, health, water and sanitation, energy, and climate adaptation and mitigation.

In conjunction with governance efforts, USAID investments in DO2 will build the capacity to deliver high quality and inclusive essential services via well-functioning decentralized systems. Viewing service delivery as integrated systems that involve government, private sector, community, and civil society stakeholders, activities in DO2 are designed to promote health and work-readiness for Dominicans, climate adaptation, resilience and reliable energy infrastructure, and a professionalized justice sector that practices equal treatment under the law. These activities prioritize access to quality services for vulnerable populations and robust service provision to targeted areas, including the population along the Dominican Republic-Haiti border region, women and youth, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ persons, and the HIV+ population, noting also the compounded challenges associated with the intersectionality of multiple vulnerabilities. In strengthening service systems, USAID will actively seek private sector partners to co-create and co-implement initiatives that support service systems, identify market-based solutions to climate challenges, and strengthen Dominican networks that reduce opportunities for malign actors.

During consultations, Mission staff and private sector participants were asked to identify the characteristics they would like to see more developed in the Dominican Republic, and the results were consistent and powerful: sense of community, civility, harmony, empowerment. DO3 brings together the Mission's work that promotes community wellbeing, accounts for vulnerable and underserved populations, and helps build community-level resilience to shocks. Grounded in locally led development, DO3 emphasizes building the capacities of local organizations to promote positive youth development, crime and violence prevention, and psycho-social and family health. Activities in DO3 will also employ locally led approaches to limit the adverse impacts of climate and economic threats and fortify communities through conflict mitigation and management along the Dominican Republic-Haiti border. Local organizations -- government, private sector, media, civil society, community, and faith-based organizations -- will play key roles in advancing PEPFAR's community-led monitoring approach and community resilience and wellbeing, and USAID will build the capacities of local organizations to effectively engage in locally led and locally-owned development.

In the implementation of this CDCS, the Mission is also keenly aware of the DR's Tier 2 Watchlist status in the June 2023 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. In conjunction with other USG entities, USAID has worked to combat TIP in the DR across the Mission's portfolio, and saw progress in 2021 and 2022, when the DR moved from its 2020 Tier 2 Watchlist status to Tier 2. Given the pivot back to Watchlist status, USAID will continue to address victim-centered approaches to judicial reform, the intersection of TIP with gender-based violence (GBV) in the DR, and inclusive access to livelihood, psychosocial, health, and other basic services for vulnerable populations to reduce the incidence of trafficking.

USAID will foster innovative, robust, and impactful partnerships across the landscape of development stakeholders. During implementation of the CDCS, USAID/Dominican Republic will ensure that the Mission-wide effort to diversify its partner base is central to the design and implementation of the strategy. USAID's redefined relationship with the GODR is driven by a focus on building internal capacities to make and implement decisions with transparency and accountability that motivates commitment to citizen-responsive governance. This also means working with GODR entities to harmonize local-to-national linkages to strengthen decentralized service networks and better elevate the needs of vulnerable communities.

This CDCS also takes a new approach regarding private sector engagement, integrating the private sector as development stakeholders, partnering to identify challenges and create, fund, and implement market-based and sustainable solutions. These private sector collaborations will leverage skills and resources to complement USAID's comparative advantages and achieve lasting impact in health and HIV, climate, water and sanitation, energy, education, and crime and violence. The Mission's consultations also revealed opportunities to engage and co-create with new and underutilized partners. Indeed, many local NGOs, civil society, and faith-based organizations have the roots, credibility, and expertise to deepen USAID's impact and carry forward locally led and locally owned development. Work with new and underutilized partners will require investment to build the managerial and administrative capacities of local organizations. Implementation of the CDCS will support women's economic empowerment, advance religious freedom, and will work to incorporate the principles of procurement reform and support the Dominican Republic as it leads its own development journey to the point when there is no longer a need for foreign assistance.

This strategy is designed to align with and support U.S. Government priorities outlined in the National Security Strategy, the Joint Strategic Plan, the Joint Regional Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Dominican Republic Integrated Country Strategy. New Washington-based initiatives, such as the United States-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis (PACC 2030) and the PDDt, were designed in part to ensure the United States remains the region's key economic partner and democratic ally.

Table 1. Results Framework

| GOAL A MORE SECURE AND INCLUSIVELY PROSPEROUS DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ADVANCING LOCAL AND TRANSBOUNDARY RESILIENCE | | |
|---|---|---|
| DO1 CITIZEN-RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE STRENGTHENED | DO2 EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEMS ENHANCED | DO3 RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY WELLBEING IMPROVED |
| IR 1.1: Governance, citizen security and human rights policy implementation improved | IR 2.1: Youth, education, and citizen security services improved | IR 3.1: Community-level governance and violence reduction efforts enhanced |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1.1.1 Government capacity for inclusive, evidence-based strategic planning, policy implementation, and performance monitoring strengthened •1.1.2 Civil society and media capacity to advocate for and monitor implementation of laws and policies enhanced •1.1.3 Multi-sector efforts to effectively prevent, detect and mitigate corrupt practices increased •1.1.4 Transparency and efficiency of public procurement processes enhanced | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2.2.1 Delivery of youth-focused services and livelihood opportunities improved •2.1.2 Equitable and effective justice and police services strengthened •2.1.3 Public education and school safety improved •2.1.4 Capacity of local higher education institutions strengthened | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3.1.1 Community-level efforts to prevent crime and violence through positive youth development strengthened •3.1.2 Inclusive community access to formal and informal justice improved •3.1.3 Democratic and effective community-based civic engagement increased |
| IR 1.2: Institutional capacity to support climate adaptation and resilience strengthened | IR 2.2: Natural resource and climate risk management systems improved | IR 3.2: Community capacity for inclusive, adaptive natural resource management improved |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1.2.1 Natural resource management and planning capacity improved •1.2.2 Sustainable mechanisms for biodiversity conservation enhanced •1.2.3 Multisector efforts to support economic growth align with international principles of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2.2.1 Sustainable and climate-smart agriculture practices increased •2.2.2 Resilience and performance of energy systems advanced •2.2.3 Local systems to address water security and sanitation, waste management, and climate change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3.2.1 Local systems for participatory natural resource governance strengthened •3.2.2 Reconciliation processes to prevent and mitigate transboundary disputes arising from shared natural resources advanced •3.2.3 Community and local |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| sustainable development | challenges strengthened | organizations' long-term capacity to respond to and mitigate climate threats enhanced |
| IR 1.3: Global standards for health and HIV governance advanced | IR 2.3: Quality of health and HIV services improved | IR 3.3: Equitable access to health systems for vulnerable populations improved |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1.3.1 Infectious disease control and elimination guidelines aligned with international health standards •1.3.2 HIV testing, care, and treatment decentralized •1.3.3 Health supply chain management strengthened | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2.3.1 Continuous quality improvement of testing, care and treatment services established •2.3.2 Monitoring and supervision of health services strengthened •2.3.3 Maternal and child health services strengthened •2.3.4 Psycho-social and family services support strengthened •2.3.5 Capacity of community-serving health organizations strengthened | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3.3.1 Human resources for health management strengthened •3.3.2 Local health system capacity to identify and respond to health threats strengthened •3.3.3 Institutionalized stigma and discrimination reduced |
| Cross-Cutting Lenses: Localization, Gender & Inclusive Development, Private Sector Engagement, Learning & Results, Collaboration & Integration | | |

III. COUNTRY CONTEXT

A. Challenges and Opportunities

The Dominican Republic is a place of contradictions and enormous potential that has yet to be fully realized. GDP averaged over 5.3 percent annual growth from 1993 to 2018,³ among the most robust in the LAC region, and official measures of poverty improved from 34.4 percent to 20 percent.⁴ Government spending on education doubled since 2013, and infrastructure access increased substantially, particularly in rural areas of the country. National elections in July 2020 resulted in a change of government, ousting the party that had been in power for 16 years. The new government, under the leadership of President Luis Abinader, came to power with a mandate to bring sweeping reforms that advance citizen-responsive governance, combat corruption and increase transparency, improve service systems, and strengthen the wellbeing and resilience of communities.

However, despite these improvements, inequality that fuels entrenched interests and political misconduct continues to be an influence in Dominican social, economic, and political life. In 2020, over 40 percent of the population was economically vulnerable to shocks, and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the national poverty rate rose to 25 percent in the first six months of 2020.⁵ Crime and violence ranks as the top concern among Dominicans,⁶ and over 50 percent of women experience some form of gender-based violence (GBV).⁷ Particularly for rural areas and the border region, increased infrastructure or service offering has not equated to quality or access that leads to improved outcomes. Despite two decades of combatting the HIV epidemic, the Dominican Republic remains a PEPFAR focus country with over 70,000 people living with HIV⁸ and an epidemic that has shifted toward the Haitian and Haitian-descent population. The Dominican Republic ranks second lowest in the LAC region in educational performance, and the pool of human capital is not conducive to supporting broad-based, value-added, inclusive growth, creating little opportunity for the under-30 youth bulge that comprises 53 percent of the population.⁹ Further, squarely located in the Caribbean hurricane belt and highly dependent on external forces for trade, tourism, and remittances, the Dominican economy lacks the resilience to weather even minor shocks, and the economic effects of COVID-19 have led 78 percent of families to experience food insecurity.¹⁰ While the country ultimately made swift progress on curbing COVID-19 cases, the pandemic exposed the deficiencies of Dominican services, as the health system was immediately overburdened.

³ World Bank 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/dominicanrepublic/overview>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Listin Diario. “La pobreza alcanzara casi al 25% de la población.” July 16, 2020.

<https://listindiario.com/economia/2020/07/16/626524/la-pobreza-alcanzara-casi-al-25-de-la-poblacion-dominicana-aumentara-4-4-este-ano-segun-la-cepal>

⁶ “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.

See also: OSAC Dominican Republic 2019 Crime & Safety Report.

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

⁷ UN Women. <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/americas/dominican-republic>

⁸ UNAIDS. Dominican Republic Country Profile.

<https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/dominicanrepublic>

⁹ “Estimaciones y proyecciones nacionales de población 1950-2100.” Oficina Nacional de Estadística, Vol. IV. April 2016. Pg. 53. <https://www.one.gob.do/publicaciones?!ID=1463>

¹⁰ UNICEF 2020. Survey of Impact of COVID-19 on Dominican Households. [Link](#).

The Dominican Republic also uniquely shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, its less prosperous and politically unstable neighbor. Seeking economic opportunity through migration to the Dominican Republic, the Haitian and Haitian-descent population numbered approximately 800,000 in 2019.¹¹ Discrimination in the Dominican Republic results in the highest levels of poverty for Haitian migrants, constant fear of deportation, and frequent accusations of instigating crime and spreading infectious disease. Changes in 2013 to Dominican law rendered nearly 300,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent stateless, barring many from access to basic social services and deepening long-standing social tensions. While most evident in the Dominican Republic-Haiti border region, the challenges and barriers faced by Haitian and Haitian-descent persons in the Dominican Republic are experienced nationwide.

B. GODR National Development Strategy (NDS)

In 2010, the Dominican government approved the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2010-2030¹² that focuses on four axes: 1. ethical and transparent state institutions, 2. equal rights and quality public services to reduce inequality, 3. a diversified and quality-oriented economy that promotes sustainable and broad-based growth, 4. efficient environmental risk and natural resource management and adaptation. These goals overlap directly with the CDCS objectives of citizen-responsive governance, efficient and inclusive service delivery, and resilient and inclusive community wellbeing.

This CDCS and the expectations of a new GODR administration created opportunities to advance NDS objectives. Our governance objective (DO 1) focuses specifically on building the capacity to employ evidence-based methods to determine allocations for public funding and to craft and execute sustainable implementation and enforcement plans. Further, our service system capacity objective (DO 2) emphasizes building the quality and inclusiveness of essential service provision that moves the GODR toward local ownership and registers meaningful progress toward GODR and USAID objectives. USAID has collaborated closely with the Abinader administration, brought in with a strong transparency and anti-corruption mandate, to better advance NDS initiatives.

C. Country Roadmap Analysis

The original version of this CDCS is rooted in the findings of the FY2020 Country Roadmap. While the Dominican Republic has made some notable progress since then, as noted in the Executive Summary, challenges remain. For example, although both capacity and commitment register as relatively high, deeper analysis brings out large disparities. A 2020 World Justice Project index ranked the Dominican Republic 24 out of 30 countries in LAC for rule of law, particularly for constraints on government power.¹³ Social group equality in the Dominican Republic also ranks among the lowest within the lower-middle income group worldwide, emphasizing the disadvantages faced by the country's vulnerable groups -- LGBTQI+, HIV+, Haitians and Haitian-descent, people with disabilities, women, and youth. These fundamental imbalances lay the foundation for less effective governance systems and the

¹¹ This is a commonly used estimate of the Haitian population in the Dominican Republic. Official data sources do not accurately or consistently account for the Haitian or Haitian-descent population, but UNHCR 2018 estimates a population "between 650,000 and one million." (<https://www.refworld.org/docid/49749d2e21.html>)

¹² Estrategia Nacional de Desarrollo 2010-2030. <http://mepyd.gob.do/estrategia-nacional-de-desarrollo-2030>

¹³ Dominican rule of law summary report from the World Justice Project: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/Dominican%20Republic%20-%202020%20WJP%20Rule%20of%20Law%20Index%20Country%20Press%20Release.pdf>

provision of low-quality services that perpetuate the cycle of poverty, inequality, and crime and violence.

The Country Roadmap underscores some of the Dominican Republic's greatest challenges. Policies have typically not been followed by robust implementation plans, and regulatory enforcement in the Dominican Republic ranks in the lower 15 percent globally.¹⁴ As a result, pollution and habitat loss continue, even in protected areas,¹⁵ and the Dominican Republic ranks 12 out of 180 countries in climate vulnerability.¹⁶ Education performance ranks second lowest in the LAC region,¹⁷ and citizen security initiatives are not supported by enforcement.¹⁸ Crime ranks as the greatest development concern for Dominicans,¹⁹ but Roadmap measures do not capture assault or gender/family based violence, the most common forms of violence in the Dominican Republic. Official statistics also largely exclude migrants and vulnerable populations, resulting in safety and security measures that underestimate the extent of crime and violence, and child health indicators that overestimate water and sanitation access in the Dominican Republic. For example, official data states that 85 percent of the population has access to improved water services; however, this obscures the fact that in many border communities water access is provided at the community level and is typically available only once per week.²⁰ Despite robust macroeconomic growth, measured poverty and per capita GDP do not reflect the deep economic inequality that permeates nearly every aspect of life in the Dominican Republic. An exceptionally active media and civil society, aimed at creating social demand for transparent and effective governance, has shown some positive movement in generating momentum for civic engagement or democratic reform.²¹ This CDCS thus focuses on effective policy implementation beyond policy development, quality service provision to underserved areas and populations, and improved opportunities for broad based and resilient economic growth.

III. STRATEGIC APPROACH

Although the Country Roadmap analysis for the Dominican Republic suggests that Capacity has not created demand for greater Commitment, deeper analysis reveals fundamental gaps in Capacity that hinder the ability to promote credible Commitment. Planned activities build on USAID's comparative

¹⁴ Policy enforcement in the Dominican Republic ranks 108/128 globally: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/country/2020/Dominican%20Republic/Regulatory%20Enforcement/>

¹⁵ Convention on Biological Diversity <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=do>.

Kennerley, Rosalind et al. The impact of habitat quality inside protected areas on distribution of the Dominican Republic's last endemic non-volant land mammals. *Journal of Mammalogy*, Volume 100, Issue 1, 28 February 2019, pg. 45–54. <https://academic.oup.com/jmammal/article/100/1/45/5304528>

¹⁶ Eckstein, David, Marie-Lena Hutfils and Maik Wings. "Global Climate Risk Index 2019." Germanwatch, 2019. Pg. 33. <https://www.germanwatch.org/en/crisis>

¹⁷ Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018. http://www.oecd.org/pisa/publications/PISA2018_CN_DOM.pdf

¹⁸ USAID/Dominican Republic Criminal Justice System Strengthened Project. *Citizen security, crime and violence in five high-risk communities in the Dominican Republic*, 2020.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ FAO 2020. AQUASTAT Core Database. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Database accessed on 2020/08/25. <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/data/>

²¹ Espinal, Rosario, Jana Morgan, Jonathan Hartlyn. *Sociedad civil y poder político en República Dominicana*. América Latina Hoy, 2010. (Older but still relevant publication.)

