

# CARIBBEAN REGIONAL RESILIENCE BUILDING FACILITY



**GfDRR**  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



**WORLD BANK GROUP**

## Enhancing Resilient Territorial Development in the Dominican Republic

### Country

Dominican Republic

### Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility Component

Regional Technical Assistance Facility to Mainstream Resilience

### Amount Approved

€917,000 / \$990,000

### Duration

12/2019 – 10/2023

### Context and Objectives

The Dominican Republic is highly exposed to climate-related and geophysical hazards that pose major challenges to its sustainable growth and development. Based on historical data, disaster losses have been estimated at 0.69% of the 2015 GDP or \$420 million per year over the period 1961-2014.<sup>1</sup> Natural exposure to these hazards is exacerbated by rapid urbanization, along with limited territorial planning, urban planning, and poor natural resource management. These factors are having a negative effect on human health, quality of life, and major economic activities such as agriculture and tourism. Therefore, Resilient territorial and urban planning plays a key role in increasing resilience by ensuring the safe location of population and through a comprehensive management of natural resources.

This project supported the government's efforts to implement a territorial development plan that improves land use regulations, enhances disaster risk management, and promotes the sustainable use of natural resources.

### Main Activities

- A diagnostic of urbanization patterns through a territorial development lens, identifying existing challenges and informing a pathway to address them, while leveraging opportunities provided by cities to increase productivity, strengthen economic growth, tackle inequality, and build resilience.
- The implementation of the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) as a tool for territorial planning and disaster risk management.

### Results

The project has supported the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo – MEPyD) with a diagnosis of the Dominican Republic's main economic and social development challenges in urbanization and territorial development, along with six sectoral notes that explored these challenges in greater depth in relation to subjects such as local governance, tourism, housing supply. The impact of these efforts has improved the understanding of urban and territorial challenges and enabled evidenced-based decision making in territorial and urban planning in the country by national and regional stakeholders, especially as regards the roll-out of territorial planning reform.

<sup>1</sup> "Dominican Republic: Building Physical and Fiscal Resilience to Ensure Shared Prosperity" ACP-EU NDRR <https://www.gfdr.org/en/dominican-republic-building-physical-and-fiscal-resilience-ensure-shared-prosperity>.

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The project also assisted the National Geographic Institute (*Instituto Geográfico Nacional* - IGN) and other public institutions in the development of the SDI. This included developing a geo-spatial data quality model and standard, geo-spatial object catalogue, a metadata profile, fundamental data identification and classification, data inventory, the creation of a national cartographic plan and protocol and policies to facilitate data exchange.

Several knowledge products were developed to support these activities, such as: (i) the landing webpage of the SDI for the Dominican Republic; (ii) guidelines for an Object Catalogue; (iii) a dictionary for the Object Catalogue; and (iv) guidelines for a data quality model. These products, as well as a series of training sessions, enhanced the IGN's capabilities and provided fundamental knowledge on national cartography.

The combined result of these efforts is an improved regulatory environment for risk-informed territorial planning and land use and increased national and local institutional capacity in disaster and climate risk-informed policy design and analysis, benefitting from the use of spatial data management platforms.

### **Partnerships and Coordination**

The World Bank implemented this project in close collaboration with the Economic and Social Analysis Advisor Unit (UAAES) and the IGN, which are both within the MEPyD.

Progress made under this project built on worked financed by the EU in the frame of the [ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program](#).

### **Useful Links**

- The Dominican Republic Risk Profile is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- [Paving the Way for Prosperous Cities and Territories: Urbanization and Territorial Review of the Dominican Republic](#)
- [Urbanization and Territorial Development in the Dominican Republic by the World Bank Group](#)
- [Urbanization & Territorial Development in Dominican Republic](#), interview with Erick Dorrejo, Director of Border Zone Development Policies, Dominican Republic