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/50997390_Sociedad_civil_y_poder_politico_en_Republica_Dominicana

advantage, engaging national and local governments, individuals, organizations, civil society, and the private sector to build capacities for transparent and evidence-based public sector decision making, strengthen capacities to deliver high quality essential services, and develop capacities to enhance community resilience and locally led development. By fortifying these strategic capacities, our work will help generate demand for and create the conditions that spur deepened Commitment.

The CDCS features a Results Framework (RF) built around thematic development objectives focusing on citizen-responsive governance, service systems, and community resilience. The Mission's research and consultations show that the structural elements and capabilities that impede progress in the Dominican Republic share fundamental similarities. Across sectors, limited transparency and accountability and inconsistent policy implementation or enforcement hinders the responsiveness of governance to the needs of citizens. This contributes to underfunded service systems that do not fully develop human capital, promote citizen security, protect natural resources, or safeguard public health. These weaknesses can perpetuate individual and community vulnerabilities, harm youth outcomes, and foment conflict in Dominican-Haitian communities, ultimately limiting community resilience and locally led development and increasing risk for the most vulnerable communities.

Rather than emphasizing traditional sectors, the RF thus addresses roadblocks to sustainable development that impact each sector and technical team. The thematic approach seeks results-oriented transformational change achieved by the combined efforts of activities across the portfolio.

A. Strategic Partnerships

The CDCS gives importance both to the strategic objectives in the results framework and the way they are achieved. This means ensuring that USAID builds the capacities that promote local problem identification, foster increased engagement with new and underutilized partners, facilitate co-creation of solutions, and enable sustainable and local financing of development initiatives.

USAID/Dominican Republic has re-envisioned private sector engagement (PSE). Although previous private sector partnerships yielded successful results, they were not viewed as catalysts for lasting change in the Dominican Republic. The private sector is integrated as a stakeholder in development. Private sector engagement efforts focus on leveraging the complementary resources and comparative advantages of private entities, keeping in mind their profit-based objectives, to focus and propel USAID interventions. The expanded PSE approach also supports recent GODR legislation²² to expand public-private partnerships, focusing on competitive procurement for services and infrastructure investments and establishing a directorate for public-private partnerships. Through this approach, USAID will build on the successes of recent PSEs that have helped identify local development issues, co-create solutions, and co-fund initiatives. Thus far, these include work in education and youth development; climate adaptation and mitigation, including natural resource management, energy, water and sanitation; and community development. Implementation of this CDCS is expected to intensify PSE to include advocacy for GODR transparency in procurement, improved health outcomes, and strengthened school-to-work pathways. Internally, the Mission will also expand its implementation of flexible procurement measures that enable greater private sector collaboration.

²² Ley 47-20: Ley de Alianzas Publico-Privadas. El Congreso Nacional de la República Dominicana. <https://dgii.gov.do/legislacion/leyesTributarias/Documents/Otras%20Leyes%20de%20Inter%C3%A9s/47-20.pdf>

The CDCS targets activities to improve GODR capacities for consistent evidence-based public financial management, strengthen the ability of civil society and local organizations to compete for and manage public funding for development, and mobilize domestic resources aimed at development along the Dominican Republic-Haiti border. Evidence across sectors also shows that non-competitive procurements in the Dominican Republic too often fail to target the greatest needs, and a lack of transparency or competition creates a focal point for corruption. Procurement reform thus also plays a key role in USAID's approach to mobilize host country resources and foster transparent practices.

USAID/Dominican Republic is committed to working with new and underutilized partners. In FY2019, Dominican organizations received 40 percent of the Mission's funds, and the Mission expects to continue to incorporate new and underutilized partners in co-design and consortium awards to foster increased engagement. Locally led development is a strategic focus of this CDCS, and USAID will work to build capacities in organizational management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and new business development and grant management for local organizations. This effort includes technical offices as well as assistance from support offices to understand the unique needs of local partners and better provide support in the process of co-creation.

B. Organizational Structure

USAID/Dominican Republic's Midcourse Stocktaking exercises in 2019 and 2023 revealed common areas of work across the Mission, but also identified structural and organizational barriers that obscured the Mission's focus and prevented collaboration or effective leveraging of human or financial resources. Across all technical sectors – security, health, education, climate, water, energy – the same story was consistently repeated: limited GODR planning, and implementation of policies has led to low quality basic service provision that harms community wellbeing, perpetuating poverty, inequality, and corruption. However, each office addressed these common issues from an isolated technical perspective. This new CDCS seeks instead to explicitly acknowledge the factors that unite each of the Mission's teams and recognizes that, despite different sectors and tactics, the Mission's work jointly advances a common set of objectives to build capacity and commitment. While the Mission's team structure is unlikely to change, this CDCS provides the opportunity for each team's IRs to contribute to thematic DOs that synthesize the Mission's cumulative impact. By focusing on overarching themes at the DO level, the Mission expects to leverage expertise, foster collaboration, and create opportunities for efficient and innovative development solutions in those geographic areas where integration is appropriate and evidence-based.

C. Focus: Populations and Systems

USAID cannot effectively tackle all of the Dominican Republic's development challenges. This CDCS thus emphasizes those sectors and activities that i) are catalytic toward increased long-term impact and local ownership, and ii) fall within USAID's comparative advantage and resource base. Based on exhaustive research and Mission-wide discussion, this CDCS targets populations and systems. Focus populations are the vulnerable, underserved, and underrepresented -- Dominicans of Haitian-descent, at-risk children and youth, persons living with HIV, LGBTQI+ persons, Venezuelan migrants, victims of human trafficking, and people with disabilities. Elevating these populations means directly addressing inequality, good governance, quality and inclusive service provision, and community strengthening. Systems targeting is based on a systems thinking approach, viewing development challenges in the context of the network of stakeholders, influences, and incentives within which they occur. USAID's interventions are thus

designed to impact critical points in a system, freeing bottlenecks or increasing capacities that multiply effects across the system and fortify locally led development.

D. Transboundary

In addressing development challenges in the Dominican Republic, interactions and linkages with Haiti are crucial. The unique geographical setting of a single island housing two countries necessitates perspectives that view security and inclusive prosperity in the Dominican Republic and Haiti as mutually reinforcing phenomena. Political instability and more limited economic opportunity in Haiti serve as ongoing push factors for out-migration into the Dominican Republic and make Haitian children a significant source of human trafficking into the Dominican Republic. Conversely, social practices, cultural bias, and public policies in the Dominican Republic limit opportunities for Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent, creating a large unempowered underclass. Nonetheless, Haiti and the Dominican Republic are economically interdependent and active trading partners, and economic fluctuations have clear and direct transboundary impacts in both countries. Further, climate change and infectious disease do not recognize political boundaries. Successful conservation and management of natural resources, including crucial potable water resources, requires “ridge to reef”²³ watershed management that necessitates transboundary collaboration to connect stakeholders in both countries. Effective disease control also requires addressing push-pull factors for migration between the Dominican Republic and Haiti and strengthening transboundary coordination of services.

This CDCS takes the strategic approach of explicitly acknowledging the intimate linkages between the Dominican Republic and Haiti and actively seeks to foster collaboration between governments, USAID Missions, communities, civil society, and the private sector to create mutually beneficial solutions to locally identified problems. Thus, where appropriate, the implementation of this CDCS will seek collaboration with USAID/Haiti to share data and best practices, co-identify transboundary and local development challenges, and engage private sector and new and underutilized partners with assets and networks in both countries. Formalizing this mutual understanding, the two Missions signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on May 26, 2020, signaling their concurrence to engage in transboundary work. The two Missions have regular technical meetings to discuss transboundary issues and are working to develop joint activities.

E. Relationship with Host Country Government

Reaffirming the strength of the relationship between the U.S. and the Dominican Republic, Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo attended the August 16, 2020, inauguration of President Luis Abinader and the new administration.²⁴ As the Dominican Republic’s largest trade partner and most significant development donor, the United States has historically benefited from consistent access to GODR decision makers and collaborative relationships with counterpart Ministries. After 16 years of single-party rule, the election of President Abinader represents a change of government and reflects heightened expectations of improved transparency, citizen-responsive governance, and an end to

²³ “Ridge to reef” is a watershed management systems approach that analyzes natural processes and economic pressures from a water source to the sea. International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/water/our-work/current-projects/ridge-reef>

²⁴ “Secretary Pompeo Travels to the Dominican Republic to Reaffirm Strong Ties and Shared Democratic Values.” <https://www.state.gov/secretary-pompeo-travels-to-the-dominican-republic-to-reaffirm-strong-ties-and-shared-democratic-values/>

official impunity, all key themes highlighted in his inaugural speech.²⁵ The coincidence of this change with the initiation of a new CDCS provides an opportunity to secure increased commitment and collaboration toward mutual objectives. President Abinader has already stated his intention to undertake “unprecedented agreements and alliances with the U.S.,” as well as increased collaboration on counter-trafficking in narcotics and international crime.²⁶

Progress in the Dominican Republic depends heavily on the new GODR administration following through on their mandate for increased transparency and accountability. However, the GODR is not a monolithic, unified entity, but rather, a heavily decentralized, nationally administered collection of sectoral and geographically-defined entities. GODR commitment and capacity similarly must be assessed both by sector and administrative level, and this strategy is thus designed to work across government levels, from national to local, in the Mission's relevant sectors. The Mission's strategic approach to GODR engagement focuses on building capacities for local engagement, evidence-based decisions, and effective policy implementation while promoting demand for commitment at both local and national levels.

At the local level, GODR follow-through means the productive integration of local GODR entities as stakeholders in systems analyses and local listening exercises, support for locally led initiatives, and moreover, actions that help promote local issues at the national level. At the national level, activities will have a greater focus on bolstering capacity to undertake evidence-based decisions with transparency and accountability and effective policy implementation and enforcement. At the same time, work with civil society will seek to maintain oversight and promote active commitment to reform, continuing demand-side pressure.

In the first two months of the new GODR administration, significant cost-cutting measures aimed at eliminating redundancies and clientelism in government lent credibility to stated intentions to confront corruption. Ministerial-level courtesy calls and preliminary engagements with technical teams specified alignment with the National Development Strategy (NDS) and suggested consistency with key elements of USAID's strategic approach. Previously hypothesized risks of the new administration's objectives not aligning with those of the U.S. appeared substantially diminished. Analysis of GODR proposed budget expenditures²⁷ for 2021 suggest continued support for USAID's key sectors of education, health, and community services, significant growth in energy, and some reductions in environmental protection and citizen security. Projected expenditures also show large reductions in administrative and operating costs across government offices, and these known fiscal savings provide an opportunity to help the GODR direct funding toward development investments.

²⁵ “No habrá impunidad para la corrupción del pasado.” Listin Diario. August 16, 2020. <https://listindiario.com/la-republica/2020/08/16/631001/abinader-no-habra-impunidad-para-la-corrupcion-del-pasado>

²⁶ “Luis Abinader define su política con Estados Unidos como “muy especial.” Diario Libre. July 30, 2020. <https://www.diariolibre.com/actualidad/politica/luis-abinader-define-su-politica-con-estados-unidos-como-muy-especial-NA20462681>

²⁷ Gobierno de la Republica Dominicana. Presupuesto. <https://www.digepres.gob.do/presupuesto/gobierno-general-nacional/>

F. Counter-Trafficking in Persons (C-TIP)

In the June 2020 TIP Report,²⁸ the Dominican Republic was downgraded from Tier 2 to Tier 2 Watchlist. After moving back to Tier 2 in 2021 and 2022, the country was again placed on the Tier 2 Watchlist in 2023. The Dominican Republic is a major source, transit, and destination country for TIP, as well as a destination for touristic sex exploitation of minors. Instability in Haiti and Venezuela has resulted in a corresponding increase in human trafficking of victims into the Dominican Republic. While the Dominican Republic has shown improvement in the legal framework surrounding TIP, implementation has been uneven, and there are ongoing allegations of official complicity and impunity in human trafficking, lack of adequate victim services, and insufficient tracking of TIP indicators.

As one axis of the USG's C-TIP effort, USAID focuses on the prosecution, protection, and prevention dimensions, particularly as related to GBV issues. C-TIP work crosses the Mission's portfolio. Building on the recommendations of TIP reports, USAID will continue to work on building capacity among judicial professionals to ensure a victim-centered approach to C-TIP and strengthen prosecution and sentencing to combat impunity. These elements of judicial capacity dovetail with support for increased GODR commitment to adequate financing for accelerated, locally owned C-TIP measures. Prevention efforts emphasize capacity building to disrupt recruitment channels for TIP related to sexual and labor exploitation, with particular emphasis on identifying Venezuelan and Haitian TIP victims and TIP related to forced and early child marriage. USAID programs also emphasize GODR coordination and budgeting to ensure the establishment of adequate victim protection mechanisms. Broader USG-assisted C-TIP efforts in the Dominican Republic are administered by the Department of State and focus on identifying trafficking victims, building National Police capacity to conduct TIP investigations, developing a new TIP law, and increasing the criminal justice system response to TIP.

G. Engaging the Private Sector

USAID/Dominican Republic will focus on seeking more sustainable and enterprise-driven outcomes through the planning and programming of strong private sector engagement. With a resource base that vastly outnumbers donor funding, the private sector has enormous potential to facilitate significant and meaningful change related to key development goals; and strategic alliances with private sector partners can leverage USAID's investments to create lasting sustainability. Further, private sector leaders are increasingly aware that a country's socio-economic development improves productivity, expands markets, and bolsters profitability, creating a unique opportunity for partnership on mutually beneficial projects.

As the largest economy in the Caribbean region with economic growth rates among the strongest in the entire LAC region, the Dominican Republic's dynamic private sector has propelled the country to middle income status. While the economy is dominated by large conglomerates in service sector industries (telecommunications, financial services, transportation and shipping, real estate, and construction), a growing manufacturing base benefits from the expansion of free trade zones, attracting significant foreign investment and the presence of several multinational companies.

USAID/Dominican Republic will seek mutually beneficial partnerships with respected private sector organizations with a strong presence and leadership in their respective markets, whether it may be local, non-local, or U.S. based. The Mission will seek partnerships with entities that commit to co-

²⁸ <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-TIP-Report-Complete-062420-FINAL.pdf>

creation activities that support their bottom-line objectives, advance achievement of USAID's results, and promote sustainable solutions.

H. The Role of Media and Civil Society

As suggested by the Country Roadmap, civil society and media in the Dominican Republic are very dynamic, but their efforts are predominantly reactive, centralized to the economic and political capitals, and focused on after-the-fact response and mobilization of citizen groups. The effectiveness of civil society and media is thus limited, particularly because of the lack of reliable and timely data to support proactive, evidence-based advocacy. This lessens civic engagement and debilitates the capacity of civil society and media to serve in oversight and advisory roles to the GODR in identifying development challenges, demanding accountability, and developing and implementing solutions. Through the CDCS, USAID will support the GODR in the development and expansion of nationwide and representative data collection, analysis, and sharing. In conjunction, USAID will boost the capacity of media and key civil society organizations to seek information and proactively mobilize and educate citizens to advocate for needed changes and instill expectations of transparency and accountability from the onset of projects. A fortified civil society will thus be an effective partner in the Dominican Republic, supporting the much-needed demand side that strengthens Commitment from local to national levels and complements and leverages USAID's efforts to build GODR capacity.

I. Interagency, GODR, and Donor Coordination

This strategy is designed to align with and support U.S. Government priorities outlined in the National Security Strategy, the Joint Strategic Plan, the Joint Regional Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Dominican Republic Integrated Country Strategy. USAID collaborates regularly with other USG interagency stakeholders to leverage complementary resources and capabilities that help advance common interests and larger USG initiatives. These include the Department of State (including International Narcotics and Law Enforcement), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Defense, the Peace Corps, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Commerce (including Foreign Commercial Service and Commercial Law Development Program), Inter-American Foundation, and the International Development Finance Corporation. Each of these organizations have objectives that overlap with aspects of USAID's work, and the Mission actively seeks opportunities to consult, collaborate, and share information. Given USAID's unique diplomatic presence and on-the-ground networks, technical teams lead and actively participate in various interagency working groups.

USAID seeks to elevate the GODR, specifically the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development (MEPyD), as the hub for carrying out the NDS and donor coordination. This creates an avenue for introducing evidence-based decision making tied to the Mission's efforts. Initial conversations with the new MEPyD leadership indicate that this approach coincides with the GODR's intentions and signal a desire to work with USAID to strengthen MEPyD's position. USAID's technical expertise, nationwide presence, and convening power will be essential to expanding donor coordination and shifting development leadership in the Dominican Republic.

In the short term, USAID will lead donor coordination efforts with MEPyD to build on momentum from donor consultations organized as part of the 2019 Mid-course Stocktaking and in preparation for this

CDCS. These well-attended meetings included general donor consultation, as well as discussions focused specifically on Dominican Republic-Haiti border region issues.

USAID will continue to engage in longer-term technical assistance and collaboration with MEPyD to develop their capacity to coordinate and lead the development effort in the Dominican Republic. This work will include improving capacity in data analytics and evidence-based decision making, assistance in strategic planning to help optimize the use of public resources, and the development of sector-specific implementation plans following strategies.

IV. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The goal of the Dominican Republic 2020-2025 Country Development Cooperative Strategy (CDCS) is to promote a more secure and inclusively prosperous Dominican Republic that advances local and transboundary resilience.

USAID will support secure and inclusive prosperity in the Dominican Republic by promoting reforms that lead to citizen-responsive governance, strengthen capacities to improve service delivery systems, and enhance community networks and resources to improve resilience and wellbeing. Across the strategy, activities seek to promote gender equality, inclusive development, positive youth development, and emphasize locally led development and increasing domestic resources for development via active and innovative engagement with non-traditional private sector partners. Identifying results and learning from implementation, as well as identifying areas for collaboration and integration underscore all of the Mission's activities to ensure resources are effectively utilized.

The CDCS is rooted in the findings of the Dominican Republic Country Roadmap. Declining measures of liberal democracy and worsening social group inequality hinder governance systems and reduce education quality, perpetuating the cycle of poverty, inequality, and crime and violence. At the same time, the Roadmap minimizes some of the Dominican Republic's greatest challenges. Strong policy frameworks are not typically followed by robust enforcement such that, for example, pollution and habitat loss continue, even in protected areas. Official statistics also largely exclude migrants and vulnerable populations, resulting in safety and security measures that underestimate the extent of crime and violence and child health indicators that overestimate water and sanitation access in the Dominican Republic. Perhaps most significantly, measured poverty and per capita GDP do not reflect the deep economic inequality that permeates nearly every aspect of life in the Dominican Republic. The CDCS thus focuses on effective policy implementation beyond policy development, quality service provision to underserved areas and populations, and improved opportunities for broad-based and resilient economic growth.

A. DO1: CITIZEN-RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE STRENGTHENED

Development Hypothesis

IF institutions can effectively implement governance, citizen security and human rights policies AND effectively support climate adaptation and resilience AND health and HIV frameworks meet global standards, THEN the Dominican Republic will have improved citizen-responsive governance.

Development Hypothesis Narrative

Despite robust economic growth that has propelled the Dominican Republic into the middle-income category, some governance systems retain aspects of less developed economies. Deeply entrenched socio-economic inequalities translate to vast differences in political influence, poor transparency, and minimal accountability such that vulnerable groups and more remote border areas of the country are largely left behind. Relatively low investment in government capacity and often inconsistent lines of authority or responsibility have limited evidence-based decision making, planning for the implementation of policies, and performance monitoring of government service provision.

DO1 seeks to improve citizen-responsive governance in the Dominican Republic by promoting policy reform and strengthening capacity for evidence-based decision making and performance monitoring across the youth, education, security, climate adaptation and resilience, and health and HIV sectors. Such improvements will contribute to governance structures that effectively and inclusively implement and enforce policy. Seeking to build demand for increased Commitment, DO1 addresses Capacity dimensions of the Country Roadmap where local evidence and disaggregated data suggest that indicators for the Dominican Republic may be overstated: Government Effectiveness (0.45), Tax System Effectiveness (0.36), Civil Society & Media Effectiveness (0.90) and Biodiversity and Habitat Protection (0.86).

Private Sector Engagement

Activities in DO1 engage the private sector to advocate for increased GODR capacity for evidence-based decision making and procurement reform that promotes transparency in public funding, as well as efforts to effectively prevent, detect and mitigate corrupt practices. Private sector support is also a key factor in identifying sustainable financing mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and strengthening the management of the health supply chain.

Resource Mobilization and Management

Collaboration with the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development (MEPyD) seeks to improve domestic resource mobilization (DRM) by augmenting capacity for data collection, analysis, and use in resource planning. The establishment of a payment for ecosystem services (PES) model in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) will also create a tried-and-tested and sustainable avenue for the GODR to dedicate domestic resources toward environmental and watershed management. Work in DO1 will also include efforts to strengthen public procurement systems so that public funds are effectively used to provide essential goods and services. This includes work to effectively and transparently implement the newly passed public-private partnership law in accordance with international best practices. Efforts in DO1 will also improve resource management capacity and Public Financial Management (PFM), and transparency and efficiency in public budgeting and improved tax system effectiveness and Fiscal Transparency and Accountability (FTA).

Localization

In DO1, USAID will continue its well-established partnership with local organizations in support of responsive governance and electoral processes.

IR1.1: Governance, citizen security and human rights policy implementation improved

Despite robust economic growth that has propelled the Dominican Republic into the middle-income category, limited investment in government capacity and unclear lines of responsibility have inhibited

evidence-based decision making, policy implementation, and government performance monitoring. The resulting governance system only partially responds to the needs of the population. IR1.1 focuses on inclusive and effective policy implementation and enforcement in human rights and citizen security, including anti-corruption. Programming under this IR will strengthen the GODR's capacity to plan, implement, monitor, and use sound data to make evidence-based decisions, while strengthening the capacity of civil society and media to serve as advocates for the human rights and citizen security needs of Dominicans.

The Dominican Republic ranks number one in the perception of insecurity in the LAC region. According to the 2019 Americas Barometer survey in the Dominican Republic, 60 percent of respondents report feeling insecure due to crime, with juvenile delinquency highlighted as one of the most important problems facing the country. USAID will support the GODR to implement essential policies that strengthen citizen security, clarify civil and penal codes, and enhance protections against gender-based violence (GBV) and trafficking in persons (TIP). USAID will work to build capacity in key GODR ministries to conduct research, data collection, and analysis to employ evidence-based approaches to citizen security and human rights via partnerships with local and U.S. universities. USAID will seek to update procurement laws to foster a stronger anti-corruption framework and will pursue greater enforcement of public-private partnership (PPP) provisions.

Inclusive, effective, and citizen-responsive governance in the Dominican Republic carries a strong human rights component. USAID will work to support the implementation of governance frameworks that account for the rights of Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent, ensure equality under the law for LGBTQI+ persons, and promote opportunity for youth while combating child labor. This work includes capacity building for non-discriminatory treatment and strengthening legal frameworks for education to overcome barriers that detract from equitable access to quality education.

IR1.2: Institutional capacity to support climate adaptation and resilience strengthened

Weaknesses in accountability have inhibited progress toward frameworks that promote climate adaptation and resilience in the Dominican Republic. Despite a solid cadre of laws and policies, the GODR has historically lacked commitment in terms of environmental enforcement and implementation. As an example, Country Roadmap indicators score the Dominican Republic high on Biodiversity and Habitat Protections based on the number of laws and official protected areas. However, natural resources in the Dominican Republic remain highly vulnerable, and consistent demand pressure for charcoal, tourism, agriculture, construction, urban expansion, and extractive minerals has led to biodiversity loss and climate degradation. Under IR1.2, USAID/Dominican Republic will thus strengthen accountable interconnected institutions by partnering with GODR and local actors to elevate climate adaptation and resilience.

Interconnected institutions working together will be better equipped to inform GODR policy and program decisions, promote credible enforcement, and advance new legislation. Work in IR1.2 will strengthen the capacity of the GODR to track, coordinate, and mobilize domestic and international resources to plan and manage natural resources. Across the country and the Dominican Republic-Haiti border region, USAID will work to link institutions, local actors, and underutilized partners to national government entities, strengthening communication and working channels for efficient and tailored development interventions that create incentives for private sector investments and respond to the greatest development needs. An MOU signed with USAID/Haiti also recognizes that some issues cross natural and political boundaries and that private sector entities, CSOs, and local governments may have

presence or influence in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Transboundary efforts have already begun to include relevant actors in both countries via binational summits and co-identification and co-creation events. Further, through this IR, USAID will increase the provision of timely and useful information and guidance to civil society and local organizations to access both public and private domestic resources to address local development challenges.

Activities under IR1.2 engage collaborative action with local and national governments, civil society, private sector, and other local actors to promote transparency and hold accountable Dominican institutions. Potential activities aimed at improving resource management include capacity building for transparent and competitive tender processes, technical assistance to institutions to improve and integrate planning for adaptive management provisions to strengthen enforcement and collaboration in marine managed areas (MMA). Work in IR1.2 builds on successful examples across the Caribbean to establish payment for ecosystem services and other sustainable financing mechanisms to promote natural resource management and water source protection. Linking to IR3.2, interventions will also collaborate with municipalities and other local actors to plan for and appropriately finance climate change adaptation considerations in their decision-making processes to promote community resilience. USAID will also work to foster local-level, transboundary collaboration and experience-sharing related to participatory governance of coastal marine resources including protected and managed areas in the Haiti-Dominican Republic northern Hispaniola border.

IR1.3: Global standards for health and HIV governance advanced

IR1.3 focuses on elevating health and HIV governance to meet established global standards aimed at reducing new HIV infections, facilitating early access to lifesaving antiretroviral treatment (ART), and achieving viral load suppression and epidemic control. While the GODR has demonstrated significant financial commitment to combating HIV in support of PEPFAR objectives, fully providing all test kits and antiretroviral (ARV) medications since 2015, key changes and updates to the health policy environment are needed to generate renewed progress toward epidemic control. Work in IR1.3 includes improved alignment of HIV and infectious disease guidelines to international standards, the development and implementation of policies to strengthen national and local health systems, health supply chain improvement, and efforts to increase and mobilize domestic resources. Governance activities will also work toward reducing institutionalized stigma and discrimination that effectively blocks access to lifesaving health care for disproportionately affected key populations, focusing primarily on Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origin.

These efforts build on the GODR's demonstrated willingness, in conjunction with USAID support, to update administrative and clinical care guidelines to better reflect global best practices for rapid initiation of ARV treatment, progress toward National Health Insurance inclusion of ARVs as essential medicines, and strategic planning to prioritize index testing and self-testing. PEPFAR-driven policy reform in collaboration with GODR health authorities has been a model for advancing sustainability and effective service delivery that may lead to more general improvements in the health sector and serves as an example to be replicated in other sectors. As supply chain management for health and HIV necessarily links to private sector entities, this CDCS will also help advance health governance via private sector engagement to harmonize local and national demand with international supply chains, facilitating HIV testing and ensuring the possibility of rapid ART initiation on a national scale.

Optimal HIV supply chain management and effective health information systems are key components of a strong health sector for the Dominican Republic. Work in IR1.3 also includes technical assistance to

ensure that supply chain policies and logistics financing support sufficient and uninterrupted medical supplies and that GODR commitments appropriately support the expansion of health information and patient tracking systems.

Critical Assumptions and Risks

Assumptions

- GODR remains committed to anti-corruption and transparency.
- GODR remains committed to HIV epidemic control and health system strengthening.
- GODR and the US remain committed to climate mitigation and adaptation.

Risks

- The effects of COVID-19 continue to deepen poverty, exacerbate inequalities, worsen crime and insecurity, and incentivize diminished GODR transparency or accountability.
- External shocks (natural, financial, economic, COVID-19) adversely affect GODR capacity to advance or finance its priorities

B. DO2: EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEMS ENHANCED

Development Hypothesis

IF providers can improve the quality of youth, education, citizen security, health and HIV services AND strengthen natural resource and climate risk management systems, THEN the Dominican Republic will have more effective and inclusive service delivery systems.

Development Hypothesis Narrative

Focusing on the systems aspect of service delivery, DO2 takes an analytical approach that views development problems within the context of a local, national, and regional system to identify barriers and strategically employ USAID's comparative advantage to promote catalytic change. Responding to key Country Roadmap metrics, activities in DO2 directly address deficiencies in Social Group Inequality (0.17), a critical driver limiting access to and quality of services in the Dominican Republic. Other activities highlight relevant components of Roadmap indicators where macro-level measures mask on-the-ground realities and overstate the Dominican Republic's actual development status. In particular, DO2 activities seek to strengthen Government Effectiveness (0.45), Safety & Security (0.48), Education Quality (0.38) and Child Health (0.89).

Private Sector Engagement

Viewing the private sector as an integral part of service systems, work in DO2 offers substantial opportunities for innovative PSE. USAID expects to engage in co-created water security initiatives in vulnerable and Dominican Republic-Haiti border communities in conjunction with large private sector entities and will seek similar opportunities in citizen security, education, and health. In particular, USAID will prioritize PSE opportunities that most effectively help improve the quality and inclusiveness of service systems by integrating PSE with localization objectives. Private sector partners also serve as advocates for the implementation of stronger educational frameworks that comply with education

standards, and energy sector reform that attracts investment and bolsters energy reliability and resilience.

Resource Mobilization and Management

Work in DO2 will seek to implement a self-sustaining payment for ecosystems services (PES) initiative, similar to others already existing throughout the Caribbean, financed by the private sector and targeted municipalities and aimed at finding market-based solutions to improve environmental and natural resource management and conservation.

Localization

In DO2, USAID will continue to build upon its well-established partnership with local organizations in support of enhanced service delivery. In this CDCS, the Mission is exploring building a consortium of organizations to support capacity building of new and underutilized partners to further enhance service delivery in areas of HIV, WASH, and locally led development. Overlapping with PSE objectives, this CDCS also expands new partnerships to include national and Caribbean regional electrical and renewable energy entities focused on improved energy sector governance and promoting private sector investment in the energy sector.

IR2.1: Youth, education, and citizen security services improved

Low community trust in law enforcement and the justice sector correlates directly to high perceptions of insecurity. Further, inconsistent service delivery has hampered progress in strengthening livelihoods or improving citizen security, particularly for youth and vulnerable populations. The Dominican Republic has also lagged in many key education milestones, suggesting that the education system could be improved to better alleviate social inequalities, provide positive opportunities for youth, and strengthen citizen security.

Building on the framework of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI), IR2.1 focuses on building GODR capacity to provide quality services that contribute to citizen security and build livelihood opportunities by addressing the complex relationships between youth, education, justice, and security. USAID activities will focus on improving the effectiveness and inclusiveness of justice services to vulnerable groups and victims of TIP and family/gender-based violence (F/GBV) and improving the quality of police services. Increasing access to justice services, USAID will expand the community justice program to new targeted municipalities and increase services for youth and vulnerable populations, particularly victims of F/GBV and TIP. Moreover, USAID will expand programs to provide youth in conflict with the law alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and alternatives to incarceration, including a supervised release program and a pretrial diversion program. Complementary activities will focus on education system improvements to support workforce opportunities and democratic participation. Focusing on increasing capacities that enable GODR commitment, USAID will take multi-sectoral approaches that leverage and integrate progress from across the portfolio to build GODR capacity to provide quality services.

Quality and inclusive education boosts human capital, opens livelihood opportunities for vulnerable populations and directly impacts citizen security. However, the Dominican Republic remains among the lowest performers for education quality in the LAC region despite the Ministry of Education (MINERD) holding the largest budget of any ministry. A 2018 GODR study found that only 12 percent of third grade students are reading at grade level, teacher competencies need improvement, classrooms are still ill-

equipped, and high student-to-teacher ratios adversely affect instruction quality. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exposed further gaps and stalled improvements in student performance.

USAID activities will target systemic constraints in the education sector. Support to MINERD will help establish professional competencies for early grade teacher selection and technical assistance to build monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) capacity to allow adaptive management and informed decision-making. To improve classroom instruction, USAID will continue to strengthen high quality teacher training and capacity building and support MINERD in the inclusion of classroom technology to operationalize the curriculum, expand instructional resources available to teachers, and alleviate learning constraints imposed by COVID-19. Further, USAID will support the nationwide scale up of a successful and well-received program to improve early-grade reading through the distribution of decodable, leveled books and innovative resources. Focused on improving learning outcomes and MINERD's ability to assess and plan for educational improvements, results measurement in education includes the implementation of an internationally accepted early grade reading assessment developed in collaboration with MINERD to ensure sustainability and use in GODR decision making.

To promote sustained and locally owned outcomes, USAID will engage in strategic GODR and private sector partnerships that fortify the links from national-level policy to decentralized service delivery to communities and beneficiaries. USAID will partner with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, universities, and private law firms to directly provide services to vulnerable groups targeted by community justice projects, with emphasis in the high crime area of Santo Domingo West²⁹ and on GBV victims and will continue to identify new stakeholders to advance these efforts. For improved capacity and quality in the educational system, USAID will continue to partner with MINERD, Iniciativa Dominicana para una Educación de Calidad (IDEC), private sector, and faith-based organizations, ensuring that stakeholders understand and seek to advance performance metrics.

IR2.2: Natural resource and climate risk management systems improved

Through IR2.2, USAID will enhance effective and inclusive service delivery systems by improving natural resource and climate risk management systems, including sustainable and climate-smart agriculture practices. In the energy sector, USAID will strengthen the operations, management, and policies of energy providers through technical assistance for more robust integrated planning and management, strategic placement of energy infrastructure, and the expansion of local energy delivery networks, leading to improved quality and reliability to underserved populations and areas. USAID will also work to streamline service delivery and scale-up of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems via technical assistance to improve locally led participatory design models for local and community management of water resources, thereby improving inclusive water security to highly vulnerable areas. Additional work with municipal and community partners will develop plans for solid waste and recycling infrastructure, as well as technical assistance to combat ocean plastic pollution. Capacity building activities to municipalities and other stakeholders will focus on initiatives that improve the ability to solicit public funding and design and manage locally led initiatives to improve access and quality of basic services at the local level.

²⁹ USAID/Dominican Republic Criminal Justice System Strengthened Project. *Citizen security, crime and violence in five high-risk communities in the Dominican Republic*, 2020. Highlights Santo Domingo West as the second most crime-ridden municipality and lacking in justice sector or GBV victim services.

Private sector partners play a key role in ensuring the efficacy and long-term viability of interventions in IR2.2. Advancing the resilience and performance of the energy sector will require USAID's guidance and close collaboration between private sector providers and GODR regulatory entities to ensure adoption and scale-up of needed reforms. Water security activities will be co-created with large private sector entities and designed to integrate and build the capacity of community-based and faith-based organizations (FBO), overlapping with New Partnership Initiative (NPI) objectives. IR2.2 also includes the implementation of a payment for ecosystem services (PES) plan to advance self-sustaining, private sector-financed environmental and natural resource management objectives. WASH and water security work also provide an opportunity to engage in meaningful donor collaboration, as USAID's focus on technical assistance and community management can complement larger water infrastructure projects financed by the World Bank and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

IR2.3: Quality of Health and HIV Services Improved

Through IR2.3, USAID will improve the quality of health and HIV services in the Dominican Republic, seeking to augment care and treatment services and harmonize the implementation of national-level directives to local health care providers. USAID's approach supports strategies that adapt to the lives of the priority population (Haitian migrants and Dominicans of Haitian origin) to provide client-centered and stigma/discrimination free services that facilitate testing and antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation and adherence. Clinical activities will develop continuous quality improvement mechanisms for HIV testing, care, and treatment to accelerate progress toward HIV epidemic control. Strengthened monitoring and supervision at the clinical level will better customize the client experience to tailor services to the needs of the priority population throughout the continuum of care.

Work in IR2.3 will also support the Ministry of Health (Ministerio de Salud Pública, MSP) to harmonize supervision systems and tools across the health system in coordination with the national health service (Servicio Nacional de Salud, SNS), regional health directorates, provincial health offices, and HIV clinical site leadership. Activities will ensure compliance with national goals, guidelines, and protocols to achieve HIV epidemic control among the priority population, including human resource management and improved planning for facility, community, and mobile staffing. Building from IR1.3, USAID will also work with GODR entities and private sector suppliers in IR2.3 to improve HIV medical supply and commodity systems to ensure sufficient stocks, facilitate community dispensing of antiretroviral (ARV) medications, and promote the scale-up of multi-month dispensing (MMD).

Critical Assumptions and Risks

Assumptions

- GODR remains committed to reforms to attract private sector investment for development.
- Coordinated municipal interventions leverage impacts across sectors.
- Targeted Haitian private sector, civil society, and/or local governments commit to collaboration.
- GODR remains committed to decentralized service provision.
- Health care providers have the capacity to enact performance improvement measures.

Risks

- COVID-19 continues to worsen poverty.
- Economic, natural/climate change, or health crises damage livelihoods, infrastructure, or human capital.

- Climate change, natural, and environmental impacts or shocks (hurricanes, earthquakes, drought, flood, pests, etc.) continue to worsen and damage infrastructure and livelihoods.
- Instability in Haiti continues to prevent transboundary collaboration.

C. DO3: RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY WELLBEING IMPROVED

Development Hypothesis

IF communities increase governance and crime- and violence-reduction efforts AND broaden and strengthen adaptive natural resource management approaches AND improve equitable access to health systems for vulnerable populations, THEN the Dominican Republic will improve resilient and inclusive community wellbeing.

Development Hypothesis Narrative

DO3 takes an analytical approach to address community resilience through the social, economic, environmental, cultural, and political conditions that impact wellbeing, as determined by individuals and communities. These conditions center on governance and crime/violence reduction, adaptive natural resource management, and equitable access to health systems for vulnerable populations. Work in DO3 will focus on communities and local organizations, building capacities to undertake locally led development, increase civic participation, resolve local conflict, and advocate for needed resources to foster resilient community wellbeing. Through DO3, USAID is shifting its relationships with local and transboundary actors – individuals, communities, networks, organizations, private entities, governments – to jointly set development agendas, design solutions, build capacities and domestic resources to undertake successful initiatives, and leave a legacy of development capacity to enable lasting progress beyond USAID programming.

Private Sector Engagement

Work in DO3 aims to build rural, underserved, and border community capacity to take part in the Dominican Republic's macro-level economic growth, and this requires greater PSE at the community level. Integrated with place-based approaches to citizen security, community-level activities in education and workforce skills tie directly to the private sector as a source of jobs and local investment. PSE in DO3 also supports transboundary initiatives, as cross-border trade contributes importantly to the economies on both sides of the border. The Mission has already identified a prospective set of key private sector firms seeking to expand their investments in the Dominican Republic and along the border region and will develop those relationships as part of locally led development efforts in water and sanitation, biodiversity, and conflict mitigation and management.

Resource Mobilization and Management

Efforts in DO3 focus on increasing the capacity of local civil society to access and mobilize domestic resources, particularly in Dominican Republic-Haiti border areas and other vulnerable communities. Closely tied to localization and NPI objectives in DO3, this work seeks to undo the bias in GODR funding that has tended to ignore some of the country's most underdeveloped areas by boosting the capacity of local organizations to solicit, secure, and administer funding for locally identified development initiatives.

Localization

DO3 is the nexus of USAID's strategic focus on new and underutilized partners to strengthen locally led development. Localization and NPI efforts in DO3 will help build a consortium of local NGOs to support capacity building efforts for new and underutilized partners to compete for and manage USAID awards. Specific activities may include training and technical assistance on organizational and financial management for NGOs, robust M&E methods for NGOs, and tools to structure and manage small grants portfolios. This approach builds on more comprehensive Mission-wide efforts to integrate institutional strengthening across all awards and promotes, for example, PEPFAR's goal of directing 70 percent of global funding to local organizations.

IR3.1: Community-level governance and violence-reduction efforts enhanced

Dominican youth face tremendous challenges that do not allow them to reach their full potential. Seventy seven percent of youth between the ages of 15 and 29 have been victims of F/GBV, and youth represent the highest percentage of homicide victims in a country with high levels of violent crime. Moreover, poor educational quality and attainment leads to early school abandonment resulting in low skill levels amongst Dominican youth that limit their possibilities of accessing employment and contribute to juvenile delinquency. Crime in the Dominican Republic is largely neighborhood-based, and solutions must involve national security institutions supporting community and neighborhood efforts to reduce crime and violence. In response, IR 3.1 will foster locally led youth and community strengthening initiatives to empower local actors and strengthen civil society organizations. Activities will focus on promoting positive youth development, youth leadership, and community-level interventions to reduce the risk of crime and violence. In conjunction, other activities will expand access to formal and informal justice for vulnerable populations through community-based legal aid and victims' assistance programs.

Reflecting CBSI's strategic framework and its emphasis on integrating multifaceted crime and violence drivers in high-threat locations, USAID will employ place-based approaches for crime and violence prevention at the community level, focusing integrated efforts in high crime hotspots³⁰. Based on available crime and violence data, site selection will be jointly decided through collaborative engagement with GODR, civil society, and private sector stakeholders. In each identified place, USAID will bolster the capacity of community organizations such as Community Justice Houses and local Citizen Security Roundtables to develop data-driven and evidence-based interventions that target citizen security and gender issues. At the community level, USAID will support youth networks in areas of high crime and violence through an integrated and multi-sectoral approach that provides increased opportunities in education, employment insertion, and health for youth with risk factors caused by marginalization and disenfranchisement.

To ensure continued community-level demand for democratic progress, efforts to increase civic engagement will complement youth security initiatives and foster more resilient communities. USAID will continue to work with targeted high-crime municipalities to build civil society and independent media capacity to demand regular coordination spaces and to allow vulnerable populations, including youth at risk, to interact with local governance systems on addressing issues of crime and violence. Within the school setting, USAID will also build networks and collaborative capacities for community and

³⁰ Eck, John E. & Rob T. Guerette. 2012. "Place-Based Crime Prevention: Theory, Evidence, and Policy." In Brandon C. Welsh & David P. Farrington, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Crime Prevention*. pp 354-383. New York: Oxford University Press. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/288349490_Place-Based_Crime_Prevention_Theory_Evidence_and_Policy

parent organizations, local governments, and civil society and faith-based organizations to strengthen support services for vulnerable youth and serve as information and referral hubs for families in need of additional services. USAID will also foster private sector partnerships to mobilize resources to improve school facilities, ensure work-relevant curricula, and facilitate school-to-work pathways for youth.

To ensure effective and inclusive strategy and program implementation, USAID will engage in partnerships with local government, civil society, and private sector stakeholders. Building on existing agreements with large-scale private sector manufacturing entities, USAID will promote positive youth development in vulnerable communities, bringing resources and capabilities to integrate crime and violence, education, and workforce development efforts.

IR3.2: Community capacity for inclusive, adaptive natural resource management improved

Management and use of natural resources occur within the context of social, economic, and political influences and are most effectively addressed when local priorities and development solutions are integrated via active networks that harmonize the linkages between centralized government policies and local implementation plans. Robust connections between communities, private sector, civil society, local, and national governments help ensure that interventions generate internal sustainability for needed results. However, at the local level, pathways and capacities for productive engagement and collaboration around natural resource management are limited in the Dominican Republic. Vulnerable populations and communities sharing natural resources are often disconnected, without access to decision-making systems or networks, and without the means to independently solve locally identified issues. IR3.2 thus seeks to build community capacity for inclusive, adaptive natural resource management that promotes resilient and inclusive community wellbeing in the Dominican Republic and the border regions.

IR3.2 expands the systems thinking approach to foster locally led, locally owned, sustainable development outcomes. Work in IR3.2 will link local systems to strengthen the capacity to identify community development challenges and collaboratively craft and implement solutions in key sectors. To establish a foundation of local, relevant data for decision-making, USAID will engage local organizations and associations as grantees to conduct the formative research necessary to develop and implement social behavior change strategies that raise awareness and include all segments of the community — including women and youth — in participatory, two-way communication. For marine protected areas, this will bring together local and transboundary stakeholders to support local participation and adaptive management in the northern Dominican Republic-Haiti region. Similarly, WASH activities will build the capacity of local stakeholders - communities, government actors, and the private sector - to take collective action in the sustainable management of critical water resources and sanitation systems. Building on strengthened policy environments (IR1.2) and service systems (IR2.2), USAID will also help bolster the resilience of local livelihoods and farmers to withstand extreme weather events like droughts, heat waves, and floods that damage crops and reduce food security. IR3.2 will further support the establishment of renewable energy generation that will provide increased access to clean energy to vulnerable communities and promote the sustainable use of natural resources.

Work in IR3.2 will foster new partnerships between local transboundary organizations from the Dominican Republic and Haiti to address conflict drivers and conflict mitigation and management (CMM) challenges that have constrained collaboration in the Dominican Republic-Haiti border region and stalled people-to-people reconciliation. These efforts will build on shared community assets in both

Dominican and Haitian communities to improve livelihoods, generate forums for dialogue and conflict resolution, and facilitate locally led development solutions.

IR3.3: Equitable access to health systems for vulnerable populations improved

USAID/Dominican Republic's Health work, through the PEPFAR program, has been at the forefront of empowering local actors, vulnerable populations, and communities. Under IR 3.3, activities will support the development of community-led health management and monitoring in collaboration with civil society and host country governments. The ongoing challenge of antiretroviral initiation and retention on treatment to achieve HIV epidemic control - particularly among the priority population - requires a suite of interventions aimed at providing clinical, psychosocial, and broad-based family services in culturally and linguistically responsive settings. Complementary activities will enhance the capacities of civil society and community serving organizations to advocate for and facilitate inclusive and high-quality community health services. Community-led monitoring (CLM) will be an integral part of USAID activities to improve health outcomes, initiated, led, and implemented by independent, local community organizations, including community-based, faith-based and civil society organizations, as well as networks for key populations (KP) and People living with HIV (PLHIV). Designed to be action-oriented, CLM is expected to help diagnose and pinpoint persistent challenges and barriers related to HIV service uptake and retention at the community and facility level and link directly to follow-up processes and corrective actions to improve service delivery for PLHIV.

Leveraging New Partnership Initiative (NPI) resources and supporting the local partner transition detailed in the PEPFAR strategy,³¹ activities in IR3.3 will also provide technical assistance to current sub-grantees to effectively manage USG funds and will seek expanded opportunities to include additional local, community, and faith-based organizations as partners. Expanded work as part of the NPI will facilitate direct engagement with new and diverse local partners that can flexibly customize interventions to the changing needs of priority and key populations. Further, IR3.3 advances cross-border and domestic collaboration given the mobile nature of the population and need for strengthened referrals. USAID will explicitly link to PEPFAR/Haiti to improve and advance local and community-level HIV objectives in both countries.

Critical Assumptions and Risks

Assumptions

- Community-based approaches leverage resources and improve programmatic effectiveness.
- Civil society remains active in target communities and has the resources to address local needs.
- Human resources are available to provide culturally appropriate health care, psycho-social, and support services to focus populations in target communities.
- GODR strengthens local actors to coordinate local development resources and direct donor interventions.

Risks

- Economic or food security impacts of COVID-19 in vulnerable communities continue to overtake other development priorities.
- Local and transboundary actors are unable to collaborate productively.

³¹ PEPFAR/Dominican Republic Country Operational Plan 2020. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/COP-2020-Dominican-Republic-with-Appendix-C.pdf>

- Supply chain challenges negatively affect the ability to provide quality health services at the community level.
- Inflation continues to worsen the economic situation for Dominicans.

V. SUPPORTING CONTENT

A. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

As part of the implementation plan for this CDCS, USAID/Dominican Republic has developed monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) approaches to track, analyze, evaluate progress, and promote evidence-based decisions for adaptive management. Good MEL practice involves effective knowledge management and engaging GODR counterparts, civil society, and private sector stakeholders in MEL planning and MEL activities, including data sharing and use of evidence for decision making, to promote dialogue, deepen the culture of evidence-based decisions, and support progress. USAID/Dominican Republic's MEL approach also includes targeted, actionable learning questions that will support implementation of each DO.

The USAID/DR MEL Mission Order and updated Performance Management Plan (PMP) articulates monitoring approaches, evaluation plans, and collaborating, learning, and adapting (CLA) approaches that have been refined based on the first two and a half years of implementation of the CDCS. The PMP focuses on providing evidence to document program results and guide decisions about programmatic use of learning through evaluations.

Performance monitoring lays the foundation of the Mission's MEL approach. Activity MEL plans ensure that partners collect robust, consistent, and timely data that allows for effective adaptive management and promotes progress toward specific objectives. Given the CDCS emphasis on vulnerable populations - children and youth, women, Haitian-descent populations, PLHIV, and LGBTQI+ -- implementing partners will also be required, as feasible, to account for relevant disaggregating (at minimum, age and sex) that allow targeted approaches and meaningful analysis. Where activities operate at the institutional, organizational, or policy level, monitoring will ensure the establishment of appropriate process metrics and consistent measures to assess changes in capacities and progress toward increased commitment. Active performance monitoring will entail regular field visits conducted by both technical and support staff, ongoing consultations with implementing partners, and clearly elaborated performance indicator reference sheets (PIRS) to ensure the validity of performance data.

Evaluations serve to validate the Mission's development hypotheses, measure the impact of contextual factors on activity implementation, and identify adaptive management possibilities that routine monitoring could overlook. Evaluations will be planned with as much lead time as possible, establishing potential evaluative questions as part of project or activity design and ensuring the collection of relevant baseline data. Performance evaluations and impact evaluations (when feasible) will employ mixed methods of data collection. These may include desk analyses of published studies and third-party data, stakeholder or beneficiary surveys, key informant interviews and consultations with civil society, implementing partners, sector-working groups, and local and national government. The Mission will articulate an evaluation plan as part of the PMP and periodic updates to the Agency's Evaluation Registry. The Mission will coordinate and collaborate with LAC Bureau colleagues and M&E Specialists to

refine the research agenda and ensure that evaluation results both address USAID performance and give insight into opportunities for improvement.

CLA will be integrated and prioritized across technical teams to incorporate learning across multiple dimensions of the RF. CLA activities will ensure Mission-wide collaboration to identify information gaps, clarify learning questions, and implement adaptive measures as needed to help target and refine interventions. To highlight the unique dimensions of the RF, the complete CLA plan will be guided by the refined set of learning questions, developed as part of the PMP process, that reinforce the Agency Learning Agenda. Beyond a series of disconnected learning pieces, the CLA plan will seek to better understand the thematic elements of the DOs, as well as the impacts of sector-specific activities. The Learning Questions, along with details of the MEL approach, are captured in the Performance Management Plan, which should be reviewed and updated annually.

B. Religious Freedom and Faith-Based Organizations

Data from the Pew Research Center³² shows that 88 percent of the Dominican population identifies as Christian (including Catholic), 11 percent are unaffiliated, and all other religions make up approximately 1 percent of the population. Further, the GODR imposes almost no restrictions on religious freedom, and religion is a large component of social life in the Dominican Republic. As such, there exist a large number of community-level faith-based organizations (FBO) in the Dominican Republic, and this CDCS recognizes the untapped potential of locally led development in part through these organizations. Although the Mission has undertaken successful partnerships with larger U.S.-based FBOs (World Vision, Christian Aid, etc.), the experience of co-creation, awards, or sub-awards with local, smaller FBOs has been much more limited. Particularly in DO3 as part of the Local Works activity and CLM activities in Health, activities building community resilience and wellbeing will seek to involve community organizations and FBOs as stakeholders to help fortify citizen security initiatives, promote behavior change and conflict management and mitigation, and strengthen community health and HIV outcomes. However, successful engagement of local community organizations and FBOs may require significant capacity building efforts to bolster their administrative and managerial capacities and project sustainability.

³² Pew Research Center. Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures Project.

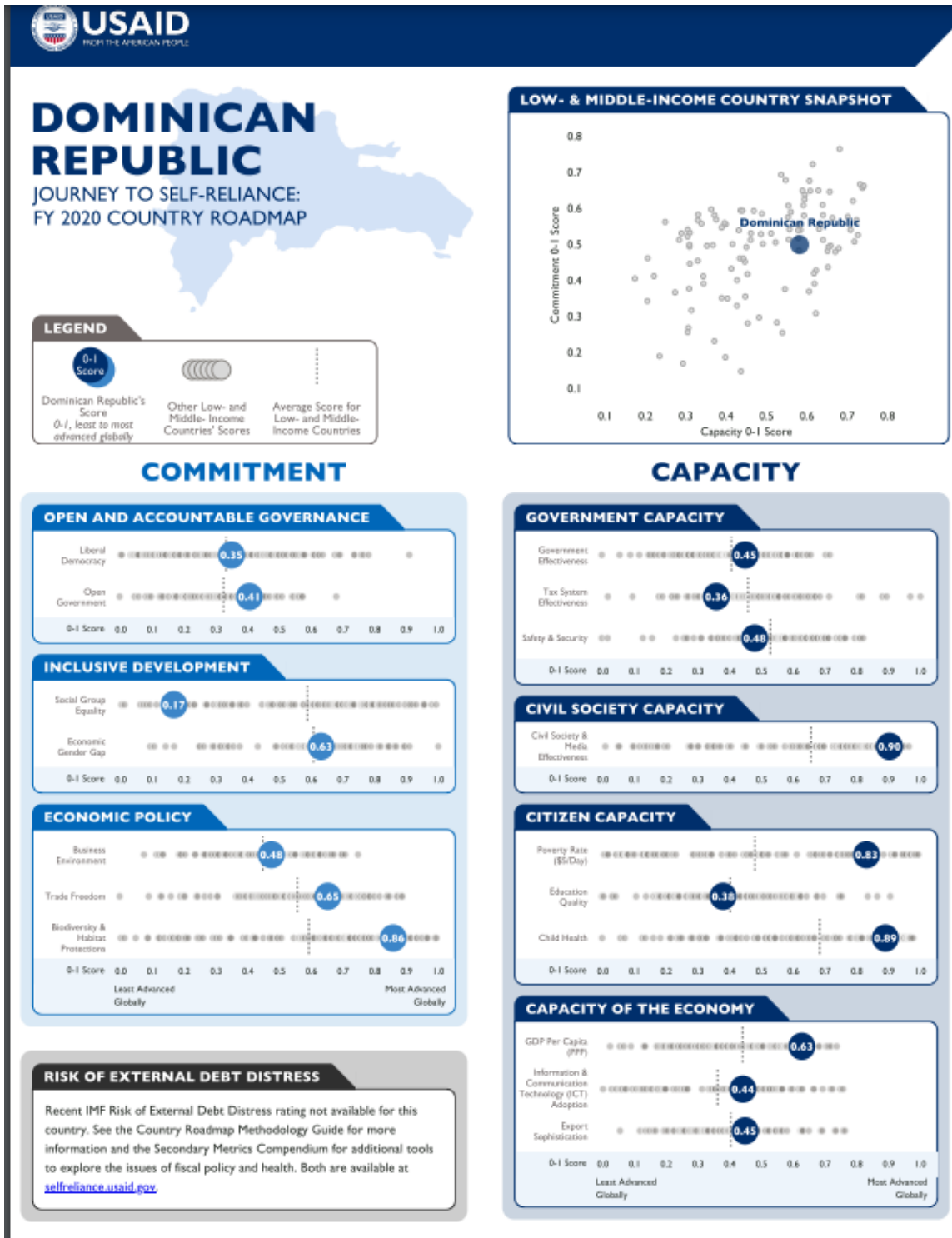
<http://www.globalreligiousfutures.org/countries/dominican-republic>

Required Annexes

- A. [Annex A: Country Roadmaps](#)
- B. [Annex B: Climate Annex](#)

Annex A: Country Road Maps (2020 and 2023)

2020 Country Roadmap





SELF-RELIANCE ROADMAPS

INDICATOR DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES

COMMITMENT

OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

Liberal Democracy: Measures freedom of expression, freedom of association, suffrage, elections, rule of law, judicial constraints on the executive branch, and legislative constraints on the executive branch. Source: *Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)*.

Open Government: Measures the degree to which a government shares information, empowers people with tools to hold the government accountable, and fosters citizen participation in public policy deliberations. Sub-factors include: publicized laws and government data, right to information, civic participation, and complaint mechanisms. Source: *World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index*.

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Social Group Equality: Measures political equality with respect to civil liberties protections across social groups as defined by ethnicity, religion, caste, race, language, and region. Source: *Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem), Social Group Equality in Respect for Civil Liberties*.

Economic Gender Gap: Index comprising five components: (1) wage equality between women and men for similar work; (2) the ratio of female estimated earned income to male income; (3) the ratio of female labor force participation to male participation; (4) the ratio of female legislators, senior officials, and managers to male counterparts; and (5) the ratio of female professional and technical workers to male counterparts. Source: *World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report, Economic Participation and Opportunity Sub-Index*.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Business Environment: Assesses a country's entrepreneurial climate by measuring business' access to infrastructure (such as the internet and transport, and to credit), business flexibility (the costs of starting business and of hiring and firing), clear and fair regulations (e.g., intellectual property rights), and perceptions of meritocracy and opportunity. Source: *Legatum Institute, Prosperity Index*.

Trade Freedom: Measures a country's openness to international trade based on average tariff rates and non-tariff barriers to trade. Source: *Heritage Foundation, Index of Economic Freedom*.

Biodiversity & Habitat Protections: Measures extent of marine protected areas, terrestrial biome protection (weighted for both national and global scarcity), representativeness of protected areas, and whether protected areas cover the ranges and habitats of critical species. Source: *Yale University/Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)*.

RISK OF EXTERNAL DEBT DISTRESS

Rates a country's risk of public sector debt distress on a four-tier scale: "low risk", "moderate risk", "high risk", and "in debt distress". Ratings are based on countries' debt and market structures, fiscal and macroeconomic outlook, and institutional capacity to manage debt burden. Ratings help guide the borrowing decisions of lower-income countries to meet development needs while reducing the chances of excessive debt build-up. Ratings are shown for 54 lower-income countries for which the IMF prepares risk ratings and are not scored components of Commitment or Capacity. Source: *International Monetary Fund, Debt Sustainability Analysis for Low-Income Countries*.

CAPACITY

All source data are for the latest year available, typically 2018 or 2017, and are derived from third-party institutions. All indicators are weighted equally in the calculation of the overall Commitment and Capacity scores. Names and boundary representation in the map are not necessarily authoritative.

For more information on definitions and sources, please visit selfreliance.usaid.gov.

GOVERNMENT CAPACITY

Government Effectiveness: Measures the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and its independence from political pressure, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to its stated policies. Source: *World Bank, Worldwide Governance Indicators*.

Tax System Effectiveness: Estimated ratio between a country's tax collection and the expected level of tax revenue that a country could achieve, given its macroeconomic, demographic, and institutional features. Source: *USAID, Collecting Taxes Database, Tax Effort Indicator*.

Safety & Security: A combination of objective measures of security, and subjective measures of personal safety, personal freedom, and social tolerance. Source: *Legatum Institute, Prosperity Index*.

CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY

Civil Society & Media Effectiveness: Measures the range of actions and mechanisms that citizens, civil society organizations, and an independent media can use to hold a government accountable. The mechanisms include using informal tools such as social mobilization and investigative journalism. Source: *Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem), Diagonal Accountability Index*.

CITIZEN CAPACITY

Poverty Rate (\$5/Day): Measures the percent of the population living under \$5/day in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. Source: *World Bank, PovCallNet*.

Education Quality: Gauges both the quality of education—using harmonized scores across major international student achievement testing—and the quantity of schooling received—using age-specific enrollment rates—to evaluate the relative performance of educational systems worldwide. Source: *World Bank, Human Capital Index, Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling Indicator*.

Child Health: A composite measure that aggregates child mortality, access to at least basic water sources, and access to at least basic sanitation facilities. Source: *Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)*.

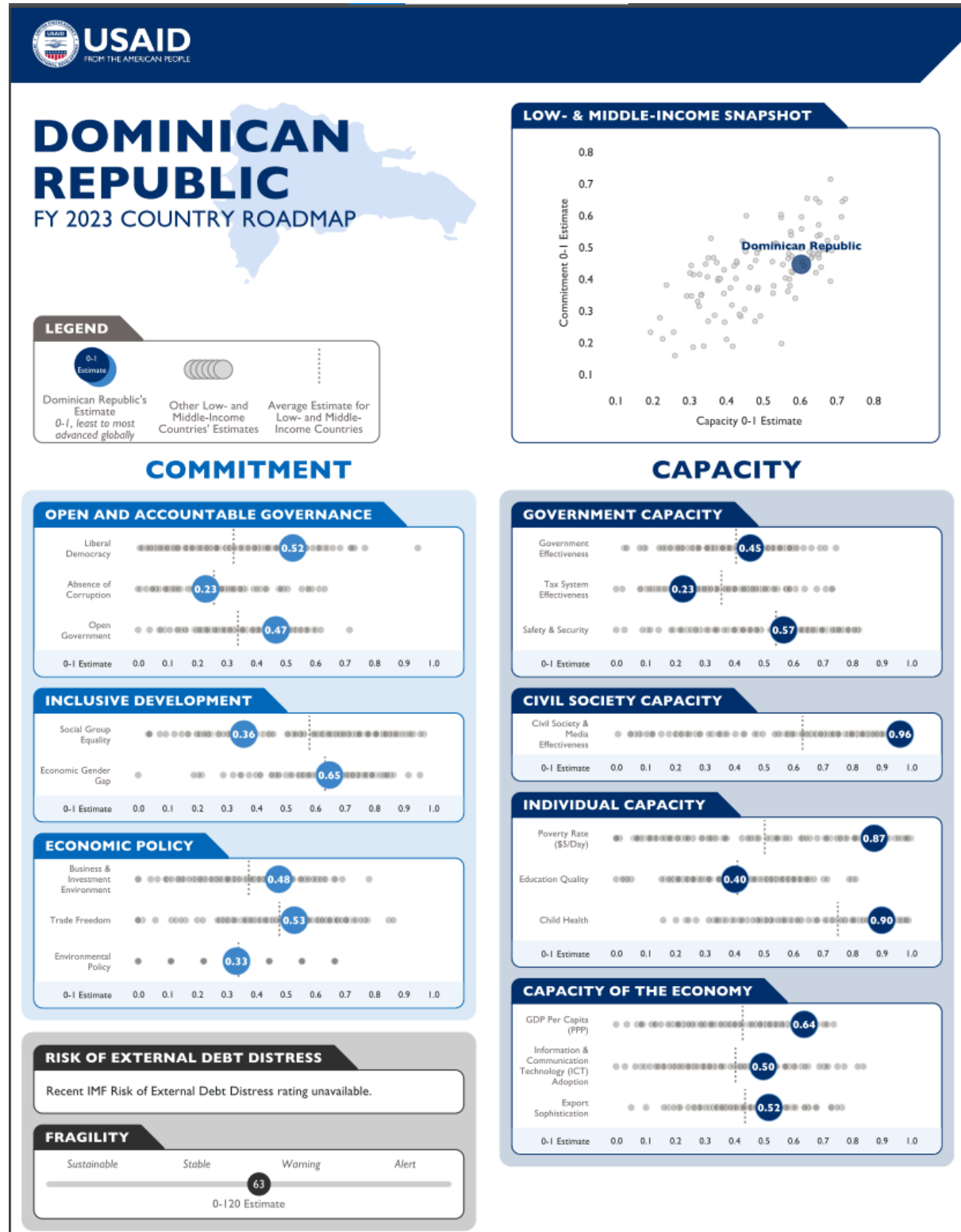
CAPACITY OF THE ECONOMY

GDP Per Capita (PPP): Measures the flow of resources available to households, firms, and government to finance development as the country's total Gross Domestic Product (PPP) divided by the country's population. Source: *World Bank, World Development Indicators*.

Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Adoption: Index comprising: (1) mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions; (2) mobile-broadband subscriptions; (3) fixed-broadband internet subscriptions; (4) fiber internet subscriptions; and (5) internet users. Source: *World Economic Forum (WEF), Global Competitiveness Index*.

Export Sophistication: Measures the diversity and ubiquity of a country's exported goods, key markers that can help gauge economic sophistication and resilience. Source: *Center for International Development at Harvard University, Economic Complexity Index*.

2023 Country Roadmap





DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

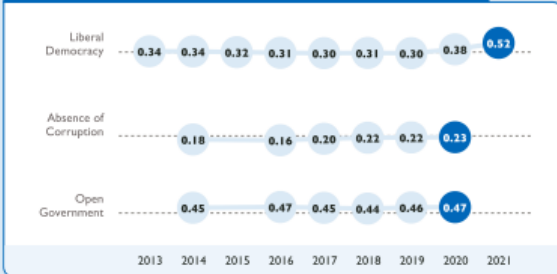
FY 2023 COUNTRY TRENDS

LEGEND

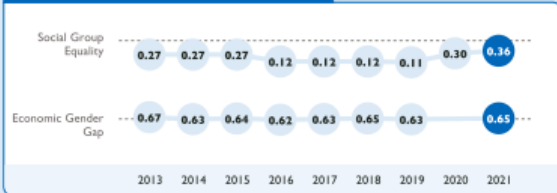
Dominican Republic's Most Recent Estimate 0-1, least to most advanced globally
 Dominican Republic's Prior Year Estimates 0-1, least to most advanced globally
 Average Estimate for Low- and Middle-Income Countries

COMMITMENT

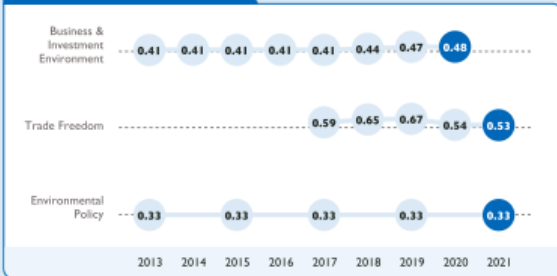
OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE



INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT



ECONOMIC POLICY

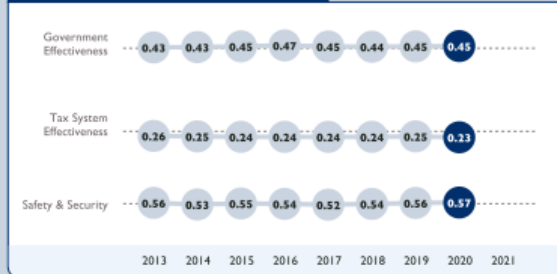


METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

FY 2023 Country Roadmap results (darker shaded points) and prior year results (lighter shaded points) are normalized in the same manner to ensure comparability. In some instances, USAID has taken several additional measures to maximize comparability of results across time, including adjusting source reporting year to actual year of measurement and removing historical data that are no longer comparable due to methodological revisions. For more detail, please see the [USAID Country Roadmap Methodology Guide](#).

CAPACITY

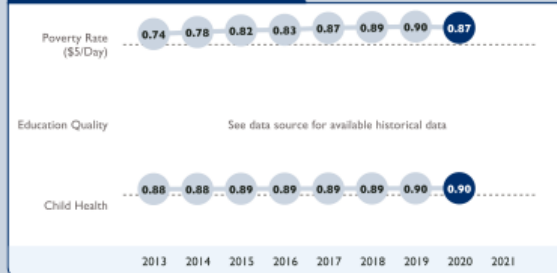
GOVERNMENT CAPACITY



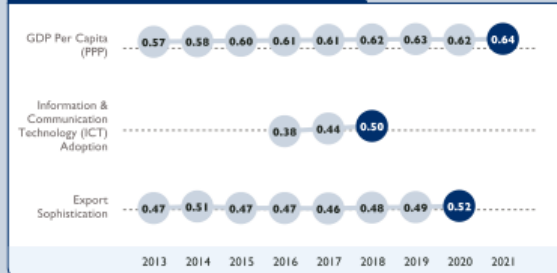
CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY



INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY



CAPACITY OF THE ECONOMY





COUNTRY ROADMAPS INDICATOR DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES

The FY 2023 Country Roadmaps draw on the latest data available as of July 2022, with latest results typically covering the 2021 or 2020 period. All source data are derived from third-party institutions. All indicators are weighted equally in the calculation of the overall Commitment and Capacity estimates. Map boundary representations are not necessarily authoritative. For more information on definitions and sources, please visit roadmaps.usaid.gov.

COMMITMENT

OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

Liberal Democracy: Measures freedom of expression, freedom of association, suffrage, elections, rule of law, judicial constraints on the executive branch, and legislative constraints on the executive branch. Source: *Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)*, *Liberal Democracy Index*.

Absence of Corruption: Measures the prominence of three forms of corruption—bribery, improper influence by public or private interests, and misappropriation of public funds or other resources—among government officials in the executive branch, the judiciary, the military, police, and the legislature. Source: *World Justice Project*, *Rule of Law Index*.

Open Government: Measures the degree to which a government shares information, empowers people with tools to hold the government accountable, and fosters citizen participation in public policy deliberations. Source: *World Justice Project*, *Rule of Law Index*.

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Social Group Equality: Measures political equality with respect to civil liberties protections across social groups as defined by ethnicity, religion, caste, race, language, and region. Source: *Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)*, *Social Group Equality in Respect for Civil Liberties*.

Economic Gender Gap: Index comprising five components: (1) wage equality between women and men for similar work; (2) the ratio of female estimated earned income to male income; (3) the ratio of female labor force participation to male participation; (4) the ratio of female legislators, senior officials, and managers to male counterparts; and (5) the ratio of female professional and technical workers to male counterparts. Source: *World Economic Forum*, *Global Gender Gap Report*, *Economic Participation and Opportunity Sub-Index*.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Business & Investment Environment: A composite measure gauging the conduciveness of a country's (1) enterprise conditions—the degree to which market, entrepreneurial, tax, labor, and other regulations enable businesses to start, compete, and expand—and (2) investment environment—the extent to which investments are protected adequately through the existence of property rights, investor protections, and contract enforcement, as well as the availability of domestic and international capital. Source: *Legatum Institute*, *Prosperity Index*.

Trade Freedom: Measures a country's openness to international trade based on average tariff rates and non-tariff barriers to trade. Source: *Heritage Foundation*, *Index of Economic Freedom*.

Environmental Policy: Gauges the soundness of environmental stewardship and natural resource management, factoring an array of macroeconomic policies with environmental and climatic consequences, such as energy and tax policies, and incentives for firms and households. The metric also factors whether legislation and regulations are effectively executed, as well as the influence of stakeholders beyond the government, including the private sector and civil society. Source: *Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index (BTI)*.

Risk of External Debt Distress: Rates each country's risk of public sector debt distress on a four-tier scale based on its debt and market structures, fiscal and macroeconomic outlook, and institutional capacity to manage debt burden. Ratings are available for 63 lower-income countries. Source: *International Monetary Fund*, *Debt Sustainability Analysis for Low-Income Countries*.

Fragility: Gauges the risk of the pressures facing each state overwhelming its capacity to manage those pressures, drawing on twelve key political, social, and economic indicators. Scores are provided on a 0-120 scale, with higher scores representing greater fragility. Source: *Fund for Peace*, *Fragile States Index*.

CAPACITY

GOVERNMENT CAPACITY

Government Effectiveness: Measures the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and its independence from political pressure, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to its stated policies. Source: *World Bank*, *Worldwide Governance Indicators*.

Tax System Effectiveness: Ratio between a country's actual tax collection and the estimated level of tax revenue that a country could achieve, given its macroeconomic, demographic, and institutional features. Source: *USAID*, *Collecting Taxes Database*, *Tax Effort Indicator*.

Safety & Security: Measures the degree to which individuals and communities are free from war and civil conflict, terrorism, politically related terror and violence, violent crime, and property crime. Source: *Legatum Institute*, *Prosperity Index*.

CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY

Civil Society & Media Effectiveness: Measures the range of actions and mechanisms that citizens, civil society organizations, and an independent media can use to hold a government accountable. The mechanisms include using informal tools such as social mobilization and investigative journalism. Source: *Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)*, *Diagonal Accountability Index*.

INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY

Poverty Rate (\$5/Day): Measures the percent of the population living on less than \$5/day in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. Source: *World Bank*, *Poverty and Inequality Platform*.

Education Quality: Gauges both the quality of education—using harmonized scores across major international student achievement testing—and the quantity of schooling received—using age-specific enrollment rates—to evaluate the relative performance of educational systems worldwide. Source: *World Bank*, *Human Capital Index*, *Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling Indicator*.

Child Health: A composite measure that aggregates child mortality, access to at least basic water sources, and access to at least basic sanitation facilities. Source: *Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)*.

CAPACITY OF THE ECONOMY

GDP Per Capita (PPP): Measures the flow of resources available to households, firms, and government to finance development as the country's total Gross Domestic Product (PPP) divided by the country's population. Source: *World Bank*, *World Development Indicators*.

Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Adoption: Index comprising: (1) mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions; (2) mobile-broadband subscriptions; (3) fixed-broadband internet subscriptions; (4) fiber internet subscriptions; and (5) internet users. Source: *World Economic Forum (WEF)*, *Global Competitiveness Index*.

Export Sophistication: Measures the diversity and ubiquity of a country's exported goods, key markers that can help gauge economic sophistication and resilience. Source: *Center for International Development at Harvard University*, *Economic Complexity Index*.

Annex B: Climate Annex

USAID/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CLIMATE STRATEGY CONTRIBUTIONS (2022-2030)

Summary of Conclusions from Mission Dialogue

As part of an island in the Caribbean’s hurricane belt, the Dominican Republic is vulnerable to strong storms and other negative effects driven by climate change, which are likely to increase in intensity and frequency if current climate projections hold true. Extreme weather events impact coastal areas and river banks, resulting in significant damages to infrastructure, natural resources, and livelihoods both in urban and rural settings. To respond to the global climate crisis, USAID has developed a Climate Strategy (“the Strategy”) that will guide its humanitarian and development work through 2030 by calling on all corners of USAID to play a part in its whole-of-Agency response.

The Government of the Dominican Republic has also prioritized climate change in its development strategy and is working towards developing or updating its sectoral policies to fully integrate climate risk considerations. Moreover, the government has committed to developing fiscal instruments and regulations that support the implementation of these sectoral policies, in an effort to streamline climate considerations across all sectors. In 2020, the DR updated its [Nationally Determined Contributions](#) (NDC) under the UNFCCC’s Paris Agreement, increasing its commitment to mitigation and outlining several key sector actions for adaptation.

In order to support the implementation of USAID’s 2022-2030 [Climate Change Strategy](#) and the GoDR’s efforts to respond to climate change, USAID Dominican Republic (“USAID/DR” or “the Mission”) has reviewed climate change risks across its development portfolio and identified entry points to address climate change impacts. These findings are summarized in this document which will be added to the [Country Development Cooperation Strategy](#) (CDCS).

Mission Dialogue

USAID/DR convened its staff in October 2022 for a Mission-wide climate change dialogue in which staff deepened their knowledge of the Climate Strategy and climate impacts in the Dominican Republic. Each Office discussed how their existing and planned activities may already be contributing to the Strategy’s three objectives and the six targets and brainstormed changes to their existing and future activities that could help better align their work with the Strategy and its objectives and targets. Those discussions resulted in [Annex 1](#), which summarizes the contributions of the Mission to the Climate Strategy’s targets. As many of these activities under the different portfolios are under design or procurement in

FY22 and FY23, this document can serve as a reference for tentative opportunities, contributions that could be included in upcoming planned activities.

USAID/DR also spent time aligning their programming to the Dominican Republic's updated NDC. Members of USAID/DR's SEED team correlated Climate Strategy targets to DR NDC targets to show how contributions from USAID programming can help both strategies. USAID programs that contribute to USAID Climate Strategy targets may also contribute to Dominican NDC goals, thus demonstrating USAID support for Dominican climate goals.

Mission CDCS Programming Alignment with USAID Climate Priorities

DO 1. CITIZEN-RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE STRENGTHENED

Development Objective 1 of the USAID/DR CDCS will improve citizen-responsive governance by strengthening accountable and interconnected institutions, supporting more inclusive and effective policy implementation and enforcement in targeted areas of citizen security and human rights, and helping health and HIV frameworks meet global standards. USAID/DR's work under this Development Objective contributes to Objectives 1 and 2 of the Climate Strategy.

For example, the Mission's biodiversity programming will support both greenhouse gas emissions mitigation and support adaptation by working to restore and protect mangroves. Work under the YES portfolio strengthens community governance and vulnerable populations to engage on topics related to climate change, particularly through local community justice houses, contributing to Objective 2 of the Climate Strategy. The Health Portfolio's work with emerging diseases and medicine supply chains will contribute to community resilience, systems change, and even mitigating emissions from fleets thanks to multi month dispensing (provision of multiple months of medicine to patients in a single visit) that their programming helps to coordinate.

DO 2. EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEMS ENHANCED

Focusing on more effective and inclusive service delivery systems, decentralized service provision, and quality services, USAID/DR's DO2 will promote inclusive livelihoods, citizen security, and improved health. Each portfolio contributes to this Development Objective to strengthen government effectiveness, safety and security, education quality, biodiversity and habitat protection, and health. The YES portfolio's programming can support youth and educational institutions to identify more opportunities for training for green jobs that can support a climate-resilient economy in the country.

The Mission's dedicated climate programming will support adaptation by using water conservation practices and sustainable agricultural techniques that safeguard local ecosystem health and work directly with local communities to ensure that community groups are driving local climate action. Work at the bilateral and regional levels is increasing climate smart investment and "greening" the supply chain for Small and Medium Enterprises that would include reducing carbon footprints and advocating

for climate-resilient infrastructure. The Mission’s work in energy under DO2 also promotes small and medium enterprises’ awareness and adoption of climate smart and energy efficient technology and the use of e-governance and digital economy to improve economic competitiveness and efficiency.

Health Office programming is strengthening health monitoring systems’ ability to detect outbreaks of disease early, which was a key climate risk identified by USAID’s Health Team. By supporting the local services that communities rely on, USAID/DR can build more climate resilient systems across the country.

DO 3. RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY WELLBEING IMPROVED

This Development Objective supports community wellbeing, resilience, and inclusiveness through increased local ownership of outcomes, integrated violence prevention that improves citizen security, and strengthened health management and monitoring at the community level. The focus under this DO is on local leadership of development outcomes, shifting relationships with local and transboundary actors to jointly set development agendas, design solutions, build capacities, and utilize domestic resources.

Illustrative interventions for USAID/DR under this DO include working with government, private sector, and educational institutions to promote green jobs training programs and educational curricula to help youth contribute to positive climate action while building their social and economic stability. The Mission’s work to improve the management of plastics and solid waste will reduce emissions by diverting plastic from landfills and supporting the government to improve local solid waste management. Also, Health programming supports communities and vulnerable populations by helping local groups to make connections between health concerns and environmental and climate risk factors.

MISSION AND EMBASSY ENGAGEMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

In addition to USAID/DR’s contributions to Objectives 1 and 2 of the Climate Strategy, the Mission is also committed to supporting the Special Objective, “Strengthen operations and approaches to programming to address climate change and further climate justice within USAID and our partner organizations”. Several committees and activities occur regularly within the Embassy community, including a green committee, recycling training and expanded recycling options within the compound, and paper printing and energy saving measures in building facilities.

The USAID/DR Mission also coordinates closely with other USAID posts and U.S. Government entities to respond to disasters resulting from climate change, such as USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and the Department of Defense. Work with local private sector partners focuses on reforestation, including a relationship with Banco Popular, Plan Sierra, and Propagas. Interagency conversations around plastic pollution and public-private partnerships with the Council on Environmental Quality

(CEQ), the State Department, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Commerce promote cooperation across U.S. Government entities and reaffirm USAID's commitment to climate action.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Addressing the impacts of climate change with an eye to its impacts on gender and social inclusion is a priority for USAID/DR. Climate hazards exacerbate the DR's vulnerabilities, especially for marginalized communities and key economic sectors for the country. For example, weather events impact the Health portfolio's work with hospitals as blackouts and brownouts can impede critical care, safe medicine storage, and healthcare workers' ability to reach patients. Climate change's impacts on people and communities can also overburden healthcare systems, impeding the delivery of regular care, which is particularly dangerous in the context of child and maternal health or for people living with HIV.

Increasing volatility of rainfall can significantly impact rural livelihoods by washing away valuable soil nutrients and decreasing water infiltration rates that can lower water tables that farmers rely on for agriculture. Flooding affects crops resulting in food insecurity and increases vector borne diseases in these areas and can devastate infrastructure, leaving rural communities isolated from critical services. Drought can also drive conflict over water resources and their use at the local level.

Citizen security work under USAID/DR's YES portfolio is also impacted by climate change, as major both acute events such as hurricanes or long-term stresses like drought exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Disasters are also dangerous to women's health, as gender based violence can increase when people have to be housed for long periods in poorly monitored shelters. Furthermore, it's often the most vulnerable that settle marginal land, making them more exposed to the impacts of these storms.

Alignment to Country NDC Targets

USAID/DR is eager to support the Government of the Dominican Republic to meet its targets set in their Nationally Determined Contributions. Through ongoing planning processes, the Mission will intentionally seek to align existing and future programming goals with the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). For the SEED office, the DR's NDC Action Plan includes several key program areas which already overlap with Mission programming. The Health office anticipates tracking the development of a National Health Plan by the Ministry of Health to determine how the Mission can support climate change mitigation efforts. Across all offices, the Mission will more rigorously analyze and identify intersections between the country's climate goals and USAID's activities moving forward. Globally, USAID is developing new mechanisms and options for Missions to work supporting countries' NDCs. The USAID/DR is currently undergoing conversations and exploring options to work with USAID's Comprehensive Africa Climate Change Initiative (CACCI), which could help provide more direct support for a country's NDC work.

Expected Contributions to Climate Strategy Targets and Opportunities through FY 2024

USAID/DR's contributions to the Climate Strategy's targets are summarized in [Annex 1](#). As many of these activities are under design or procurement in FY 22 and FY23, these contributions are tentative. This gives activities currently in design the opportunity to review the Climate Strategy's targets and associated indicators to figure out how they might better align with its targets and objectives. Once further official guidance on the regarding contract amendments is available, existing activities will require additional support to help implementing partners update their work plans, Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plans (AMELPs), or assign new indicators. Resources recently made available for this next stage include [Climate Strategy Targets Reporting Guidance; How to Note: Establishing and Reporting Systemic Change Targets](#)

In FY 2023, USAID/DR's SEED office has 7 activities with total funding of approximately \$79 million currently under procurement that will contribute to the Climate Strategy's targets for adaptation, mitigation, and climate finance. For example, while the new Climate Adaptation activity is still setting targets for FY 2023, this activity intends to report on indicator E.G. 11-6 regarding climate adaptation, and E.G 12-6 or 13-6 regarding greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Alignment with both USAID's Climate Strategy and the GODR's climate priorities creates space for new approaches and innovation. Programming teams will exercise creativity to integrate environmentally friendly practices into all activities. As an example: The Health office has developed a broad network of CSOs and partners in the field that could be leveraged for disseminating climate related messages and information. The agency's focus on climate may mean new funding is available in the near future, not limited to environment offices. New flexible funding mechanisms may create space to incorporate expanded mandates across offices, to support targeted action and drive systems change.

The Agency's prioritization of climate change can also help foster cross-sectoral coordination and better reporting practices that capture the full breadth of USAID/DR's contributions to systems change. Having one or more cross-sectoral indicators that can be aggregated across offices, such as the Mission's emissions reductions, will permit the entire Mission to contribute and will enable coordination across projects that contribute to similar indicators and share success stories. With updated and cross-sectoral indicators, the Mission will be better able to account for and attribute all climate contributions and linkages to Climate Risk Management (CRM) efforts.

YOUTH, EDUCATION, AND SECURITY (YES)

Illustrative elements and/or ways to support the Strategy that could be highlighted or incorporated in narratives identified by the YES team include:

- a. Use of their current networks and working tables as spaces to address community climate challenges;
- b. Having printed educational materials around climate at their supported sites;
- c. Use of community justice houses as a resource for dispute resolution related to environmental and/or climate impacts;
- d. Use of their digital platforms to make climate information available;
- e. Leveraging connections with academia to update candidate profiles and promote green jobs.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (SEED)

In addition to documenting contribution to climate targets in narratives, included below is a summary table of USAID/DR's SEED Office current and planned activities that can contribute to Climate Strategy Targets in FY24. Any program with an "x" indicates that although the Activity is in design/procurement, it can potentially include an indicator that would track contribution to this target.

| | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
|--|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Mitigation | Land Use | Adaptation | Finance | Country Support | Critical Populations |
| SEED Bilateral & Regional Activities | | | | | | |
| Energy Sector Reform | EG12-6 | | | EG 12-4 | | |
| Climate Finance Development Accelerator (CFDA)/ Caribbean Climate Investment Program (CCIP) | X | | X | X | | |
| Combating Wildlife Trafficking in the Caribbean | | | X | | | |
| Flagship Caribbean Marine Biodiversity | X | X | X | | | |
| NOAA PAPA | X | | X | | | |
| USACE PASA | | X | X | | | X |
| USFS PAPA | X - wetlands protection | | X - wetlands protection | | X | |
| USFWS PAPA | | | X | | | |
| Climate Adaptation | EG 12-6 | X | EG 11-6 | | | X |
| Community Strengthening Program | | | X | | X | X |
| Communities Living Peacefully | | | | | | X |
| Critical Minerals | | X | | | | |
| Local Works - Backbone Organization to lead the implementation of Systems Mapping in Montecristi | | X | EG 11-6 | | X | X |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------|---|---|---|
| II | | | | | | |
| Locally-led Water Security Initiative | | | EG 11-6 | | | |
| Ocean Plastics/SWM | X | | EG 11-6 | X | X | X |
| Resilient Agriculture | X | | X | | | |
| USAID Sustainable Financing for Regional Conservation | X | | X | X | | |

HEALTH

Suggested elements and/or ways to support the Strategy that could be highlighted or incorporated in narratives identified by the Health team include:

- a. Channel climate information through their active youth community support groups in their OVC programs;
- b. Working to support health systems to transition to paperless digital health systems;
- c. Reduction of emissions by transportation thanks to multi month prescription and dispensing;
- d. Promoting digital health platforms to reduce patient congestion at health centers. This also includes continuing the work of transition to digital patient files and savings in paper and printed resources.

U.S.-CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS 2030 (PACC 2030)

PACC 2030 is the primary U.S. initiative addressing climate change and supporting the transition to renewable energy in the Caribbean. USAID/DR's programs will contribute to each of the four PACC 2030 pillars, which align with the USAID Climate Strategy. Primarily, USAID/DR's energy and climate adaptation focused programs will contribute to PACC 2030. However, efforts supporting private sector and finance efforts will contribute to PACC pillars, especially pillars one and two.

Constraints and Support Needs

The Mission faces structural and administrative constraints with implementing USAID's climate strategy. Staff across offices have limited time to focus on or align with climate issues, especially for activities that do not already address climate change. Other activities are bound by strict reporting requirements, independent reporting platforms, and funding earmarks, such as activities supported under PEPFAR, that will not easily integrate to the strategy. In the short term, staff may require additional technical support during the preparation of the Mission's Performance Plan and Report to ensure that all activities are reflected in the key issue narratives.

The Agency could support USAID/DR in more fully implementing the Climate Strategy by providing training, guidance, and information sharing on climate integration across sectors to all Operating Units. Particular capacity building support is also needed to equip the Mission's Climate Champion to fully comply with the vision and align with the Agency's Climate Strategy. The Mission is developing a roadmap for USAID/DR's Climate Strategy integration that will include funding needs to assess progress toward meeting Strategy goals and training to USAID/DR implementing partners to comply and align with the Strategy. In the absence of a targeted approach from the Agency to prioritize capacity building, these funds will most likely be carved out of USAID/DR's current and future programming.

Climate Risk Profile

In 2017, the Dominican Republic was ranked the 11th most vulnerable country in the world to climate change. Floods are the most frequent climate-related hazard in the Dominican Republic, with the northeastern region vulnerable to floods and mudslides from severe storms, while arid parts of the northwest are experiencing increasing temperatures leading to more drought, which reduces crop yields and water supplies. Moreover, the island is in the center of a hurricane belt, where intense storms often damage hotels, coastal infrastructure and beaches, leading to significant loss of tourism revenues. Storms also damage fish nursery areas and coral reefs, threatening coastal fisheries.

The National Council for Climate Change is responsible for formulating, implementing and enforcing climate change policies and projects under the President; the Council also coordinates climate change efforts across different Ministries. The Dominican Republic ratified the UNFCCC in 1998 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. It has submitted its initial and second national communications to the UNFCCC, and in 2015, the Dominican Republic submitted its post-2020 action plan, or INDC.

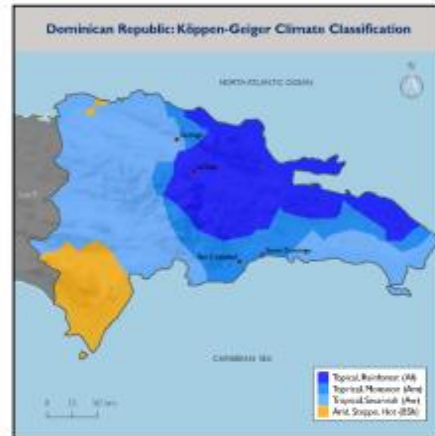


FACT SHEET

CLIMATE RISK PROFILE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

The Dominican Republic (DR) shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti, occupying the eastern two thirds of the island. Manufacturing and services are dominant drivers of the country's \$71 billion GDP. Unemployment remains high at 14 percent, and more than 30 percent of the population lives in poverty, with many of the poor located near the Haitian border. In 2017, the DR was ranked the 11th most vulnerable country in the world to climate change. Floods are the most frequent climate-related hazard in the DR. The northeastern region is vulnerable to floods and mudslides from severe storms, while arid parts of the northwest are experiencing increasing temperatures leading to more drought, which reduces crop yields and water supplies. Moreover, Hispaniola Island is in the center of a hurricane belt, where intense storms often damage hotels, coastal infrastructure and beaches, leading to significant loss of tourism revenues. They also damage fish nursery areas and coral reefs, threatening coastal fisheries. (Citations: 8, 9, 15, 18, 21, 22, 24)



CLIMATE PROJECTIONS

1.1 - 1.5° C increase in temperatures by 2050



04.7 - 8.5% reductions in annual precipitation by 2050; inconsistent projected changes in intensity of extreme rainfall; events; increase in dry spell duration



0.4 - 0.7 m rise in sea level by 2090

KEY CLIMATE IMPACTS

Agriculture

Increased pests and diseases
Soil erosion and water logging
Damage to crops and livestock

Water Resources

Reduced water supply
Decline in water quality

Coastal Zones

Damage to tourist areas
Salinization of aquifers; beach erosion
Loss of habitat and fish stocks

Ecosystems

Loss of forest habitats and biodiversity
Increased erosion of hillslopes

Human Health

Food insecurity
Increased waterborne and vector-borne diseases

JUNE 2017

This document was prepared under the USAID Climate Change Integration Support (CCIS) Task Order No. AID-OAA-TO-15-00030 and is meant to provide a brief overview of climate risk issues. The key resources at the end of the document provide more in-depth country and sectoral analysis. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID.

CLIMATE SUMMARY

Average annual precipitation for the DR is about 1,400 mm (1960-2015), with two peaks during the year: May and October. The spatial distribution of rainfall is determined by trade wind direction and the orientation of the mountains from northwest to southeast. The heaviest precipitation occurs in the northeast, where it exceeds 2,500 mm per year, while the far western and southwestern valleys remain relatively dry with less than 760 mm of annual precipitation. Average annual temperature is 24°C (1960-2015), and varies with altitude. Average monthly temperatures are highest July to September, reaching 26-28°C close to sea level, and lowest December through February, when they average 23-25°C. Inter-annual variability in climate is influenced strongly by the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). Between June and August, El Niño episodes bring warmer and drier than average conditions, whereas La Niña episodes bring colder and wetter conditions. Cyclone and hurricane landfall frequencies average one every two years, but can occur as often as two per year or as little as every five to ten years. (10, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 26)

HISTORICAL CLIMATE

Climate trends since 1960 include:

- Average annual temperature from 1960-2015 exhibits a slightly increasing trend of 0.05°C per decade.
- A 17.4 percent increase in the number of “hot” days and a 13.2 percent increase in “hot” nights per year between 1960 and 2003; highest rates of increase occurred June to August¹.
- Average annual precipitation indicated a statistically insignificant increase of 4.5 percent from 1960-2015.
- There is insufficient data to determine trends in daily rainfall extremes.
- Sea level in the Caribbean region has risen by about 1.8 mm per year over 1950-2009.

FUTURE CLIMATE

Projected changes by 2050 include²:

- An increase in average annual temperature of 1.1 to 1.5°C.
- A decrease in average annual precipitation of 4.7 to 8.5 percent.
- An increase in the number of consecutive “dry” days of 7.2 to 17.4 percent.³
- Uncertain changes in extreme rainfall.⁴
- An increase in sea level of 0.4 to 0.7 m by the 2090s, relative to 1986-2005.
- Uncertain changes in the frequency of hurricanes; an increase in the global average intensity of tropical storms of 2 to 11 percent by 2100.

SECTOR IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITIES

AGRICULTURE

While agriculture contributes only about 4 percent of GDP, it occupies 68 percent of land and remains important for income and food security. By value, the main agricultural products are poultry, cattle, banana, rice, papaya, avocados, milk, sugarcane, pigs and pineapples. Yields will decline and crop cycles may become shorter as the DR experiences less rainfall, higher temperatures and more intense droughts. These conditions will also promote pests, crop diseases and invasive plants. Extreme weather events that produce floods lead to soil erosion and waterlogging of fields. (2, 4, 7, 18, 21)

| Climate Stressors and Climate Risks AGRICULTURE | |
|--|---|
| Stressors | Risks |
| Rising temperatures | Increased pests and disease Increased waterlogging of fields |
| Changes in seasonality of precipitation | Soil erosion and loss of soil fertility |
| Increased drought | Reduced crop yields |
| Increased storms | Storm damage to crops and livestock |

¹ “Hot” day or night is defined by the temperature exceeded on 10% of days or nights in current climate of that region or season.

² Relative to data from 1986-2015.

³ Maximum number of consecutive days per year with less than 1 mm of precipitation.

⁴ Annual total precipitation when daily precipitation exceeds the 99th percentile of wet days (calculated from days when it precipitated at least 1 mm).

WATER RESOURCES

Three mountain ranges supply most of the water for domestic and industrial consumption, irrigation and hydroelectric energy production. Agriculture accounts for four-fifths of water demand. Rising temperatures, increased evaporation and decreasing precipitation are reducing surface waters and groundwater recharge. The Yaque del Norte River watershed is one of the most important watersheds in the country, supplying water to 17 municipalities, supporting six hydro-electric dams and providing water for a large percentage of agricultural production. Government projections indicate water supply from this watershed could decline by 22 percent between 2005 and 2025. In coastal communities, sea level rise leads to seawater intrusion of aquifers, reducing freshwater

| Climate Stressors and Climate Risks WATER RESOURCES | |
|--|--|
| Stressors | Risks |
| Increased temperatures and reduced rainfall | Increased water stress for households, agriculture and hydropower production |
| Increased drought | Decreased surface waters and groundwater recharge |
| | Reduced water quality |
| Increased storms | Increased flooding |
| Sea level rise | Salinization of coastal aquifers |

supply for drinking water and irrigation. (7, 21, 24)

COASTAL ZONES

With more than 1,200 km of coastline, most Dominicans depend on coastal livelihoods based on fisheries and tourism. Warmer sea surface temperatures could potentially alter breeding and migration patterns for fish, while coastal storms and sea level rise will alter beaches and coastal ecosystems. For example, mangroves located within a few feet of sea level, such as in Montecristi and Samaná Bay, are at risk. One of the country's most profitable tourist destinations, Bavaro Beach in Punta Cana, could lose 29 percent of its valuable beach by 2030 due to sea level rise. Storm surge and sea level rise contaminate groundwater with saltwater and flood coastal communities. (4, 9, 17, 21)

| Climate Stressors and Climate Risks COASTAL ZONES | |
|--|--|
| Stressors | Risks |
| Rising sea surface temperature | Loss of coral reefs |
| | Flooding of nearshore habitats |
| | Beach erosion |
| Sea level rise | Salinization of aquifers |
| Increased tropical storms | Flood and salinity damage to infrastructure |
| | Storm damage to settlements, tourist areas and ports |
| | Reduced mangroves and fish stocks |

ECOSYSTEMS

The Dominican Republic includes numerous different climatic zones and a high level of endemism, particularly reptile species, vascular plants and bird species. Ecosystems will shift upwards as temperature increases, and montane habitats may decline in extent or disappear completely if upper temperature limits are exceeded and/or moisture levels drop at high elevations. Since 2003, Lake Enriquillo has experienced a 50 percent increase in surface area due in large part to increased mists and cloud cover. Warming sea temperatures and increased rainfall have triggered the development of upstream cloud forests that shed excess water to the lake. Heavy rainfall events that produce flooding damage arable land, pasture and terrestrial habitats. (3, 4, 6, 19)

| Climate Stressors and Climate Risks ECOSYSTEMS | |
|---|--|
| Stressors | Risks |
| Rising temperatures | Loss of forest habitats and biodiversity |
| Change in seasonality of precipitation | |
| Increased storms | Increased erosion of hillslopes |
| Sea level rise | |

HUMAN HEALTH

The DR's tropical climate is conducive to the transmission of several diseases associated with moist conditions, including malaria, dengue, Zika and Chikungunya, which are transmitted by mosquitoes. Following extreme precipitation events, standing flood waters attract mosquitoes and stimulate growth and reproduction, increasing mosquito-borne disease. Such outbreaks can have significant impact on the DR's tourism industry. In 2010, 12,166 cases of dengue were reported in the DR, resulting in 49 deaths, with most cases in Santo Domingo, San Cristóbal, Distrito Nacional and Santiago. There is also a growing concern that freshwater scarcity and more intense droughts and storms could lead to a deterioration in standards of sanitation and hygiene. In 2007, Hurricane Noel caused damages and losses of approximately \$24

| Climate Stressors and Climate Risks HUMAN HEALTH | |
|---|---|
| Stressors | Risks |
| Increased temperatures | Increased incidence and spread of vector-borne diseases |
| | Increased incidence of heat stroke |
| Reduced rainfall and increased drought | Increased food insecurity |
| | Increased waterborne diseases |
| Increased storms | Damage to health facilities |

million to the country's water supply and sanitation sector, while floods and landslides resulted in over 80 deaths and more than 65,000 people displaced. (12, 16, 19,21, 24)

POLICY CONTEXT

Adaptation to climate change is a priority for the DR as stated in Article 194 of the Constitution.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is the lead entity responsible for environmental issues and cooperates with regional and international actors to fund and implement related projects. The National Council for Climate Change is responsible for formulating, implementing and enforcing climate change policies and projects under the President; the Council also coordinates climate change efforts across different Ministries. The DR ratified the UNFCCC in 1998 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. It has submitted its initial and second national communications to the UNFCCC, and in 2015, the DR submitted its post-2020 action plan, or INDC. (9, 15, 20)

NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS

- [Intended Nationally Determined Contributions \(2015\)](#)
- [National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Agricultural Sector, Dominican Republic 2014-2020 \(2014\)](#)
- [National Development Strategy of the Dominican Republic 2010-2030 \(2010\) \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Second National Communication to the UNFCCC \(2009\) \(Spanish\)](#)
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26. [World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal](#).
- Map source: Adapted from [Köppen-Geiger Classification information](#) (Due to source pixilation, there is a lack of coverage around the edges of the country and thus assumptions were made regarding data category).

SELECTED ONGOING EXPERIENCES

| Selected Program | Amount | Donor | Year | Implementer |
|---|----------------|------------|-----------|--|
| Mainstreaming Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Productive Landscapes in Threatened Forested Mountainous Areas | \$62 million | UNDP/GEF | 2016-2022 | Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources |
| Planning for Climate Change Adaptation Program | \$6.6 million | USAID | 2015-2019 | International City/County Management Association (ICMA) |
| Climate and Agriculture Program | \$1.4 million | USAID | 2015-2018 | Fundación REDDOM |
| Climate Adaptation Measures Program | \$3.9 million | USAID | 2015-2019 | Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI) |
| Climate Resilience and Index Insurance | \$2.4 million | USAID | 2012-2016 | Fundación REDDOM |
| Climate Smart Agriculture | \$1.4 million | USAID | 2015-2018 | Fundación REDDOM |
| Improved Climate Information | | USAID | 2015-2018 | Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) |
| Water and Sanitation in Tourist Areas | \$34 million | World Bank | 2009-2017 | Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development |
| Conserving Biodiversity in Coastal Areas Threatened by Rapid Tourism and Physical Infrastructure Development | \$18.8 million | UNDP/GEF | 2012-2016 | Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources; Ministry of Tourism |
| Dominican Republic First Biennial Update Report (fBUR) | \$397,000 | UNDP/GEF | 2017 | Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources/National Council on Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism |
| USAID Climate Resilience and Index Insurance Program for Small Farmers in the Dominican Republic | \$897,000 | USAID | 2013-2017 | REDDOM/UC Davis |

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Dominican Republic's total GHG emissions in 2013 were 24.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e), totaling 0.05 percent of global GHG emissions. The Dominican Republic's GHG emissions in 2013 were dominated by the energy sector, which was responsible for 85.5 percent of emissions. Agriculture was the second highest source of emissions at 31.6 percent. Industrial processes (IP) and waste contributed 10.1 percent and 8.3 percent, respectively. Land use change and forestry (LUCF) activities absorbed 8.7 MtCO₂e, which represents a net carbon sink equivalent to 35.7 percent of total gross emissions.

In 2011, the Dominican Republic developed its low emission development strategy, known as the Climate Compatible Development Plan (CCDP or Plan DECCC), identifying a range of GHG mitigation options. In 2013, the government enacted the National Policy on Climate Change to manage climate variability and its environmental impacts. In its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), the Dominican Republic commits to reducing its GHG emissions by 25 percent by 2030, from 2010 per capita emissions levels of 3.6 tCO₂e.



Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic Numbers at a Glance (2013)

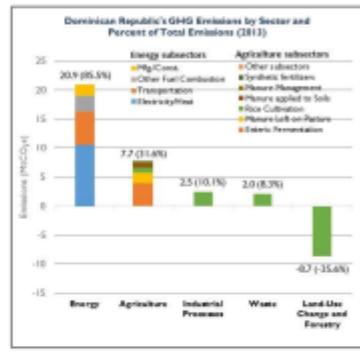
| |
|---|
| 24.4 MtCO₂e* |
| Total GHG emissions (0.05% of world total) World: 48,257 MtCO ₂ e |
| 10,281,408** |
| Population World: 7,176,092,192 |
| 2.37 |
| tCO ₂ e per capita World: 6.72 tCO ₂ e |
| US\$ 59,894 Million |
| GDP*** World: US\$71,059 Billion |
| 407.4 |
| tCO ₂ e/million US\$ GDP World: 679 tCO ₂ e/million US\$ GDP |
| +19.23 MtCO₂e (+368%) |
| Change in GHG emissions (1990 - 2013) World: +14,434 MtCO ₂ e (+43%) |

Sources: WRI CAIT 2.0, 2017.
*Million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. WRI CAIT uses GWPs from the IPCC SAR. Emissions including Land-Use Change and Forestry.
** The official census estimate of the population in 2010 was 9,445,281 (Dominican Republic - National Bureau of Statistics).
***Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in constant 2010 US\$.

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Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions by Sector

According to the World Resources Institute Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (WRI CAIT), the Dominican Republic's GHG emissions in 2013 were dominated by the energy sector (85.5%), with electricity and heat generation and transportation contributing 77% of the sector's total emissions.¹ Agriculture was the second highest source of emissions (31.6%), with enteric fermentation and manure left on pasture contributing 75% of the sector's emissions.² Industrial processes (IP) and waste contributed 10.1% and 8.3%, respectively. Land use change and forestry (LUCF) activities absorbed 8.7 MtCO₂e, which represents a net carbon sink equivalent to 35.7% of total gross emissions.³



Sources: WRI CAIT 2.0, 2017, FAOSTAT, 2017.
Note: Totals do not add up 100% due to rounding.

The Dominican Republic's [National Greenhouse Gas Inventory for year 2010](#), prepared in 2015, shows energy as the greatest source of emissions (61.9%) in 2010, followed by agriculture (19.9%), waste (12.9%), and IP (5.3%).⁴ It shows LUCF as a carbon sink, absorbing 3.1 MtCO₂e that year.

Change in GHG Emissions in Dominican Republic (1990-2013)

According to WRI CAIT, the Dominican Republic's GHG emissions increased by 19.23 MtCO₂e from 1990 to 2013. The average annual change in total emissions during this period was 7.3%, with sector-specific average annual changes as follows: energy (4.6%), agriculture (1.7%), IP (7.3%), waste (1.8%), and LUCF (-0.5%). The change in emissions in the two highest emitting sectors during this period is discussed below.

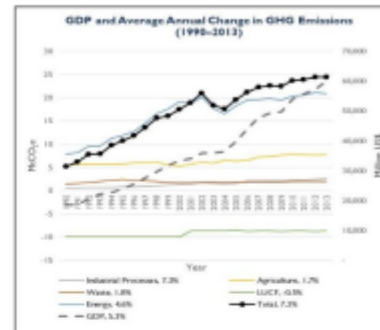
Energy: According to WRI CAIT data, energy sector emissions increased by 13 MtCO₂e from 1990 to 2013, with electricity and heat production driving this increase, followed by transportation. Between 1990 and 2013, total electricity generation increased almost five-fold.⁵ Although the share of natural gas, coal and hydro in the electricity mix increased, as of 2013, 50% of electricity was still generated by fuel oil, followed by natural gas (23%), hydro (13%), coal (12%), solar photovoltaics (1%), and biofuels (0.1%).⁶ In response to challenges with the governance and performance of its state-owned electricity utility, the government introduced power sector reforms during the 1990s, allowing participation by independent power producers and unbundling the generation, transmission and distribution segments of its state-owned electricity utility.⁷ In 2001 the Government enacted the [General Electricity Law](#) which introduced a modern legal and regulatory framework, and established new electricity institutions. To promote renewable energy, the Government enacted the Renewable Energies Incentives [Law 57-07](#), in 2007, which provides incentives and tax exemptions for the production

¹ World Resources Institute Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (WRI CAIT 2.0, 2017). Global Warming Potentials (GWPs) are from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Second Assessment Report (SAR).
² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Statistics Division (FAOSTAT). Dominican Republic, [Emissions - Agriculture total](#), viewed on May 24, 2017.
³ WRI CAIT 2.0, 2017.
⁴ Dominican Republic. Dominican Republic's [National Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Inventory for year 2010](#). 2015. Note: The GHG Inventory is part of the Dominican Republic's Third National Communication to the UNFCCC (unpublished yet), and uses GWPs from the IPCC SAR. Percentage by sector of total emissions presented in the inventory exclude LUCF.
⁵ International Energy Agency (IEA). Statistics: Dominican Republic Electricity and Heat [1990](#) and [2013](#).
⁶ *Ibid.*
⁷ World Bank. [Implementation Completion and Results Report: Electricity Distribution Rehabilitation Project](#), 2014.

and use of renewable energy. Despite the creation of a modern and competitive structure in the electricity sector, major problems remain, including illegal connections and non-payment of bills, government's unwillingness to adjust tariffs to fully reflect fuel prices and the exchange rate, and inadequate fiscal resources to cover the resulting gap between costs and revenues.⁹ In 2008, the World Bank provided a \$42 million loan to prepare and implement the [2008-2013 Electricity Distribution Rehabilitation Project](#) to improve the fiscal performance⁹ of the three electricity distribution companies and improve the quality of service. World Bank data show that access to electricity rose from 72% in 1990 to 98% in 2012.¹⁰ In transportation, the vehicle fleet almost tripled between 2000 and 2013.¹¹ The total 2013 fleet of 3.2 million vehicles consisted of motorcycles (52%), cars (22%), cargo trucks (12%), 4x4 Jeeps (10%), buses (3%), and other vehicles (2%).¹² To improve transportation and relieve traffic congestion in Santo Domingo, the government inaugurated its first underground Metro system, Line 1, in 2009.¹³ Line 2 was inaugurated in 2013.¹⁴ Line 1 consists of 16 stations, from the Centro Héroes Station (La Feria) to Mamá Tingó Station (Villa Mella) and Line 2 consists of 14 stations, from María Montez Station (Autopista Duarte) to Eduardo Brito Station.¹⁵

Agriculture: WRI CAIT data show that agriculture emissions increased 44% from 1990 to 2013, driven by enteric fermentation from livestock and manure left on pasture.¹⁶ During the same period, FAO data show a 34% increase in the cattle population and a twofold increase in sheep.¹⁷ A

partner country to the [Global Methane Initiative](#), the Dominican Republic has the potential to reduce 12% of methane emissions from livestock manure through anaerobic digestion and biogas recovery.¹⁸



Source: WRI CAIT 2.0, 2017.

Carbon Intensity: GHG Emissions Relative to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The Dominican Republic's GHG emissions grew 368% from 1990 to 2013, averaging 7.3% annually, while GDP grew 223%, averaging 5.3% annually.¹⁹ Although its economy emits fewer GHGs relative to GDP than the world average, its emissions are outpacing GDP. Through its [2030 National Development Strategy](#), enacted in 2012, the Dominican Republic plans to foster the decarbonization of its economy through renewable energy, development of the biofuels market, and implementation of energy efficient and clean transportation.

Climate Change Mitigation Targets and Plans

In 2011, the Dominican Republic developed its low emission development strategy, known as the Climate Compatible Development Plan (CCDP or Plan DECCC), identifying a range of GHG mitigation options.²⁰ In 2013, the government enacted the [National Policy on Climate Change](#), to manage climate variability and its environmental impacts. In its [Intended Nationally Determined Contribution \(INDC\)](#),²¹ the Dominican Republic commits to reducing its GHG emissions by 25% by 2030, from 2010 per capita emissions levels of 3.6 tCO₂e. This commitment is conditional upon "favorable and predictable support, feasible climate finance mechanisms, and corrections to the failures of existing market mechanisms." The Dominican Republic is seeking support to prepare or implement seven [Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions \(NAMAs\)](#) to reduce GHG emissions from various sectors, including the Energy Efficiency in Public Sector NAMA ([NS-118](#)), and the Low Carbon Coffee NAMA ([NS-256](#)). The Congress of the Dominican Republic approved the ratification of the Paris Agreement in March 2017.²²

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Fiscal performance is measured by the Cash Recovery Index, which combines two performance indicators: invoiced energy losses, which indicates the proportion of energy purchased from generators that is not billed, and the percentage of the invoiced energy that is paid for.

¹¹ World Bank. Indicators: [Dominican Republic - Access to electricity \(% of population\)](#), viewed on May 24, 2017. The Dominican Republic has also received other, more recent international support including from the [Inter-American Development Bank](#) and [International Renewable Energy Agency](#).

¹² Dominican Republic, National Office of Statistics. [Vehicle fleet per year, by type, 2000 - 2015](#), viewed on May 24, 2017.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Dominican Republic, Dominican Republic's [Second National Communication \(SNC\)](#) to the UNFCCC, 2009.

¹⁵ Urban Rail. [Santo Domingo Metro](#), viewed on May 24, 2017.

¹⁶ Dominican Republic, Office for Reorganization of Transportation, [Services-Transportation](#), viewed on May 24, 2017.

¹⁷ FAOSTAT, 2017.

¹⁸ FAOSTAT. [Dominican Republic - Live Animals](#), viewed on May 24, 2017.

¹⁹ Global Methane Initiative (GMI). [Resource Assessment for Livestock and Agro-Industrial Wastes - Dominican Republic](#), 2011.

²⁰ WRI CAIT 2.0, 2017.

²¹ Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement, [Developing a national climate compatible development plan \(CCDP\) - Dominican Republic](#), viewed on May 24, 2017.

²² Dominican Republic, Dominican Republic's [Intended Nationally Determined Contribution](#) to the UNFCCC, 2015. An unofficial [English translation](#) is also available.

²³ As of May 2017, this was not yet published on the UNFCCC, [Paris Agreement - Status of Ratification](#) website, viewed on May 24, 2017.

May 2017